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August 28, 2017

Hamilton P. Fox, III
Disciplinary Counsel

Elizabeth A. Herman
Deputy Disciplinary Counsel

Senior Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
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Manager, Forensic Investigations
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Senior Forensic Investigator
Kevin E. O'Connell

**BY FIRST-CLASS AND CERTIFIED
MAIL NO. 9414-7266-9904-2091-4474-86**

James R. Newland, Jr., Esquire
c/o C. Bryan Wilson, Esquire
Williams & Connolly LLP
725 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-5901

Re: *In re James R. Newland, Jr., Esquire*
(D.C. Bar Registration No. 477804)
Disciplinary Docket No. 2017-D144

Dear Mr. Newland:

This office has completed its investigation of the above-referenced matters. 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.

Disciplinary Counsel opened an investigation after receiving an *Order Regarding Sanctions* dated April 20, 2017, from the United States Civilian Board of Contract Appeals. The Board found that your actions "seriously interfered with the administration of justice and impeded the orderly and expeditious disposition of this appeal."

We have completed our investigation and find that your actions violate Rule 8.4 (d).

Rule 8.4(d) prohibits a lawyer from engaging in conduct that seriously interferes with the administration of justice. We find that you removed documents from GSA's counsel's table without their knowledge or consent and then failed to immediately return the documents upon their request. Because of your actions, the full Civilian Board of Contract Appeals held a special telephone conference and suspended the merits hearing in the underlying case to hold a hearing to address your conduct. We find that this conduct seriously interfered with the administration of justice.

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The United States Civilian Board of Contract Appeal issued a Public Reprimand in this matter. Because the judges sitting on the Board are not Article 3 judges, we are unable to take reciprocal action in this case. We are issuing you an Informal Admonition in this matter, based on your acknowledgment that your conduct violated Rule 8.4 (d) and your agreement to accept this Informal Admonition.

This office has considered whether your conduct violates other disciplinary rules. While other rules may be implicated, we believe that the specific rule cited in this letter, i.e. Rule 8.4 (d) is sufficient to address your misconduct.

This letter constitutes an Informal Admonition pursuant to D.C. Bar Rule XI, §§ 3, 6, and 8, and is public when issued. Please refer to the attachment to this letter of Informal Admonition for a statement of its effect and your right to have it vacated and have a formal hearing before a hearing committee.

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 Disciplinary Counsel, with a copy to the Board on Professional Responsibility, unless Disciplinary Counsel grants an extension of time. If a hearing is requested, this Informal Admonition will be vacated, and Disciplinary Counsel will institute formal charges pursuant to D.C. Bar Rule 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 Rule 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,

Hamilton P. Fox, III
Disciplinary Counsel

Enclosure: Attachment letter to Informal Admonition

HPF:GMBD:eaf