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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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May 22, 2018

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R., REGULAR MAIL,
AND E-MAIL**

Vincent J. Ancona, Esq.
220 Old Country Road
First Floor
Mineola, New York 11501
vja@anconalaw.com

Re: In the Matter of Vincent J. Ancona
Docket No. DRB 18-092
District Docket No. XI-2016-0013E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Ancona:

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 for your violation of RPC 5.5(a)(1) (practicing law while ineligible to do so).

Specifically, from September 25, 2000 to April 22, 2005, you were ineligible to practice law due to your nonpayment of the annual attorney assessment to the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection (CPF). During this period of ineligibility, you represented defendants/cross-defendants Richmond Abstract Corp. and Richmond Abstract of New Jersey Corp. (Richmond clients) in a New Jersey federal court litigation matter, captioned Ameriquest

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Mortgage Co. v. Suzanne Bugge. Among other things, in the years 2003 and 2004, you signed and filed with the court pleadings, motions, and affirmations, as attorney for the Richmond clients.

From November 2014 to November 2016, you were ineligible to practice law due to either nonpayment of the annual attorney assessment to the CPF or to your failure to comply with the mandatory continuing legal education (CLE) requirements for one or more of the compliance-reporting years, or both. During this period of ineligibility, you represented the plaintiffs in a New Jersey federal court matter, captioned Dina Ucciardi v. E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. (Ucciardi case). Among other things, on January 12, 2015, in a letter to the magistrate judge overseeing the Ucciardi case, on firm letterhead, you stated that the firm represented the plaintiffs, and signed the letter "Vincent J. Ancona, Attorney at Law."

Although you also were charged with having violated RPC 3.4(c) (knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal), RPC 8.4(c) (conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation), and RPC 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), the Board found that the record lacked clear and convincing evidence that you were aware of your ineligible status at the time you engaged in the conduct described above. Thus, those charges were dismissed.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board took into consideration several mitigating factors, including your acknowledgment of wrongdoing, contrition, and previously unblemished disciplinary record. The Board also considered, in mitigation, that you have since implemented office procedures designed to prevent future non-compliance with your CLE and CPF obligations.

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.

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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
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Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk
Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)
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