

NOTICE TO:

June 26, 2003

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

On May 13, 2003, a Hearing Committee found **Mr. Thomas Stepper** guilty of three citations of conduct deserving of sanction. Mr. Stepper resides and practised in Calgary, Alberta.

The citations on which he was found guilty are as follows: one citation involving failing to serve a client in a conscientious, efficient and diligent manner; one citation involving failing to respond to the Law Society on a timely basis and in a complete and appropriate manner and one citation involving failing to respond to the Practice Review Department of the Law Society on a timely basis and in a complete and appropriate manner.

The Hearing Committee ordered, pursuant to Section 60 of the *Legal Profession Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. L-8, that the membership of the member be suspended until September 1, 2003 effective immediately. The Hearing Committee further ordered that the member pay the costs of the hearing, estimated to be in the amount of \$4,552.85 to be paid within six months of Mr. Stepper's return to practice, and in any event by May 13, 2004. The Hearing Committee directed the following conditions must be met by Mr. Stepper prior to his reinstatement:

- a) That he satisfy the Practice Review Committee that he has established a satisfactory mentoring relationship.
- b) That he satisfy the Practice Review Committee that he has an understanding of ethical obligations to clients, the profession, the Law Society and himself.
- c) That he satisfy the Practice Review Committee that he has demonstrated a rudimentary understanding in law office and client management strategies.

In addition, the Hearing Committee directed that upon the reinstatement of Mr. Stepper, he enter into a supervision and monitoring contract with the Practice Review Department.

There was no direction to appoint a custodian as the member was the employee of a firm at the time of his suspension, and the firm has taken responsibility for all the member's files.

H. James Stevens
Deputy Executive Director
The Law Society of Alberta