



Calgary Office (Main)
500, 919 - 11th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2R 1P3
Phone: (403) 229-4700 • Toll Free: 1-800-661-9003 • Fax: (403) 228-1728

LawSocietyofAlberta

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April 30, 2009

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

NOTICE TO: All Active Members 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

Notice of Disbarment

On April 29, 2009, a Resignation Committee appointed by the Benchers of the Law Society of Alberta granted the application of **Brian D. Hassett** to resign in the face of discipline, pursuant to Section 61 of the *Legal Profession Act*, effective immediately. Pursuant to Section 1(c) of the *Act*, the effect of the resignation is equivalent to a disbarment. Mr. Hassett is therefore disbarred. Mr. Hassett resided and practised in Calgary until December 11, 2007, when he was suspended on an interim basis by a resolution of the Benchers on December 11, 2007.

In his application for resignation, Mr. Hassett admitted that after becoming aware that his client, a financial institution, demanded to review its files in which Mr. Hassett acted for it, he deliberately destroyed all of the files by burning them. He admits that a number of other open and closed client files were destroyed in the same fashion. Mr. Hassett admits that at the time of destroying the files of his client, the financial institution, he was aware the client was concerned about the legitimacy of some of the transactions, and that he destroyed the client files to avoid repercussions for his conduct in relation to his representation of the financial institution in the series of impugned transactions. Mr. Hassett admits he did not comply with a Court Order to return to the financial institution its client files.

The Resignation Committee also ordered that Mr. Hassett is required to pay fixed costs of \$1,632.75. The Resignation Committee further directed, in accordance with Section 78(6) of the *Legal Profession Act*, that the Executive Director send a copy of the hearing record to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

R. Gregory Busch
Director, Lawyer Conduct