

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

MARY J. MAUDSLEY, ESQ., CHAIR
WILLIAM J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, ESQ., VICE-CHAIR
MATTHEW P. BOYLAN, ESQ.
ROBERT C. HOLMES, ESQ.
RUTH JEAN LOLLA
LOUIS PASHMAN, ESQ.
BARBARA F. SCHWARTZ
HON. REGINALD STANTON
SPENCER V. WISSINGER, III



RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
P. O. BOX 962
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962
(609) 292-1011

ROBYN M. HILL
CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

LILLIAN LEWIN
DONA S. SEROTA-TESCHNER
COLIN T. TAMS
ELLEN A. BRODSKY
JOANN G. EYLER
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

July 3, 2003

Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Stephen D. Landfield, Esq.
101 Gibraltar Drive
Powder Mill Plaza
Suite 2D
Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

Re: In the Matter of Stephen D. Landfield
Docket No. DRB 03-137
District Docket No. X-02-003E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Landfield:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in or about July 2001, you were retained by William Miicke to represent him in connection with divorce and custody issues. On August 2, 2001, Mr. Miicke paid you a \$7,500 retainer. On August 16, 2001, Mr. Miicke advised you that he had retained another attorney to represent his interests. He requested that you provide him with an accounting of services and return the unused portion of the retainer. When Mr. Miicke did not receive the accounting and the balance of his retainer, he renewed his request on many occasions thereafter. It was not until December 21, 2001 that you finally prepared the accounting and issued a check for the return of the unused portion of the retainer. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.16(d).¹

¹ Although the complaint charged that this conduct violated RPC 1.15(b) and the hearing panel so found, the more applicable rule is RPC 1.16(d).

I/M/O Stephen D. Landfield

DRB 03-137

July 3, 2003

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1984.

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,


Robyn M. Hill

RMH:tk

- c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
- Associate Justices
- Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey
- Mary J. Maudsley, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board
- David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
- Stuart M. Lederman, Chair, District X Ethics Committee
- Bonnie C. Frost, Secretary, District X Ethics Committee
- William Miicke, Grievant