DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LEE M. HYMERLING, ESQ., CHAIR
ELIZABETH L. BUFF, VICE-CHAIR
MICHAEL R. COLE, ESQ.
HON. PAUL R. HUOT
MARY J. MAUDSLEY, ESQ.
ROCKY L. PETERSON, ESQ.
BARBARA F. SCHWARTZ
WILLIAM H. THOMPSON, D.D.S.
JAMES R. ZAZZALI, ESQ.



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

ISABEL FRANK

PAULA T. GRANUZZO
LILLIAN LEWIN
DONA S. SEROTA-TESCHNER
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

February 20, 1996

<u>Certified Mail - R.R.R.</u> <u>and Regular Mail</u>

John P. Morris, Esq. 200 West Commerce Street Box 299 Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302

RE: <u>In the Matter of John P. Morris</u>
Docket No. DRB 95-444
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Morris:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, beginning in 1976, you performed some work in connection with the estate of Morris April, under the direction of David L. Horuvitz, Esq., a co-executor of Mr. April's will. Following Mr. Horuvitzs' death in 1983, you were appointed substitute administrator c.t.a. and served in a fiduciary capacity with the surviving co-executor, Leon April, the son of Morris April and a beneficiary of the estate. In the course of the performance of your duties, you failed to properly communicate with Leon April and/or his attorney, failed to file fiduciary income tax returns until six years after you became aware they were necessary and failed to submit a proper accounting. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4, RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.1(a) as well as the predecessor rules, DR 6-101 and DR 7-101.

In mitigation, the Board considered that you were not experienced in estate work and that you were caught in the middle

John P. Morris, Esq. February 20,1996 Page Two

of acrimonious fighting among the family members, which lasted for twelve years.

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. $\underline{R}.1:20-15(f)(4)$.

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 costs of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An affidavit of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Robyn N. Hill

RMH/dm

Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz c: Associate Justices Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk Supreme Court of New Jersey Lee M. Hymerling, Esq., Chair Disciplinary Review Board David E. Johnson, Jr., Esq., Director Office of Attorney Ethics Jeffrey L. Gold, Esq., Chair District I Ethics Committee Robert N. McAllister, Esq., Secretary District I Ethics Committee Vincent Pancari, Esq. Counsel for Respondent Rebecca April Fitch Grievant