



OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

May 14, 2010

Wallace E. Shipp, Jr.
Bar Counsel

Elizabeth A. Herman
Deputy Bar Counsel

Senior Assistant Bar Counsel
Judith Hetherton
Julia L. Porter

Assistant Bar Counsel
Joseph N. Bowman
Ross T. Dicker
Gayle Marie Brown Driver
Catherine L. Kello
Becky Neal
William Ross
H. Clay Smith, III
Traci M. Tait

Senior Staff Attorney
Lawrence K. Bloom
Dolores Dorsainvil
Joseph C. Perry
Mary-Helen Perry

Robert W. King, Esquire
5707 East West Highway
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Via certified and 1st Class Mail

Re: *In re King*
D.C. Bar Membership No. 922575
Bar Docket No. 2010-D002

Dear Mr. King:

This office has completed its investigation of the above-referenced matter. We find that your conduct reflected a disregard of certain ethical standards under the District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct (the "Rules"). We are therefore, issuing you this Informal Admonition pursuant to D. C. Bar Rule XI, §§ 3, 6, and 8.

We find that you were retained by a client facing criminal charges, "ET." ET was convicted after you represented him at trial. After ET's conviction, the Court appointed a new attorney to represent him on appeal. Both ET and his new appellate attorney requested that you transfer your client file to the appellate attorney. The appellate attorney sent you two letters requesting the file; the first was in June 2009. On December 4, 2009, this office sent you a letter inquiring about your failure to send the client file to ET's appellate attorney.

On December 29, 2009, you sent a letter to this office stating that "I have now copied my file and sent it to [appellate counsel] . . ." However, you failed to provide an explanation for the delay in transferring the file.

We find that your failure to take timely steps to protect your client's interests by forwarding the file to the client's appellate attorney violated Rule 1.16(d).

In deciding to issue this letter of Informal Admonition rather than institute formal disciplinary charges against you, we have taken into consideration that you

Robert W. King, Esquire
Bar Docket No. 2010-D002
Page 2

have no record of prior discipline in this jurisdiction. We are aware that Maryland issued a reprimand against you.

If you would like to have a formal hearing, you must submit a written request for a hearing within 14 days of the date of this letter to the Office of Bar Counsel, with a copy to the Board on Professional Responsibility, unless Bar Counsel grants an extension of time. If a hearing is requested, this Informal Admonition will be vacated and Bar Counsel will institute formal charges pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, §§ 8(b) and (c). The case will then be assigned to a Hearing Committee and a hearing will be scheduled by the Executive Attorney for the Board on Professional Responsibility pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 8(c). Such a hearing could result in a recommendation to dismiss the charges against you or a recommendation for a finding of culpability, in which case the sanction recommended by the Hearing Committee is not limited to an Informal Admonition.

Sincerely,

Wallace E. Shipp, Jr.
Bar Counsel

Enclosure: Attachment letter to Informal Admonition

cc: ET (w/o enclosure)

WES/EAH/jnb