

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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July 27, 2012

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

Ronald L. Washington  
PO Box 490132  
Atlanta, GA 30349

**In the Matter of Ronald L. Washington**

Docket No. DRB 12-138

District Docket No. I-2011-0005E

**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Washington:

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

Specifically, La-Tonia Bobbitt retained you, in April 2001, to represent her for injuries sustained in a January 18, 2001 slip-and-fall. Despite your obligation to reply to her reasonable requests for information about the case, you failed to do so for extended periods of time. You also failed to advise her about important aspects of the case, such as the need for an expert. In addition, as a result of your having sent correspondence to your client at an old address, Bobbitt did not learn about the dismissal of an appeal that you had filed until two months after it was too late to act on it. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.4(b) and (c).

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You also failed to cooperate with ethics investigators and appear at the DEC hearing, as required by R. 1:20-6(c)(2)(D), after the denial of your last-minute request to appear by telephone. Your conduct was improper and a violation of RPC 8.1(b).

In mitigation, the Board considered that no ethics violations have been sustained against you since your 1987 admission to the New Jersey bar.

Your conduct has 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.

Finally, the Board has also directed that the costs 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  
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  
Carmen R. Faia, Chair, District I Ethics Committee  
Fredric L. Shenkman, Secretary, District I Ethics Committee  
La-Tonia Bobbitt, Grievant