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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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September 26, 2013

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

Thomas M. Wolfe, Esq.
c/o Pamela Lynn Brause, Esq.
Brause Brause & Ventrice LLC
276 Main Street, P.O. Box 512
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

Re: In the Matter of Thomas M. Wolfe
Docket No. DRB 13-100
District Docket No. VIII-2011-0034E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (reprimand or such lesser discipline as the Board deems appropriate), filed by the District VIII Ethics Committee 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 January 2001, you prepared a will for your client, Helen Cange, granting to you a share of her estate. Although, when drafting the will, you believed that the estate funds would be depleted before reaching you as a beneficiary and although you acted out of a desire to placate a highly insistent, elderly client, your actions in drafting the will violated RPC 1.8(c). Under the will, you were granted a substantial testamentary gift, an impermissible act under the rules.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you had ten years at the bar, without prior incident; that you were unaware, when preparing the will, that it was impermissible under the rules; that you were "forced" into preparing the will by your client; and that you immediately terminated the representation and ceased acting as executor of the estate as soon as you learned that your actions were improper.

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. 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

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
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Disciplinary Review Board (via e-mail)
Mark Neary, Clerk
Supreme Court of New Jersey
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk
Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)
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