# **DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD**

#### OF THE

### 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

March 28, 2013

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

James E. Young, Esq. 241 Main Street Suite 213 Hackensack, NJ 07601

> Re: <u>In the Matter of James E. Young</u> Docket No. DRB 12-362 District Docket No. IIB-2010-0021E LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Young:

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 January 2001, Baltazar Martinez retained you to represent him in connection with a workers' compensation claim for which prior counsel had already filed a petition. Thereafter, you took no action to file any pleadings in the case and failed to appear at court-ordered hearings on behalf of your client, resulting in the March 22, 2002 dismissal of the petition, with prejudice, for lack of prosecution.

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

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For the next five or six years, although Martinez contacted you about the status of his case, you did not advise him of the dismissal. After discussing the matter with your client and admitting that, due to your mistakes, the case "was over," you paid him \$8,500, an amount that you estimated his claim to be worth. At the time, you told Martinez that you were sorry, that you sought to make him whole, and that the payments were from your own personal funds.

Your conduct in failing to take action on your client's behalf to protect his claim violated <u>RPC</u> 1.1(a) and <u>RPC</u> 1.3. You also failed to reply to Martinez' repeated requests for information about the case, a violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.4(b).

The Board dismissed the balance of the charges for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board took into consideration that you have had no prior discipline in over thirty-two years at the 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. <u>R.</u> 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,

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Julianne K. DeCore Chief Counsel

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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 Victoria R. Pekerman, Chair, District IIB Ethics Committee Nina C. Remson, Secretary, District IIB Ethics Committee Baltazar Martinez, Grievant