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OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex P.O. BOX 962 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0962

January 30, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Jeffrey S. Lender, Esq. c/o Michael P. Ambrosio, Esq. Seton Hall Law School One Newark Center Newark, NJ 07102

> RE: <u>In the Matter of Jeffrey S. Lender</u> Docket No. DRB 11-368 District Docket No. XIV-2009-0240E LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Lender:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Following a review of the record, the Board determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, you represented Kensington Title Company in a "South Jersey" style real estate closing in which both the grievant, Innocent Amaefule (seller) and Manohar Daryanani (buyer) signed waivers, opting not to be represented by a personal attorney in the transaction. At the closing, you inadvertently over-disbursed a real estate commission to MLSDirect, neglecting to deduct from your payment an \$18,500 deposit for the transaction. You then failed to rectify your error for over five months after the over-disbursement was brought to your attention. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.15(b).

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The Board dismissed the remaining charges related to conflict of interest (<u>RPC</u> 1.7(a)) and misrepresenting services to the client (<u>RPC</u> 7.1(a)(1)) for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have had no prior discipline, since your 2001 admission to the New Jersey bar.

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,

Julian K. DeCore

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 Innocent Amaefule, Grievant