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October 25, 2021

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, REGULAR MAIL, AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Joseph Edwyn Kerry, Esq.
3621 North Clearwater Lane
Brookhaven, PA 19015
josephkerry@gmail.com

Re: In the Matter of Joseph Edwyn Kerry
Docket No. DRB 21-159
District Docket No. XIV-2020-0170E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Kerry:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above-referenced 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 5.5(a)(1) (engaging in the unauthorized practice of law by practicing law in a jurisdiction where doing so violates the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction).

Specifically, Utah Rule of Professional Conduct 5.5(b)(1) provides that “[a] lawyer who is not admitted to practice in this jurisdiction shall not [. . .] establish an office or other systematic or continuous presence in this jurisdiction for the practice of law.” You admittedly established and operated the law firm Peace Legal, LLC in Utah, where you were not licensed to practice the law. Moreover, you maintained a significant presence on Peace Legal’s website (which listed only a Utah address and telephone number), billed Utah clients, and had sole authority over the firm’s financial accounts. Thus, you violated New Jersey RPC 5.5(a)(1), which states that “[a] lawyer shall not practice law in a jurisdiction where doing so violates the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction.”

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered, in mitigation, that you expressed remorse and were not charged with additional RPC violations. Next, the Board considered that

October 25, 2021

Page 2 of 2

Peace Legal was closed, no clients were harmed, and that your misconduct was unlikely to reoccur. Finally, the Board accorded substantial weight to your unblemished disciplinary record of more than twenty 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,



Johanna Barba Jones
Chief Counsel

JBj/jm

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
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Supreme Court of New Jersey
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