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DISTRICT I ETHICS COMMITTEE	:	
	:	DOCKET NO: I-06-021E
Complainant,	:	
	:	
vs.	:	DISCIPLINARY ACTION
	:	
BASIL D. BECK, JR., ESQ.,	:	COMPLAINT
	:	
Respondent,	:	

District I Ethics Committee by way of complaint against respondent, says:

### GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Basil D. Beck, Jr. ("respondent") was admitted to the Bar of the State of New Jersey in 1963.
2. Respondent maintained law offices at 411 Fayette Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey. He previously maintained offices at 130 West Broad Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey and at 977 West Main Street, Dividing Creek, New Jersey. He now apparently resides at 3859 LeFlore Drive, Rockledge, Florida, 32955.

### FIRST COUNT

3. Respondent was retained by Graciella Guzman ("grievant") to represent her in a personal injury action arising out of an automobile accident on March 30, 2000 in which grievant alleges to have been injured.
4. Suit was filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Cumberland County, under Docket Number L-414-02 on behalf of grievant against Latroone F. Jefferies and Dewie L. Jefferies and State Farm Insurance Company. The case was set for trial on May 31, 2005.

5. Shortly before the trial date, the claim involving Dewie Jefferies was settled by respondent with Allstate Insurance Company, the insurance carrier for Dewie Jefferies, for \$8,500.00.

6. Grievant denies having authorized the settlement and it is alleged that the respondent settled the claim without the consent required by RPC 1.2.

7. Potential liens have been asserted against the settlement proceeds by the New Jersey School Board's Association Insurance Group in the amount of \$12,474.90, Cumberland County Board of Social Services in the amount of \$9,032.00, and New Jersey Medical Assistance and Health Services Program (Medicaid) in the amount of \$2,252.88. The validity or the extent of such liens has not necessarily been established.

8. A review of respondent's file with respect to the grievant's claim as obtained by subpoena from the attorney currently handling such claim, while admittedly incomplete, does not contain any correspondence, documentation or notes indicating the grievant's consent to such settlement.

9. Respondent's failure to obtain the consent of his client to the settlement of her claim constituted a violation of RPC 1.2.

## **SECOND COUNT**

10. Plaintiffs incorporate the previous paragraphs of the Complaint as if set forth at length herein.

11. Correspondence was direct to the respondent at his last office address at 411 Fayette Street, Bridgeton by both the Committee Secretary and the Investigator requesting a written response by the respondent to the allegations set forth in the grievance. Such correspondence was not returned as undelivered, but no response was received from the

respondent. Correspondence was also directed to an address of 3859 LeFlore Drive, Rockledge, Florida by the Investigator requesting a response and again such correspondence was not returned, but no response was received. This address was supplied by the attorney currently handling the grievant's claim and is the address used by him to correspond with the respondent.

12. The respondent is obligated by RPC 8.1 and by Rule 1:20-3(g)(3) to cooperate with the disciplinary investigation.

13. The respondent has failed to cooperate with this disciplinary investigation in violation of RPC 8.1 and Rule 1:20-3(g)(3).

WHEREFORE, respondent should be disciplined.

District I Ethics Committee

Dated: January 8, 2007

BY: /s/ Michael J. Fitzgerald, Investigator