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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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June 6, 1997

CERTIFIED MAIL - R.R.R. and REGULAR MAIL

George T. Daggett, Esq.
328 Sparta Avenue
Sparta, New Jersey 07081

Re: In the Matter of George T. Daggett
Docket No. 97-063
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Daggett:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in August 1991, you were retained by Janet Heim to represent her in connection with a workers' compensation claim. During the course of your representation, you failed to communicate to your client numerous developments in the case, including, but not limited to, the existence of motions and/or calls to dismiss the case for lack of prosecution, the existence of discovery responses with important witness statements, the existence of a court order compelling interrogatories to be answered, and the existence of trial dates and your requests for adjournment. Your conduct in this regard was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4(a).

In addition, despite your duty to represent your client diligently and promptly, you failed to pursue discovery and investigation that would have enhanced your client's posture in the case. Specifically, although admittedly there were discovery tools available to you, you never sought to determine witnesses' names and to obtain information from witnesses; you did not make any effort to speak personally with or obtain sworn testimony from your client's treating physicians; you did not obtain written statements of your client's co-workers until late 1994 and then only after the employer's attorney advised you of the existence of such statements; and you made no effort to speak with the witnesses to clarify and explain those statements or present these statements to your client until the day of the hearing in April 1995. Your conduct was unethical and violative of RPC 1.3.

I/M/O George T. Daggett
DRB No. 97-063

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 costs 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:ms

- c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
- 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
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- District X Ethics Committee
- Bonie C. Frost, Secretary
- District X Ethics Committee
- Janet Heim, Grievant