

**IN THE MATTER OF PART 3 OF THE
LEGAL PROFESSION ACT, RSA 2000, c. L-8**

AND

**IN THE MATTER OF A SECTION 61 RESIGNATION APPLICATION
REGARDING CHIPO JURA
A MEMBER OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**

ORDER OF THE RESIGNATION COMMITTEE

UPON THE APPLICATION of Chipo Jura to resign pursuant to section 61 of the *Legal Profession Act*; AND UPON hearing from Chipo Jura and counsel for the Law Society of Alberta (LSA); AND UPON reviewing the evidence and exhibits;

AND WHEREAS:

- a) Chipo Jura's conduct was the subject of citations issued pursuant to the *Act* and thus a Resignation Committee (Committee) was constituted to hear the matter on July 6, 2020;
- b) There are no objections to the constitution of the Committee or its jurisdiction;
- c) The LSA supports Chipo Jura's application for resignation under section 61;
- d) Chipo Jura confirms that she understands that such an application amounts to a deemed disbarment if accepted, pursuant to section 1(c) of the *Act*;
- e) The Committee finds that the Statement of Admitted Facts, attached to this Order, is in an acceptable form;
- f) The Committee accepts the Undertakings made by Chipo Jura;
- g) The Committee has determined that it will accept the application for resignation as it is in the public interest and it also accepts the joint submission from both parties with respect to the payment of costs;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Chipo Jura's application to resign pursuant to section 61 is accepted and thus Chipo Jura is disbarred, effective July 6, 2020.
2. The following information be entered into the roll:
 - a. The roll shall reflect that Chipo Jura's application under section 61 of the *Act* was allowed on July 6, 2020;

- b. Details of this decision shall be noted in the roll, including the conditions in relation to Chipo Jura's resignation and the Statement of Admitted Facts put before this Committee.
3. Chipo Jura must pay costs of \$21,791.62 prior to any later application for reinstatement.
4. A Notice to the Profession is required.
5. A Notice to the Attorney General is not required.
6. The exhibits and this order will be available for public inspection, including the provision of copies of exhibits for a reasonable copy fee, except that identifying information in relation to persons other than Chipo Jura will be redacted and further redactions will be made to preserve client confidentiality and solicitor-client privilege (Rule 98(3)).

Dated at Calgary, Alberta, on July 27, 2020

Margaret Unsworth, QC

Bill Hendsbee, QC

Corinne Petersen, QC

IN THE MATTER OF THE *LEGAL PROFESSION ACT*

-AND-

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESIGNATION APPLICATION BY
CHIPO FLORENCE JURA
A MEMBER OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**

STATEMENT OF ADMITTED FACTS

1. I was admitted as a member of the Law Society of Alberta (the “Law Society”) on March 24, 2017.
2. I carried on a general practice of law in Edmonton, Alberta doing business as Florence Law.
3. On February 26, 2018, I was suspended by the Law Society pursuant to s. 63 of the *Legal Profession Act*, RSA 2000, c. L-8 (the “Act”). Mr. [JS] was appointed as the custodian of the property and business of my law practice.
4. Upon the appointment of the custodian, all my outstanding files were resolved or transferred to other lawyers.
5. At no time did I open or use a trust account in relation to my practice.
6. I remain suspended to the date of this application.
7. I am facing the following citations arising from two complaints, which were directed to hearing by a panel of the Conduct Committee on May 14, 2019:

CO20171737

1. It is alleged Florence Chipu Jura engaged in the practice of law while suspended and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
2. It is alleged Florence Chipu Jura accepted Trust funds and failed to place them in a Trust Account and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
3. It is alleged Florence Chipu Jura used client Trust funds for her own personal benefit and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
4. It is alleged Florence Chipu Jura failed to be candid in her communications with the Law Society and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;

CO20180124

5. It is alleged Florence Chipu Jura accepted trust funds without approval from the Law Society of Alberta to operate a trust account and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;

6. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura misappropriated trust funds and/or wrongfully converted trust funds and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
 7. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura knowingly assisted a disbarred lawyer to practice law and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
 8. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura provided legal services without obtaining client instructions and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
 9. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura failed to provide competent and conscientious legal services to her clients and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
 10. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura deliberately misled or failed to be candid with the Law Society of Alberta and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
 11. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura deliberately deleted evidence during an investigation by the Law Society of Alberta and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
 12. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura forged her clients' signatures on Affidavits and that such conduct is deserving of sanction;
 13. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura filed Affidavits containing forged signatures with the Court and that such conduct is deserving of sanction; and
 14. It is alleged Florence Chipo Jura engaged in conduct that brought discredit to the Profession and that such conduct is deserving of sanction.
8. I admit the following facts for the purposes of my application to resign as a member of the Law Society pursuant to s. 61 of the Act:
- a. On July 11, 2017, I was administratively suspended by the Law Society for failure to pay my insurance levy due June 30, 2017.
 - b. On July 26, 2017, I paid my insurance levy and was reinstated as active and insured.
 - c. Between July 11 and July 26, 2017, while I was administratively suspended, I continued to practise law, including attending Provincial Court representing a client on a family law matter on July 19, 2017.
 - d. During a conversation with Early Intervention Counsel at the Law Society, I advised that I was not aware of the administrative suspension until July 20, 2017. In fact, I was aware of the suspension when it was imposed on June 30, 2017.
 - e. At no time was I authorized to operate a trust account by the Law Society. At all relevant times I was aware I was not authorized to operate a trust account.

- f. In May and June 2017, I accepted e-transfers and deposited cheques from a client for work not yet completed and deposited the funds into my personal bank account. I used the funds to pay my insurance levy to the Law Society.
 - g. Between July 2017 and March 2018, I accepted funds from numerous clients for legal work not yet completed. The funds were deposited into business accounts, which were not trust accounts. Sometimes I used the business accounts for personal reasons. When I was suspended, the custodian determined that my business accounts did not have sufficient funds to cover the financial claims made by my clients.
 - h. I knowingly assisted a recently disbarred lawyer, S.B., to practice law. I was aware that S.B. was disbarred, and I facilitated him providing legal advice and services to clients and shared legal fees with him. I assisted S.B. on approximately 15 client files from August 2017 until my suspension in February 2018. I attended Court under his direction, assisted him in drafting documents, filed court documents he drafted, obtained his legal advice for my own clients and paid him legal fees.
 - i. My law practice consisted mainly of family law matters. When I began working with S.B., I started accepting civil, traffic and criminal files. I was inexperienced and unfamiliar with these areas of laws and relied on S.B. for direction and guidance. My inexperience and incompetence in certain areas resulted in extra costs and other hardships for my clients.
 - j. During the course of a Law Society investigation regarding my association with S.B., I deliberately deleted texts and emails of my correspondence with S.B. and I repeatedly and deliberately misled or failed to be candid with the Law Society.
 - k. In February 2018, I forged two of my clients' signatures on Affidavits and filed them with the Court. I had never met one of the clients whose signature I forged.
9. I admit that the conduct described in paragraph 8 constitutes conduct deserving of sanction pursuant to s. 49 of Act.
10. I acknowledge that if I admitted or was found guilty of the conduct described in paragraph 8, the likely sanction would be disbarment.
11. I acknowledge that I have read s. 61 of the Act and have considered that my resignation application, if accepted, is a deemed disbarment pursuant to the definition of "disbar" in section 1(c) of the Act.
12. I tender this Statement of Admitted Facts in support of my resignation application pursuant to s. 61 of the Act.

ALL OF THESE FACTS ARE ADMITTED, THIS 15th DAY OF January, 2020.

"Chipo Jura"
Chipo Florence Jura