## **DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD**

## 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 (609) 815-2920

January 26, 2021

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, REGULAR MAIL, & E-MAIL Daryl Sarrell Pennington, Esq. 133 High Street Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060 darylpennington@yahoo.com

> Re: In the Matter of Daryl Sarrell Pennington Docket No. DRB 20-229 District Docket No. XIV-2017-0659E LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Pennington:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper.<sup>1</sup> Following a review of the record, the Board determined to impose an admonition for your violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.15(d) (failure to comply with the recordkeeping requirements of <u>R.</u> 1:21-6).

Specifically, on January 26, 2018, the Office of Attorney Ethics conducted an audit of your financial books and records. After the audit, you admitted that you had failed to comply with the recordkeeping requirements of <u>R</u>. 1:21-6 by: failing to maintain an attorney trust account (ATA); failing to retain ATA and attorney business account (ABA) records for the prior seven years; failing to correct ATA and ABA designations on bank statements, checks, and deposit slips; failing to maintain separate ledger sheets for ATA funds; failing to maintain client ledger cards; failing to retain trust receipt journals and trust disbursement journals; failing to maintain monthly trust reconciliations; and failing to comply with ABA image-processed checks requirements. Your conduct, thus, violated <u>RPC</u> 1.15(d).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered your remedial efforts to understand and improve your recordkeeping moving forward, and that your misconduct did not invade trust funds or cause harm to any clients.

JOHANNA BARBA JONES CHIEF COUNSEL

TIMOTHY M. ELLIS DEPUTY COUNSEL BARRY R. PETERSEN, JR. DEPUTY COUNSEL

JESSICA A. CALELLA ROCCO J. CARBONE, III Elizabeth L. Laurenzano Kathryn Anne Winterle *assistant counsel* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Member Joseph was recused.

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Your conduct has adversely reflected not only on you as an attorney but also on 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, this admonition will be taken into consideration.

The Board also has directed that the costs of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An invoice of costs will be forwarded to you under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Johanna Bala Jour

Johanna Barba Jones Chief Counsel

JBJ/jm

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner Associate Justices Heather Joy Baker, Clerk Supreme Court of New Jersey Bruce W. Clark, Chair Disciplinary Review Board (e-mail) Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history) Charles Centinaro, Director Office of Attorney Ethics (interoffice mail and e-mail) Timothy J. McNamara, Assistant Ethics Counsel, Presenter Office of Attorney Ethics (e-mail)