## DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD



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June 11, 2009

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Joel C. Seltzer, Esq. 1379 Morris Avenue Union, New Jersey 07083

Re: In the Matter of Joel C. Seltzer

Docket No. DRB 09-009
District Docket Nos. XII-2007-006E,
XII-2007-018E & XII-2007-024E

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LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Seltzer:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper.

Specifically, during the course of your representation of Kelly Bellino, you signed a "letter of protection," dated January 30, 2001, in which you agreed to satisfy the medical bill owed to her treating physician, Steven Nehmer, M.D., when the case reached a resolution. After the case was settled, you did not notify Dr. Nehmer of the receipt of the settlement funds and did not pay his bill, despite the doctor's several requests for payment. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.15(b).

Also, in connection with your representation of Peter Runfolo, in 2005, you failed to memorialize the rate or basis of your fee, a violation of  $\underline{RPC}$  1.5(b).

I/M/O Joel C. Seltzer Docket No. 09-009 Page 2

In imposing only an admonition, the Board noted that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1980.

Your conduct has 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,

Julianne K. DeCore

Julianne K. OleGore

Chief Counsel

## JKD/tk

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

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Disciplinary Review Board

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Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)

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District XII Ethics Committee

Dr. Steven Nehmer, grievant

Kelly Churchill, grievant

Peter Runfolo, grievant