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September 22, 2016

Carl G. Zoecklein
c/o Salvatore T. Alfano, Esq.
55 Washington Street
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003

Re: In the Matter of Carl G. Zoecklein
Docket No. DRB 16-167
District Docket No. IIA-2014-0020E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Zoecklein:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter, as set forth in the disciplinary stipulation filed by the District IIA Ethics Committee. Following a review of the record, the Board determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, six years after you represented Michael Brady in the 2005 purchase of a single-family home, a retaining wall on the premises collapsed. In May 2011, Brady retained you to file suit against the former owners.

Over the following months, you neither filed a complaint nor kept Brady informed about the status of his matter, despite Brady's multiple unreturned telephone messages asking you to contact him.

You finally prepared a complaint, in January 2012, and obtained Brady's signature on it. However, you did not file it. From May 2011 to June 2012, Brady traveled to your office eight times and called you more than thirty times. Nevertheless, you still failed to file the complaint on his behalf.

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In addition, between November 2012 and January 2013, the ethics investigator sent you three letters requesting information about the grievance, but you failed to reply to any of them.

By your actions in the above regard, you lacked diligence in the representation, failed to adequately communicate with your client, and failed to cooperate with the ethics investigation, violations of RPC 1.3, RPC 1.4(b), and RPC 8.1(b), respectively.

In mitigation, the Board considered that you have had no other discipline since your 1990 admission to the bar, that you ultimately cooperated with the district ethics committee, and that you saved disciplinary resources by admitting your guilt and entering into the disciplinary stipulation.

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/paa

c: See Attached

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c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
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District IIA Ethics Committee
Michael Brady, Grievant