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OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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July 22, 2014

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

Frances Ann Hartman, Esq.
Hartman Group, LLC
513 South Lenola Road - Suite 212
Moorestown, New Jersey 08057

RE: In the Matter of Frances Ann Hartman
Docket No. DRB 14-138
District Docket No. IIIB-2013-0019E

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Hartman:

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 2007, Christine Marks retained your services for a legal malpractice matter. Despite a zealous representation at the beginning of the client/attorney relationship, you failed to act with diligence after Marks' complaint was dismissed. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.3.

In addition, you failed to return Marks' repeated phone calls and emails for almost an entire year, between June 2009 and April 2010, a violation of RPC 1.4(b). You also failed to explain to Marks, in detail, what you considered to be problematic with her claim, so that she could make an informed

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decision on whether to proceed with it. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.4(c).

For lack of clear and convincing evidence, the Board dismissed the charges of RPC 1.15(b) and RPC 8.1(b).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that, prior to this incident, you had a spotless record in thirty-three years at the bar and that, therefore, your conduct was aberrational.

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,



Ellen A. Brodsky
Chief Counsel

EAB/lg

C: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
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Disciplinary Review Board
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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