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DISCIPLINARY
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BEFORE THE
DISCIPLINARY BOARD
OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re
ROBERT E. CARUSO,
Lawyer (Bar No. 29338).

Proceeding No. 14#00006
ADMONITION

Pursuant to Rule 13.5 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, the following
Admonition was issued by Review Committee II.

I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

At all times material to the complaint, you were licensed to practice in the state of
Washington.

II. FACTS

1. You were hired by Ana Ortiz to represent her in two personal injury cases arising from separate automobile collisions; one involving James Hajek and a second involving Asli Mohamed. Ortiz's daughter was a passenger in the vehicle that was involved in the Hajek collision.
2. You assigned the case to the junior partner in the firm, Matthew Pfefer.
3. On February 10, 2009, a few days before the statute of limitations would run,

BA

1 Pfefer filed a complaint in the Hajek case on behalf of Ortiz and her daughter in King County
2 Superior Court. On October 28, 2010, Pfefer filed a complaint in King County Superior Court
3 in the Mohamed case.

4 4. On May 5, 2011, you concluded that Pfefer had a conflict of interest in both cases.
5 You ordered Pfefer to file a Notice of Withdrawal in both cases, "effective immediately." On
6 May 5, 2011, Pfefer filed the Notices of Withdrawal. You did not take steps to protect your
7 client's interests.

8 5. The Notices of Withdrawal did not comply with CR 71, which requires that the
9 date of the withdrawal be at least 10 days after service of the Notice of Withdrawal.

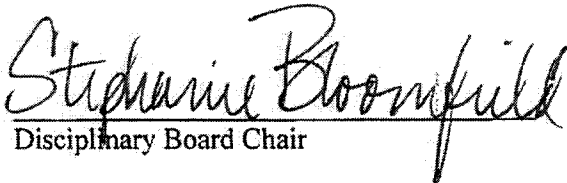
10 III. MISCONDUCT

11 6. You violated RPC 5.1(c) by ordering Pfefer to withdraw from Ortiz's and her
12 daughter's case without giving 10 days notice as required by CR 71, and without taking steps to
13 protect Ortiz's interest, causing Pfefer to violate RPC 1.16(c) and RPC 1.16(d).

14 IV. ADMONITION

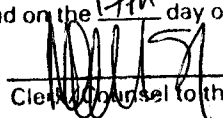
15 YOU ARE HEREBY ADMONISHED FOR THIS MISCONDUCT. This admonition is
16 not a disciplinary sanction, but is a disciplinary action, and shall be admissible in evidence in
17 subsequent discipline or disability proceedings involving you.

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19 Dated this 17th day of Nov., 2015.

20
21 
Disciplinary Board Chair

22 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

23 I certify that I caused a copy of the Admonition
24 to be delivered to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and to be mailed
to Robert C. Conroy, Respondent/Respondent's Counsel
at 1720 W. FRANCIS AVE SPokane, WA 99201, Certified/first class mail,
postage prepaid on the 17th day of Nov 2015 THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
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Clerk/Counsel to the Disciplinary Board

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