



# DISCIPLINE CASE *DIGEST*

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## **Case 96-23**

**PAUL FREDERICK LASKO**  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Called to the Bar**  
June 25, 1976

**Particulars of Charges**  
Professional Misconduct (1 count)

- misleading client

**Date of Hearing**  
September 26, 1996

**Panel**  
Gregory Brodsky, Q.C. (Chair)  
Patrick Riley  
Victory Bellay

## **Disposition**

- Reprimand
- \$1, 881.98 costs

**Counsel**  
S.F. Vincent for The Law Society of Manitoba  
B. Krawchuk, Q.C. for the member

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## **Misleading Client**

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## **Facts**

Mr. Lasko appeared before the Discipline Committee on September 26, 1996. Mr. Lasko represented a client on a summary conviction appeal. The client was unable to attend the appeal. Mr. Lasko did not attend Court at the scheduled time. As a result, the appeal was dismissed.

The client called Mr. Lasko to inquire as to the outcome of the appeal. Mr. Lasko advised his client that her appeal had been dismissed because she was not present and the judge required that she be present in Court. The client obtained a transcript of the appeal hearing and learned that her appeal had been dismissed because Mr. Lasko was not present.

The client complained to the Law Society that Mr. Lasko had failed to appear and that he fabricated a story about what took place in Court. Mr. Lasko immediately acknowledged to the Law Society that he did lead his client to believe that her appeal was dismissed because she could not attend and not because he had confused the time set for the appeal.

### **Decision and Comments**

Mr. Lasko pled guilty to the charge and the Committee accepted that there was professional misconduct. The Committee took into account that Mr. Lasko did appear in Court late and unsuccessfully requested the judge to hear the appeal after it had been dismissed. The Committee also took into account that Mr. Lasko offered to attempt to rectify the situation and apply to the Court for a re-hearing of the appeal which offer was declined by his client.

### **Penalty**

The Committee imposed a reprimand. It also noted that Mr. Lasko did not indicate a plea of guilty to the Citation at the first opportunity and ordered him to pay the full costs of the prosecution pursuant to Rule 64(7) in the sum of \$1,881.98.

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