

Private Admonition -- Board Case No. 65, 1991. Date of Sanction: May 26, 1992. A private admonition was authorized by the Preliminary Review committee of the Board on Professional Responsibility and imposed with the consent of the Respondent for violation of **DLRPC 1.2(a)** and **DLRPC 1.16(d)**. The former rule provides in part: "A lawyer shall abide by a client's decision whether to accept an offer of settlement in a matter", and the latter rule states in part: "Upon termination of a representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests".

Respondent had been representing a debtor in negotiations with a lender institution. Respondent reached an agreement with the lender which Respondent felt was highly favorable to the client. Nevertheless, the client refused to accept the settlement and discharged the Respondent. Respondent subsequently sent a letter to the lender which characterized the creditor's position as reasonable while suggesting that the client had acted in bad faith by rejecting the offer. A condition to this private admonition required the Respondent to pay the costs of the investigation. Respondent had no prior disciplinary record and no harm had actually resulted to the client.