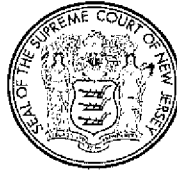


DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

June 19, 2014

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. and REGULAR MAIL

Ralph Gerstein, Esq.
c/o Marc David Garfinkle, Esq.
89 Headquarters Plaza (North Tower)
Suite 1212
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Re: In the Matters of Ralph Gerstein
Docket Nos. DRB 14-049 and 14-050
District Docket Nos. VII-2011-0022E and
VII-2011-0033E

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Gerstein:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matters and has concluded that it was improper. Following a review of the record, the Board determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, you admitted that, in 2008 and 2009, when representing clients Kathy Bullis and Margaret Tracy in their respective matters, you engaged in a combination of gross neglect, lack of diligence, and failure to communicate with them, in violation of RPC 1.1(a), RPC 1.3, and RPC 1.4(b). In addition, in the Tracy matter, you failed to return the client file upon termination of the representation (RPC 1.16(d)), did not promptly cooperate with the ethics investigator (RPC 8.1(b)), and made a misrepresentation to the client about the status of the case (RPC

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8.4(c)). The Board dismissed the charge of a pattern of neglect (RPC 1.1(b)) as inapplicable.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered significant, compelling mitigation. Specifically, you have an unblemished disciplinary record since your 2000 admission to the New Jersey bar, an indication that your conduct was aberrational; the majority of your misconduct coincided with your development of a condition that required a medical procedure; and you were suffering from severe depression. All of these problems converged in the fall of 2010, to the detriment of these two clients. You also admitted your wrongdoing, expressed deep remorse therefor, sought medical treatment for your depression, and continue to treat with a psychiatrist on a regular basis.

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,



Ellen A. Brodsky
Chief Counsel

EAB/paa

c: See Attached List

I/M/O Ralph Gerstein, DRB 14-049 and 14-050

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c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
Bonnie C. Frost, Chair
Disciplinary Review Board (via email)
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
Jennifer Weisberg Millner, Chair
District VII Ethics Committee
Alan G. Frank, Jr., Secretary
District VII Ethics Committee
Kathy Bullis, Grievant
Margaret Tracy, Grievant