



DISCIPLINE CASE *DIGEST*

[Discipline Case Digest Index](#) ❖ [Law Society Home Page](#)

Case 00-06

GLEN TAYLOR WILLIAMS, Q.C.
Brandon, Manitoba

Called to the Bar
October 18, 1965

Particulars of Charges
Conduct Unbecoming (3 counts)

- consuming a beverage containing alcohol in court (x2);
- failing to discharge with integrity duty owed to court

Date of Hearing
April 25, 2000 and October 30, 2000

Panel
A.J. Semchuk (Chair)
C.R. MacArthur, Q.C.
J.G. McKelvey

Disposition

- reprimand;
- the member's return to the practice of law was made subject to conditions

Counsel
C.K. Dangerfield for The Law Society of Manitoba
Member Unrepresented

Conduct Unbecoming

Facts

Mr. Williams was retained to represent a client in domestic proceedings involving custody, access and child support issues. He appeared on the client's behalf in the Court of Queen's Bench on November 17 and 18, 1999. On each day, Mr. Williams was observed to be consuming a beverage during the course of the hearing. On November 18, 1999, the presiding judge halted the proceedings and requested that counsel attend in his chambers. When he inquired as to the contents of the beverage, Mr. Williams advised that, in addition to other things, it contained some wine. He then advised the court that he could obtain a prescription from his doctor for the contents. The court requested that he do so by November 22, 1999, however, Mr. Williams failed to produce the prescription as requested.

Mr. Williams was charged with two counts of consuming a beverage containing alcohol in court and one count of advising the court that the beverage had been prescribed for him by a physician, when in fact it had not. He was suspended from practice by the Complaints Investigation Committee pending an inquiry into his conduct.

Decision and Comments

On April 25, 2000, Mr. Williams entered a plea of guilty to each of the said charges. An issue arose as to whether Mr. Williams' plea of guilty to these and other charges could be accepted by the discipline panel, given that he continued to dispute certain facts. Ultimately, the panel accepted the plea to these charges alone and referred other outstanding matters to another panel of the Discipline Committee. The panel reconvened on October 30, 2000 for the Committee to make a disposition with respect to these charges. On that date, Mr. Williams sought to withdraw his plea of guilty. The panel dismissed the motion.

Penalty

The Committee found Mr. Williams to be guilty of professional misconduct. The Committee reprimanded Mr. Williams and ordered that his return to the practice of law be made subject to the conditions that he abstain from the consumption of alcohol, provide psychiatric evidence as to his fitness to resume the practice of law, and that he confirm his regular attendance at an Alcoholics Anonymous program.

The Committee made no order with respect to costs.

[Top of page](#)
[Index](#)