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May 29, 2012

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

Ejike Ngozi Uzor
c/o Robert M. Donchez, Esq.
Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Fader, LLC
60 W. Broad Street
Suite 102
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Re: In the Matter of Ejike Ngozi Uzor
Docket No. DRB 12-075
District Docket No. XIV-2010-0543E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Uzor:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (reprimand or such lesser discipline as the Court may deem appropriate), filed by the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) in the above matter, pursuant to R. 1:20-10. Following a review of the record, the Board determined to grant the motion and to impose an admonition.

Specifically, in March 2009 you accepted a position as legal counsel for New Day, a loan-modification entity, for which you were paid a weekly salary to handle customer complaints and advise New Day how best to handle them. New Day also permitted you to open your own law practice in its office space.

When New Day was forced to relinquish its trade name, you permitted it to operate under your law firm name, with New Day's non-lawyers administering law firm finances through your attorney business account. You admittedly violated RPC 5.4(d)(3), which prohibits non-lawyers from exercising "control [over] the professional judgment of the lawyer."

You also violated RPC 5.4(a) by sharing legal fees with a non-lawyer, New Day. The fees were charged to its loan-modification clients. You did not share legal fees generated from your own private practice.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board gave great weight to the mitigation presented. At the time of your misconduct, you were inexperienced as an attorney, having been admitted just months earlier. In addition, the involvement with New Day was short-lived (four months) and, immediately upon realizing that the relationship was inappropriate, you terminated it. You also took steps to protect the remaining New Day clients from harm, when that entity was shut down, working gratis and contributing your own funds to pay former staff to complete open files. Finally, you readily admitted your misconduct and entered into a consent stipulation with the OAE.

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). The Board also determined to require you to take a course in law office management, as approved by the OAE, in a time frame approved by that office.

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
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
Janice L. Richter, Deputy Ethics Counsel
Office of Attorney Ethics