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December 11, 2012

CERTIFIED, R.R.R. and REGULAR MAIL

Anthony J. Balliette, Esq.
359 96th Street, Suite 203
Stone Harbor, New Jersey 08247

Re: In the Matter of Anthony J. Balliette
Docket No. 12-276
District Docket No. XIV-2011-0506E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Balliette:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed the pleadings in this matter, pursuant to R. 1:20-6(c)(1), and concluded that you have engaged in unethical conduct. The Board determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, you practiced law while you were on the Supreme Court's list of ineligible attorneys, due to nonpayment of the annual attorney assessment to the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, between September 2009 and January 2011 and between September 2011 and February 2012, a violation of RPC 5.5(a)(1). In addition, after you were appointed administrator of an estate, in November 2008, you lacked diligence in handling the matter, by failing to complete the tasks required of you until four years later, a violation of RPC 1.3. Further, after the funeral expenses were paid, you failed to promptly turn over the estate's remaining funds to Medicaid, which held a substantial lien against the estate, a violation of

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RPC 1.15(b). Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you. R. 1:20-15(f)(4). See, e.g., In the Matter of E. Steven Lustig, DRB 02-053 (April 19, 2003) (for three-and-a-half years, attorney held in his trust account \$4800 earmarked for the payment of a client's outstanding hospital bill; the attorney also practiced law while ineligible and violated the recordkeeping rules).

In mitigation, the Board considered the serious personal and health issues that you were facing at the time of the misconduct, as well as your unblemished disciplinary record since your admission to the bar in the year 2000.

The Board has also determined to impose certain conditions on your continued practice of law, to wit: that you follow through with your representation that you will seek treatment for your depression from the psychologist to whom you were referred; that you notify the psychologist that he is to provide the Office of Attorney Ethics with periodic reports attesting to your continued treatment; that you seek assistance from the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program; and that you practice under the supervision of a proctor, until your treatment is completed.

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

JDK:paa

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- 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
 - William J. Marella, Grievant