

THE SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL
constituted under the Solicitors Act 1974

TRIBUNAL

Mr. G. Barrie Marsh (President)

Solicitor Members

Mr. A. G. Gibson,
Mr. R. B. Bamford,
Mr. A. Gaynor-Smith,
Mr. A. H. Isaacs,
Mr. K. I. B. Yeaman,
Mr. J. R. C. Clitheroe,
Mr. D. W. Faull,
Mr. D. J. Leverton,
Mrs E. Stanley,
Mr. J. C. Chesterton,
Mr. J. N. Barnecutt
Mr. A. G. Ground,
Mr. R. J. C. Potter
Mr. A. N. Spooner
Mr. A. H. B. Holmes
Mr. W. M. Hartley,
Mr. L. N. Gilford
Ms. T Cullen
Mr. J. P. Davies
Mr. S. N. Jones

Lay Members

Lady Bonham Carter
Mr. K.J. Griffin
Mr. D.E. Marlow
Dame Simone Prendergast
Mr. M.C. Baughan
Mrs. C. Pickering
Lady Maxwell-Hyslop
Mr. G. Fisher
Mr. D. Gilbertson
Ms. A. Arya
Mr. M. G. Taylor

CLERK

Mrs S.C. Elson
Solicitor

DEPUTY CLERK

Mrs. S. Whitfield
Solicitor

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President's Introduction

Details of the Tribunal's work load over the last twelve months are set out later in this Report. Once again it has been a busy year and the trend of cases being rather more complex has continued, as also has the trend of cases needing more than one full day for the hearing.

It is hoped that parties to a hearing will give more careful consideration to the time estimate of the length of a hearing. These estimates on many occasions prove to be extremely inaccurate which causes problems to the Tribunal and its members. It also brings about delay in the listing of other cases when for example a full day is set aside for one case and on the day the hearing lasts for only one or two hours.

The Tribunal is by its constitution an independent statutory body albeit financed by the Law Society. The members of the Tribunal, however, remain concerned that there are still many people who do not believe that the Tribunal is truly independent. There continue to be references - in the press or articles in law journals - to the Tribunal either being part of the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS) or being under the influence of the Law Society. Discussions regarding this issue are continuing.

It has been decided this year that the Annual Report should be cast in a rather different format and that it should include some explanation and details of the Tribunal's work. It is hoped that this will be both helpful and informative.

On this occasion - the occasion of my last Annual Report as President - perhaps I could be permitted to make some reference to the development of the Tribunal over the last 26 years. There have been considerable changes. The introduction of lay members in 1975 has proved to be of very substantial benefit. The calibre of those members has been of the highest order and I thank them all for their dedication and contribution to the work of the Tribunal. Since my first involvement the Tribunal has improved substantially the training of its members and the selection of members is now done in an open and transparent manner after advertising in the national press and in law journals. Probably the biggest change was when the Tribunal decided that all its hearings should be in public. The decision in each case is now given in open court at the conclusion of the hearing. The workload has increased over the years but despite this the Tribunal has improved considerably the time taken to deal with cases and promulgate decisions.

In conclusion I wish to pay tribute to all the members of the Tribunal and to the Tribunal Clerk and her staff and to thank them for the all that they do to uphold the reputation of the solicitors' profession.

G. B. Marsh
President

Constitution

The Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal ("the SDT") was created by the Solicitors Act 1974 as a statutory Tribunal. Previously the conduct of members of the solicitors' profession had been controlled by the Disciplinary Committee of the Law Society. The SDT was constituted with Solicitor members none of whom are connected with the Council of the Law Society and lay members drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds. All Tribunal members are appointed by the Master of the Rolls. The Tribunal is governed by the Solicitors (Disciplinary Proceedings) Rules 1994 (S. I. No. 288).

Introduction

The year under review coincided with a year during which the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors ("OSS") got to grips with a huge back log of cases of complaint which had accumulated with the OSS and its predecessor, the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau. Whilst many complaints will not necessarily involve issues of misconduct the Tribunal thought it possible that there would be a large increase in applications to the SDT as the 17,000 or more cases before the OSS reduced to the target level of 6000 cases. In fact the number of applications to the Tribunal did not increase.

The number of applications however is not directly a measure of the SDT's workload. The Tribunal has seen some increase in the complexity and therefore the length of cases. Cases involving breaches of the Solicitors Investment Business Rules for example came before the Tribunal as issues of misconduct. The enactment of the Human Rights Act also has led to some examination of and challenge to the Tribunal's procedures, but the Tribunal's status as an independent and impartial Tribunal has been upheld in the Divisional Court.

The growth of regulation - often imposing strict liability - is likely to result in some increase in cases before the Tribunal.

The Tribunal's work is, in the minds both of members of the solicitors' profession and the public, confused with the handling of complaints by the OSS. As noted in the introduction to last year's Tribunal report, it is the Tribunal's firm opinion that greater administrative independence from the Law Society would help to draw a sharper distinction between the Tribunal's work and that of the OSS which is, in over 90 per cent of cases before the Tribunal, the prosecuting authority. Such independence would in our view be consistent with the underlying principles of the Human Rights Act and an important further assurance both to those who appear before the Tribunal as respondents and the wider public that the Tribunal is both administering and seen to be administering a jurisdiction which cannot be alleged to be influenced by the Law Society. We remain committed to seeking to persuade the Law Society that direct financing of the Tribunal by each practising solicitor would benefit the profession, the Law Society and the Tribunal and more importantly be seen to buttress the Tribunal's judicial independence. The cost is estimated at present at around £6 per annum per practising solicitor which is close to the cost attributed to the Tribunal in the Law Society's last accounts.

PART I

The number of applications to the Tribunal reduced in the year to 30th April 2001 but the trend towards longer and more complex cases has increased. This has called for more sitting days by members of the Tribunal and the use of two court rooms has enabled the Tribunal to keep pace with its workload. The number of cases outstanding at the year end has remained fairly constant over a number of years and showed a small reduction at the year end compared to 30th April 2000. The number of applications to the Tribunal is not directly related to the speed with which cases can be dealt with as numbers do not distinguish between those cases which will be concluded quickly and those requiring a lengthy hearing. The fall in the number of applications in the year to 30th April 2001 is not therefore necessarily an indication of a reduction in the Tribunal's workload. The trend towards longer cases poses problems for Tribunal members (both solicitor and lay) who find it difficult to commit to prolonged hearings when they may have other demands on their time. The Tribunal intends to ameliorate this problem by adopting vigorous case management.

PART II

Explanation and Details of some aspects of the Tribunal's work

Speed of Process and Duration of cases

- 1 So far as the Tribunal is concerned, a case starts with the lodgement of an application and a Rule 4 Statement delivered by the applicant to the Tribunal. The matter is then considered to determine whether a prima facie case is made out. Thereafter the statement is served on the respondent by the Tribunal when the respondent is given [under the Rules] [at least] six weeks' notice of a pre listing day when the parties are requested to indicate whether or not the allegations are admitted and the anticipated length of hearing. A hearing date is fixed at the pre listing day.
2. A survey of cases heard substantively during the period under review shows that in 72 per cent of those cases the average length of time was about five months from the inception of the case until the conclusion of the substantive hearing. 17 per cent were concluded between six months and one year, 11 per cent were outstanding for more than a year.

Cases may be delayed because the applicant or respondent (or both) are not ready to proceed especially where the allegations are not admitted. Other reasons include:-

- (a) Inability to serve the proceedings, e.g. owing to the disappearance of the respondent;
 - (b) The mental or physical illness of the respondent;
 - (c) Unavailability of witnesses;
 - (d) Where there are concurrent criminal proceedings, or (less frequently) civil proceedings;
 - (e) Where new allegations are added to those in the original application. This happens not infrequently.
 - (f) Where crucial documents need to be traced and produced.
 - (g) On rare occasions, where the parties did not estimate the length of the hearing accurately, the Tribunal, the parties and their representatives and witnesses have to be reassembled for a continuation of the hearing.
3. The statutory rules of procedure provide for certain time limits; for example the period of 42 days is required between service of the proceedings and the hearing. Time limits apply for the service of notices under the Civil Evidence Act and in connection with other procedural matters. Many cases have been disposed of in less than four months from the start of proceedings. The Tribunal expedites cases if the parties seek an early hearing and waive the timetable laid down by the Rules.
4. The hearing date for a case estimated by the parties to be lengthy (extending over more than one day) will depend on the availability of the parties, counsel and Tribunal members and whether or not other cases have been listed requiring courtroom accommodation and the services of a clerk. The Tribunal has seen an increase in the length and complexity of cases to which the Human Rights legislation has given some impetus.
5. 39 cases took one day or more to reach the conclusion of the substantive hearing. Of these, 33 cases took one day, 4 cases took two days, 1 case took three days and 1 case took six days. In addition 4 interlocutory hearings each took up a whole day. From 1 May 2001 the Tribunal will record the length of all hearings, including those which are dealt with on a day when there are several cases in the single day's list.
6. The Tribunal would not wish to grant adjournments except in exceptional circumstances. However late applications for adjournment are not infrequently made - sometimes by agreement between the applicant and the respondent. The Tribunal is considering publication of more detailed information relating to adjournments.

Fines and Costs Orders

Fines are payable to H.M. Treasury and totalled in the year under review £286,750.

Costs orders are sometimes subject to a detailed assessment. In cases where fixed costs were ordered, the aggregate of fixed costs awarded to the applicant (including in some cases the costs of the Law Society's investigation accountant) amounted to £382,538.95. In one case fixed costs were awarded to the respondent.

Solicitors struck off the Roll

62 Solicitors were struck off the Roll in the year under review. Examples of conduct leading to a striking off were where:-

- Solicitors were found dishonestly to have misappropriated client money
- Solicitors had a criminal conviction
- Solicitors grossly misled clients
- Solicitors knowingly employed a struck off or suspended solicitor without the consent of the Law Society (s.41 Solicitors Act 1974). This offence carries a mandatory penalty of suspension or strike off.
- A solicitor was guilty of excessive interim billing amounting to an improper financing of the solicitor's practice.

A solicitor admitted certain breaches of the Solicitors Accounts Rules but denied he had been dishonest in relation to bills in two probate matters. The Tribunal accepted the evidence of an independent costs draftsman that in one of the cases the work carried out was of a routine nature and that the charges were "grossly excessive". The respondent transferred costs when little work had been done and had not sent bills to the client. The estate was substantial, the executor was elderly and the main beneficiary was a charity. There were a number of testimonials in support of the respondent.

The Tribunal found that the respondent's behaviour was dishonest and that he had deliberately improperly and dishonestly utilised clients' funds for his own purposes. This provided further justification for the intervention which the Law Society had previously made into his practice. The solicitor was struck off.

The Tribunal considers especial care should be taken by solicitors who are dealing with elderly or infirm clients or charities so that no suggestion can be made that unfair or improper advantage is taken of them.

Suspension from practice

19 Solicitors were suspended indefinitely.

3 Solicitors were suspended for more than one year

7 Solicitors were suspended for less than one year

These are cases where the solicitor's offences were serious but not considered sufficient to justify permanent removal of a right to practise. Included in such cases are those where the respondent suffers from a serious illness.

The respondent had delayed in the administration of estates; he had delayed in making payments required by the Law Society following examination of his charges: had been slow to respond to correspondence and to deliver files to the Law Society and had been in breach of the Solicitors Accounts Rules. The respondent had been fined £4,000 by the Tribunal in respect of similar failures in 1998. The respondent had not been dishonest but his repeated failures led the Tribunal to suspend the respondent from practice for three months.

A solicitor failed to deliver his annual accountant's report (as required by s34 of The Solicitors' Act 1974) failed to comply with a decision of the OSS Professional Case Work Sub Committee, failed to respond to correspondence and failed to comply with an extended time limit for the accountant's report. The solicitor who did not attend the hearing before the Tribunal was suspended from practice for an indefinite period.

The Tribunal expects solicitors to respond promptly and openly to letters addressed by the OSS and regards persistent failure to do so as serious. A solicitor may expect the imposition of limitations on his right to practise when there is a material failure to comply with regulatory requirements.

Suspension unless

A solicitor failed to look after his clients' interests with due diligence, failed to respond to correspondence from the OSS or comply with decisions and directions made by the OSS and failed properly to operate a complaints handling procedure. The complaints ranged from delay in registering a mortgage and failure to pay stamp duty to delay in dealing with an estate. More seriously the solicitor had been ordered to put things right but had failed to do so and had failed to pay compensation ordered by the OSS. The solicitor sought to excuse his conduct by explaining that his firm was in financial difficulties, that he had suffered a personal bereavement and that his partner had retired leaving him with too heavy a workload.

The Tribunal took a serious view of the respondent's failures. A heavy fine was imposed providing the solicitor delivered an affidavit confirming he had complied with all outstanding directions from the OSS. If the solicitor had not provided the affidavit he would have been suspended from practice for an indefinite period.

Solicitors who are not dishonest, acknowledge fault and make appropriate restitution can normally expect a less harsh sanction. Solicitors should not however bank upon the Tribunal giving them a second chance.

Mandatory penalty for employment of struck off or suspended solicitors

Under S41 of The Solicitors Act 1974 a solicitor may not knowingly employ a struck off or suspended solicitor without obtaining the Law Society's consent.

Many solicitors appear to be unaware of the fact that knowingly employing a struck off or suspended solicitor without the consent of the Law Society is an offence under s.41 of the Solicitors Act for which there is a mandatory penalty of suspension or strike off.

Restoration to the Roll

A solicitor was struck off in 1995. He applied for restoration to the Roll producing much evidence that he was someone who could now claim to be a man of integrity and worthy of trust. He was supported in his application by his employers and others who wrote in support of him saying that he excelled in his work. The Law Society had lifted restrictions it had imposed when he started work for a firm of solicitors.

The Tribunal decided that the application was premature but that it might have a prospect of success if more time elapsed from the date of the strike off.

The Tribunal will not normally grant an application for restoration within a period of six years from the date of striking off having regard to the Tribunal's policy of not imposing a fixed suspension of more than 5 years. A strike off is the most serious penalty which the Tribunal can impose. Although the Tribunal has power to restore a struck off solicitor to the Roll, it is only rarely exercised.

The cost of running the Tribunal

The Law Society has stated that the cost of running the Tribunal in the year ending 31st December 2000 was £526,000 (£419,000 in 1999) including salaries of the Clerk and her staff, expenses of solicitor members, administrative expenses, premises and central services overhead charges.

The Lay members of the Tribunal receive an honorarium and expenses that are met by the Lord Chancellor's Department. In the year ending 31st December 2000 the aggregate cost to the Lord Chancellor's Department was £32,000 (£28,000 in 1999).

Year	Expenditure £'000	Charge per Practising solicitor £
1998	363	4.83
1999	419	5.23
2000	526	6.35

PART III

(i) Hearings

During the year under review the Tribunal sat on 114 Days (101 in the previous year) for the hearing of applications.

ii) During the period under review the following applications were received.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	To 30/4/00	To 30/4/99
Number of applications involving practising solicitors - Relating to 225 solicitors and 3 registered foreign lawyers	174	231
Number of applications in respect of solicitors' clerks - Relating to 23 clerks	23	35
Number of applications for restoration to the Roll	5	5
Number of applications to revoke an order under s.43	0	1
Number of applications seeking determination of an indefinite period of suspension	5	3
Number of applications made in respect of former solicitors	0	1

(It should be noted that one application may be in respect of two or more solicitors or clerks.)

An order made pursuant to s.43 of the Solicitors Act 1974 prevents a solicitor from employing the clerk to whom the order relates without the consent of the Law Society.

The total number of applications received during the year under review (compared with those received in previous years) were as follows:

Year ending 30th April	No. of applications	No. of sitting days
1999	236	100
2000	276	101
2001	207	114

If two divisions of the Tribunal sit on the same day this is counted in the above table as two sitting days.

Of the applications made in the year ending 30th April 2001, 16 were made by members of the public. No prima facie case was established in respect of 8 of them, 2 were referred to the OSS; 2 await a decision as to whether or not a prima facie case is established, and 4 have been listed for a hearing. Applications for Restoration to the Roll, for determination of an indefinite suspension or the

revocation of a S.43 Order accounted for 10 matters. The balance were applications made by the OSS. No applications were withdrawn.

SUMMARY OF ORDERS

Orders made by the Tribunal during the period under review are listed below. It should be noted that a distinction must be made between applications received and Orders made. A number of Orders made relate to applications made prior to the year under review.

- A. 62 solicitors were ordered to be struck off the Roll (73 in the previous year)
- B. 29 solicitors were ordered to be suspended from practice (38 in the previous year)
- C. 78 solicitors were subject to orders imposing fines upon them (72 in the previous year). Fines ranged from £250 to £25,000 and totalled £286,750 (£201,250 in the previous year).
- D. 29 solicitors were reprimanded (14 in the previous year).
- E. There was one case in which no order was made (one in the previous year).
- F. There were 4 cases in which an order for costs only was made (three in the previous year).
- G. There were no cases in which the Tribunal found none of the allegations to have been substantiated (three in the previous year)
- H. The Tribunal considered three applications for restoration to the Roll (2 in the previous year). All were refused.
- I. Orders were made pursuant to Section 43 of the Solicitors Act 1974 in respect of 19 clerks (26 in the previous year).
- J. There were no applications for revocation of a Section 43 order (two in the previous year).
- K. Orders prohibiting restoration to the Roll without the consent of the Tribunal were made in respect of two former solicitors (four in the previous year).
- L. Two applications were made to determine a period of indefinite suspension (four in the previous year). Both were granted.
- M. In two cases a Direction made by the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors was ordered to be treated as an Order of the High Court for the purposes of enforcement (four in the previous year).

- N. No application was withdrawn (one in the previous year). (An application may not be withdrawn without the consent of the Tribunal.)
- O. The position with regard to appeals for the year under review:
(all appeals to the Divisional Court)
- 1 Law Society appeal was allowed
 - 1 solicitor appeal was allowed
 - 1 case was remitted back to the Tribunal for rehearing
 - 6 were dismissed
 - 1 was not proceeded with
 - There are currently 6 appeals pending

In four cases non substantive decisions of the Tribunal were subject to judicial review proceedings. One did not proceed by agreement between the lay applicant and the Law Society, two were unsuccessful and one sought a ruling regarding the Tribunal's power to refer a matter to the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors. The Court has given guidance as to the exercise of the Tribunal's powers under Rule 28 of the Solicitors (Disciplinary Proceedings) Rules 1994.

Resume of the current position

As at 30th April 2001, 154 current cases are before the Tribunal, (156 at the same time last year). Of these 67 have been listed for hearing before the summer vacation (76 in the previous year), 5 have been listed for hearing after the summer vacation (14 in the previous year), 60 are to be dealt with on a "pre-listing day" before the summer vacation (40 in the previous year), 22 stand adjourned pending the outcome of further enquiry, or related criminal or civil proceedings or on health grounds (26 in the previous year).

The majority of cases to be dealt with at a pre listing day will be listed for a substantive hearing in the autumn. Adjourned cases are reviewed on a regular basis.

ANALYSIS OF SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SOLICITORS DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

The allegations have been put into seven groups. There is no uniformity in the formulation of allegations. The analysis has been based on the allegations as framed categorising matters as follows. Spread across the categories below dishonesty and/or a failure to exercise proper probity, integrity and trustworthiness was found in 27% of cases.

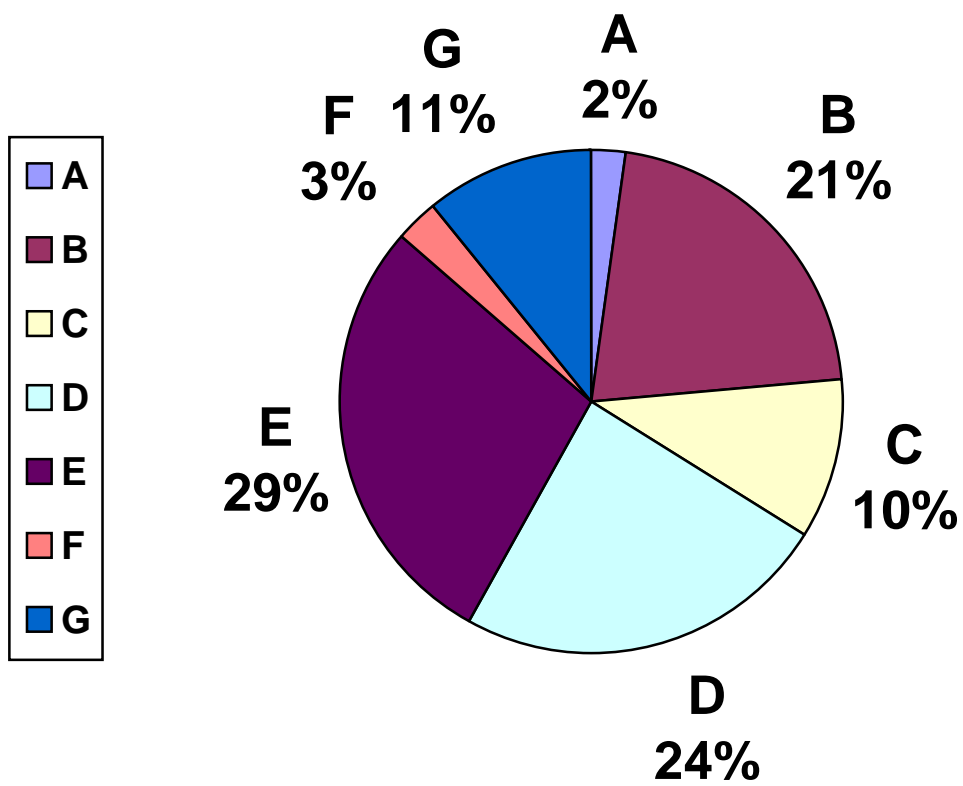
SOLICITORS

The allegations were broken down into the following groups:

- A CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS**
- B SOLICITORS ACCOUNTS RULES BREACHES**
- C CLIENTS MONEY** Improper utilisation
Misappropriating
- D FAILURES** failure to pay counsel's/agent's fees
failure to comply with undertaking
failure to comply with OSS direction/resolution
failure to account
failure to provide costs information
failure to supervise
failure to notify change of practice address
non response to OSS/others
failure to comply with Solicitors Indemnity Rules
- E BREACHES** breach of duty to the court
breach of S.34 (Accountant's Reports)
breach of condition on Practising Certificate
breach of Practice Rules
breach of duty of good faith to others/OSS
breach of professional duty (failure to disclose)
breach of restriction on employment of struck
off/suspended solicitor
breach of Legal Aid Regulations
- F DELAYS** delay in delivery of papers
delay in professional business

G OTHER

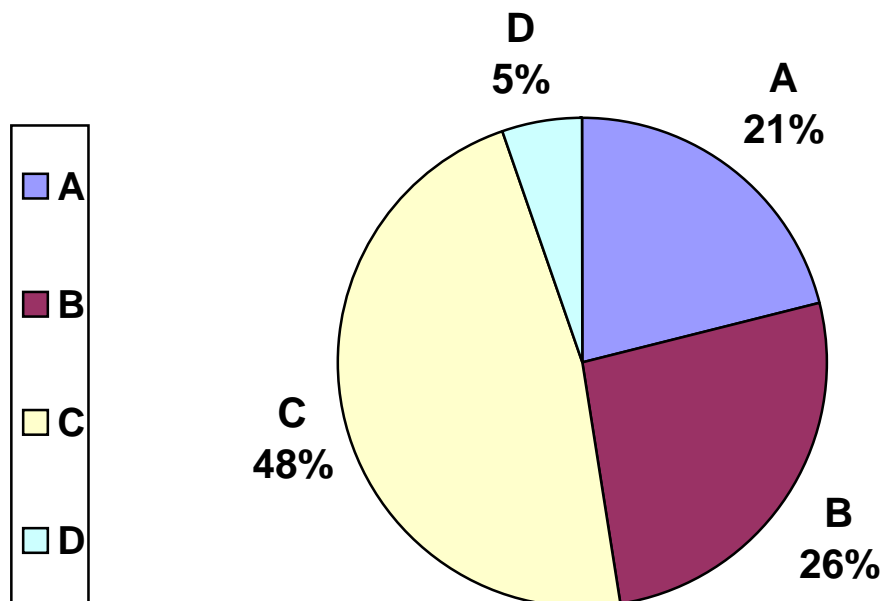
e.g. false documents
no Practising Certificate
conflict of interest
costs not justified (overcharging)
obtained a mortgage by deception



SOLICITORS CLERKS

As with those relating to solicitors the allegations have been broken down into groups:-

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A | “Professional” Breaches | Conflict of interest
Misled clients as to progress of litigation
Holding himself out as a solicitor |
| B | Criminal Convictions | |
| C | Misuse of money | From clients and/or from employer |
| D | Financial Services Act Breaches | Breach of the Investment Business Rules |



PART IV

THE MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL

During March 2001, following an indication by Barrie Marsh that he wished to retire as President of the Tribunal at the end of April 2001, an election was held for a new President. The Tribunal also voted for a Solicitor Vice President and a Lay Vice President. Following nominations and a postal vote, Anthony Isaacs was elected as President, Jeremy Barnecutt was elected as Solicitor Vice President and Michael Baughan as Lay Vice President. The members of the Tribunal wish to record the enormous contribution made by Barrie Marsh to the work of the Tribunal and their thanks for his wisdom, help and support over many years. Barrie had been a member of the Tribunal since it was created by the Solicitors Act 1974 and has been the Tribunal's President since 1988. The members of the Tribunal welcomed the new President and Vice Presidents. At its AGM in 2000 the Tribunal decided that in future the President and Vice Presidents would be in office for three years and would be permitted to serve a second three year term. The newly elected office holders are subject to those limitations on the periods of their appointment.

The following members were re-appointed by the Master of the Rolls at the end of April 2001: Anthony Gibson, John Clitheroe, David Faull, Alan Ground, Lady Bonham Carter, David Marlow and Caroline Pickering. Peter Davies was appointed as a new solicitor member with effect from March 2001 and Stephen Jones was appointed as a new solicitor member with effect from April 2001. Mike Taylor was appointed as a new lay member with effect from February 2001. These three new members were selected following the Tribunal's open and transparent recruitment of members in 1999 and appointed when vacancies arose. Brief biographical details of the members of the Tribunal appear on page 17 of this report.

The members of the Tribunal note with regret the retirement of Keith Yeaman as a solicitor member. Keith decided to retire as a member of the Tribunal with effect from February 2001 having served as a member since 1991. The members of the Tribunal wish to record their thanks for his great contribution over the years and they will miss his wise counsel and compassion.

During the year under review members of the Tribunal attended two judicial training sessions.

STAFF CHANGES

Two new full time staff have been recruited during the year under review. Christine Donnelly as audio secretary mainly responsible for typing the Tribunal's Findings, and Janine Ralph as a new administrative assistant with a wide range of responsibilities in the main relating to the management of court papers and paper and electronic record keeping.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Solicitor Members

G. Barrie. Marsh (President)

Member of Tribunal from 1975 to 2001.

President of Tribunal from 1988 to 2001.

Admitted in 1957. Until July 2000 a solicitor in private practice in Liverpool, former senior partner of that firm. A specialist in employment law for the last 30 years. Former National Chairman of the Young Solicitors Group of the Law Society, former Secretary and President of the Liverpool Law Society, a Chairman of the Appeals Service.

Anthony G. Gibson

Member of Tribunal since 1980.

Admitted in 1965. Partner in a three partner family practice in Newcastle established in 1720. President of Newcastle Incorporated Law Society 1989-90. Practises mainly in family law, commercial conveyancing and trusts.

Richard B. Bamford

Member of Tribunal since 1984.

Admitted in 1964. Joined present Cambridgeshire private client practice in 1965; partner 1966; senior partner 1989 (to present). 50% of time since 1987 spent on administration and legal aspects of (inter alia) flood defence and land drainage for the Fens area around Ely.

Adrian Gaynor-Smith

Member of Tribunal since 1984.

Admitted in 1963. Private practice in Malvern from 1965 in partnership with his wife and others. Undertakes contentious and commercial work and commercial conveyancing. Has undertaken part time judicial appointments in Welfare Benefits Law, Coroners Courts, Disciplinary Appeals Tribunals (Certified Accountants) and Deputy District Judge.

Anthony H. Isaacs (Vice President : President 2001)

Member of Tribunal since 1988. After National Service in the Royal Navy and University, was articled at a City firm, qualifying in 1960. Specialised in company and commercial law and retired as Senior Partner in 1996. 1993 appointed as a Nominated (i.e. independent) member of the Council of Lloyds whose Investigations Committee he chaired from 1996 to 2000. He also carried out a DTI inspection. Remains in active practice as a consultant to his former firm.

Keith I. B. Yeaman

Member of Tribunal since 1991 (retired in 2001). Admitted in 1959. Private practice in Cheltenham. Past President and Secretary of the Gloucestershire & Wiltshire Law Society. Past President of the Association of South Western Law Societies. Member of the Council of the Law Society 1983 -1989.

John R. C. Clitheroe

Member of Tribunal since 1992.

Admitted in 1959 specialising in criminal and commercial litigation. A former senior partner, now a consultant in a London firm.

Advised solicitors, accountants and medical professions in ethical regulatory and disciplinary matters since 1962.

Past member of Law Society Criminal Law Committee.

Member General Professional Programme Committee of the International Bar Association.

David W. Faulk OBE

Member of Tribunal since 1992.

Admitted in 1954. Senior Partner (retired) of a Westminster firm.

Registrar and Legal Advisor to the Dioceses of London, Southwark, Chelmsford and Rochester. Solicitor to St. Paul's Cathedral. Founding member of Paddington Church's Housing Association. Board member of three other Housing Associations. Founder member of Southwark & London Diocesan Housing Association.

Chairman of Christian Children's Fund (GB) until 1998.

David J. Leverton

Member of Tribunal since 1992.

Admitted in 1958.

Managing Partner of a Lincoln's Inn firm. Senior litigation lawyer in the practice: wide cross-section of litigation experience before becoming a family law specialist twenty years ago. Wide experience of proceedings in Court and before tribunals: one of the original members of the standing committee set up by the Law Society and the Court of Protection to advise on changes in procedure and the conduct of business in that Court.

Mrs Elodie Stanley

Member of the Tribunal since 1994.

Admitted in 1980. Former conveyancing partner in a large London firm.

1993-1999 - Set up and ran her own practice in Holland Park, W11.

1999-2001 - Merged her firm with another and became Consultant.

J. Colin Chesterton

Member of Tribunal since 1994.

Admitted in 1980.

Partner in a firm in Devon.

Work includes matrimonial, crime, licensing, pollution, bridleways and footpaths.

Franchise representation for the firm with Community Legal Services.

Member of Solicitors Family Law Association and the Criminal Law Panel.

Jeremy N. Barnecutt (Solicitor Vice President 2001)

Member of Tribunal since 1994.

Admitted in 1976. Partner in a London firm specialising in Chancery Litigation. Contentious and non-contentious probate work.

Former member of the Supreme Court Procedure Committee.

Alan G. Ground

Member of Tribunal since 1996.

Admitted in 1962. Partner in a City firm from 1969, Leader, commercial, competition, and EU Law Groups 1983 -1994. Law Society International Committee 1983-1992, Human Rights Working Party 1988-1992. Director, Eurostar 1994-1997.

R. John C. Potter

Member of Tribunal since 1997. Admitted in July 1987

Higher Rights of Audience July 1999

A partner in a Legal Aid franchised Manchester firm. Exclusively undertakes defence criminal litigation. Duty solicitor. Past President of the Manchester Law Society and continues to be a Council Member of the Manchester Law Society, chairing the Crown and Magistrates' Court Committee. Member of the Greater Manchester Criminal Justice Strategy Committee and represents the Law Society on the local user committees of the Magistrates' Court and the Crown Court.

Andrew N. Spooner

Member of Tribunal since 1999.

Admitted in 1978. Head of Litigation Department at a Birmingham firm. Specialises in major commercial disputes and arbitrations. Member of the Association of Midlands Mediators. Deputy District Judge.

A. H. Boyd Holmes

Member of Tribunal since 1999.

Admitted in 1976.

Managing partner of a Carlisle firm, since 1989: undertakes property & trusts work. Member of STEP; member of CLARITY; interest in management.

William M. Hartley

Member of Tribunal since 1999.

Admitted in 1970. Partner in a Manchester firm for 27 years prior to reducing commitments this year - specialising in non-contentious work.

Author of the first six editions of "Matrimonial Conveyancing" and first edition of "Declarations of Trust". Chairman of the High Peak Division (Buxton) of the General Commissioners for Income Tax

Laurence N. Gilford

Member of Tribunal since 1999.

Admitted in 1973. Specialising in civil/commercial Litigation. In partnership in total of four central London/City firms since 1976.

Appointed Deputy District Judge December 1991.

Miss Teresa Cullen

Member of Tribunal since 1999.

Admitted in 1983. A partner in a London firm. Specialises in litigation.

SFLA mediator; Assessor on Family Law Panel

J. Peter Davies

Member of Tribunal since 2001.

Admitted as a Solicitor 1981. A partner in firms in London and Cardiff until 1998 when he set up niche litigation practice in Cardiff specialising in professional negligence and personal injury work: Deputy District Judge since 1992.

Stephen N. Jones

Member of Tribunal since 2001.

Admitted in december 1979. Partner in a Birmingham firm. Specialises in litigation, acting principally for financial institutions and banks.

Deputy District Judge since August 1992.

LAY MEMBERS

Lady Bonham Carter

Member of Tribunal since 1980.

Born and raised in USA until came to the UK as a teenager.

Served as a JP in Greenwich and Woolwich from 1966-1990.

A member of the Immigration Appeals Tribunal since 1970.

Kenneth J. Griffin OBE

Member of Tribunal since 1982. Formerly Electrical Engineer, Trade Union Leader and Industrial Adviser to the Department of Trade and Industry and Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Industry: Deputy Chairman British Shipbuilders: Deputy Chairman Ugland International. 1998 to present - Board member Housing Corporation.

David E. Marlow

Member of Tribunal since 1983. Chartered Accountant. Formerly Chief Executive of 3i. Currently Non-Executive Director of Brixton Plc and Trinity Mirror Plc. Involved in investment activity in Central Europe. Member of the Investment Committee of Hungarian Equity Partners.

Dame Simone Prendergast DBE, JP, DL

Member of Tribunal since 1986.

Recently retired from the Magistracy after 29 years service in Inner London. A past member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee. Currently Vice Chairman of Age Concern Westminster, Chairman East Grinstead Medical Research Trust, President Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, Trustee of the Federation of Women Zionists.

Michael C. Baughan (Lay Vice President 2001)

Member of Tribunal since 1990.

Director of Lazard Bank Limited where he was a Managing Director from 1986 to 1999: Non-Executive Director of Independent Insurance Group plc., Northgate plc., The Peacock Group plc. and Scapa Group plc.

Mrs Caroline Pickering

Member of Tribunal since 1992. Chair of the Stonebridge Housing Action Trust, set up as a Government initiative to regenerate a deprived and run-down council housing estate. Chair of the Camelot Foundation, a charity set up and funded by the Camelot Group to assist disabled and disadvantaged people. Trustee of Crisis. Formerly a Director at the Housing Corporation for many years.

Lady Maxwell-Hyslop

Member of Tribunal since 1997.

On the staff of the Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Commons, 1966-68

Extensive experience as school governor (with responsibility for special needs) of an 11-18 comprehensive school; three years as Chairman.

Served on board of governors (Vice Chairman) of special school attached to psychiatric clinic.

Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (Scotland)

Gerald Fisher

Member of Tribunal since 1999

35 years experience in personnel work in industry, finally as Group Personnel Director of a FTSE 100 Company.

Currently a member of Employment Tribunals, the Central Arbitration Committee and a Council Member of Aston University.

Wide experience in employment and disciplinary matters in industry and commerce.

David Gilbertson QPM

Member of Tribunal since 1999. Soon to retire as a Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police after 30 years service, he is currently HM Assistant Inspector of Constabulary at the Home Office with responsibility for a wide range of national policy matters.

Awarded the Queens Police Medal in 1999, he was previously responsible for all police operations in north and west London. During a varied career, he has been visiting lecturer at the City University, New York, and has been seconded to the New York City Police and the National Peace Secretariat in South Africa.

He is a member of the Tom Paine Society which is committed to the principles of democracy and freedom.

Ms Anjali Arya

Member of Tribunal since 1999.

An independent management consultant specialising in organisational audits and reviews and supporting managers through change, both personal and organisational. Other areas of expertise include managing diversity and performance management. She has considerable experience working with senior managers, front line staff and trades unions to formulate and implement appropriate HR policies and solutions. Formerly a head of personnel and involved in strategic and operational human resource development.

Michael Taylor, CBE

Member of Tribunal since 2001.

Managing Director of his own consultancy company in Dorset. Formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence, mainly in telecommunications, and a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies, London. Awarded an MBE in the 1982 Falklands Campaign and a CBE in the 1998 New Years Honours List. An Independent Member of the Dorset Police Authority, a Lay Member of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal and a Regional Chairman of the NHS Complaints Review Panel. Fellow of the Institute of Directors.

STAFF

Susan Elson

Clerk to the Tribunal for sixteen years.

Solicitor admitted in 1970. Accredited Mediator, Parking Adjudicator and a member of the panel of Legal Assessors to the Disciplinary Committee of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Experience of legal work in private practice and in industry.

Sheila Whitfield

Solicitor admitted in 1982. Joined the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal in 1998 as part time Deputy Clerk to provide cover for the full time Clerk and to enable the use of double courts.

MA Cantab (Modern Languages)

Worked in private practice in a City firm and subsequently in local government, specialising in the law relating to Mental Health and Incapacity.

Sits as a part time Chairman of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Valerie Ralph

Assistant Clerk since March 1994. Main responsibilities include listing of cases, members rota and answering general correspondence.

Previously worked for South West Essex Magistrates Services, originally as a Court Assistant and then as a Trainee Court Clerk.

Diploma in Magisterial Law and recently passed final exams for the Institute of Legal Executives.

Elizabeth Aldred

PA to the Clerk and Tribunal Secretary since August 1995. Duties include day to day administration of the Tribunal as well as preparation for AGM and Training Days.

BA (Hons) in Law and Business Studies and MSc in Criminal Justice Studies.

Christine Bannister

Part time Audio Secretary since July 1994. Main responsibility is typing the Tribunal's Findings.

Just returned from maternity leave.

Christine Donnelly

Full time Audio Secretary since March 2001. Main responsibility is typing the Tribunal's Findings.

Previously worked for a number of City legal practices in varied areas of law over the past twenty years.

Janine Ralph

Administrative Assistant since October 2000. Duties include responsibility for archives and general office administration.

Previously worked in Travel, having passed COTAC exams, and also for the Automobile Association.