



April 11, 2011

## **NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION**

**NOTICE TO:** 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

### **Disbarment**

On April 8, 2011, a Hearing Committee disbarred **Mr. John A. Sutherland**, who resides in Calgary, Alberta, and who practised in Calgary until August 7, 2009, when he was suspended by the Benchers under section 63 of the *Legal Profession Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. L-8, in relation to other conduct matters.

The Hearing Committee found that **Mr. Sutherland's** conduct was deserving of sanction on five citations in that he had improperly exercised a solicitor's lien pertaining to outstanding accounts of another client over the proceeds of sale of the complaining client, that he had acted in a conflict of interest, that he had failed to conscientiously serve his client by failing to protect, account for and release the proceeds of sale, that he wrongfully converted a portion of his client's proceeds of sale, and that he failed to respond to the Law Society in a complete and appropriate manner. **Mr. Sutherland** had notice but did not appear at the hearing.

The Hearing Committee ordered that **Mr. Sutherland** be disbarred immediately and pay the actual costs of the hearing fixed at \$5,500.00.

The custodian of **Mr. Sutherland's** practice continues to be:

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Don Thompson, Q.C.  
Executive Director  
Law Society of Alberta