



March 23, 2016

NOTICE

Disbarment

On March 22, 2016, a Hearing Committee of the Benchers of the Law Society of Alberta ordered **Robert Burgener** disbarred, effective immediately. Mr. Burgener lived and practiced in Calgary, Alberta until his membership was suspended for non-payment of fines and costs on April 21, 2011. Mr. Burgener resides in Ontario.

The Hearing Committee found that Mr. Burgener's conduct was deserving of sanction on 14 citations involving improperly disclosing confidential information of former clients, acting when in a conflict of interest, signing false documents, installing a surreptitious surveillance camera and recording conversations without first obtaining the consent of the party being recorded, threatening and attempting to extort money from a client, failing to account for trust funds, failing to properly identify on each statement of account the amount attributable to fees and the nature and proper amount of any disbursements, failing to provide a retainer agreement to his client, failing to recommend his client seek independent legal advice before entering into a business venture with his client, failing to protect or act in the best interests of a client by failing to observe a Requirement to Pay issued by the Minister of Finance, signing letters containing false information, assisting a client in an improper purpose, failing to properly supervise staff and failing to serve his lender clients.

The Hearing Committee ordered that Mr. Burgener pay actual costs of the hearing, estimated to be \$170,932.30 and referred his conduct to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General pursuant to Section 78(6) of the *Legal Profession Act*.

Elizabeth J. Osler

Deputy Executive Director & Director, Regulation
Law Society of Alberta

NOTICE TO: Public,
All Active Lawyers and Students-at-Law,
All Executive Directors of other Law Societies in Canada,
All Justices of the Court of Appeal and Court of Queen's Bench,
All Judges of the Provincial Court of Alberta,
All Masters in Chambers,
All Clerks of the Court.