

PRIVATE ADMONITION
ODC FILE NO. 110018-B
Effective Date: March 15, 2018

A Delaware lawyer was privately admonished for violation of Rules 1.15(a) and 1.15(c) of the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct. The lawyer held a client's funds that had been received from third parties in the firm's trust account. The lawyer was on notice that the client and other parties claimed an interest in the funds. Concerned the clients would not pay the firm's invoice for attorney's fees, the lawyer directed transfer of a portion of the client's funds held in escrow to the firm's operating account to satisfy the outstanding invoice. At ODC's request, the firm immediately restored the client's funds to the escrow account. Thereafter, the firm filed litigation in Superior Court to determine the enforceability of the attorney's lien.