

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Grievance Committee)

TO: Bradley James Edwards
Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing, et al
425 N. Andrews Ave, Suite 2
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-3268

IN RE: Complaints by Jeffrey Epstein and The Florida Bar
Against Bradley James Edwards, Attorney No. 542075
Case No. 2010-50,746(09B)

**NOTICE OF NO PROBABLE CAUSE AND
LETTER OF ADVICE TO ACCUSED**

The grievance committee has found no probable cause in the above-referenced matter against you and the complaint was dismissed.

In November 2009, The Florida Bar began an investigation into the dissolution of Rothstein Rosenfeldt Adler (RRA). According to a complaint filed by Herbert Stettin, Chapter 11 Trustee, in Case No. 09-34791-BKC-RBR, dated December 29, 2009, "[a]s part of his Ponzi Scheme to defraud investors, [Scott Walter] Rothstein utilized the RRA offices, RRA lawyers and staff, and his position as an attorney and as an owner and officer of RRA, in addition to his relationship with existing clients of RRA and RRA's financial institution accounts, in order to effectuate the fraudulent sale of fictitious structured settlements." Thereafter, complainant Jeffrey Epstein alleged that you conspired with Mr. Rothstein to encourage plaintiffs to bring meritless civil suits against Mr. Epstein to further Mr. Rothstein's Ponzi scheme.

During the investigation of RRA, the bar discovered that Mr. Rothstein and Stuart Alan Rosenfeldt were the only equity shareholders in RRA. Despite RRA having only two equity partners, you held yourself out as a "partner" when you held no equity interest in RRA. Further, based upon the trust account improprieties at RRA, inquiry was made whether you had read Rule 4-1.5 and Chapter 5 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar and whether you reasonably believed during your tenure at the firm that RRA complied with all applicable rules with respect to its trust accounts. The bar also became aware of allegations that lawyers at RRA may have engaged in actions that constituted violations of campaign finance law. It was alleged that lawyers at RRA were instructed to make political campaign contributions that were then reimbursed to the lawyer from funds at RRA.

You responded to the inquiry and indicated generally that you were given the title "partner" to reflect your legal experience and seniority within RRA. You never held yourself out as an equity partner and were unaware that anyone ever misunderstood that you were an equity partner. Although you were familiar with the rules regarding trust accounts, you were not a signatory on any bank account at RRA and were not privy to the trust account records. You generally

observed that RRA appeared to have a professional structure and staff for the management of trust funds. You denied having knowledge of any trust account irregularities before the news accounts of Mr. Rothstein fleeing the United States and thereafter being prosecuted criminally. You denied misrepresenting the value of claims against Mr. Epstein. Your representation of plaintiffs in the actions against Mr. Epstein commenced a year before you began working for RRA and continues. You denied that you were ever reimbursed for making campaign contributions or that you were ever asked to do so.

Rule 3-2.1(j) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar defines "probable cause" as "[a] finding by an authorized agency that there is cause to believe that a member of The Florida Bar is guilty of misconduct justifying disciplinary action." Here, the Committee could not find probable cause to believe that your conduct justified disciplinary action.

Although the Committee did not find that your actions rose to a violation of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the Committee members would caution you that all attorneys should avoid situations and communications that could lead to confusion or misinformation. Further, attorneys who possess trust property or use a trust account are under a continuing duty to ensure the safety of the property held in trust and compliance with the rules regarding trust accounts. The Committee understands that there is a national practice where non-equity partners in law firms use the title "partner." The Committee did not find any credible evidence that you were ever reimbursed for making campaign contributions or that you were ever asked to do so.

The Committee would direct you to review with care the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.15 A lawyer shall comply with The Florida Bar Rules Regulating Trust Accounts; 4-5.1(a) A partner in a law firm, and a lawyer who individually or together with other lawyers possesses comparable managerial authority in a law firm, shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the firm has in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that all lawyers therein conform to the Rules of Professional Conduct; 5-1.1 Trust Accounts; and, 5-1.2 Trust Accounting Records and Procedures.

This letter of advice does not constitute a disciplinary record against you for any purpose and is not subject to appeal by you. Rules Regulating The Florida Bar 3-7.4(f). This complaint will be purged from the discipline records and the file destroyed one year from the date of the grievance committee action.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2010.

NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE "B"


THEODORE DAVID ESTES, ACTING CHAIR

cc: Kenneth H. P. Bryk, Bar Counsel
Jeffrey Epstein, Complainant