



DISCIPLINE CASE *DIGEST*

Case 15-01

Member:	John David Laurence Soper
Jurisdiction:	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Called to the Bar:	June 25, 1992
Particulars of Charges:	Professional Misconduct: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Breach of Rules 5-64(3) and (4) of the <i>Rules of the Law Society of Manitoba</i> [failing to respond to the Society]
Plea:	Guilty
Date of Hearing:	April 14, 2015
Panel:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dean Lorna Turnbull (Chair)▪ Mark Toews▪ Marston Grindey (Public Representative)
Counsel:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Darcia A.C. Senft for The Law Society of Manitoba▪ Member Self Represented
Disposition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fine of \$1,500.00▪ Costs of \$1,000.00

Failure to Respond

Facts

During the course of an investigation into his conduct, Mr. Soper received a letter from the Law Society seeking his written response to the concerns raised. Mr. Soper did not provide a response. Accordingly, he received a subsequent letter; however, he failed to provide a written response to the Law Society within the time prescribed.

Plea

Mr. Soper entered a plea of guilty to the charge of failing to respond to the Law Society.

Decision and Comments

The Panel noted that the Law Society of Manitoba has a statutory obligation to govern the profession in the public interest and the ability of the Law Society to supervise its members is a key aspect of its duty to govern in the public interest. The Panel found Mr. Soper guilty of professional misconduct based on his admission to the charge.

Penalty

The Panel accepted the joint recommendation made by counsel for the Society and Mr. Soper in respect of an appropriate penalty and ordered that Mr. Soper:

- (a) pay a fine in the amount of \$1,500.00;
- (b) pay the sum of \$1,000.00 to the Society as a contribution toward the costs associated with the investigation, prosecution and hearing of the matter.