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RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
P.O. Box 962
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962
(609) 815-2920
drb.mbx@njcourts.gov

TIMOTHY M. ELLIS
CHIEF COUNSEL
NICOLE M. ACCHIONE
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL
BARRY R. PETERSEN, JR.
DEPUTY COUNSEL

SALIMA ELIZABETH BURKE
ADALINE KASER
ASHLEY KOLATA-GUZIK
NICHOLAS LOGOTHETIS
ALISA H. THATCHER
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

September 29, 2026

VIA CERTIFIED, REGULAR & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Corinne M. Mullen, Esq.
c/o Kim D. Ringler, Esq.
The Ringler Law Firm
167 Franklin Turnpike
Waldwick, New Jersey 07463
kringler@ringlerlaw.net

Re: In the Matter of Corinne M. Mullen
Docket No. DRB 26-202
District Docket No. VI-2025-0009E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Mullen:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (admonition) filed by the District VI Ethics Committee (the DEC) 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 1.5(b) (failing to set forth, in writing, the basis or rate of the legal fee).

On April 4, 2025, Ryan Kelly filed an ethics grievance against you alleging that you lacked diligence in your representation of him in an alleged defamation action against his former higher education institution (the University). You charged Kelly a \$2,500 legal fee. However, you failed to

provide Kelly with a written retainer agreement describing the scope of the representation or the basis for your fee.

On July 18, 2024, you sent the University a cease-and-desist letter on Kelly's behalf. Although Kelly's grievance alleged that you failed to communicate with him, and that he ultimately terminated the representation after receiving unrelated letters from the University, following the DEC's investigation of the matter, it determined that additional allegations were "not substantiated."

Based on the foregoing facts, you stipulated that you violated RPC 1.5(b) by failing to provide Kelly with a written retainer agreement setting forth an explanation for the basis or rate of your fee for the work you were "to perform on behalf" of Kelly.

In aggravation, the Board considered your prior admonition, in May 2025, for dissimilar misconduct.

In mitigation, you accepted responsibility for your misconduct and entered into this consent, thereby conserving disciplinary resources. Additionally, you have taken remedial action by utilizing software which automatically generates retainer agreements for clients. Furthermore, your misconduct was not for personal gain. You also agreed to fully disgorge Kelly's legal fee.

In that vein, the Board imposed the condition that you provide Kelly with a full refund of his legal fee within thirty days of the final imposition of discipline.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board determined that, on balance, an admonition is a sufficient quantum of discipline to protect the public and preserve confidence in 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 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 cost 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
Associate Justices
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Supreme Court of New Jersey
Hon. Mary Catherine Cuff, P.J.A.D. (Ret.), Chair
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District VI Ethics Committee (e-mail)