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November 24, 2014

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Brent S. Tantillo, Esquire
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1666 K Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20006

In re Brent S. Tantillo,
Bar Docket No. 2014-D032
Bar Membership No. 489978

Dear Mr. Tantillo:

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 violated Florida Rule 4-8.4(c) which prohibits engaging in conduct involving "dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation."¹

This violation occurred when you falsely told a U.S. Magistrate Judge's secretary that you had obtained prior supervisory review and approval of a tracker warrant application that you were filing with the court, when you had not obtained such review or approval.

In deciding to issue this letter of Informal Admonition rather than institute formal disciplinary charges against you, we have taken into consideration that you took this matter seriously, that you cooperated with our investigation, that you admitted the misconduct soon after it occurred, that you have no prior discipline, and that you have accepted responsibility for your misconduct including by accepting this Informal Admonition

¹ We employ Florida Rules pursuant to our Rule 8.5(b)(1), although there is no pertinent difference between our Rule and Florida's.

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This letter constitutes an Informal Admonition for your violation of Rule 8.4(c), pursuant to D.C. Bar R. 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 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). 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. Shapp, Jr.
Bar Counsel

Encl.: Attachment to Letter of Informal Admonition