DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex P.O. Box 962 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0962 (609) 292-1011

February 25, 2015

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

Spencer B. Robbins, Esq. c/o Frederick J. Dennehy, Esq. Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. 90 Woodbridge Center Drive Suite 900, Box 900 Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095-0958

> Re: <u>In the Matter of Spencer B. Robbins</u> Docket No. DRB 14-315 District Docket No. VIII-2011-0004E LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Robbins:

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

Specifically, the Board found that you failed to reply to the ethics investigator's three letters requesting information about the grievance filed against you by David Waxtel. The letters were sent to you on July 28, 2011, September 9, 2011, and January 10, 2012.

ELLEN A. BRODSKY CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

MELISSA URBAN FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL TIMOTHY M. ELLIS LILLIAN LEWIN BARRY R. PETERSEN JR. COLIN T. TAMS KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE ASSISTANT COUNSEL In the Matter of Spencer B. Robbins Docket No. DRB 14-315 Page 2 of 3

The Board noted that, although you had no written communications with the ethics investigator, on a few occasions you informed him that you had assigned the preparation of a reply to the grievance to an attorney in your office who had most recently handled David Waxtel's matters. The Board determined that, nevertheless, it was your responsibility to ensure that a reply to the grievance was filed.

Your conduct was unethical and a violation of <u>RPC</u> 8.1(b). The Board dismissed the remaining violations for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that, even though in 2004 you were admonished for a similar violation, you presented compelling mitigating factors, both personal and professional.

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. <u>R.</u> 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/sl c: See attached list In the Matter of Spencer B. Robbins Docket No. DRB 14-315 Page 3 of 3

> Chief Justice Stuart Rabner Associate Justices Bonnie C. Frost, Chair 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 Glynn J. Dwyer, Jr., Chair District VIII Ethics Committee Maurice Jefferson, Secretary District VIII Ethics Committee David Waxtel, Grievant