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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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July 29, 2008

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R.

In the Matter of Maria M. Dias

Docket No. DRB 08-138

District Docket No. XIV-07-454E

**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Ms. Dias:

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, in 2006, while on the Supreme Court list of ineligible attorneys for failure to pay the assessment to the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, you made appearances in numerous cases for other attorneys on a part-time, per diem basis, and in two cases of your own.

In aggravation, the Board considered that you were aware of your ineligibility when you handled the matters in question. In mitigation, the Board considered that, as a single mother of two children, one of whom has a disability, you were attempting to maintain a part-time per diem practice, pay rent for a law office and maintain a home for your children at the time. You were unable to do so and to pay the 2006 assessment as well, all on a timely basis. In addition, no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the bar in 1998.

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.

Because of your compelling financial difficulties, the Board has, on its own motion, waived the assessment of costs of the disciplinary proceedings.

Very truly yours,



Julianne K. DeCore  
Chief Counsel

JKD/sj

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner  
Associate Justices  
Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey  
(w/ethics history)  
Louis Pashman, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board  
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics