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March 26, 2012

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

Jeffrey R. Grow, Esq.
Three Bank Street
Suite 203
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Re: **In the Matter of Jeffrey R. Grow**
Docket No. DRB 11-199
District Docket No. XB-2010-0015E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Grow:

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, and with the approval of the Supreme Court, the Board determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, in May 2004, Mary Farischon retained you to probate her grandmother's will. You acknowledged that you had not previously represented Farischon and that a November 1, 2004 tax return that you prepared for the estate was the first (and only) writing containing the terms of your fee.

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The Board determined that it was unreasonable for you to submit written confirmation of the fee six months later, in November 2004. The Board found that your inaction for that length of time violated RPC 1.5(b).

You also violated RPC 3.4(g) for sending your client a letter in which you threatened to file criminal charges against her, if she did not pay your fee.

The Board dismissed the remaining charges for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have no disciplinary record in over thirty-five years at the bar. In addition, this is not an instance of an attorney flouting the rules. Rather, you were unaware that you could not use the prospect of criminal charges to aid in the collection of your fee. So, too, you expressed sincere remorse for having sent the letter, which had been prompted by feelings of anger and frustration. Although the reason for your dereliction is no excuse, it demonstrated your lack of intent to act unethically.


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.

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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
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Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)
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Caroline Record, Secretary, District XB Ethics Committee
Mary Farischon, Grievant