DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex P.O. BOX 962 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0962 (609) 815-2920

June 19, 2017

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

Marc M. Weissman c/o Michael R. Spar, Esq. 20 Overlook Terrace Short Hills, New Jersey 07078

> Re: <u>In the Matter of Marc M. Weissman</u> Docket No. DRB 17-130 District Docket No. VB-2015-0030E LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Weissman:

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, in early November 2014, Elyse Hansford communicated with you about her intent to purchase property with her then boyfriend/fiancé, David Mintz. Thereafter, she notified you that they had found a property, and asked you to include both of their names on the deed.

ELLEN A. BRODSKY CHIEF COUNSEL

PAULA T. GRANUZZO DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

MELISSA URBAN FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL TIMOTHY M. ELLIS LILLIAN LEWIN BARRY R. PETERSEN, JR. COLIN T. TAMS KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE ASSISTANT COUNSEL <u>I/M/O Marc M. Weissman</u>, DRB 17-130 June 19, 2017 Page 2 of 3

On November 4, 2014, Hansford and Mintz entered into a contract of sale with seller, Anna Ford. Mintz financed the purchase of the property. According to Hansford, she and her children were to reside in the property, but Mintz could not live with them until he obtained a "Get," a divorce under Jewish religious law.

After ordering a title search, you discovered several recorded judgments against Hansford and, therefore, instructed the title agent to remove Hansford's name from the paperwork. You maintained that, prior to the closing, you had discussed with Hansford and Mintz the omission of Hansford's name from the deed and, instead, in accordance with Mintz's directions, the designation of Hansford as a tenant in the property, pursuant to a lease agreement.

At the December 15, 2014 closing, Hansford signed the lease agreement naming Mintz as the landlord. You neither informed Hansford of her right to obtain independent counsel for the lease transaction nor obtained a written waiver from Hansford and Mintz, in accordance with the requirements of <u>RPC</u> 1.7(b)(1). In this regard, your conduct violated <u>RPC</u> 1.7(a)(1). You further failed to provide the clients with a writing communicating the basis or rate of your fee, in violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.5(b). The Board agreed with the hearing panel's conclusion that the record does not support a violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.4(b) (failure to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information). The Board, thus, dismissed that charged violation.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you admitted your wrongdoing, were remorseful, learned from your mistakes, and had an unblemished disciplinary record in your thirty-five years of practicing law.

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. <u>R.</u> 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. <u>I/M/O Marc M. Weissman</u>, DRB 17-130 June 19, 2017 Page 3 of 3

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

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner c: 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) Kelly M. Mattheiss, Chair District VB Ethics Committee Kevin C. Orr, Vice-Chair District VB Ethics Committee Paula I. Getty, Secretary District VB Ethics Committee Elyse Hansford, Grievant