

# 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

JULIANNE K. DECORE  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
ISABEL FRANK  
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL  
ELLEN A. BRODSKY  
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL  
LILLIAN LEWIN  
DONA S. SEROTA -TESCHNER  
COLIN T. TAMS  
KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE  
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

January 25, 2013

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

Douglas B. Hanna, Esq.  
c/o Michael D. Schottland, Esq.  
Lomurro Davison Eastman & Munoz, PA  
100 Willowbrook Road, Suite 100  
Freehold, NJ 07728

RE: In the Matter of Douglas B. Hanna  
Docket No. DRB 12-306  
District Docket No. XIV-2011-0253E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Hanna:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (admonition), 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 2011, you received a copy of a grievance filed by your client, Tebbie Carbone, questioning the disbursement of settlement funds from his personal injury matter. After the matter had settled, your former bookkeeper had prepared a settlement statement that showed that Carbone was not

January 25, 2013

Page 2 of 3

entitled to any of the settlement funds because of medical liens and money owed to doctors. After you received the grievance, you contacted your accountant, who determined that you owed Carbone as well as two other clients money from their settlements. Your bookkeeper had fabricated false settlement statements and was later prosecuted for embezzling funds from your trust account.

Thereafter, you notified the OAE about the other two clients to whom you owed money and cashed in your life insurance policy to pay them. You were unable to contact one of your clients and deposited her funds into your attorney's trust account.

As stipulated, your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.3 for failing to monitor your clients' trust funds.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you readily admitted your wrongdoing by entering into a stipulation with the OAE and brought to its attention the two other cases in which money was owed to clients; successfully completed an alcohol rehabilitation program; and regularly attend private counseling with a Board-certified psychologist on an out-patient basis. The Board further considered that your ethics transgressions here do not reflect a failure to learn from prior mistakes. Rather, they were part and parcel of the same problems that resulted in your prior admonition. For these reasons, the Board determined that discipline no greater than an admonition is warranted.

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.

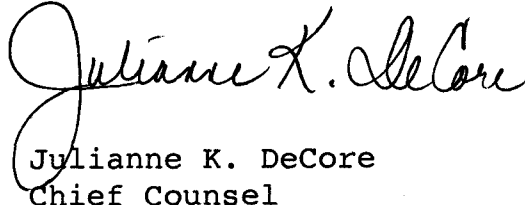
I/M/O Douglas B. Hanna, DRB 12-306

January 25, 2013

Page 3 of 3

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/sl

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  
Tebbie Carbone, Grievant