

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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November 25, 2009

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**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. ; REGULAR MAIL**

Barry J. Beran, Esq.  
Beran & Beran  
102 Browning Lane  
Building C, Suite One  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Re: **In the Matter of Barry J. Beran**  
Docket No. DRB 09-245  
District Docket No. IV-07-014E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Beran:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, Deborah D. Sullivan retained you to negotiate pay-off amounts on her credit cards. Although you communicated with the credit card companies on her behalf, you were unable to arrive at a compromise. You failed to advise Sullivan of the possible avenues available to her and the consequences that could flow from whatever action she was inclined to take. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.4(c).

Also, during the course of the representation, Sullivan made a number of attempts to communicate with you. You failed to return her telephone calls. Finally, you failed to provide Sullivan with a written fee agreement. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.4(b) and RPC 1.5(b), respectively.

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In determining to impose only an admonition, the Board noted that, although you have been previously disciplined (reprimand), the conduct that gave rise to that disciplinary matter against you was unrelated to the within violations. Therefore, there was no evidence that you failed to learn from prior, similar mistakes.

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  
Chief Counsel

JKD/sj

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner  
Associate Justices  
Louis Pashman, Chair  
Disciplinary Review Board  
Mark Neary, Clerk  
Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk  
Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)  
Charles Centinaro, Director  
Office of Attorney Ethics  
Philip Stephen Fuoco, Chair, District IV Ethics Committee  
Daniel McCormack, Secretary, District IV Ethics Committee