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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

May 5, 2010

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL & R.R.R.

Lawrence Barisonek, Esq.
Barisonek & Dooley
6 South Avenue East
Cranford, NJ 07016

Dear Mr. Barisonek:

Re: **In the Matter of Lawrence Barisonek**
Docket No. DRB 10-015
District Docket No. XIV-2009-0009E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, from 2002 to 2007, you represented the estate of Martin Steiger. The beneficiaries of the estate were Anne Aviram and Matilda Harris, Steiger's niece and sister, respectively.

In September 2004, while settlement of the estate was progressing, you represented Aviram in a real estate purchase. At Aviram's request, you utilized \$24,000 of the estate funds due to her to help fund her purchase. At the same time, Harris asked you to use \$42,000 of the funds due to her from the estate to help Aviram's purchase. You memorialized their requests by entering a debit of \$66,000 on the Steiger estate client ledger and a credit of \$66,000 on the Aviram client ledger.

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However, you mistakenly credited \$66,000 back to the Steiger estate, thus erroneously duplicating the \$66,000 credit. As a result, the funds available for disbursement were overstated by \$66,000. You disbursed the funds on deposit for the Aviram purchase and the Steiger estate to the proper recipients and, in doing so, negligently misappropriated funds belonging to other clients on deposit in your trust account. Because you did not prepare the thee-way reconciliations required by R. 1:21-6, the overdisbursement of funds went undetected and your account was out of trust for almost five years.


In imposing only an admonition, the Board noted that you had a previously unblemished disciplinary record of over forty years, that your misuse of the funds did not cause harm to any client, and that you have retired from the practice of law.

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
Anne Aviram, grievant