

See id. (index #40). The Probate Division denied that request in September 2014 on the basis that the "guardianship of the estate was closed, and the ward has no more assets." Id. (Index #42). Ms. Marino then filed her first *Motion for Reconsideration*,¹⁶ see Index #41, in October 2014. The Probate Division denied the motion, concluding that the additional fees were "unreasonable on their face" as they comprised "more than 170% of the ward's assets." Id. (Index #42). It also specifically found that although some work performed benefitted J.L., she sought to charge \$125 an hour for ministerial work and "much of the work did not benefit the ward." Id.

Ms. Marino proceeded to file a second motion seeking reconsideration of the court's order denying her request for the additional \$4,641.19 in fees. (Index #43). In it, she disclosed, *in a footnote*, see Exh. 27, that she had previously paid herself \$4,800, in addition to the \$2,193.16 in "total fees" disclosed in her account, see Index #38, and the \$4,641.19 she sought approval of from the Probate Division. To be clear, this \$4,800 payment of fees, previously collected without earlier disclosure to or approval of the court, and thus in violation of multiple court rules and professional standards of practice, see Prob. Div. R. 88 & 108; NGA Standard 22, III; Prob. Ct. Admin. Order 16 at ¶11, were not disclosed until after two motions were filed by Ms. Marino, and multiple orders were issued by the Probate Division specifically addressing fees.¹⁷

The Probate Division scheduled a hearing on the matter that was held on December 19, 2014. Ms. Marino attended the hearing, with counsel. The undersigned has reviewed the transcript, see Exh. 28, and makes the following observations. At the hearing, Ms. Marino explained that she paid herself the \$4,800 from \$6,700 in

¹⁶ This was the first of three motions for reconsideration. See id. (Index ##41, 43, 57).

¹⁷ The undersigned remains mindful that this estate was very modest, "with less than \$4,000 in gross assets." Order at 1 (Index #46).