

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

November 16, 2012

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

Ralph Alexander Gonzalez, Esquire  
2 Woodbrook Road  
Voorhees, New Jersey 08043

Re: **In the Matter of Ralph Alexander Gonzalez**  
Docket No. DRB 12-283  
District Docket No. IV-2011-0027E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

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, in August 2010, Thea Laverty Flores retained you to represent her in "a family matter." On September 13, 2010, you sued her in small claims court, after she refused to pay your fee. On October 11, 2010, your client filed an ethics grievance against you.

On October 20, 2010, the civil suit was settled. In addition to your client's obligation to pay \$500 to you, the settlement agreement required her to "write a letter asking to withdraw any ethics complaint she may have filed."

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Your attempt to persuade your client to withdraw her grievance as part of the settlement of the civil suit that you had filed against her constituted conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, a violation of RPC 8.4(d), warranting the imposition of an admonition. See, e.g., In the Matter of R. Tyler Tomlinson, DRB 01-284 (November 2, 2001) (admonition for attorney who improperly conditioned the resolution of a collection case on the dismissal of an ethics grievance filed against the attorney by his client's parents).


In imposing only an admonition, the Board took into consideration that your disciplinary record has remained untarnished since 1995.

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 invoice of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

  
Julianne K. DeCore  
Chief Counsel

JDK: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)

I/M/O Alexander Gonzalez, DRB 12-283

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Charles Centinaro, Director  
Office of Attorney Ethics  
Dawnn E. Briddell, Chair  
District IV Ethics Committee  
John M. Palm, Secretary  
District IV Ethics Committee  
Thea Laverty Flores, Grievant