

**RICHARD W. BANAS**

*157 N.J.18 (1999)*

of East Hanover (Morris County)

Suspension 3 Months

Decided: January 26, 1999

Effective: February 26, 1999

Admitted: 1978

***REPRESENTATIONS BEFORE REVIEW BOARD***

*Barbara S. Fox represented the District VC (West Essex County) Ethics Committee.*

*Richard W. Banas, respondent, failed to appear.*

The Supreme Court of New Jersey, on a certified record from and decision by the Disciplinary Review Board, held that a suspension from the practice of law for a period of three months was the appropriate discipline for an attorney who accepted a retainer from a client, failed to take any action on the client's behalf, failed to reply to the client's repeated attempts to contact him and failed to provide the client with a written fee agreement. Respondent also failed to cooperate with the disciplinary system during the processing of this investigation. The respondent received a reprimand in 1996 for improperly retaining as legal fees a \$5,000 payment intended to obtain bail for his client.

*In re Banas, 144 N.J. 75 (1996).*