



December 6, 2010

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

Suspension

On July 6, 2010, a Hearing Committee found **Grant Edward Nickless**, a suspended member of the Law Society who resides in Lloydminster and formerly practised in Edmonton, Alberta, guilty of conduct deserving of sanction on 14 citations involving engaging in inappropriate public behaviour and failing to provide competent services on account of a drug addiction, failing to be candid with the Law Society in his initial responses to several complaints, failing to properly handle trust funds, failing to provide a client with appropriate information regarding his fees and disbursements, overcharging a client for disbursements, and wrongful conversion by retaining funds for his personal use without properly processing his account through trust.

On December 2, 2010, the Hearing Committee ordered, pursuant to section 72(1)(b) of the *Legal Profession Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. L-8, that the Member be suspended for 18 months, effective immediately.

In addition, the Hearing Committee ordered that the Member be required pay the actual costs of the hearing, which were set at \$8,500.00.

A custodian had already been appointed when the Member was suspended on January 24, 2006, pursuant to section 63 of the Act.

R. Gregory Busch
Director, Lawyer Conduct
Law Society of Alberta