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RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
CN 962
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625
(609) 292-1011

ROBYN M. HILL
CHIEF COUNSEL
ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL
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June 26, 1995

Certified Mail - RRR & Regular Mail

Richard J. Carroll, Esq.
255 Route 3
Secaucus, New Jersey 07095

RE: In the Matter of Richard J. Carroll
Docket No. DRB 95-017
Letter of Admonition

Dear Mr. Carroll:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in 1988, you were retained by Lorena Padilla to represent her in connection with personal injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Four years later, in March 1992, Ms. Padilla wrote to you advising you that she had retained another attorney as a result of your inaction. She requested the return of her file. Thereafter, new counsel telephoned your office on thirty to forty occasions, but was unable to reach you. Counsel also sent you two letters, on April 5, 1992 and July 27, 1992, requesting the return of the file. Despite your assurance that the file would be sent to new counsel by messenger on August 14, 1992, you never forwarded the file to him. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.3, RPC 1.4 and RPC 1.16(d).

In addition, you failed to reply to several letters from the Committee requesting a reply to the grievance. Your conduct violated RPC 8.1(b).

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Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you. R. 1:20-15(f)(4).

A permanent record of this occurrence has been filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Board's office. Should you become the subject of any further discipline, it will be taken into consideration.

The Board has also directed that the cost of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An affidavit of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Robyn M. Hill

RMH/IF/dm

c: Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz
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