## **DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD**

## **OF THE**

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

BONNIE C. FROST, ESQ., CHAIR EDNA Y. BAUGH, ESQ., VICE-CHAIR BRUCE W. CLARK, ESQ. HON MAURICE J. GALLIPOLI THOMAS J. HOBERMAN EILEEN RIVERA ANNE C. SINGER, ESQ. ROBERT C. ZMIRICH



Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex P.O. Box 962 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0962 (609) 292-1012

May 27, 2015

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

Eric Salzman, Esq. c/o Frederick D. Miceli, Esq. 1129 Bloomfield Avenue Suite 202 West Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

> RE: <u>In the Matter of Eric Salzman</u> Docket No. DRB 15-064 District Docket No. XIV-2013-0333E LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Salzman:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed the abovereferenced matter filed by the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE), pursuant to <u>R.</u> 1:20-6(c)(1). Following a review of the record, the Board determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, the OAE's investigation of an overdraft revealed that you seldom used your trust account and maintained a balance of only \$1 in it. On June 18, 2013, you deposited a \$200 check, an earned fee, into your trust account because your business account had been closed due to an overdrawn balance. As the client had insufficient funds in his account to cover the check, when you withdrew funds against the \$200 deposit, you overdrew your trust account. The bank generated a \$200 deposit return chargeback and

ELLEN A. BRODSKY CHIEF COUNSEL

MELISSA URBAN first assistant counsel Timothy M. Ellis Lillian Lewin Barry R. Petersen, Jr. Colin T. Tams Kathryn Anne Winterle assistant counsel <u>I/M/O Erik Salzman</u>, DRB 15-064 May 27, 2015 Page 2 of 3

assessed a \$20 deposit return fee charge, leaving a negative balance in your trust account of \$219. Thereafter, the bank assessed a \$35 overdraft fee, which increased the negative balance in the account to \$254.

The resulting OAE demand audit revealed that you (1) did not maintain trust or business receipts or disbursements journals, or client ledger cards; (2) made disbursements from the trust account against uncollected funds; (3) withdrew cash from the trust account; (4) did not properly designate the trust account; and (5) did not maintain a business account. Your conduct was unethical and violated <u>RPC</u> 1.15(d) and <u>R.</u> 1:21-6 (recordkeeping).

In mitigation, the Board considered your lack of a disciplinary history and your cooperation with ethics authorities by admitting your conduct 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. <u>R.</u> 1:20-15(f).

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,

Broky

Ellen A. Brodksy Chief Counsel

EAB/sl

c: See attached list

<u>I/M/O Erik Salzman</u>, DRB 15-064 May 27, 2015 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 Jason D. Saunders, Deputy Ethics Counsel Office of Attorney Ethics