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Please refer to our file number: 13243-2

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December 16, 2004

Mark W. Lord, Esquire
P.O. Box 1643
Sarasota, Florida 34230-1643

Re: *Estate of Murray B. Cohen*

Dear Mr. Lord:

As you may or may not know, I represent Maria A. Cohen, as personal representative in connection with the Estate of Murray B. Cohen. It is my understanding that you have been contacted by Steven Esdale in connection with certain claims that he has advanced against Maria Cohen in connection with the probate proceedings. By way of background, you should note that initially Mr. Esdale challenged the admission to probate of the November 15, 2001 Will of decedent, Murray B. Cohen. After conducting a two day trial, the Court rejected the challenge to said Last Will and Testament and admitted same to probate. Subsequent thereto, Mr. Esdale filed a Petition for Forfeiture seeking to have Maria Cohen disqualified as a beneficiary under the Last Will and Testament of Murray B. Cohen. Mr. Esdale also filed proceedings in the State of New Jersey seeking to exhume the body of Murray Cohen. Although I was not involved in the New Jersey proceedings, it is my understanding that the Court entered an Order denying the exhumation.

In any event, I recently received a copy of correspondence from Mr. Esdale to Judge DeFuria, a copy of which is enclosed. I will not dignify Mr. Cohen's comments as set forth in the letter other than to state that I find same to be offensive and erroneous. Notwithstanding same, if you have information that is relevant to the probate administration, I believe it is appropriate for me to make such inquiry. In that regard, I would appreciate your contacting me so we may discuss your involvement on behalf of Murray Cohen subject to any attorney/client limitations that may exist. In that regard, it is my understanding that the personal representative of the Estate of a decedent has standing to raise and/or waive the attorney/client privilege. At this time, Maria Cohen, as personal representative, has not elected to waive said privilege and requests that you not provide any information or documentation to any third party that may be deemed violative of the attorney/client privilege as referenced in Florida Statutes § 90.502.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

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Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in connection with this matter.

Sincerely,

ABEL, BAND, RUSSELL, COLLIER,
PITCHFORD & GORDON, CHARTERED



Steven J. Chase

SJC:mjb

cc: Mrs. Maria Cohen
Mr. Steven Esdale