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RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX P.O. BOX 962 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962 (609) 815-2920 ELLEN A. BRODSKY

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May 30, 2019

# VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Alan M. Kamel, Esq. c/o Justin A. Marchetta, Esq. Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor LLC 600 Parsippany Road, Suite 204 Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Re: In the Matter of Alan Monte Kamel

Docket No. DRB 19-086

District Docket No. XII-2018-0029E **LETTER OF ADMONITION** 

#### Dear Mr. Kamel:

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 for your violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.4(c) (failure to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions about the representation), <u>RPC</u> 1.5(b) (failure to communicate in writing the basis or rate of the fee), and <u>RPC</u> 1.5(c) (failure to communicate the method by which the fee is to be determined in a contingent fee matter).

Specifically, in September 2015, Kenneth Davis, D.M.D. retained you to represent him in a collection action against his former tenant. Although you undertook the representation on a contingent fee basis, you did not provide Dr. Davis with a writing setting forth the method by which the fee would be calculated. Thereafter, the defendant filed an answer and counterclaim against Dr. Davis, seeking \$15,000 in damages, the monetary limit in Special Civil Part. Although you offered to represent Dr. Davis on the counterclaim for a \$1,500 fee, you failed to provide him with a writing communicating the basis or rate of the fee for defense of the counterclaim or for an additional fee relating to the filing of an amended complaint. Further, prior to settling the matter, you failed to advise Dr. Davis of the amount of your outstanding fees, or that the additional fees

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would be paid from the settlement. Dr. Davis, therefore, accepted the \$4,000 settlement offer, without being informed that he would net only \$550.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered the significant passage of time since your prior disciplinary matters occurred; that they were for unrelated violations; and that you were candid and cooperative with disciplinary authorities in this matter.

Your conduct has adversely reflected not only on you as an attorney but also on all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you.  $\underline{R}$ . 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, this admonition 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 to you under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Ellen A. Brodsky Chief Counsel

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## EAB/jm

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

Associate Justices

Heather Joy Baker, Clerk

Supreme Court of New Jersey

Bruce W. Clark, Chair

Disciplinary Review Board (e-mail)

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)

Isabel McGinty, Statewide Ethics Coordinator

Office of Attorney Ethics (e-mail)

Glen J. Vida, Chair

District XII Ethics Committee (e-mail)

Michael F. Brandman, Secretary

District XII Ethics Committee (regular mail and e-mail)

Kenneth Davis, D.M.D., Grievant (regular mail)