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**OF THE**  
**SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY**

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June 23, 2014

**CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL**

Sean Lawrence Branigan, Esq.  
24 Upper Mountain Avenue  
Montclair, NJ 07042

**RE: In the Matter of Sean Lawrence Branigan**  
Docket No. DRB 14-088  
District Docket No. VC-2012-0008E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Branigan:

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 August 2011, Julienne Pape retained your legal services concerning a matrimonial matter. Beginning in early September 2011, Pape sent an email and placed several telephone calls to your office, in an effort to obtain an accounting of the work you had performed and the amount she owed you as fees. You never responded to those phone calls and email and never sent Pape an invoice for the time spent on her case. Your failure to communicate with your client and comply with her reasonable requests for information about her matter violated RPC 1.4(b).

For lack of clear and convincing evidence, the Board dismissed the allegation that you violated RPC 3.3.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have an unblemished record in fourteen years at the bar and that this seemed to be an isolated event that may have been exacerbated

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by the confluence of several random events. These events included your office flooding, in the wake of hurricane Irene; the hacking of your email system; and the fact that your firm was undergoing a change of the program and process to track and bill for its time.

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 cost 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/lg

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner  
Associate Justices  
Bonnie C. Frost, Chair (via e-mail)  
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  
Jay M. Silberner, Secretary  
District VC Ethics Committee  
Julienne E. Pape, Grievant