

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

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November 16, 2012

Paul R. Melletz, Esquire  
Begelman Orlow & Melletz  
411 Route 70 East  
Suite 245  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034

**Re: In the Matter of Paul R. Melletz**  
Docket No. DRB 12-224  
District Docket No. XIV-2011-0462E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Melletz:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (reprimand or such lesser discipline as the Board shall deem warranted) filed by the Office of Attorney Ethics, pursuant to R. 1:20-10(b). Following a review of the record, the Board determined to grant the motion. In the Board's view, an admonition is the appropriate measure of discipline for your violation of RPC 5.4(a) (improper fee-sharing with non-lawyer).

Specifically, in 2001, you hired Maria James to serve as a paralegal for your immigration matters as an independent contractor. For a few years, you compensated James by evenly dividing the flat fee that you charged the immigration clients. Because James was a nonlawyer employee, your fee-sharing arrangement with her violated RPC 5.4(a).

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In imposing only an admonition, the Board took into consideration that you were unaware that the fee-sharing arrangement with James was unethical, and, as soon as you learned of its impropriety, you terminated the fee-sharing arrangement with her.

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

cc: 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