

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

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 15-320
District Docket No. VA-2014-0001E

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Kobrin:

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

Specifically, on February 12, 2010, grievant, Robert Stearn, retained you to represent him in connection with a car accident in which he sustained serious lower back injuries. Over the course of the representation, Stearn called you frequently, reporting dire circumstances and pleading for financial assistance. Hence, on February 27, 2012, you sent a letter to Stearn enclosing a check for \$1,500, stating that it was an advance on his case. Although you did not require interest to be paid on the loan and you forwarded the monies out of a sense of altruism, your conduct nevertheless violated the plain meaning of RPC 1.8(e).

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In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have no history of discipline in twenty-two years at the bar and that you acted out of compassion for your client and the dire circumstances in which he found himself.

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,



Ellen A. Brodsky
Chief Counsel

EAB/tk

c: 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
David M. Dugan, Vice-Chair
District VA Ethics Committee
Natalie S. Watson, Secretary
District VA Ethics Committee

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Rosemary J. Bruno, Panel Chair
District VA Ethics Committee
Paul Steven Danner, Presenter
District VA Ethics Committee
Robert Stearn, Grievant