

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

BONNIE C. FROST, ESQ., CHAIR
EDNA Y. BAUGH, ESQ., VICE-CHAIR
BRUCE W. CLARK, ESQ.
HON. MAURICE J. GALLIPOLI
THOMAS J. HOBERMAN
ANNE C. SINGER, ESQ.
MORRIS YAMNER, ESQ.
ROBERT C. ZMIRICH



RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
P.O. BOX 962
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962
(609) 292-1011

ELLEN A. BRODSKY
CHIEF COUNSEL
ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL
LILLIAN LEWIN
BARRY R. PETERSEN JR.
DONA S. SEROTA -TESCHNER
COLIN T. TAMS
KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

July 22, 2014

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

David M. Beckerman, Esq.
Beckerman & Beckerman
76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 205
South Orange, NJ 07079

Re: In the Matter of David M. Beckerman
Docket No. DRB 14-118
District Docket No. VC-2012-0040E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Beckerman:

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, during the course of your representation of a financially strapped client in a matrimonial matter, you loaned the client \$16,000, in monthly increments of \$1,000, to enable him to comply with the terms of a pendente lite order for spousal support. To secure repayment for the loan, you obtained a note and mortgage from the client on his share of the marital home, which mortgage you later learned was invalid. In addition, you paid for the replacement of a broken furnace in the client's marital home. By failing to advise your client to consult with independent counsel, failing to provide the client with written disclosure of the terms of the transactions, and failing to obtain his informed written consent to the transactions and to your role in them, you violated RPC 1.8(a). By providing financial assistance to your client, you violated RPC 1.8(e). The Board dismissed the remaining charges of RPC 1.7, RPC 1.8(i), and RPC 5.1(a) as inapplicable.

July 22, 2014

Page 2 of 2


In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that this is your first ethics infraction in your more than sixty years at the bar, that the loans were motivated by altruism, rather than ill-will or a desire to take advantage of your client, that the loans were made to help your client out of his financial problems and to avoid his imprisonment for failure to pay the court-ordered support, that you did not seek repayment of the loan or fees and costs, and that neither your client nor his former wife suffered from your conduct. In fact, they derived a financial benefit from it.

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,


Ellen A. Brodsky
Chief Counsel

EAB/sl

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
Bonnie C. Frost, Chair (via email)
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
Cheryl H. Burstein, Chair, District VC Ethics Committee
Jay M. Silberner, Secretary, District VC Ethics Committee
Iyabo Oki, Grievant