DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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November 27, 2012

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

Raymond A. Oliver, Esq. Route 618 183 Sarepta Road Belvidere, New Jersey 07823

> Re: <u>In the Matter of Raymond Oliver</u> Docket No. DRB 12-232 District Docket No. XIII-2011-017E LETTER OF ADMONITION (CORRECTED COPY)

Dear Mr. Oliver:

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 late 2006 or early 2007, Carlo Pignataro retained you to represent him in a domestic violence matter and in a subsequent divorce action. During the course of the representation, a fee dispute arose between you and Pignataro. That dispute ultimately resulted in Pignataro's filing an ethics grievance against you.

During the course of the investigation of that grievance, you failed to cooperate with the ethics investigators. Although <u>I/M/O Raymond Oliver</u>, DRB 12-232 November 27, 2012 Page 2 of 3

you communicated with them, you failed to give them a written, formal reply to the grievance and a copy of the filed pleadings against Pignataro, despite your repeated assurances that you would do so. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of <u>RPC</u> 8.1(b).

The Board dismissed the charged violations of <u>RPC</u> 1.3 and <u>RPC</u> 1.4(a) and (b) for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that your failure to cooperate was confined to the period during the investigation. Thereafter, you appeared at the DEC hearing and participated fully during the disciplinary process.

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. <u>R.</u> 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,

Juliane K. Selore

Julianne K. DeCore Chief Counsel

JKD/paa

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Chief Justice Stuart Rabner C: 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 John E. Lanza, Chair District XIII Ethics Committee Donna P. Legband, Secretary District XIII Ethics Committee Carlo Pignataro, Grievant