DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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September 29, 2005

Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk Supreme Court of New Jersey P.O. Box 970 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0962

Re: <u>In the Matter of John F. Wise</u>

Docket No. DRB 05-215

District Docket No. VB-04-002E

Dear Mr. Townsend:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (reprimand or such lesser discipline as the Board may determine is warranted) filed by the District VB Ethics Committee pursuant to $R.\ 1:20-10$. Following a review of the record, the Board determined to grant the motion. In the Board's view, a reprimand is the appropriate discipline for respondent's violations of RPC 1.1(a) (gross neglect) and RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence).

Specifically, in January 1998, Kathleen Parker retained respondent to represent her and her husband in connection with the filing of a Chapter 13 bankruptcy petition and plan. During the course of the representation, the Parkers refinanced their home mortgage. Although respondent initially pursued the bankruptcy matter in the Parkers' behalf, he failed to timely take action to release funds unnecessarily held in escrow by a title company. The Board determined that a reprimand is the appropriate measure of discipline for respondent's infractions.

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I/M/O John F. Wise

Docket No. DRB 05-215

Enclosed are the following documents:

- 1. Notice of Motion for Discipline by Consent, dated, March 31, 2005.
- 2. Stipulation of Discipline by Consent, dated March 23, 2005.
- 3. Affidavit of Consent, dated March 15, 2005.
- 4. Ethics history, dated September 29, 2005.

Very truly yours,

Julianne K. DeCore

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/tk

Encls.

c: Mary J. Maudsley, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
Sonya M. Longo, Chair, District VB Ethics Committee
Seth Ptasiewicz, Secretary, District
Lewis B. Cohn, Respondent's Counsel
Kathleen Parker, Grievant