DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LOUIS PASHMAN, ESQ. CHAIR
BONNIE C. FROST, ESQ. VICE-CHAIR
EDNA Y. BAUGH, ESQ.
BRUCE W. CLARK, ESQ.
JEANNE DOREMUS
HON. MAURICE J. GALLIPOLI
SPENCER V. WISSINGER, III
MORRIS YAMNER, ESQ.
ROBERT C. ZMIRICH



RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
P.O. BOX 962
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962
(609) 292-1011

CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

JULIANNE K. DECORE

ELLEN A. BRODSKY
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL

LILLIAN LEWIN

DONA S. SEROTA -TESCHNER

COLIN T. TAMS

KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE

ASSISTANT COUNSEL

January 22, 2013

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. AND REGULAR MAIL

Michael J. Geron, Esq. 2009 Morris Avenue, Ste. 101 Union, New Jersey 07083-6013

Re: In the Matter of Michael James Geron

Docket No. DRB 12-307 District Docket No. XII-2011-0018E

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Geron:

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 July 2005, Marianne Falk retained you to represent her in a post-judgment matrimonial matter. Although you had not previously represented Ms. Falk, you failed to present her with a writing setting forth the basis or rate of your fee within a reasonable time after the start of the representation, a violation of \underline{RPC} 1.5(b).

In 2007, Ms. Falk retained you to represent her in a collection matter against Frank Carri. In violation of RPC 1.5(c), you failed to present her with a written fee agreement in this matter, even though part of your fee included one-third of the monies recovered from Carri.

I/M/O Michael James Geron, DRB 12-307
January 18, 2013
Page 2 of 3

Further, in the course of an arbitration proceeding with Carri, the matter was settled in your client's favor. The amount owed to her was memorialized in an arbitration award. Carri defaulted immediately. Yet, you waited nearly three years to have the arbitration award reduced to a judgment, a violation of RPC 1.3. During that same period, you failed to comply with Ms. Falk's requests for information regarding the status of the matter, a violation of RPC 1.4(b).

Finally, in December 2010, Ms. Falk, who had not terminated the representation, asked you for a copy of the file in the <u>Carri</u> matter. You did not comply with that request or her subsequent requests until April 2011, after she had filed a grievance against you. Your conduct violated <u>RPC</u> 1.15(b).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board took into consideration that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the bar in 1984.

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

ulianne X. Delore

Chief Counsel

JDK:lqn

c. Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
Louis Pashman, Chair
Disciplinary Review Board

I/M/O Michael James Geron, DRB 12-307
January 18, 2013
Page 3 of 3

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

Bill R. Fenstemaker, Chair
District XII Ethics Committee

Michael F. Brandman, Secretary
District XII Ethics Committee
Marianne Falk, Grievant