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September 23, 2025

VIA CERTIFIED, REGULAR & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Lucas B. Klirsfeld, Esq.
c/o John A. Zohlman, III, Esq.
Hagner & Zohlman, LLC
57 Kresson Road
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034
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Re: **In the Matter of Lucas B. Klirsfeld**
Docket No. DRB 25-146
District Docket No. XIV-2024-0278E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Klirsfeld:

The Disciplinary Review Board (the 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 3.3(a)(1) (knowingly making a false statement of material fact to a tribunal); RPC 8.4(b) (committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer); RPC 8.4(c) (engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation); and RPC 8.4(d) (engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice).

Specifically, in late 2023, while employed as an associate at a law firm located in Cherry Hill, New Jersey (the Firm), you represented LeisureTowne Association (LeisureTowne), a planned community association, following the conclusion of a foreclosure matter in which a property sold, at sheriff's sale, for \$196,000. The sale proceeds exceeded the amount owed to the mortgagee. Consequently, you prepared a motion to disburse a portion of the \$51,934.22 in total surplus funds held by the Superior Court Trust Fund Unit (the TFU) to LeisureTowne, pursuant to R. 4:57-2 and R. 4:64-3.

Prior to filing your submission, you arranged for the TFU and the Clerk of the Superior Court (the Clerk) to review your proposed motion, in order to verify the amount of surplus funds held by the TFU, pursuant to R. 4:57-2(a). Your form of order directed the TFU to disburse \$9,966.25 of the surplus funds to the Firm. In December 2023, following her review, the Clerk executed a notation on your proposed form of order stating that she had "verified" that the TFU held a total of \$51,934.22 in surplus funds in connection with the matter.

Following your review of the verified proposed form of order signed by the Clerk, you discovered that you had made a mathematical error in calculating the amount of surplus funds owed to LeisureTowne. Specifically, the proposed order should have directed the TFU to disburse \$9,991.25 in surplus funds to the Firm – a difference of \$25 from the lesser, \$9,966.25 amount noted on the order. Rather than prepare a new proposed form of order, noting the correct amount of surplus funds, for the Clerk's and the TFU's review and verification, as R. 4:57-2(a) requires, you altered the verified form of order by electronically removing the reference to the \$9,966.25 amount and replacing it with the \$9,991.25 figure. Thereafter, on February 29, 2024, you filed the motion and the altered form of order with the Superior Court.

On March 26, 2024, the Honorable Kathi F. Fiamingo, J.T.C., t/a, issued an order granting the motion and directing the Clerk to disburse \$9,991.25 of the surplus funds to the Firm. Judge Fiamingo, however, was unaware that you had altered the verified proposed form of order following the Clerk's review and verification.

On April 23, 2024, Judge Fiamingo vacated her order after the Superior Court Clerk's Office informed her that you had altered the amount of surplus funds owed to LeisureTowne on the verified proposed form of order.

Based on the above facts, you admittedly violated RPC 3.3(a)(1), RPC 8.4(b) (committing disorderly persons tampering with public records, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:28-7(a)(1)), and RPC 8.4(c) by knowingly submitting a manipulated proposed form of order to the Superior Court. Your conduct gave the false impression to at least one tribunal that your motion complied with the R. 4:57-2(a) verification requirements when, in fact, it did not. Moreover, you willfully allowed Judge Fiamingo – who, initially, had remained unaware of your misconduct – to erroneously grant the application, based on a false, manipulated document containing the signature of a high-ranking Court official. Indeed, you admittedly prejudiced Judge Fiamingo's ability to adjudicate LeisureTowne's otherwise straightforward application consistent with Court Rules, in violation of RPC 8.4(d).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board accorded considerable mitigating weight to (1) your lack of prior discipline; (2) your status as a novice attorney with less than two years of experience at the bar at the time of your misconduct; (3) the fact that you suffered serious consequences as a result of your actions, considering that the Firm terminated your employment after you disclosed your conduct to your superiors; and (4) the fact that you exhibited genuine remorse and stipulated to your misconduct, thereby conserving disciplinary resources.

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/knd
Enclosures

c: (w/o enclosures)
Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Associate Justices
Heather Joy Baker, Clerk
Supreme Court of New Jersey
Hon. Mary Catherine Cuff, P.J.A.D. (Ret.), Chair
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Johanna Barba Jones, Director
Office of Attorney Ethics (e-mail and interoffice mail)
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