



November 4, 2008

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 October 20, 2008, a Resignation Committee appointed by the Benchers of the Law Society of Alberta granted the application of **Brent Frederick Bittner** to resign, pursuant to Section 61 of the *Legal Profession Act*, effective immediately. Mr. Bittner is therefore disbarred. Mr. Bittner resides in Edmonton and practised in Edmonton until his resignation.

On his application for resignation, Mr. Bittner admitted that over a period of years he repeatedly failed to follow accounting rules and breached an undertaking given to the Law Society to adhere to the Rules. His failures resulted in trust shortages on 91 files affecting 65 clients. All trust shortages were repaid by Mr. Bittner upon his books and records being reconstructed by the Law Society. Mr. Bittner also admitted that from 2000 to 2002 he was involved in a series of real estate transactions which were part of a fraudulent scheme in which the financial institutions who were clients of Mr. Bittner were deceived into giving mortgage loans for properties at a value well above market value. Mr. Bittner admits his misconduct enabled the principals of the fraudulent scheme to obtain improper mortgages from the financial institutions involved. Mr. Bittner also admitted that in February 2006 he sent a letter to a third party, purporting to validate consideration on a property sale. He understood the recipient was relying on the letter as true and admits that its contents were untrue, and that he was unable to validate the consideration.

The Resignation Committee also ordered that the member is required to pay the costs of the hearing, fixed at the sum of \$3,600.00.

The Custodian of Brent Frederick Bittner's practice is:

Mr. Paul McLaughlin
McLaughlin LLP
170, 150 Chippewa Road
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 6A2

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