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RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
CN 962
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962
(609) 292-1011

ROBYN M. HILL
CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

ELLEN A. BRODSKY
LILLIAN LEWIN
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September 30, 1996

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

Ronald A. Davis, Esq.
REDACTED - CONFIDENTIAL

RE: In the Matter of Ronald A. Davis
Docket No. DRB 96-271
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in the course of your representation of Phillip J. Diamond, you failed to keep your client reasonably informed from December 1992 through early 1993. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4(a). In addition, you unwittingly helped a former client to cash a check made out to an individual who did not appear before you. At that time you mistakenly believed that the individual accompanying your client was the payee on the check. You, therefore, agreed to deposit the into your trust account and to issue corresponding checks from your business account to your client and to the individual accompanying him. Unbeknownst to you, the check had apparently been stolen from the payee's mailbox. Although you had no duty of care to the payee of the check; although you took some steps to assure yourself that the individual with your client was the payee of the checks; although you had no reason to question your former client's honesty; and although you took some action to satisfy yourself that the check was a bona fide document, you nevertheless committed a technical violation of RPC 1.15 when you improperly deposited into your trust account funds that were not related to any client matter.

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In mitigation, the Board considered that you agreed to make restitution to Mr. Diamond in the amount of \$5,000 and that you also volunteered to make whole the payee of the check by paying her the amount of the check plus interest.

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,

By 
Robyn M. Hill

RMH/dm

c: Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
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Counsel for respondent
Annie R. Payne, Grievant
Phillip Diamond, Grievant