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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

January 28, 2011

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

Jennifer L. Kovach, Esq.
c/o George T. Daggett
Daggett Kraemer Kovach & Gjelsvik
328 D Sparta Avenue
Sparta, NJ 07871

RE: In the Matter of Jennifer L. Kovach
Docket No. DRB 10-323
District Docket No. XA-2009-0003E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Kovach:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper.

Specifically, on June 19, 2008, you represented Martha Kowalewski and Robert Smith in their purchase of a house. Thereafter, they sought information from you about certain of your disbursements for the matter. Of particular concern to Kowalewski was your calculation of her overpayment for the property. Although you stated your belief that your office staff had answered all of your clients' questions, it should have been clear to you that staff had not done so, for your clients sent you numerous emails, letters and placed numerous telephone calls thereafter requesting your direct assistance. You conceded at the hearing below that you received their inquiries, but did not communicate with them in any way after the closing. When your clients did not receive a reply from you, they filed their grievance on January 9, 2009.

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Your failure to communicate with your clients for over six months about the status of their matter violated RPC 1.4(b). The Board agreed with the panel below and dismissed the RPC 1.15(b) charge (premature release of escrow funds). Because the seller did not agree to an escrow arrangement for sellers' funds, you had no choice but to return those funds to the seller.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that no other ethics infractions have been sustained against you since your 1994 admission to the bar.

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,



Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

JKD/sj

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
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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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Martha Kowalewski, Grievant