FILED

DEC 12 2017

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

Proceeding No. 17#00063

THOMAS EDWARD GATES,

ADMONITION

Lawyer (Bar No. 34010).

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Pursuant to Rule 13.5 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, the following Admonition was issued by the Disciplinary Board Chair.

I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

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

II. FACTS

You were hired by the son of a deceased woman to file a probate action and have the son appointed personal representative of the estate.

You filed a petition for intestate probate that stated there was no will and that the son was the only heir of the estate.

But the son had provided you with a copy of a will that was not accompanied by an affidavit of witnesses attesting to its execution. Although this will might have been deemed

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1	invalid by the court, you should nevertheless have disclosed its existence to the court.
2	The heir who hired you was not the only heir to the estate. The will named other family
3	members of the decedent who potentially could have taken shares of the estate under either the
4	will or the law of intestacy. You should have conducted an inquiry into the status of these other
5	family members and either ruled them out as potential heirs or listed them in the petition.
6	III. MISCONDUCT
7	Your conduct described above violated Rules 1.1 (competence) and 1.3 (diligence) of
8	the Rules of Professional Conduct.
9	IV. ADMONITION
10	YOU ARE HEREBY ADMONISHED FOR THIS MISCONDUCT. This admonition is
11	not a disciplinary sanction, but is a disciplinary action, and shall be admissible in evidence in
12	subsequent discipline or disability proceedings involving you.
13 14	Dated this Uday of Dac 3 2017.
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16	Marc L. Silverman, Chairperson
17	Disciplinary Board
18	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
19	I certify that I caused a copy of the Himbutton to A didwarm to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and to be mailed
20	to Thinks will to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and to be mailed to Thinks will to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel Respondent's Counsel But William William William Provided Counsel Respondent's Counsel But William William William Provided Counsel Respondent's Counsel Respondent's Counsel Respondent Sturst class mail
21	postage prepaid on the 17th day of Die Wit
22	Clerk Counsel to the Disciplinary Board
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