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February 24, 2020

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

Jonathan Bruce Behrins, Esq.
The Behrins Law Firm, PLLC
1491 Richmond Road
Staten Island, New York 10304

Re: In the Matter of Jonathan Bruce Behrins
Docket No. DRB 19-383
District Docket No. XIV-2017-0402E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Behrins:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (admonition) filed by the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) in the above matter, pursuant to R. 1:20-10(b). Following a review of the record, the Board granted the motion and determined to impose an admonition for your violation of RPC 5.5(a)(1) (unauthorized practice of law – failure to maintain professional liability insurance while practicing as a limited liability company).

Specifically, during the relevant time, you maintained an office for the practice of law in Staten Island, New York, which operated under the name The Behrins Law Firm PLLC. By letters dated February 8, April 11, and May 22, 2017, the Clerk's Office of the Supreme Court of New Jersey asked you for your certificates of insurance for the years 2012 through 2017. You failed to reply to the Clerk's letters.

Consequently, on June 29, 2017, the Clerk's Office informed the OAE of your failure to produce the certificates of insurance. On November 29, 2017, the OAE made a final

request that you reply to the Clerk's inquiries. On December 7, 2017, you finally replied, admitting that you had been unable to provide the requested certificates of insurance, because you had not maintained coverage for "a period of years." You further admitted, during a January 8, 2018 OAE interview, that you had not maintained malpractice insurance since the year 2000, despite having engaged in the practice of law in New Jersey. You claimed that you practiced primarily in New York, a jurisdiction that does not require professional liability insurance for corporations, and that you had been unaware of New Jersey's requirement.

On July 5, 2018, you entered into an agreement in lieu of discipline (ALD), but, on May 29, 2019, the OAE informed you that, because you had repeatedly failed to satisfy the conditions of the ALD, the OAE had withdrawn it. The formal ethics complaint underlying this matter followed. Based on the above facts, the Board concluded that you failed to maintain professional liability insurance, in violation of RPC 5.5(a)(1).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board allocated substantial weight to your unblemished disciplinary history, your admission of wrongdoing as evidenced by your entry into the motion for discipline by consent, and your contrition for your misconduct. In aggravation, the Board considered your cavalier attitude toward compliance with the terms of the proposed ALD, as exacerbated by your failures to remediate your behavior, despite multiple opportunities to do so. Although the Board was concerned over your failure to maintain professional liability insurance for such an extended time period, the Board ultimately determined that an admonition is an adequate quantum of discipline for your misconduct.

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. 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

See Attached List

I/M/O Jonathan Bruce Behrins, DRB 19-383

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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)
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Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ ethics history)
Charles Centinaro, Director
Office of Attorney Ethics (interoffice mail and e-mail)
Ryan J. Moriarty, Deputy Ethics Counsel
Office of Attorney Ethics (e-mail)