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March 29, 2011

VIA CERTIFIED, R.R.R. and REGULAR MAIL

Gary T. Steele, Esq.
c/o Gerard E. Hanlon, Esq.
Hanlon Dunn & Robertson
50 South Street
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

RE: In the Matter of Gary T. Steele
Docket No. DRB 10-433
District Docket No. XB-2009-0031E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Steele:

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 2005, you represented Cynthia Carrera, the administratrix of her deceased ex-husband's estate, in a real estate transaction and, later, in litigation. At the real estate closing, you directed a \$49,500 payment to yourself from the proceeds, representing earned legal fees. You did so knowing that Carrera had not authorized the disbursement to you. In addition, you did not promptly turn over to Carrera the balance of the funds. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.15(c) and (b), respectively.

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Finally, you violated RPC 1.16(d) when you failed to turn over Carrera's file to her, when she requested it. Your conduct violated RPC 1.16(d).

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/paa

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
Eric S. Solotoff, Chair, District XB Ethics Committee
Caroline Record, Secretary, District XB Ethics Committee
(w/o enclosures)
Cynthia Carrera, Grievant (w/o enclosures)