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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY**

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May 26, 2020

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

Jared A. Geist, Esq.
c/o Edward W. Cillick, Esq.
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Court Plaza North
25 Main Street
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601-7015
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Re: In the Matter of Jared A. Geist
Docket No. DRB 20-073
District Docket No. VA-2017-0026E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Geist:

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 1.1(a) (gross neglect), RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence), and RPC 1.4(b) and (c) (failure to communicate with the client).

Specifically, in 2016, you were retained to represent clients in a debt collection action. The Board found that, during that representation, you failed to file opposition to your adversary's motion for summary judgment, despite receiving an extension to do so; failed to appear for the motion hearing and the trial; and failed to advise your clients of the consequences of failing to complete information subpoenas, including the resulting issuance of arrest warrants. The Board determined that your conduct constituted gross neglect, lack of diligence, and failure to communicate with clients, in violation of RPC 1.1(a), RPC 1.3, and RPC 1.4(b) and (c), respectively.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered your lack of an ethics history in over ten years as an attorney; your recognition that, at the time of your misconduct, your caseload was too large and your support staff was lacking; that you ultimately made the client whole; that

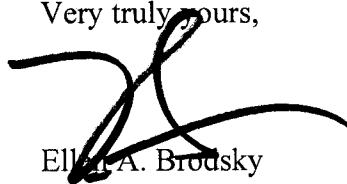
you partially accepted responsibility by admitting negligence and a lack of communication; and that you have since started your own practice, with proper supports and caseload management.

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
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
Office of Attorney Ethics (e-mail)
John C. Garde, Esq., Chair
District VA Ethics Committee (e-mail)
Natalie Watson, Esq., Secretary
District VA Ethics Committee (regular mail and e-mail)
Carlos G. Manalansan, Esq., Presenter (regular mail and e-mail)
David A. Cannon, Grievant (regular mail)