
Press Release

Shawn Beaver Disbarred Following Law Society Hearing

For Immediate Release

February 15, 2017

Calgary, Alberta – The Law Society of Alberta (Law Society) announced today that Edmonton lawyer Shawn Beaver has been disbarred from practising law in Alberta following a formal disciplinary hearing.

Mr. Beaver was investigated by the Law Society for allegations of misappropriation of client's trust funds and other funds as well as contravention of Law Society rules concerning trust accounting and reporting.

On May 28, 2015, the Law Society suspended Mr. Beaver's ability to practise law in the interim and took all necessary steps to ensure his clients were looked after by a custodian.

The disciplinary hearing began at the end of November 2016 and took place in two phases. At the conclusion of the culpability phase of the hearing, the Committee found conduct deserving of sanction in relation to 7 of the 12 citations. The Committee found that Mr. Beaver had misappropriated funds entrusted to his care and that he had failed to act with integrity. As disbarment was a possibility arising out of these findings, the hearing was adjourned to February 15 and 16, 2017 to hear the remainder of evidence and submissions as to sanction.

At the conclusion of the disciplinary hearing on February 15, 2017, the Committee ordered Shawn Beaver disbarred, effective immediately. Disbarment is the most severe sanction the Law Society can impose. Mr. Beaver's practice will now be closed by the custodian who was put in place when he was suspended.

The Law Society has spent considerable resources bringing this matter to conclusion. We take our responsibility seriously for holding lawyers accountable when their behavior does not meet the standards of the Alberta legal profession.

Hearing reports are posted on the Law Society website approximately 90 days after the conclusion of a hearing. Requests for a statement of facts and hearing transcripts can be directed to information.management@lawsociety.ab.ca.

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For further information please contact:

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The Law Society serves the public interest by promoting a high standard of legal services and professional conduct through the regulation of an independent legal profession in Alberta.