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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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

JULIANNE K. DECORE
CHIEF COUNSEL
ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL
ELLEN A. BRODSKY
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL
LILLIAN LEWIN
DONA S. SEROTA-TESCHNER
COLIN T. TAMS
KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

June 25, 2009

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL & R.R.R.

Shelley A. Weinberg, Esq.
c/o Richard A. Greifinger, Esq.
17 Academy Street
Suite 900
Newark, NJ 07102

In the Matter of Shelley A. Weinberg
Docket No. DRB 09-101
District Docket No. VA05-028E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Weinberg:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, while representing Joseph Dente in a Social Security disability matter from 2002 to 2003, you failed to advise him about important aspects of the case. After erroneously advising Dente that his claim had been denied by the Social Security Administration ("SSA"), you failed to explain your error. You also failed to notify your client that you had terminated the representation and had retained the "excess" portion of your fee while exploring avenues of appeal. Your actions in this regard violated RPC 1.4(b).

As to the charge of an excessive fee (RPC 1.5(a)), the Board found no clear and convincing evidence of any impropriety. The evidence showed that your fee fell within SSA guidelines for such matters. Thus, the Board dismissed that charge.

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In the Matter of Shelley A. Weinberg


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 1988.

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,


Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

JKD/sj

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
Mark Neary, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey
(w/ethics history)
Louis Pashman, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board
Charles Centinaro, Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
Joseph Dente, Grievant