

NOTICE TO:

February 13, 2002

All Active Members and Students-at-law
All Non-Practising Paying Members
All Secretaries 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 SUSPENSION

TAKE NOTICE that on January 18, 2002, a Hearing Committee pursuant to section 72(1)(b) of the *Legal Profession Act*, S.A. 2000, c. L-8.1, suspended Douglas Doucette, who resides and practiced in Calgary, Alberta, from the practice of law for a period of two years effective immediately for conduct deserving of sanction.

The Member was previously suspended on October 11, 2001, pursuant to section 60(3) of the *Legal Profession Act*, S.A. 1990, c. L-9. 1, because he did not attend his scheduled hearing and having regard to the nature of the conduct the Hearing Committee ordered his suspension pending their findings under section 68 of the *Legal Profession Act*, and or Mr. Doucette's appeal.

The Member was found guilty of sixteen citations of conduct deserving of sanction. The citations dealt with a number of matters that occurred from 1997 to 2000. The matters involved the Member wrongfully converting trust funds by inflating and falsifying his account for services, charging excessively by insisting on performing work that could easily have been done by the client and that the client was prepared to do. A taxing officer assessed the member's fees at 25% of the amount billed (\$23,000.00). The Member was also found guilty of breaching undertakings to two different lawyers on real estate transactions and, in the case of one of those lawyers, failing to be candid as to whether or not a Real Property Report had been submitted to the City of Calgary. The Member was also found guilty of not responding in a timely manner to communications from two lawyers, and failing to respond to the Law Society in a timely manner to communications that contemplated a reply. Finally, the Member was found guilty of breaching the accounting rules of the Law Society and failing to provide the Audit Department of the Law Society of Alberta with requested information.

The Member was further ordered to pay the actual costs of the Hearing. The Hearing Committee pursuant to s. 78(5) of the *Legal Profession Act*, S.A. 2000, c. L-8.1, directed that the Executive Director send a copy of the hearing record to the Attorney General. The referral

was with respect to the citation relating to a wrongful conversion of the client's trust funds. The Hearing Committee further ordered that the Member, prior to reinstatement, comply with the directions of the Practice Review Committee.

The Custodian of Mr. Doucette's practice is:

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