

## **ADMONITION NO. 20-17**

### **CLASSIFICATION:**

No Written Fee Arrangement [Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.5(b)1]

### **SUMMARY:**

The respondent was retained as successor counsel in February 2019 to represent a client in a criminal defense matter. The parties agreed that the client would pay the respondent a flat fee of \$2,500 for the representation to the point of trial or a change in plea, and another flat fee of \$2,500 if the matter went to trial. In May 2019, the client was summonsed for an alleged second offense. The respondent was retained to represent the client in the second criminal defense matter and the parties agreed that the client would pay the respondent a flat fee of \$2,500 for the representation. The respondent never communicated to the client in writing the scope of the representation or the basis or rate of the fee and expenses for which the client was responsible in either criminal matter.

By failing to communicate to the client in writing the scope of the representation and the basis or rate of the fee and expenses for which the client would be responsible, the respondent violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.5(b)(1).

The respondent was admitted to practice in 1999. The respondent has no prior discipline. In this matter, the respondent received an admonition for the misconduct.