

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

May 5, 1997

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

William B. Gallagher, Jr.  
Klitzman & Gallagher  
1321 Memorial Drive  
PO Box 468  
Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Re: In the Matter of William B. Gallagher, Jr.  
Docket No. 97-011  
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in or about February 1989 you were retained to represent James Revel in a negligence matter arising out of injuries to his wife, Helen Revel. The injuries were allegedly sustained as a result of open heart surgery on or about October 19, 1987. Although you timely filed a complaint for medical malpractice, in or about August 1989 the complaint was dismissed on the court's motion. You were unaware of the motion because of poor office procedures and failure to actively manage your practice of law. The medical malpractice complaint was refiled on May 24, 1996 and served on all parties. Nevertheless, your conduct in handling the case exhibited a lack of diligence and gross neglect, in that you failed to diligently supervise the handling of the matter, to assure that it was being processed in a professional and zealous fashion, and to monitor your staff to ensure that the files were reviewed periodically. Your conduct in this regard violated RPC 1.1(a) and RPC 1.3.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you had been practicing for twenty-eight years without prior incidents and that you are well respected in the legal community. Nevertheless, the Board determined to require that, within the next two years, you complete fifteen

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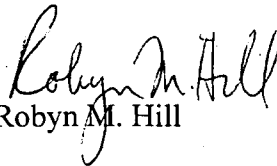
hours of courses on proper office management and that you submit proof of completion to the Office of Attorney Ethics.

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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Supreme Court of New Jersey  
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Disciplinary Review Board  
David E. Johnson, Jr., Esq., Director  
Office of Attorney Ethics  
Craig S. Laughlin, Chair  
District IX Ethics Committee  
Jamie S. Perri, Sec.  
District IX Ethics Committee  
George N. Arvanitis, Esq.  
Counsel for respondent  
James Revel, Grievant