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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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May 24, 2004

Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Ben Zander, Esq.
34 Mill Street
Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060

Re: In the Matter of Ben Zander
Docket No. DRB 04-133
District Docket No. IIIB-02-020E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Zander:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, on April 2, 1996, Jean Unger retained you to obtain a trademark for her business. Despite your obligation to represent your client's interests promptly and responsibly, the United States Patent and Trademark Office deemed the trademark application abandoned for failure to act. When Ms. Unger attempted to obtain a status update on her matter, you failed to comply with her requests for information. Moreover, after Ms. Unger contacted the ethics authorities and you assured both the district ethics committee and Ms. Unger that you would complete the application process at your own expense, you again allowed the application to be deemed abandoned. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.1(a) (gross neglect), RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence), and RPC 1.4(a) (failure to communicate with the client).

I/M/O Ben Zander

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In imposing an admonition, the Board considered that you ultimately acknowledged your wrongdoing, that you expressed regret for your inaction, that it appears that Ms. Unger has not lost her right to re-apply for registration of her mark, and that this is the only blemish in your professional career of twenty-two years.

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

/tk

c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
Associate Justices
Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey
Mary J. Maudsley, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
Betsy G. Liebman, Chair, District IIIB Ethics Committee
Cynthia S. Earl, Secretary, District IIIB Ethics Committee
Jean F. Unger, Grievant