

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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April 23, 2012

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

Leonard B. Zucker, Esq.  
c/o James A. Paone, II, Esq.  
Lomurro Davison Eastman & Munoz, PA  
Monmouth Executive Center  
100 Willowbrook Road, Suite 100  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

**Re: In the Matter of Leonard B. Zucker**  
Docket No. DRB 12-039  
District Docket No. XII-2010-0017E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Zucker:

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 2009, you filed a foreclosure complaint against Michael Jengo, Jr., who lived in California. Thereafter, in August 2009, Jengo telephoned you to inform you that he was not the proper defendant in the matter and that he never owned property in New Jersey. You advised him to disregard the documents because his social security number did not match that of the actual defendant.

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Unsatisfied with your response, Jengo retained a New Jersey attorney, who provided your office with proof that Jengo was not the defendant. The attorney requested that a stipulation of dismissal be filed in the matter. You did not reply to the attorney's telephone calls or letters. It was not until after the attorney filed an answer, a motion for summary judgment, and a grievance against you that you forwarded a stipulation of dismissal to him.

The Jengo matter "fell through the cracks" in your office due, in part, to the large number of foreclosure matters that your firm handled and the failure to direct the attorney's calls and letters to your staff members trained to handle the problems that arose therefrom. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 3.2 (failure to expedite litigation and to treat with courtesy and consideration all persons involved in the legal process) and RPC 5.3(a) (failure to supervise non-lawyer staff).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you had an otherwise unblemished record of fifty-two years, you were semi-retired at the time of the events, your firm apologized to the grievant and reimbursed his legal fees in the matter, and your firm instituted new procedures to avoid the recurrence of similar problems.

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/sl

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  
James J. Byrnes, Chair  
District XII Ethics Committee  
Michael F. Brandman, Secretary  
District XII Ethics Committee  
Michael Jengo, Grievant