

ADMONITION NO. 00-15

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Neglecting a Legal Matter [DR 6-101(A)(3)]

Failure to Represent a Client Zealously [DR 7-101(A) (1) and (2)]
Prejudicing/Damaging Client During Representation [DR 7-101(A)(3)]

SUMMARY:

The respondent represented a client in a claim for damages following an altercation with her commercial landlord. Although the respondent promptly filed suit on the client's behalf and made service on the defendant, he took no further action, and a year later the case was dismissed pursuant to Standing Order 1-88. The respondent took no action to have the case restored until two years later. His motion to vacate the dismissal was opposed by the defendants, and denied by the judge. In addition, the respondent did not respond to the client's inquiries about the status of the case.

The respondent admits that he neglected the client and her case, by failing to keep her informed of its status, and by failing promptly to seek reinstatement of the case. After the client complained to the Office of Bar Counsel, the respondent settled her claim against him.

The respondent received an admonition for inadequate preparation and neglect of a legal matter in violation of Canon Six, DR 6-101(A)(3), and failure to represent a client zealously in violation of Canon Seven, DR 7-101(A)(1), (2), and (3). The respondent agreed to attend a CLE course designated by Bar Counsel.