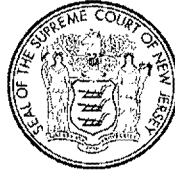


DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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BARRY R. PETERSEN, JR.

COLIN T. TAMS

KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

April 25, 2017

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R., REGULAR MAIL
and E-MAIL**

Paul W. Sonstein, Esq.
c/o Nitza I. Blasini, Esq.
Helmer, Conley & Kasselmann, P.A.
233 West Landis Avenue
Vineland, New Jersey 08360

Re: In the Matter of Paul W. Sonstein
Docket No. DRB 17-044
District Docket No. IV-2016-0029E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Sonstein:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper.¹ Following a review of the record, the Board determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, on a date not mentioned in the record, Lyndon Long retained you for representation in a workers' compensation matter. You failed to provide him with a writing communicating the basis or rate of the fee either at the inception of the litigation, or within a reasonable time thereafter. The Board, thus, found that you violated RPC 1.5(b).

¹ Member Boyer was recused.

April 25, 2017

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In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you represented Long over the course of ten years; attorneys' fees in workers' compensation matters are at the discretion of the presiding judge; you explained to your client the process for determining your fee, and, at the conclusion of the case, provided him with an agreement to settle the claim, which itemized all costs and legal fees; the transgression occurred more than ten years ago; and you cooperated fully with the investigation and entered into a stipulation of facts. The Board also considered that your prior discipline occurred more than fifteen years ago.

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 also has 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: (See attached list)

I/M/O Paul W. Sonstein, DRB 17-044

April 25, 2017

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c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
Bonnie Frost, Chair
Disciplinary Review Board (via e-mail)
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 (via e-mail)
Isabel McGinty, Statewide Ethics Coordinator
Office of Attorney Ethics (via e-mail)
Christopher L. Soriano, Chair, District IV Ethics Committee
Daniel Q. Harrington, Vice-Chair
District IV Ethics Committee
John M. Palm, Secretary, District IV Ethics Committee
Lyndon Long, Grievant