BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,

No. 31 DB 2018

Petitioner

File No. C4-17-742

٧.

Attorney Registration No. 93890

ERIC A. JOBE

Respondent

(Allegheny County)

ORDER

AND NOW, this About day of March, 2018, in accordance with Rule 208(a)(5), Pa.R.D.E., the determination by a Review Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the above captioned matter is accepted; and it is

ORDERED that the said ERIC A. JOBE of Allegheny County, be subjected to a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH CONDITION** by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(b) and Rule 205(c)(8) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

Respondent shall submit to the Secretary of the Board and Disciplinary Counsel at least ten days prior to the date scheduled for the administration of the Public Reprimand proof that he has:

1. Refunded the sum of \$3,500.00 to Mr. Hughey.

Failure to comply with the above Conditions shall be grounds for reconsideration of this matter and prosecution of formal charges against Respondent under the specific provision of Enforcement Rule 204(b). Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:

Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD

Attest:

Marcee D. Sloan, Prothonotary
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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ERIC A. JOBE

: Attorney Reg. No. 93890

Respondent

: (Allegheny County)

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Eric A. Jobe, you stand before the Disciplinary Board, your professional peers and members of the public for the imposition of a Public Reprimand. It is an unpleasant task to publicly reprimand one who has been granted the privilege of membership in the bar of this Commonwealth. Yet as repugnant as this task may be, it has been deemed necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Mr. Jobe, the record indicates that you are being reprimanded for misconduct relating to your representation of Antuan Timberlake. On about September 30, 2016, you were retained by Robert Hughey to represent his nephew, Mr. Timberlake, concerning pursuing the withdrawal of Mr. Timberlake's guilty plea in seven separate matters in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. On that date, you and Mr. Hughey executed a Power of Attorney and Fee Agreement for your representation, and Mr. Hughey paid you \$3,500.00 in cash to pursue the matter.

Thereafter, despite repeated requests by Mr. Hughey and his family, you took no action of record on behalf of Mr. Timberlake. You did not communicate in any fashion with either your client or his family members, and you did not enter your appearance on behalf of your client.

On October 20, 2017, Office of Disciplinary Counsel sent you a letter of inquiry notifying you of the acts alleged in this matter and requiring a response. You received this letter but did not respond. Office of Disciplinary Counsel sent a letter on November 21, 2017, which you received, reminding you of your obligation to respond to the October 20, 2017 letter; however, you failed to respond.

Your conduct in this matter has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Pennsylvania Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement:

- 1. RPC 1.3 In that, although you were retained to represent Mr. Timberlake on September 30, 2016, and you were paid \$3,500.00 on that date by Mr. Timberlake's uncle, Mr. Hughey, you failed thereafter to take any action on behalf of your client, and failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing your client.
- RPC 1.4(a)(3) In that, you failed to provide Mr. Timberlake, or anyone
 on his behalf, with any information concerning his case, and failed to
 keep your client reasonably informed about the status of his matter.
- RPC 1.4(a)(4) In that, you failed to respond to reasonable requests made on behalf of Mr. Timberlake for information concerning his case.
- 4. RPC 8.4(d) In that, by failing to take any action on behalf of your client for more than one year after you had been retained to do so, you engaged in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.
- Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(7) In that, although you were notified of the investigation of this matter by letter of inquiry dated October 20, 2017, and despite a reminder letter sent to you on November 21, 2017, you failed to respond to Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

As a condition of this Public Reprimand, you were directed to refund the sum of \$3,500 to Mr. Hughey. The record reflects that you reimbursed these funds in full.

We note that you were admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth in 2004 and have a record of discipline consisting of an Informal Admonition imposed in 2017. The 2017 matter involved similar conduct to that of the instant matter.

Mr. Jobe, your conduct in this matter is now fully public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record.

As you stand before the Board today, we remind you that you have a continuing obligation to abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement. This Public Reprimand is proof that Pennsylvania lawyers will not be permitted to engage in conduct that falls below professional standards. Be mindful that any future dereliction will subject you to disciplinary action.

This Public Reprimand shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at www.padisciplinaryboard.org.

Designated Member
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 24, 2018.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned, Respondent in the above proceeding, herewith acknowledges that the above Public Reprimand was administered in his presence and in the presence of the designated panel of The Disciplinary Board at the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, 437 Grant Street, 17th Floor, Courtroom 2, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 24, 2018.

Eric A. Jobe