



DISCIPLINE CASE *DIGEST*

Case 07-09

Member:	Ranjit Singh Walia
Jurisdiction:	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Called to the Bar:	May 15, 1997
Particulars of Charges:	Professional Misconduct <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Breach of Rule 5-79(2) of the <i>Rules of The Law Society of Manitoba</i> (breach of undertaking given to the Complaints Investigation Committee)
Date of Hearing:	October 15, 2007
Panel:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Christopher W. Martin (Chair)▪ Roger B. King, Q.C.▪ Dr. Jane Ursel
Disposition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fine of \$750.00▪ Cancellation of practising certificate and issuance of new certificate with the following restrictions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Mr. Walia to submit to a practice audit to be conducted by the Society's practice management advisor;(ii) The practice audit to be conducted within 30 days of the date of the Discipline Committee decision in this matter; and(iii) Mr. Walia to comply with any recommendations made by the practice management advisor concerning Mr. Walia's office and file systems or procedures;▪ Costs of \$1,250.00
Counsel:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Joe R. Gallagher for The Law Society of Manitoba▪ Member Unrepresented

Breach of Undertaking

Facts

Mr. Walia provided an undertaking to the Complaints Investigation Committee in April 2004 that he would fulfil certain commitments. These required him to take written examinations in three specified practice areas, enrol and complete the Practice Management Course offered by The

Law Society of Manitoba and participate in a mentoring program. Mr. Walia successfully completed two of the three written examinations but failed to successfully pass the family law examination. In the circumstances, Mr. Walia was required in June 2006 to provide an undertaking to the Law Society that he would not practise family law unless he was under the supervision of another member of the Law Society. He enrolled in the Practice Management Course but did not successfully complete it. Mr. Walia met with two volunteer mentors approved by the Law Society between October 13th and December 6th, 2004. He did not respond to subsequent requests by one of the mentors for a further meeting, and therefore, did not satisfactorily participate and cooperate in the mentoring program. Mr. Walia was therefore charged with failing to comply with the undertaking provided in April 2004 to the Complaints Investigation Committee.

Plea

Mr. Walia entered a plea of guilty to the charge.

Decision and Comments

The panel found Mr. Walia guilty of professional misconduct based on his admission to the charge.

Penalty

The panel accepted a joint recommendation made by the Law Society and Mr. Walia and ordered that:

- (a) Mr. Walia be fined \$750.00;
- (b) Mr. Walia's practising certificate be cancelled and a new certificate issued with the following restrictions:
 - (i) Mr. Walia must submit to a practice audit to be conducted by the Society's practice management advisor;
 - (ii) The practice audit will be conducted within 30 days of the date of the Discipline Committee decision in this matter; and
 - (iii) Mr. Walia must comply with any recommendations made by the practice management advisor concerning Mr. Walia's office and file systems or procedures;
- (c) Mr. Walia must pay \$1,250.00 to the Society as a contribution towards the costs associated with the investigation, prosecution and hearing of the matter.