

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

January 20, 2015

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

Stephanie A. Hand, Esq.  
c/o John McGill, III, Esq.  
McGill Law Practice, LLC  
406 Grant Avenue  
Edgewater Park, New Jersey 08010

**Re: In the Matter of Stephanie A. Hand**

Docket No. DRB 14-291

District Docket No. VA-2013-0013E

**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Ms. Hand:

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, between July 23, 2012 and April 26, 2013, you failed to communicate with your client, Peter Barrett, about the status of his case. Furthermore, you failed to inform Mr. Barrett that your legal research had revealed that the arbitrator's decision in favor of his contractor was not appealable and continued to allow him to believe that you would complete and file a complaint on his behalf. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.4(b).

Additionally, other than a meeting with Mr. Barrett, in June 2012, the record is bereft of any evidence that you performed any work, after March 6, 2012, to advance his potential claims. At the

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DEC hearing, you admitted that you never completed the legal research necessary to file the complaint and did not have time to research legal matters outside the scope of your normal practice. Your lack of diligence in this matter constituted a violation of RPC 1.3.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board took into account that your inaction was largely the result of your inexperience in both litigation and the areas of law implicated in this matter.

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

See attached list

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c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner  
Associate Justices  
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Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk  
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District VA Ethics Committee  
Peter Barrett, Grievant