
Media Statement

Robin Camp Reinstatement Application Approved

May 23, 2018

Calgary, Alberta – Following a public hearing on November 17, 2017 and careful consideration through a public hearing process, Robin Camp's application to be reinstated as a lawyer in Alberta was approved on May 22, 2018. The Decision has been [posted to our website](#).

The three-member Committee included two lawyers and one member of the public. The Committee heard and considered the in-person evidence provided by Mr. Camp and his witnesses, and reviewed the written evidence and written submissions provided by the Law Society of Alberta and Mr. Camp. It also considered evidence and submissions related to rehabilitation, including evidence from three expert witnesses who testified before the Canadian Judicial Council.

As stated in paragraph 17 of the decision, the Committee was tasked with balancing the interest of the public and the reputation of the legal profession with Mr. Camp's interest in returning to the practice of law.

In paragraph 130 of the decision, the Committee wrote that "...Mr. Camp has learned from his mistakes." The Committee noted the "...differences between the role of a lawyer and that of a judge and [that] those differences are significant to the outcome of this application, particularly when considered in light of the evidence of Mr. Camp's rehabilitation." (paragraph 133) The Committee distinguished between the role of judges and lawyers: "[p]arties before the Court do not choose their judge. Judges must be impartial and unbiased in adjudicating upon the rights of the parties before them and deciding the outcome of their case. In contrast, parties typically have the ability to choose their own counsel. Moreover, the lawyer's role is to advocate his or her client's position to the fullest extent of the law and to advance his or her best interests." (paragraph 138)

The Committee emphasized that it "...does not condone Mr. Camp's conduct in the *Wagar* trial or that carried through to his written decision--far from it. The Committee also does not condone conduct among lawyers which demonstrates--or perpetuates--inequality or gender bias or treats marginalized or vulnerable members of society with disrespect. All of those were issues before the CJC [Canadian Judicial Council] when considering the conduct of Mr. Camp--as a judge--and the effect of his conduct as such on the reputation of the judiciary and administration of justice at large." (paragraph 139)

The Committee determined that Mr. Camp should be readmitted to the Law Society of Alberta, subject to a condition to engage with the Practice Management Department prior to practising law, to support him in his return to practice. The Committee held that Mr. Camp's reinstatement "...would not only be compatible with the best interests of the public, but better serve those interests, taking into account the importance of rehabilitation both to our system of justice and to society's fundamental values." (paragraph 143)

It is important to note that as a reinstated lawyer, Mr. Camp will be held to the same professional and ethical standards of all lawyers in Alberta.

Former Judges cannot appear in court without first obtaining approval from the Law Society of Alberta, and Mr. Camp has not sought this approval.

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The Law Society serves the public interest by promoting a high standard of legal services and professional conduct through the regulation of an independent legal profession in Alberta.

For further information please contact:

Communications Department

403.930.7204

communications@lawsociety.ab.ca

www.lawsociety.ab.ca