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October 6, 1997

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

Diane K. Murray, Esq.
2468 Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

Re: In the Matter of Diane K. Murray
Docket No. DRB 97-225
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Murray:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, you were retained by Joseph and Barbara Drew to represent them in a lawsuit instituted against them by Venice Stone on or about December 21, 1987. It was agreed that you would file an answer to that action and also assert a claim in the Law Division under the Consumer Fraud Act. You did not furnish the Drews with a retainer agreement. Notwithstanding your duty to represent your clients' interests responsibly, from December 1987 through August 1988, you did not perform many fundamental actions relating to the litigation. Specifically, you did not immediately answer Venice Stone's complaint; you allowed at least three months to go by before filing the Law Division complaint; as late as July 1988, you had failed to serve that complaint on Venice Stone; you failed to comply with discovery requests in both actions; you failed to communicate any of the above to the Drews; and you failed to disclose to the Drews that you had appeared in court in late June 1988, when you were ordered to serve the Law Division complaint and when an August 25, 1988 trial date was set for the action brought by Venice Stone, in the event that you did not file a motion to consolidate both cases. Your conduct in this matter violated RPC 1.3, RPC 1.4(a) and RPC 1.5(b).

The Board, however, was unable to find clear and convincing evidence that you acted unethically after your automobile accident in August 1988. Accordingly, the Board dismissed that portion of the complaint that alleged misconduct after August 1988.

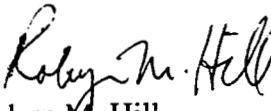
I/M/O Diane K. Murray
DRB 97-225

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
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District VI Ethics Committee
Joseph and Barbara Drew, Grievants