

**MICHAEL P. BALINT**

Admitted: 1976; Plainsboro (Middlesex County)

**Reprimand - 172 N.J. 408 (2002)**

Decided: 6/18/2002

*APPEARANCES BEFORE REVIEW BOARD*

*Brian D. Gillet for Attorney Ethics*

*Donald S. Driggers for respondent*

The Supreme Court of New Jersey held that a reprimand was the appropriate discipline for an attorney who negligently misappropriated clients' trust funds and violated mandatory record keeping rules under *R. 1:21-6*. The respondent also engaged in gross neglect by failing to disburse clients' and third parties' funds that remained in his inactive trust account, failed to discharge a mortgage after his clients refinanced their home and, finally, in a separate litigation matter for the same clients, obtained a judgment in their favor but neglected to record it. The Supreme Court also required that, for a period of one year, respondent provide to the Office of Attorney Ethics quarterly trust account reconciliations and prove that he is continuing to attend regular AA meetings or similar programs. Respondent previously received a reprimand coupled with an indefinite proctorship in 2001 for gross neglect, pattern of neglect, lack of diligence, failure to expedite litigation and failure to communicate with clients in three matters. *In re Balint, 170 N.J. 198*. On the same day, the Supreme Court imposed a second reprimand for similar misconduct in three additional matters. *In re Balint, 170 N.J. 244*.