



OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

January 11, 2018

**BY FIRST-CLASS AND CERTIFIED
MAIL NO. 9414726699042091448407**

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Laryce Woodyear, Esq.
5410 Connecticut Ave. NW
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20015

Re: In re Woodyear
Bar Docket No. 2015-D291
Bar Membership No. 421849

Dear Ms. Woodyear:

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 R. XI, §§ 3, 6, and 8.

This investigation was docketed based on a complaint alleging that you were inadequate as guardian and conservator to the complainant's aunt in that you failed to maintain complete records, misused estate funds, and misplaced the ward's will.

We find as follows: On February 23, 2011, you were appointed by the District of Columbia Superior Court Probate Division as guardian and conservator for an elderly woman suffering from Alzheimer's. Your tenure as guardian and conservator was marked by frequent delinquencies, resulting in several summary hearings. On May 22, 2014, the case was referred to the auditor-master due to your failure to fully account for the expenditure of the ward's assets. On August 20, 2014, you were removed as conservator due to the delinquencies and lack of proper accountings.

You cooperated fully with the auditor master's office and over the course of several hearings assisted the auditor master in completing accountings for the period you served as conservator. Although you maintained complete records of all funds that were received by the ward's estate and how the funds were disbursed, you failed to maintain documentation demonstrating to the auditor master's satisfaction that every disbursement was made for the ward's benefit. On February 2, 2015, the auditor-master issued a report recommending a judgment against you in the amount of \$13,345.46. Much of this sum was the

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value of a car belonging to the estate that you left with a friend for safekeeping and were unable to recover. The remaining amount was based on expenses that you could not establish were made for the ward's benefit. The auditor-master's recommendation was adopted by the court and you promptly satisfied the judgment. On February 25, 2015, you were removed as guardian due to your acrimonious relationship with the successor conservator.

On October 1, 2015, the ward died. Her estate was deemed intestate because her will could not be located. You have admitted that you found the original will while serving as her conservator and guardian, but took no steps to secure the document, instead leaving it in the ward's possession.

We find that you violated Rules 1.1(a) and 1.1(b) (lack of competence); 1.15(a) (failure to maintain complete records of entrusted funds) and 8.4(d) (serious interference with the administration of justice).

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, cooperated with our investigation, have no record of prior disciplinary actions and have accepted responsibility for your misconduct, including by accepting this Informal Admonition and agreeing to attend Practice Management Advisory Service's Basic Training & Beyond program.

This letter constitutes an Informal Admonition for your violation of the Rules, 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 Disciplinary Counsel, with a copy to the Board on Professional Responsibility, unless Bar Counsel grants an extension of time. If you request a hearing, this Informal Admonition will be vacated, and Disciplinary 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.

Laryce Woodyear, Esquire
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Sincerely,

Hamilton P. Fox, III
Disciplinary Counsel

Encl.: Attachment to Letter of Informal Admonition

HPF:HRD:itm