DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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April 22, 2014

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VIA REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R.

Clifford Gregory Stewart, Esq. c/o Bernard K. Freamon, Esq. Seton Hall Law School — Room 520 One Newark Center Newark, New Jersey 07102

Re: <u>In the Matter of Clifford Gregory Stewart</u>
Docket No. DRB 14-014
District Docket No. VA-2011-0032E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Stewart:

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, in 2006, Cenny Norris retained you to represent her in an employment discrimination case against her employer, the United States Fine Arts Commission. After the complaint that you had filed on her behalf with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was dismissed, an action seeking the same relief was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Because you were not licensed to practice law in Washington, D.C., you obtained local counsel to assist you in handling the matter. After the defendant filed a motion to dismiss Norris's amended complaint, however, you failed to provide to local counsel a written opposition to the motion until after the deadline for doing so had expired. As a result, the defendant's

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motion was granted as unopposed. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of \underline{RPC} 1.1(a) and \underline{RPC} 1.3.

In addition, you failed to keep Norris informed about various filing deadlines and about the difficulty you were having with meeting them, particularly with the deadlines for filing an objection to the motion to dismiss the amended complaint, a violation of $\underline{\text{RPC}}$ 1.4(b) and $\underline{\text{RPC}}$ 1.4(c). The Board dismissed the balance of the charges for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board took into consideration your exemplary, unblemished career of twenty-eight years at the time of the incident.

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

Isabel Frank

Acting Chief Counsel

IF/lg

C: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
 Associate Justices
 Bonnie C. Frost, Chair (via e-mail)
 Disciplinary Review Board
 Mark Neary, Clerk
 Supreme Court of New Jersey
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk
 Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)

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Charles Centinaro, Director
Office of Attorney Ethics
Frank J. DeAngelis, Chair
District VA Ethics Committee
John J. Zefutie, Jr., Secretary
District VA Ethics Committee
Cenny Norris, Grievant