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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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October 16, 2015

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

John L. Conroy, Jr., Esq.
1236 Brace Road, Suite 1
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034

Re: In the Matter of John L. Conroy, Jr.
Docket No. DRB 15-248
District Docket Nos. IV-2013-0020E and IV-
2014-0008E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Conroy:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (admonition), filed by the District IV Ethics Committee in the above matter, pursuant to R. 1:20-10. Following a review of the record, the Board determined to grant the motion and to impose an admonition.

Specifically, in October 2012, you were retained to draft a will, living will, and power of attorney for James Stoneback, for a fee of \$2,500. At the time, Mr. Stoneback resided in a rehabilitation facility. During your initial meeting, you also agreed to process a claim for veteran's benefits on Mr. Stoneback's behalf. Those services were to be included in the original \$2,500 fee. Even though you had not previously represented Mr. Stoneback, you did not provide him with a

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writing setting forth the basis or rate of your fee, a violation of RPC 1.5(b).

In November 2012, you met with Mr. Stoneback and his sister, Marilyn Prus, at the rehabilitation facility, for the execution of the will, living will, and power of attorney, and to further discuss the filing of the claim for veteran's benefits. A few weeks after the meeting, Ms. Prus forwarded documents to you that were needed to process Mr. Stoneback's claim. Thereafter, between December 2012 and March 2013, Ms. Prus called you approximately four times to inquire about the claim, but was not always able to reach you. Although you informed her that you would check Mr. Stoneback's file and contact her, you did not do so. In early March 2013, Mr. Stoneback learned that you had not submitted a claim for veteran's benefits. Therefore, he filed the application himself.

The Board determined that your conduct violated RPC 1.3. Even though you agreed in the affidavit of consent that you also violated RPC 1.1, the stipulation did not cite that RPC and, in any event, the Board did not find that your conduct amounted to gross neglect. The Board also found that you did not adequately communicate with Ms. Prus and Mr. Stoneback, thereby violating RPC 1.4(b). You further admitted that you failed to reply to the prior investigator's three requests for information, a violation of RPC 8.1(b).

The Board also determined that you practiced law while administratively ineligible to do so for failure to submit the required forms to the Income on Non-Interest Bearing Lawyers' Trust Accounts Fund, a violation of RPC 5.5(a). Your conduct in this regard, however, was not intentional as you were under the mistaken belief that you had completed and submitted the required forms.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that, ultimately, you cooperated fully with the investigation in this matter by entering into a disciplinary stipulation, that you agreed to return the entire \$2,500 fee to help compensate Mr. Stoneback for lost retroactive benefits, and that you have an otherwise unblemished record in your forty years at the bar.

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

EAB/sl

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)
Charles Centinaro, Director
Office of Attorney Ethics
William A. Nash, Chair, District IV Ethics Committee
John M. Palm, Secretary, District IV Ethics Committee
James Stoneback, Grievant