

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

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL  
REGARDING GREGORY LIAKOPOULOS  
A MEMBER OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**

**Appeal to the Benchers Panel**

Lou Cusano, QC – Chair and Bencher  
Ryan Anderson, QC - Bencher  
Ted Feehan - Bencher  
Barbara McKinley – Lay Bencher  
Sanjiv Parmar - Bencher  
Sandra Petersson - Bencher  
Salimah Walji-Shivji - Bencher

**Appearances**

Shanna Hunka – Counsel for the Law Society of Alberta (LSA)  
Gregory Liakopoulos – Self-represented

**Hearing Date**

May 5, 2022

**Hearing Location**

Virtual Hearing

**APPEAL PANEL DECISION – COSTS**

**Overview**

1. The Appeal Panel heard this Appeal on May 5, 2022 and rendered its decision (the “Decision”) in writing on June 29, 2022.
2. In the Decision, the Appeal Panel invited Mr. Liakopoulos and LSA Counsel to make any submissions on costs within 14 days of that decision.
3. On July 6, 2022, LSA Counsel provided an Estimated Statement of Costs and submissions on costs.
4. Submissions on costs were not provided by Mr. Liakopoulos.

5. The Appeal Panel has determined that Mr. Liakopoulos shall pay the costs of the proceedings, as set out in the Estimated Statement of Costs, in the amount of \$6,878.03.

### **Submissions of the Parties**

6. LSA Counsel submits that payment of costs expenditures that have actually been incurred by the professional governing body in carrying out its mandate is appropriate and that a guilty member should pay the costs of the proceedings that led to the finding of his or her guilt, relying on the commentary in *LSA v. Torske*, 2016 ABLs 217.
7. LSA Counsel also relied on *K.C. v. College of Physical Therapists of Alberta*, 1999 ABCA 253, at paragraphs 91 to 94, wherein the Court discusses that costs are not a penalty. The Court further adds that in addition to success or failure, “a discipline committee awarding costs must consider such factors as seriousness of the charges, the conduct of the parties and the reasonableness of the amounts.”
8. In addition, relying on *Hoff v. Pharmaceutical Assn. (Alberta)*, 1994 CanLII 8950 (ABQB), LSA counsel notes that costs “may properly be borne by the member whose conduct is at issue and has been found wanting....”
9. LSA Counsel submits that the four following factors are to be considered in determining the amount of costs to be paid here:
  - The result: Mr. Liakopoulos was found guilty on all three citations and was disbarred by the Hearing Committee. He appealed that disbarment and was unsuccessful.
  - Seriousness of the Matter: The conduct at issue was serious and go to the “core tenets of the legal profession; honesty, integrity and trust.”
  - Conduct during the Appeal Process: a Notice of Appeal was filed by Mr. Liakopoulos without identifying what was being appealed, a last minute medical report introduced by Mr. Liakopoulos at the hearing and a last minute proposal at the Appeal hearing for the doctor to testify.
  - Reasonableness of the amount of costs: LSA submits the costs are reasonable.

### **Decision Regarding Costs**

10. The Appeal Panel is of the view that LSA Counsel has appropriately summarized the guiding principles regarding the issue of costs.
11. In reviewing the circumstances here, the Appeal Panel notes the following to be particularly relevant to its deliberations on costs:

- Mr. Liakopoulos' conduct was serious which is evident in that a disbarment was ordered by the Hearing Committee.
- Mr. Liakopoulos appealed the decision of the Hearing Committee, specifically the disbarment sanction, and was unsuccessful at Appeal.
- The costs are reasonable, with LSA Counsel presenting reasonable figures for line items that were actual costs incurred in preparing for and appearing at the Appeal hearing.

12. The Appeal Panel sees no need for adjustment for the amount presented by the LSA in the Estimated Statement of Costs. The Appeal Panel therefore orders Mr. Liakopoulos to pay costs, in the amount of \$6,878.03, within 6 months of the date of the decision.

Dated September 29, 2022

---

Lou Cusano, KC – Chair

---

Ryan Anderson, KC

---

Ted Feehan

---

Barbara McKinley

---

Sanjiv Parmar

---

Sandra Petersson

---

Salimah Walji-Shivji