

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

## OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LOUIS PASHMAN, ESQ. CHAIR  
BONNIE C. FROST, ESQ. VICE-CHAIR  
EDNA Y. BAUGH, ESQ.  
BRUCE W. CLARK, ESQ.  
JEANNE DOREMUS  
HON. REGINALD STANTON  
SPENCER V. WISSINGER, III  
MORRIS YAMNER, ESQ.  
ROBERT C. ZMIRICH



RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX  
P.O. BOX 962  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962

JULIANNE K. DECORE  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
ISABEL FRANK  
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL  
ELLEN A. BRODSKY  
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL  
LILLIAN LEWIN  
DONA S. SEROTA -TESCHNER  
COLIN T. TAMS  
KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE  
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

December 14, 2010

### CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Paul L. Abramo, Esq.  
93 Main Street  
P.O. Box 12  
Newton, NJ 07860

RE: In the Matter of Paul L. Abramo  
Docket No. DRB 10-292  
District Docket No. X-2008-0002E  
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Abramo:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. The Board denied your motion to dismiss the complaint and to supplement the record. Member Stanton recused himself.

Specifically, shortly before an October 2006 court hearing involving your client, Mark Peirano, you attempted to collect outstanding legal fees. When Peirano indicated that he would pay no more for the representation, you terminated the representation, without taking appropriate steps to protect Peirano's interests.

In addition you held his file "hostage," pending receipt of your fee. It is well-settled that attorneys must return client files upon termination of the representation, when requested by the client or subsequent counsel. The attorney may, however, retain a copy of the file for his/her own purposes, and charge the client for that copy. You failed to return Peirano's

complete file, forcing your client and his new attorney to do without it. Your misconduct in this regard violated RPC 1.16(d). The Board dismissed the remaining charges for lack of clear and convincing evidence: RPC 1.15(b); RPC 3.3(a)(1) and (5); RPC 3.4(c); and RPC 8.4(c) and (d).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board determined that your 2008 admonition for dissimilar conduct (improper letterhead) was not serious enough to warrant the imposition of greater discipline.

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. Rule 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 cost of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An invoice of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,



Julianne K. DeCore  
Chief Counsel

JKD/sj

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner  
Associate Justices  
Louis Pashman, Chair  
Disciplinary Review Board  
Mark Neary, Clerk  
Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk  
Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)  
Charles Centinaro, Director  
Office of Attorney Ethics  
Eric S. Solotoff, Chair, District XB Ethics Committee  
Caroline Record, Secretary, District XB Ethics Committee  
Mark Peirano, Grievant