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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

April 16, 2004

Via Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Stephen K. Fletcher, Esq.
c/o Peter N. Gilbreth, Esq.
60 Washington Street
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Re: In the Matter of Stephen K. Fletcher
Docket No. DRB 04-077
District Docket No. X-02-007E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, on December 28, 1999, Robin Irwin retained you to represent her in a divorce action against her husband and, ultimately, the sale of the marital residence. The two mortgages encumbering the property were in arrears and, months before the closing, Mrs. Irwin had been served with a notice of foreclosure. At the time of the closing, she had received a deed from her husband transferring his rights in the property to her. Therefore, only her signature was necessary to accomplish the sale of the property. Prior to the closing, Mrs. Irwin had left New Jersey and relocated to Florida with her four children. She had given you a power-of-attorney to complete the real estate closing, which was to take place on August 30, 2001.

I/M/O Stephen K. Fletcher

DRB 04-077

Page Two

At the closing, it was discovered that, although the RESPA statement listed a figure for the first mortgage, the accuracy of that figure was questionable. In addition, the RESPA statement did not list the second mortgage. It was agreed that the buyers' attorney would hold in escrow all funds due to be paid to or on behalf of Mrs. Irwin, including the mortgage pay-offs. You were to attempt to negotiate a reduction of the balance owed to the mortgagees, whereupon the buyers' attorney would make the required payments and remit the balance to you for distribution.

Despite your obligation to keep your client informed of the status of her matter, you did not explain to her, in detail, the contents of the RESPA statement, did not apprise her of the problems that surfaced at the closing, and did not keep her informed of the status of the case after the closing. Furthermore, although the closing took place on August 30, 2001, it was not until January 30, 2002, that you forwarded to your client a check for the net proceeds from the sale. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4(a) and RPC 1.1(a).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1980.

Your conduct 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.

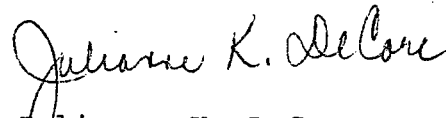
I/M/O Stephen K. Fletcher

DRB 04-077

Page Three

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,


Julianne K. DeCore

/tk

c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
Associate Justices
Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey
Mary J. Maudsley, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
Brian J. Fruehling, Chair, District X Ethics Committee
Bonnie C. Frost, Secretary, District X Ethics Committee
Robin M. Irwin, Grievant