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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

September 19, 2011

Mark Neary, Clerk
Supreme Court of New Jersey
P.O. Box 970
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0962

Re: In the Matter of Joseph C. Lane
Docket No. DRB 11-184
District Docket No. XIV-2010-0314E

Dear Mr. Neary:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (reprimand) filed by the Office of Attorney Ethics, pursuant to R. 1:20-10(b). Following a review of the record, the Board determined to grant the motion. In the Board's view, a reprimand is the appropriate discipline for respondent's violations of RPC 1.1(a) (gross neglect) and RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence).

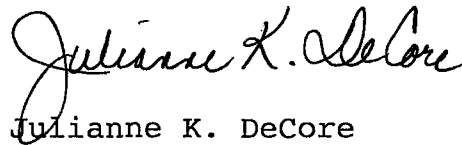
Specifically, as the settlement agent at a June 17, 2008 real estate closing, respondent did not have the deed and mortgage recorded until approximately one and one-half years after the closing and then only after having been contacted by the seller and the seller's attorney. According to the stipulation, the documents had been mistakenly filed with respondent's closed files, before they were recorded. At the time, he did not have a procedure in place for maintaining a list of "work-in-progress," to ensure that the files were completed before they were closed. Respondent, however, had properly disbursed the funds received in connection with the closing.

As an aggravating factor, the Board considered respondent's prior discipline, consisting of two admonitions. The Board, thus, determined that a reprimand was appropriate for violations that otherwise would have been met with an admonition. See, e.g., In re Aranguren, 172 N.J. 236 (2002); and In re Zeitler, 165 N.J. 503 (2000).

Enclosed are the following documents:

1. Notice of motion for discipline by consent, dated May 20, 2011.
2. Stipulation of discipline by consent, dated May 20, 2011.
3. Affidavit of consent, undated.
4. Ethics history, dated September 19, 2011.

Very truly yours;



Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

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Encls.

c: Louis Pashman, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board
Charles Centinaro, Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
Walton W. Kingsbery, III, Assistant Ethics Counsel
Office of Attorney Ethics
Joseph C. Lane, Respondent
Richard Venino, Esq., Grievant