



July 12, 2007

## **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 10, 2007, a Hearing Committee found **Mr. Dennis McGechie** guilty of seven citations. Mr. McGechie resides and practised in Edmonton, Alberta.

The citations on which Mr. McGechie was found guilty are as follows: misappropriation of \$16,085.85 of trust funds; breach of a court order; breach of an undertaking given to the Law Society and failure to respond to the Law Society; failing to comply with the trust conditions imposed by the Excise Tax Act regarding amounts collected as Goods and Service Tax; failing to serve a client; failing to respond to a client; and failing to follow accounting rules.

The Hearing Committee determined the conduct of Mr. McGechie arose from incompetence and made the following order pursuant to s. 73 of the *Legal Profession Act*:

1. The member is suspended for 18 months;
2. Prior to the member being reinstated he shall appear before a Board of Examiners and satisfy the Board that the member's competence to practice as a barrister and solicitor is not adversely affected by any mental disability;
3. Prior to the member being reinstated he shall be required to give his undertaking to the Executive Director of the Law Society that his practice shall be carried on under the direct supervision of one or more members acceptable to the Executive Director;
4. Estimated costs in the amount of \$8,421.00 shall be paid within one year and, in any event, are to be paid prior to any application for reinstatement; and
5. The matter will be referred to the Attorney General.

There was no direction to appoint a custodian as the member has not been in practice since 2004.

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