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June 29, 2018

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

William T. Howes, Esq.  
26 Anderson Street  
Raritan, New Jersey 08869  
howeslegal@gmail.com

**Re: In the Matter of William Timothy Howes**  
Docket No. DRB 18-136  
District Docket No. XIII-2016-0036E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Howes:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (reprimand or such lesser discipline as the Board deems warranted) filed by the District XIII Ethics Committee in the above-captioned matter, pursuant to R. 1:20-10. Following a review of the record, the Board concluded that your conduct was improper and determined to grant the motion and to impose an admonition.

Specifically, you were retained in connection with two matters for the same client: the first involved a motion to intervene in a Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS, now known as the Division of Child Protection and Permanency) case, in which your client sought custody of his granddaughter; the

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second, was an appeal from the trial court's order on the motion. On November 5 and 6, 2010, your client provided you with a copy of the Law Guardian's opposition to the motion and drafts of documents he had prepared. You neither requested an adjournment of the November 16, 2010 return date of the motion to intervene, nor filed a reply to the Law Guardian's brief. You also failed to inform your client that you had not obtained an adjournment of the motion, which proceeded as scheduled, and failed to communicate regularly with the client about the status of the motion or to timely reply to his telephone calls and e-mails. Although you appeared for the November 16, 2010 oral argument, you misrepresented to the client that the matter had been resolved on the papers.

As to the appeal, you failed to inform your client of its status, briefing schedule, or the status of requests for the trial court transcripts. You also failed to request or pay for the trial court transcripts or to file an appellate brief, but misrepresented to the client that you had filed the transcript request form with the Appellate Division and had ordered the transcripts from the trial court.

Your conduct was unethical and violated RPC 1.1(a) (gross neglect), RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence), RPC 1.4(b) (failure to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of the matter and to comply with reasonable requests for information) and RPC 8.4(c) (conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation). Because only two matters were involved, which to some degree constituted one continuing course of neglect, the Board did not find a violation of RPC 1.1(b) (pattern of neglect) and dismissed this violation. Likewise, the Board dismissed the RPC 1.4(c) violation (failure to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make an informed decision about the representation), as no stipulated facts supported it.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that, although you were previously disciplined, the misconduct in this matter occurred at about the same time as your conduct in your prior ethics matter. Therefore, this is not a situation where you failed to learn from prior mistakes. In addition, the misconduct here occurred approximately eight years ago, you have not been the subject of discipline in the intervening years, and you cooperated fully with ethics authorities by entering into a stipulation of

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facts and violations.

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 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/sl

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner  
Associate Justices  
Bonnie Frost, Chair  
Disciplinary Review Board (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 (interoffice mail and e-mail)  
Lisa M. Fittipaldi, Chair  
District XIII Ethics Committee (e-mail)  
Donna P. Legband, Secretary  
District XIII Ethics Committee (interoffice mail and e-mail)  
R.S., Grievant (regular mail)