

b/c

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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October 21, 1998

### Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Antoinette Clarke Forbes  
 1510 Park Avenue  
 South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

Re: In the Matter of Antoinette Clarke Forbes  
 Docket No. DRB 98-331  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Ms. Forbes:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in or about September 1996 you were retained by Lisa Carter to probate the will of her aunt, Marie Elizabeth Urquhart. In November 1996, Ms. Carter attempted to contact you to obtain information about the probate of the will and other issues concerning the estate, but was unsuccessful. An appointment with you on November 18, 1996 was canceled because of your medical problems. On December 4, 1996 Ms. Carter wrote to you, requesting the return of the retainer and the turnover of the file to another attorney. You did not promptly comply with her request. In the interim, Ms. Carter attempted to probate the will on her own, but was unsuccessful because she could not locate the witnesses. Subsequently, she was sued personally for the debts of the estate. Eventually, in March 1997, you returned the unused portion of the retainer. Your conduct in this matter was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4(a) and RPC 1.16(d).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that, during the relevant times, you were suffering from medical problems that ultimately led to a medical leave of absence.

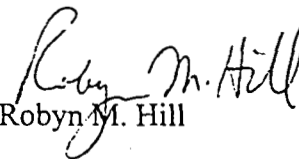
I/M/O Antoinette Clarke Forbes  
Docket No. DRB 98-331

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  
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Disciplinary Review Board  
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Manny Gerstein, Secretary  
District VIII Ethics Committee  
Lisa Carter, Grievant