



# DISCIPLINE CASE *DIGEST*

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## **Case 97-02**

**RONALD KEITH BLACK**  
Flin Flon, Manitoba

**Called to the Bar**  
June 28, 1972

**Particulars of Charges**  
Professional Misconduct

- failure to provide information requested by an auditor of The Law Society of Manitoba in a timely manner so as to permit completion of a comprehensive spot audit, contrary to Rule 134(2)

**Date of Hearing**  
May 23, 1997

**Panel**  
Brian A. Pauls (Chair)  
John H. Combs  
Gordon D. Bates

## **Disposition**

- Fine of \$750.00
- Costs of \$1,750.00

**Counsel**  
S.F. Vincent for the Law Society  
Member unrepresented

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**Failure to Provide Information**

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## **Facts**

The member appeared before the Discipline Committee on May 23, 1997.

The member was charged with one count of failing to provide information requested by an auditor of The Law Society of Manitoba in a timely manner so as to permit her to complete a comprehensive spot audit.

It was alleged that by letters dated January 11, 1996 and February 14, 1996, the member was requested to provide ten different documents or explanations to the auditor to complete the spot audit.

The member admitted the facts, but disputed that his conduct constituted professional misconduct.

The evidence showed that although the members had fully complied with the requests of the auditor as at the date of the hearing, the information and documents were provided from one month to eight months after the initial request and some of the information of documents were provided immediately prior to the hearing or 17 months after the member had received the request.

## **Decision and Comments**

The Discipline Committee found that the member had committed professional misconduct by failing to provide the documents requested on demand and by failing to provide immediate explanations to the inquiries made by the auditor.

## **Penalty**

The Committee imposed a fine of \$750.00 and ordered the member to pay costs in the sum of \$1,750.00.

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