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OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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June 2, 1998

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

John R. Stephenson, Jr., Esq.
26 Park Street, Suite 2012
Montclair, New Jersey 07042

Re: In the Matter of John Stephenson, Jr.
Docket No. DRB 97-065
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Stephenson:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. With the approval of the Supreme Court, the Board has concluded that an admonition is the appropriate discipline for your misconduct.

Specifically, in 1994 you were retained to represent Josephine A. Martino to recover a \$13,000 deposit toward the purchase of a condominium. On March 8, 1994 you filed suit for rescission of the real estate contract. The complaint was dismissed by order dated October 14, 1994, reinstated on June 7, 1995, and dismissed once again, without prejudice, on October 6, 1995. After the dismissal you failed to take any action to reinstate the complaint. Your conduct in this matter constituted gross neglect, in violation of RPC 1.1(a).

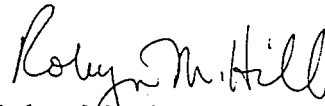
Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney, but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you. R. 1:20-15 (f) (4).

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.

I/M/O John R. Stephenson, Jr.
DRB 97-065

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, Chair
- Disciplinary Review Board
- David E. Johnson, Jr., Director
- Office of Attorney Ethics.
- Alan Wovsaniker, Chair
- District VC Ethics Committee
- Philip McGovern, Jr., Secretary
- District VC Ethics Committee
- Josephine A. Martino, Grievant