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June 24, 2025

VIA CERTIFIED, REGULAR, & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Paul N. Ambrose, Jr., Esq.
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RE: In the Matter of Paul N. Ambrose, Jr.
Docket No. DRB 25-094
District Docket No. IIB-2020-0008E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

The Disciplinary Review (the Board) has reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (reprimand or such lesser discipline as the Board deems appropriate) filed by the District IIB Ethics Committee in the above matter, pursuant to R. 1:20-10(b). Following a review of the record, the Board granted the motion and determined to impose an admonition for your violation of RPC 7.1(a)(1) (engaging in false or misleading communications about the lawyer by making a material misrepresentation of fact), RPC 7.1(a)(2) (engaging in false or misleading communications about the lawyer that are likely to create an unjustified expectation about the results a lawyer can achieve), and RPC 8.4(c) (engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation).

Specifically, in 1975, you graduated from Seton Hall University (SHU), earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. However, you did not graduate "cum laude."

Four years later, in 1979, you graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law (SHU Law), earning a juris doctor, without achieving cum laude status. Thereafter, between 1985 and 1988, you completed coursework at New York University School of Law (NYU), attempting to earn an LLM degree. However, you did not complete your coursework and, thus, never earned an LLM degree.

In August 1999, you joined your former law firm (Firm 1) as a partner. Sometime between 2010 and 2014, Firm 1 created a website, which falsely represented that you had obtained an LLM degree from NYU and had graduated, cum laude, from SHU. Although you did not personally prepare your biography for the website, you conceded that you “could, and should have, corrected” your inflated academic credentials.

In September 2015, Firm 1 dissolved, and you joined a new law firm (Firm 2) as a partner. In connection with that transition, Firm 2 published, on its website, your same false academic credentials which had been listed on Firm 1’s website.

On June 21, 2016, two months before Firm 2 merged with another law firm (Firm 3), you submitted an employment application with Firm 3 in which you accurately stated your academic credentials, including the fact that you had been an “LLM degree candidate” at NYU. In August 2016, in connection with the merger of Firm 2 with Firm 3, you ensured that Firm 3 did not carry over any false credentials onto its website.

Meanwhile, throughout your career at the bar, until 2019, you conducted presentations at approximately twenty Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars hosted by the National Business Institute (NBI). In 2014 or 2015, you directed NBI to remove the false references to your LLM degree and cum laude status from its CLE marketing materials. However, you conceded that NBI was “not consistent in removing” your false credentials from the marketing materials and that you did not “follow up” to confirm that such false information was removed. The record before the Board included CLE marketing brochures for six NBI seminars, occurring between 2014 and 2019, in which you were a presenter. Of those six seminars, only one marketing brochure – for a December 2016 estate administration seminar – falsely referenced your purported LLM degree from NYU and cum laude status from both SHU and SHU Law.

In the Board's view, by December 2016, you should have been keenly aware that your false academic credentials would continue to be published in NBI marketing materials, considering your admission that NBI was inconsistent in accurately conveying your educational accomplishments. Indeed, by December 2016, only four months had elapsed since you had taken affirmative steps to remove your false credentials from your firms' websites.

The Board determined that you violated RPC 7.1(a)(1) and RPC 8.4(c) by admittedly allowing your false academic credentials to be broadcast to the public, on your firms' websites, and to practicing attorneys, via NBI CLE marketing materials, for at least two years, between 2014 and 2016. As you stipulated, during that timeframe, you failed to correct your blatant misrepresentations regarding your purported LLM degree and cum laude status, despite multiple opportunities to do so. Indeed, you admitted that your false biographical information regarding your LLM degree was likely to create an unjustified expectation about the results you could achieve for potential clients, in violation of RPC 7.1(a)(2).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered, in mitigation, that (1) your actions did not appear to have resulted from any direct attempt at personal gain; (2) the passage of almost nine years since your false academic credentials last appeared in CLE marketing brochures and on your firms' websites; (3) the lack of clear and convincing evidence that your conduct resulted in harm to any clients; and (4), most significantly, your lack of prior discipline in your forty-five-year career at the bar.

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 Office of Board Counsel. 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/ Timothy M. Ellis

Timothy M. Ellis
Chief Counsel

TME/akg

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
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