

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX  
P.O. BOX 962  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962  
(609) 292-1011

JULIANNE K. DECORE  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
MARIA-ISABEL FRANK  
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL  
ELLEN A. BRODSKY  
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL  
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KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE  
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

April 29, 2011

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. and REGULAR MAIL**

James M. Docherty, Esq.  
155 Passaic Avenue  
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004

Re: In the Matter of James M. Docherty  
DRB Docket No. 11-029  
District Docket No. VC-08-053E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Docherty:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Following a review of the record, the Board determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, you represented Sudesh K. Mehta in a federal civil rights action and in a chancery foreclosure matter, for which he paid you \$10,000. You then filed an appearance in both matters and requested that a pending motion be adjourned in the federal matter, but you were unable to demonstrate to the District Ethics Committee what work you had done on Mehta's behalf. You also failed to communicate with Mehta about his matters. Moreover, you failed to reply to the disciplinary investigator's requests for information about the grievance. Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 1.1(a), RPC 1.4(b), and RPC 8.1(b), respectively.

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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,



Julianne K. DeCore  
Chief Counsel

JKD/paa

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  
Andrew M. Epstein, Chair, District VC Ethics Committee  
Seth Ptasiwicz, Secretary, District VC Ethics Committee  
Sudesh Mehta, Grievant