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September 18, 2020

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, REGULAR MAIL, AND E-MAIL

James Joseph McGuire, Jr., Esq.
c/o Robert J. DeGroot, Esq.
60 Park Place
Newark, New Jersey 07102
robertjdegroot@aol.com

Re: In the Matter of James Joseph McGuire, Jr.
Docket No. DRB 20-088
District Docket Nos. XIV-2019-0074E and XIV-2019-0085E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. McGuire:

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 1.15(d) (failure to comply with the recordkeeping requirements set forth in R. 1:21-6).

Specifically, in 2019, an Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) demand audit of your financial books and records, which followed two overdrafts of one of your attorney trust accounts, revealed several recordkeeping deficiencies. In your answer to the OAE's ethics complaint, you admitted having committed violations of R. 1:21-6. The Board, thus, determined that your conduct violated RPC 1.15(d).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered your remedial action to correct your recordkeeping deficiencies; your long history of public service, including your military service; your virtually unblemished ethics history in over forty-five years as an attorney; and the OAE's determination that you have cured all the recordkeeping deficiencies uncovered during the audit.

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,

/s/ Ellen A. Brodsky

Ellen A. Brodsky
Chief Counsel

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
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