

**Private Admonition -- Board Case No. 97, 1996. Date of Sanction: August 14, 1997.** The Board on Professional Responsibility imposed a private admonition on a lawyer for misconduct in a domestic relations matter. The lawyer neglected to file a response on behalf of a client to opposing counsel's motion for attorneys' fees. The court approved a fee award of over \$6,000, noting the client's failure to respond. The lawyer then delayed the filing of a Rule 60(b) motion for reconsideration of the fee award for nearly three months. The lawyer also failed to communicate with the client and failed to cooperate with successor counsel to protect the client's rights. The Board found that the lawyer violated DLRPC 1.3 (diligent representation), DLRPC 1.4(a) (client communication), and DLRPC 1.16(d) (duty to protect client's interest during termination of representation).

The private admonition was subject to the following conditions: that the lawyer perform thirty-five hours of pro bono legal services within a year of the sanction; that the lawyer reimburse the former client over \$2,000, a portion of the fee award; and that the lawyer undergo consultation with an experienced member of the Bar regarding office procedures for meeting deadlines and communicating with clients.