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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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April 21, 2020

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

Donyale Yvette Hooper-Reavis, Esq.
c/o Marc Garfinkle, Esq.
89 Headquarters Plaza – 12th Floor
Morristown, New Jersey 07960
marc@njethicsattorney.com

Re: In the Matter of Donyale Yvette Hooper-Reavis
Docket No. DRB 20-008
District Docket No. IV-2018-0039E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Hooper-Reavis:

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 RPC 4.2 (improper communication about the subject of the representation with a person the lawyer knows to be represented by counsel) and RPC 5.5(a) (unauthorized practice of law).

Specifically, in 2018, you represented a client in the negotiation of the terms of an amended partnership agreement and an operating agreement involving a third party. At some point, litigation became necessary, and you assisted in the preparation of a civil complaint, in behalf of your client, which was filed in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. The complaint identified you as counsel for your client, yet, you were not a licensed Pennsylvania attorney. You, thus, violated RPC 5.5(a)(1).

In addition, during the litigation between your client and the adversary, you repeatedly communicated directly with the adversary, despite knowing that he was represented by counsel. On at least two occasions, the adversary's lawyer requested that you refrain from communicating directly with his client, including sending copies of letters to him. Yet, despite those requests, you subsequently sent the adversary a copy of a letter written to his lawyer, a violation of RPC 4.2.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that your conduct was limited to one client matter, that your communications with your client's adversary did not cause harm to

April 21, 2020

Page 2 of 2

either party, and that a recurrence of such improper behavior is unlikely. The Board also accorded mitigation to your admission of wrongdoing, unblemished disciplinary record of nearly twenty years at the time of the misconduct, and your significant contributions to the community.

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/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
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Daniel Q. Harrington, Esq., Chair
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District IV Ethics Committee (regular mail and e-mail)
Albert J. Olizi, Jr., Presenter (regular mail)
Gregory Littman, Grievant (regular mail)