

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LOUIS PASHMAN, ESQ. CHAIR
BONNIE C. FROST, ESQ. VICE-CHAIR
EDNA Y. BAUGH, ESQ.
BRUCE W. CLARK, ESQ.
JEANNE DOREMUS
HON. MAURICE J. GALLIPOLI
SPENCER V. WISSINGER, III
MORRIS YAMNER, ESQ.
ROBERT C. ZMIRICH



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

March 22, 2012

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

George W. Johnson, Esquire
c/o Raymond S. Londa, Esquire
277 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208

Re: In the Matter of George W. Johnson
Docket No. DRB 12-012
District Docket No. XIV-2011-0579E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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, as trustee of a testamentary trust, you made a loan from the trust to yourself without seeking court approval, as required by Clark v. Judge, 84 N.J. Super. 35, 59 (App. Div. 1964), aff'd 44 N.J. 550 (1965). This conduct constituted an impermissible conflict of interest under RPC 1.8(a).

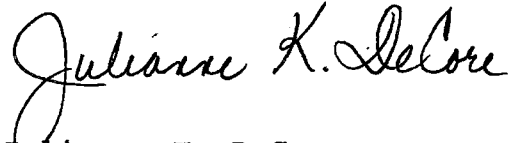
In the Board's view, an admonition is the appropriate measure of discipline for your misconduct, in light of the substantial mitigation weighing in your favor. The Board considered that, at the time of your infraction, you had been practicing law for forty-four years, without having had any disciplinary charges sustained against you; in your capacity as trustee, you took no commission and no fee out of the assets of the trust; prior to your taking the loan, the beneficiary's mother had expressed concern that the income from the trust was insufficient to support her son; you did not act nefariously in taking the loan, but issued a note and a mortgage, which were recorded, informed the beneficiary's mother about the loan shortly after the loan was made, complied with her request that the interest payments be placed in a separate account, made all payments on time, and paid the loan in full early, as requested by the beneficiary's mother.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Julianne K. DeCore".

Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

In the Matter of George W. Johnson

Docket No. DRB 12-012

Page 3

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
Michael J. Sweeney, First Assistant Ethics Counsel
Office of Attorney Ethics
Sonia Ruiz, Grievant