

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

April 24, 2012

David Leonard Roeber, Esq.  
David Leonard Roeber, LLC  
555 Lacey Road, Suite 5  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

**RE: In the Matter of David Leonard Roeber**  
Docket No. DRB 12-057  
District Docket No. IIIA-2011-0005E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Roeber:

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 attorney for the administratrix of the estate of George E. Hartman, Jr., you failed to reply to inquiries about the status of the estate from counsel for Hartman's son, who was the estate's sole beneficiary. Although you did not represent the beneficiary, you were under an ethical obligation, under RPC 1.4 (b), to reply to the requests made on his behalf. See, e.g., In the Matter of Michael K. Mullen, DRB 98-067 (April 21, 1999) (admonition imposed on attorney who, as the attorney for his grandmother's estate, failed to comply with a beneficiary's numerous requests for information about the progress of the matter, among other things) and In the Matter of Ronald E. Burgess, DRB 97-488 (April 27, 1988) (admonition imposed on an attorney for an

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estate who, among other things failed to communicate with the grievant/beneficiaries). Your failure to communicate with counsel for the beneficiary violated RPC 1.4(b).

In addition, because you did not regularly check the contents of your post office box, you were unaware of two letters from the District Ethics Committee, enclosing a copy of the grievance filed against you in this matter and requesting that you submit a written reply. As a result, you did not comply with the committee's requests, a violation of RPC 8.1(b).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board took into consideration that you have had an unblemished disciplinary record since your admission to the New Jersey bar, in 1997.

Your conduct 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

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Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk  
Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)  
Charles Centinaro, Director  
Office of Attorney Ethics  
Eugenia M. Lynch, Chair  
District IIIA Ethics Committee  
Steven Secare, Secretary  
District IIA Ethics Committee  
Justin Hartman, Grievant