NOTICE TO THE BAR

ATTORNEY ETHICS RESEARCH ASSISTANCE HOTLINE – FOR LAWYERS ONLY (609) 815-2924 (new number)

The telephone number for the attorney ethics research assistance hotline now is: **(609) 815-2924.** This is a new number. **Lawyers** may call the hotline for research assistance on legal ethics and advertising issues pertaining to **their own**, **prospective conduct**. The hotline does not provide advice or an opinion, and does not discuss substantive law. The call is confidential but callers must provide their names and certify that they are New Jersey lawyers, their inquiry concerns their own, prospective conduct, and they are not currently the subject of a disciplinary grievance or proceeding. The hotline does not accept anonymous calls. See \underline{R} . 1:19-9. When you call the hotline, you will be prompted to leave a voice mail message, and your call will be returned.

<u>COMPLAINTS ABOUT LAWYERS</u>: If you are not a lawyer and you have a complaint about a lawyer, or want information about how to file a grievance against a lawyer, call the Office of Attorney Ethics at (609) 530-4008 or 1-800-406-8594, or see the Judiciary website on how to file a grievance, http://www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/oae.html.

<u>CALLS FROM LAWYERS ABOUT ANOTHER LAWYER'S CONDUCT</u>: The hotline will not accept calls from lawyers who seek guidance, advice, or an opinion about whether another lawyer's conduct violates the ethics rules. <u>Rule</u> 1:19-9 only authorizes the hotline to speak with lawyers about their <u>own</u>, prospective conduct.

If the question is whether the caller is obligated to report another lawyer for violating the ethics rules, the hotline will discuss <u>Rule of Professional Conduct</u> 8.3(a) (Reporting Professional Misconduct) but will not render advice or an opinion on whether the caller does or does not have an obligation to report certain conduct under that Rule.

<u>CALLS ABOUT TRUST ACCOUNTS OR ACCOUNTING</u>: The hotline will only generally discuss <u>Rule</u> 1:21-6, regarding bank accounts. If your call concerns details of trust accounting not specifically addressed in that <u>Rule</u>, call the Office of Attorney Ethics Random Audit group at (609) 530-5208.

If your call concerns registering your trust account with IOLTA, call IOLTA at 732-247-8222 or visit its website at http://ioltanj.org/.

CALLS ABOUT ATTORNEY REGISTRATION: If you have a question about attorney registration, see http://www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/attreg.html.

If you have a question about how to register as a lawyer with more than one law firm, see see http://www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/attregfaq.html or contact the Office of Attorney Ethics at 609-530-4328.

CALLS ABOUT CLE REQUIREMENTS: Please call Continuing Legal Education (CLE) staff at (609) 815-2930 or see http://www.njourts.gov/attorneys/attcle.html.

CALLS SEEKING COPIES OF ADVISORY OPINIONS: Opinions of the Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics, Committee on Attorney Advertising, and Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law can be found at http://njlaw.rutgers.edu/collections/ethics/search.php.

CALLS ABOUT CERTIFICATES OF GOOD STANDING: Certificates of Good Standing are issued by the Supreme Court Clerk's Office. Contact the Board of Bar Examiners at (609) 815-2911. There is a cost for this service. See https://www.njbarexams.org/certificate-of-good-standing-form.

CALLS ABOUT CERTIFICATES OF ETHICAL CONDUCT: Certificates of Ethical Conduct are issued by the Office of Attorney Ethics. Send your request in writing to: Office of Attorney Ethics, P.O. Box 963, Trenton, NJ 08625. Include your name, date of birth, attorney ID number, date of admission to the N.J. State Bar, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. There is no cost for this service. The hotline does not answer inquiries about certificates of ethical conduct.

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: February 20, 2018