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OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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July 28, 2010

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Walter A. Lesnevich
c/o Madeline Marzano-Lesnevich
Court Plaza South
21 Main Street, Suite 250
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601

Re: **In the Matter of Walter A. Lesnevich**
Docket No. DRB 10-174
District Docket No. IIB-08-0014E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Lesnevich:

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.

Specifically, in the summer of 2001, Lisa Sella and her then-husband, Stewart, retained you in connection with Stewart's personal injury action and Lisa's per quod claim resulting from the same incident. On October 15, 2001, you filed a complaint on their behalf. In February 2002, Lisa discharged you and, on July 18, 2002, filed for divorce. Afterwards, you held yourself out to be Stewart's attorney in the matrimonial matter. On December 17, 2002, Lisa's attorney requested that you disqualify yourself as Stewart's divorce attorney, which you refused to do. In so

doing, you violated RPC 1.9(a).¹ Your duty to protect any confidences that Lisa might have divulged to you during your initial consultation with her outlasted your employment as her attorney.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board gave great weight to your otherwise unblemished professional record of thirty-eight years and to the fact that the incident occurred approximately eight years ago.

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.

Vice Chair Frost recused herself.

Very truly yours,



Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

JKD/sl

¹ In this instance, a finding of a violation of RPC 1.9(a) does not constitute a violation of due process or of R. 1:20-4(b). The complaint charged a violation of RPC 1.7(a)(2), conflict of interest relating to a concurrent client instead of RPC 1.9(a), relating to a former client. Therefore, the complaint provided sufficient notice of a conflict of interest charge and, in turn, ample opportunity to present a defense to the charge.

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c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
Louis Pashman, Chair
Disciplinary Review Board
Mark Neary, Clerk
Supreme Court of New Jersey
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk
Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)
Charles Centinaro, Director
Office of Attorney Ethics
Joseph R. Donahue, Chair, District IIB Ethics Committee
Doris J. Newman, Secretary, District IIB Ethics Committee
Lisa Sella, Grievant