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NOTICE TO:

August 15, 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

On May 22, 2002, a Hearing Committee found Mr. Kenneth Robert Sockett, who resides in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, guilty on three citations of defrauding the Federal Government of Canada, by submitting statements of accounts to be paid from trust funds of minors which accounts falsely described his legal fees and/or disbursements respecting his client. These citations addressed three different circumstances of falsely describing accounts, which involved over 90 requisitions from the Federal Government.

The Hearing Committee ordered, pursuant to Section 72(1)(b) of the *Legal Profession Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. L-8, that the membership of the member be suspended for a period of 18 months effective July 22, 2002.

In addition to the suspension, the Hearing Committee imposed a fine in the amount of \$5,000.00 on each of the three citations. The member is also required to pay the actual costs of the hearing, which were estimated at \$20,000.00.

The Hearing Committee directed, in accordance with Section 78(5) of the *Legal Profession Act*, that the Executive Director send a copy of the hearing record to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

The Hearing Committee directed that a custodian need not be appointed as the suspension was stayed for 60 days to allow the member to make private arrangements.

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