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February 14, 2003

Vincenza Leonelli-Spina
97 Lackawanna Avenue, Suite 201
Totowa, New Jersey 07512

RE: In the Matter of Vincenza Leonelli-Spina
Docket No. DRB 02-433
District Docket Nos. XI-02-013E & 014E
ADMONITION BY CONSENT

Dear Ms. Spina:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (admonition) filed by the District XI Ethics Committee in the above matter. Following a review of the record, the Board determined to grant the motion and to issue a letter of admonition. Specifically, in 1996 you were retained by a group of eleven police officers employed by the township of Old Bridge to pursue a lawsuit objecting to a promotional examination administered by that municipality. After the municipality was granted summary judgment, you exhibited gross negligence by not filing an appellate brief on two separate occasions. Also, you did not reply to your clients' telephone calls and correspondence. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.1(a), RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.4(a).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1990.

I/M/O Vincenza Leonelli-Spina

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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 affidavit of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,


Robyn M. Hill

/tk

- c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
- Associate Justices
- Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey
- Rocky L. Peterson, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board
- David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
- Michael A. Sternick, Chair, District XI Ethics Committee
- Robert L. Stober, Secretary, District XI Ethics Committee
- Robert J. Schlueter, grievant