

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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March 28, 2008

John Paff
POB 5424
Somerset, NJ 08875-5424

Re: Disciplinary Review Board -- Docketing Dates

Dear Mr. Paff:

This is a belated response to your letter to Chief Justice Stuart Rabner in respect of the above subject. I apologize for my untoward delay in getting back to you.

The problems to which you refer arose in 2007 when the Chief Counsel to the DRB delayed formal docketing of matters due to resource issues. Three of her staff attorneys had been assigned to the *Tomar* matter, a very labor intensive disciplinary matter that is now pending before the Court, thereby adversely affecting the number of cases that could be promptly processed for the Board's consideration. When I became aware of the situation at the beginning of January, I promptly met with Ms. DeCore to discuss docketing procedures. As a result of that meeting, staff in the Office of Board Counsel revised the docketing dates of a significant number of 2007 filings to reflect the date of receipt. This resulted in a revised report on 2007 filings. I understand you have received a copy of that corrected report.

As you note, proper docketing procedures require that a matter be dated as of the date of receipt regardless of whether staff is actually able to process the filing on that date. I am confident that the Office of Board Counsel and its Chief Counsel are abiding by that principle and will continue to do so.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen W. Townsend", written in black ink.