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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

March 20, 2020

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

Leticia Zuniga, Esq.
832 Clifton Avenue, 2nd Floor
Clifton, New Jersey 07013
lzunigaesq@gmail.com

Re: In the Matter of Leticia Zuniga
Docket No. DRB 19-432
District Docket No. XI-2018-0004E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Zuniga:

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, with a condition, for your violation of RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence), RPC 3.2 (failing to make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation and to treat with courtesy and consideration all persons involved in the legal process), RPC 3.4(c) (disobeying the rules of a tribunal), RPC 8.1(b) (failure to cooperate with disciplinary authorities), and RPC 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice).

Specifically, you represented a client, Rocio Flores, in the matter of Santoro vs. Flores, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Morris County, Law Division, before the Honorable Frank J. DeAngelis, J.S.C. Plaintiff's counsel filed a motion to suppress Flores' answer and defenses, because you had failed to provide discovery. On three separate occasions, Judge DeAngelis' chambers notified you, by mail and telephone, that you were required to appear at the motion hearing. Nevertheless, you failed to appear in behalf of your client. Thereafter, Judge DeAngelis reported your conduct to the District XI Ethics Committee (DEC).

Thereafter, the DEC investigator sent you two letters and requested a written reply, but you failed to reply to either letter. The DEC investigator then telephoned you and left a voicemail

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message requesting your reply, but you failed to return his voicemail message. Thereafter, the DEC filed a formal ethics complaint against you. In your answer and at the ethics hearing, you admitted guilt to all charged violations – RPC 1.3, RPC 3.2, RPC 3.4(c), RPC 8.1(b) and RPC 8.4(d). The DEC hearing panel found that you violated all the charges, and the Board agreed.

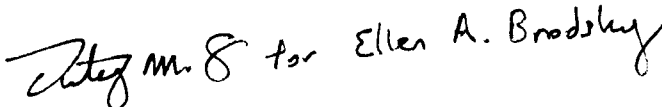
In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have no disciplinary history; shown contrition and remorse; readily admitted your wrongdoing; taken steps to ensure that a similar situation does not occur in the future; and explained that this incident arose because of your previously untreated depression, for which you have since sought and continue to receive counseling. The Board further noted that, ultimately, your misconduct did not harm your client, and was an isolated incident. As a condition, however, you must report proof of your continued psychological counseling to the Office of Attorney Ethics, on a quarterly basis, for two years.

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,

 for Ellen A. Brodsky
Ellen A. Brodsky
Chief Counsel

EAB/trj

c: See Attached List

I/M/O Leticia Zuniga, DRB 19-432

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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)

Mary Tom, Chair

District XI Ethics Committee (e-mail)

Michael Pasquale, Secretary

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

Steven Stadtmauer, Presenter (e-mail)