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February 2, 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. AND REGULAR MAIL

Craig Joseph Kobrin, Esq.
c/o Michael Alvarez, Esq.
Lord Kobrin Alvarez & Fattell
1283 Route 22 East
Mountainside, New Jersey 07092

Re: In the Matter of Craig Joseph Kobrin

Docket No. DRB 15-308

District Docket No. XII-2012-0046E (Fox)

District Docket No. XII-2013-0045E (Glushakow)

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Kobrin:

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

Specifically, on March 10, 2008, in the course of representing your client in a personal injury action, you issued a letter of protection (LOP) to grievant, Dr. Allen Glushakow, who had rendered medical treatment to your client for the injuries he had sustained. In the LOP, you confirmed that any balance due to Dr. Glushakow in respect of his treatment would be protected from the proceeds of any settlement of judgment at trial "so long as it conform[ed] with the New Jersey PIP fee schedule"

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Thereafter, you settled your client's case and disbursed the proceeds, without satisfying Dr. Glushakow's lien and without informing him of the settlement. In fact, it was not until several years later that Dr. Glushakow learned of the settlement. Although he demanded payment on several occasions, you refused, prompting Dr. Glushakow to file suit against you. You finally satisfied Dr. Glushakow's lien only after judgement was entered against you at the end of the trial.

By failing to promptly disburse funds to Dr. Glushakow for medical bills related to the treatment of your client, you violated RPC 1.15(b). Additionally, you violated, RPC 1.15(c) by not segregating the funds until the lien was resolved, instead disbursing the entire amount to your client. Hence, for your conduct in District Docket No. XII-2013-0045E, the Board determined to impose an admonition.

In contrast, in District Docket No. XII-2012-0046E, the Board determined that the record lacks clear and convincing evidence that you violated the Rules of Professional Conduct. In representing your client in her personal injury matters, you issued an LOP to Dr. Marlon Fox, creating a lien on any recovery. Subsequently, total responsibility for this client matter was transferred to an associate attorney in your firm who handled the matter for more than one year, with complete autonomy, prior to the disbursement of settlement funds. You had no supervisory authority either in the firm or over that associate. Thus, the associate was solely responsible for disbursing funds to Dr. Fox in accordance with the LOP, but failed to do so.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have no disciplinary history in your twenty-two years at the bar.

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.

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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/lg

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
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Allen Glushakow M.D., Grievant
Marlon Fox, D.C., Grievant