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OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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February 24, 2020

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

Genesis A. Peduto, Esq. c/o Joseph P. Rem, Jr., Esq. Rem Katcher Law Group 25 East Salem Street, Suite 400 Hackensack, NJ 07601 jrem@remlawgroup.com

Re: <u>In the Matter of Genesis A. Peduto</u>

Docket No. DRB 19-369

District Docket No. XII-2017-0022E

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Peduto:

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> 1.5(b) (failure to set forth in writing the basis or rate of the attorney's fee). The Board further determined to dismiss the charged violation of <u>RPC</u> 8.1(a) (false statement to disciplinary authorities).

Specifically, in March 2013, you commenced the representation of Carlos Marroquin in both his criminal and immigration matters. After identifying a conflict, you withdrew from the criminal component of the representation, but continued representing Marroquin in the immigration matter. In connection with that representation, you failed to set forth in writing the basis or rate of your legal fee, as <u>RPC</u> 1.5(b) requires.

The complaint alleged that, during the ethics investigation, you made a false statement to disciplinary authorities by claiming that Marroquin had hired you to represent him in both his criminal and immigration matters. The allegation was based on the fact that Marroquin refuted your claim, and your file was devoid of documents corroborating your immigration law advice to Marroquin. The Board, however, agreed with the DEC's finding regarding the RPC 8.1(a) allegation, because you credibly testified, during the ethics hearing, that you had represented

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Marroquin in his immigration matter. The Board, thus, determined to dismiss the <u>RPC</u> 8.1(a) charge.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have no prior discipline since earning admission to the New Jersey bar in 1998; you demonstrated a good reputation and character; and your misconduct was an isolated incident.

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,

Eflen A. Brodsky Chief Counsel

EAB/res

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)

Richard M. Cohen, Chair

District XII Ethics Committee (e-mail)

Michael F. Brandman, Secretary

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

Martine Cohen, Presenter

District XII Ethics Committee (e-mail)

Carlos Marroquin, Grievant (regular mail)