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November 25, 2003

Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Joseph J. LaRosa, Esq.
One Greentree Center
Marlton, New Jersey 08053

Re: In the Matter of Joseph J. LaRosa
Docket No. DRB 03-339
District Docket No. IIIB-02-007E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. LaRosa:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, you were retained to represent Joseph Scafisi and Charles Uhle in connection with injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Following a trial that ended on or about September 21, 2001, the jury returned a verdict that generated considerable confusion about the percentage of the net award for each of your clients. After the trial, you and your clients were in the parking lot discussing the ruling and, in particular, the relevant percentages, when two jurors crossed the courtyard and walked by you. One of the jurors said either "hi" or "bye" to you and your clients. Reacting by instinct, you asked the jurors if they knew the dollar amount of the verdict. When one of the jurors replied, "When I go shopping, I don't know about coupons," you realized that you should discontinue talking to the jurors and thanked them. As the jurors were walking away, one or both of them said to you, "You're going to get your money anyway," to which you replied, "We'll have to file a motion anyway." The above conversation lasted between thirty seconds and one minute. Although the jurors never expressed any concerns about this brief

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exchange, they subsequently wrote a letter to the judge complaining that your conduct had left them "uncomfortable." Your conduct was improper and in violation of R. 1:16-1 and RPC 3.5(b).

In mitigation, the Board considered that your conduct was prompted by a natural impulse and that it did not prejudice the administration of justice.

Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney, but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you. R. 1:20-15(f)(4).

A permanent record of this occurrence has been filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Board's office. Should you become the subject of any further discipline, it will be taken into consideration.

The Board has also directed that the costs of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An invoice of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Ellen A. Brodsky
for Julianne K. DeCore

/tk

c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
Associate Justices
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David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
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Joel B. Korin, Respondent's Counsel