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Media Statement

Lawyer David Blott Disbarred Following Law Society's Acceptance of Resignation

For Immediate Release Friday, June 13, 2014

Calgary, Alberta - The Law Society of Alberta received, heard and approved an application for resignation in the face of discipline from Calgary lawyer David Blott. As a result, he is prohibited from practising law in Alberta.

Mr. Blott was investigated by the Law Society for allegations of misconduct related to his representation of clients in the Independent Assessment Process – the process of applying for compensation through the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

In April 2012, the Law Society imposed restrictions on Mr. Blott's ability to practise law and took all necessary steps to ensure his clients were looked after by other lawyers. The direct effect of those restrictions was that he was prohibited from dealing with, or having input on, the residential school settlement process and its claimants.

Under the Legal Profession Act, the provincial statute that governs lawyers, Mr. Blott is disbarred upon the Law Society's acceptance of his resignation - the most severe sanction the Law Society can impose. His disbarment allows his former clients to avoid enduring the additional stress of testifying in a formal hearing which could potentially require up to two additional years of process.

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

Hearing reports are posted to 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 central.records@lawsociety.ab.ca.

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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.