

REGISTRY: Brisbane
NUMBER: 011/06

Applicant: LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSIONER

AND

Respondent: CRAIG LEONARD STEVENSON

ORDER

Before: Mr P Cooper (Chairperson), Mr W LeMass (Practitioner Member) and Ms P Frampton (Lay Member)

Date: 4 June 2007

Basis of Judgement: Originating application filed on 15 August 2006

THE ORDER, FINDINGS AND REASONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The respondent is a 34-year-old solicitor admitted to practise as a solicitor by the Supreme Court of Queensland on 11 November 1996. The respondent faces one charge, namely:

“Between January 2004 and June 2005, the respondent, in breach of his duty as a solicitor, failed to maintain reasonable standards of competency or diligency as expected by a member of the public in relation to the conduct of a matter in which he had received instructions to act for his client, Ian Mitchell.”

There has been filed, a statement of agreed facts. The respondent accepts particulars 1.3(a), 1.3(e), 1.3(f), mentioned in the charge as particulars, but disputes particulars 1.3(b), 1.3(c), and 1.3(d). The Committee finds particulars 1.3(a)(ii), 1.3(e), and 1.3(f), proved. The respondent accepts that his conduct amounts to unsatisfactory professional conduct.

In determining what penalty should be imposed, the Committee has taken into account the following:

ORDER
Filed on behalf of the Applicant
Form 59rr661

Legal Services Commission
Level 25, 307 Queen Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Telephone: (07) 3406 7737
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LEGAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE OF QUEENSLAND

- (a) This is the second occasion the respondent has been the subject of disciplinary proceedings.
- (b) The respondent appears to be taking steps to improve his management systems, but there appears to the Committee to be a long way to go.

The orders of the Committee are:

- (1) The Committee finds the charge proved and the conduct, the subject of the disciplinary application, amounts to unsatisfactory professional conduct.
- (2) The Committee finds the respondent guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct.
- (3) The Committee publicly reprimands the respondent, which is hereby administered.
- (4) The Committee orders the respondent pay by way of penalty to the Legal Practitioners' Interest on Trust Accounts Fund the sum of \$2000.
- (5) The Committee orders the respondent pay the applicant's costs agreed at \$1000 by 4 July 2007.
- (6) Ian Bruce Mitchell has filed an affidavit claiming compensation of \$1452. The Committee orders, pursuant to section 288(a) that the respondent pay to Mr Mitchell \$572, namely, the professional costs paid by Mr Mitchell to the respondent.

P. Bourke
Chairperson

7/6/07
Date

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