

**IN THE MATTER OF PART 3 OF THE  
LEGAL PROFESSION ACT, RSA 2000, c. L-8**

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING REGARDING  
THE CONDUCT OF FIKEMI ADELOWOKAN  
A MEMBER OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**

**ORDER OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE**

**UPON THE ISSUANCE OF TWO CITATIONS** by the Law Society of Alberta (the “**LSA**”) to Fikemi Adelowokan pursuant to section 56 of the *Legal Profession Act* (the “**Act**”);

**WHEREAS:**

- a) On November 4, 2019, Fikemi Adelowokan executed a Statement of Admitted Facts and Admissions of Guilt, to which the LSA consented, regarding the conduct alleged in the citations (the “**Statement**”);
- b) In the Statement, Ms. Adelowokan admitted that her conduct was conduct deserving of sanction pursuant to section 49 of the *Act*;
- c) On November 14, 2019, the Conduct Committee found that the Statement was in a form acceptable to it, pursuant to subsection 60(2)(a) of the *Act*, whereupon the Statement was deemed to be a finding by the Hearing Committee that Ms. Adelowokan’s conduct was conduct deserving of sanction pursuant to subsection 60(4) of the *Act*;
- d) On November 25, 2019, the Chair of the Conduct Committee appointed a Hearing Committee consisting of a single Bencher, pursuant to subsection 60(3) of the *Act*;
- e) On January 29, 2020, the Hearing Committee convened a public hearing into the appropriate sanction related to the conduct of Ms. Adelowokan (the “**Hearing**”);
- f) During the Hearing, the LSA and Ms. Adelowokan submitted jointly that a reasonable sanction for Ms. Adelowokan’s conduct was a reprimand;
- g) The LSA and Ms. Adelowokan also submitted jointly that Ms. Adelowokan should pay costs in the amount of \$2,716.88 payable in monthly instalments of at least \$500.00 starting on February 15, 2020;

**AND WHEREAS:**

- h) The Hearing Committee has determined that the joint submission is reasonable, is consistent with sanctions in similar cases, does not bring the administration of justice into disrepute, and is in the public interest; and
- i) The Hearing Committee has therefore accepted the joint submissions on sanction and costs.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The appropriate sanction with respect to Fikemi Adelowokan's conduct is a reprimand, which was delivered orally by the Hearing Committee at the hearing.
2. The text of the reprimand will be attached to this Order as a schedule prior to the Order being published.
3. Ms. Adelowokan must pay costs in the amount of \$2,716.88, payable in monthly instalments of at least \$500.00 starting on February 15, 2020.
4. No Notice to the Profession or Notice to the Attorney General are to be issued.
5. This Order and any Exhibits introduced as evidence before the Hearing Committee shall be made available for public inspection, and copies shall be provided upon request for a reasonable copy fee, pursuant to Rule 98(3) of the *Rules of the LSA*. All identifying information about persons other than Ms. Adelowokan shall be redacted and additional redactions shall be made as necessary to preserve client confidentiality and solicitor-client privilege.

Dated at Edmonton, Alberta, on January 29, 2020.

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**Linda Long, QC**

IN THE MATTER OF THE *LEGAL PROFESSION ACT*

- AND -

IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF  
**OLUWAFIKEMI ADELOWOKAN**  
A MEMBER OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

HEARING FILE HE20190139

**STATEMENT OF ADMITTED FACTS, EXHIBITS,  
AND ADMISSIONS OF GUILT**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This hearing arises out of one complaint comprising two citations.

**BACKGROUND**

2. I was admitted as a member of the Law Society of Alberta (the “**LSA**”) on December 5, 2016. My current status is “Active/Practising”.
3. Before my admission to the LSA, I practiced law in Nigeria from 2008 to 2012, after which I moved to Canada.

**STATEMENT OF ADMITTED FACTS**

**1. Procedural Background**

4. On November 10, 2017, the LSA received a letter from the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (the “**IRB**”) alleging unprofessional conduct by me during a hearing (the “**Complaint Letter**”).

**Exhibit A - Complaint Letter (November 10, 2017)**

5. The LSA conducted a review of the allegation, which resulted in a referral to the Conduct Committee.
6. On May 14, 2019, the Conduct Committee issued two citations and directed that my conduct be dealt with by a Hearing Committee.

7. On October 15, 2019, the parties submitted a joint application to the Vice-Chair of the Conduct Committee to amend the first citation pursuant to Rule 90.1(8)(e) of the *Rules of the LSA*. The Vice-Chair allowed the Joint Application.
8. Following the amendment, the citations that are the subject matter of this hearing are as follow:
  1. It is alleged that Ms. Adelowokan obstructed an examination of a witness and that such conduct is deserving of sanction; and
  2. It is alleged that Ms. Adelowokan failed to be candid with the Immigration and Refugee Board and that such conduct is deserving of sanction.

## **2. Facts**

9. On July [...], 2017, I attended an immigration hearing before a single-member panel of the IRB (the “**IRB Member**”) during which my client was seeking refugee protection because of her fear of persecution. Consequently, her credibility was an important part of the fact-finding process.
10. The hearing was conducted by videoconference: the IRB Member was in Calgary and my client and I were in Edmonton.
11. At various times while my client was being questioned by the IRB Member, I made audible whispers, some of which were indiscernible (four instances)<sup>1</sup> but others of which were taken up by my client and repeated as answers to the IRB Member’s questions (six instances).<sup>2</sup> I twice denied whispering when asked about it by the IRB Member.<sup>3</sup>

## **ADMISSIONS OF GUILT**

12. I admit the following conduct:
  - a. That my whispering obstructed the examination of my client by the IRB Member; and
  - b. That I failed to be candid with the IRB Member when I denied that I was whispering.
13. I further admit that this was conduct deserving of sanction as defined under section 49 of the *Legal Profession Act* (the “**Act**”).

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<sup>1</sup> Indiscernible: 24:35; 30:30; 46:35; 1:07:40

<sup>2</sup> Discernible: 17:17; 35:05; 42:45; 55:10; 55:56; 1:08:56

<sup>3</sup> Denials: 42:45; 55:56

**NO DURESS/INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE**

14. I agree that I have had the opportunity to consult with legal counsel and confirm that I have signed this document voluntarily and without any compulsion or duress.

**THIS STATEMENT OF ADMITTED FACTS, EXHIBITS, AND ADMISSIONS OF GUILT IS MADE THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November 2019.**

“Oluwafikemi Adelowokan”  
**OLUWAFIKEMI ADELOWOKAN**

**Reprimand**

Ms. Adelowokan, your conduct in regards to the complaint in this matter is cause for concern. The right to practice law in the Province of Alberta is a privilege that has been bestowed upon you by this Law Society in exercise of its authority under the Legal Profession Act. When you accepted that privilege you also accepted certain responsibilities including those contained in the Code of Conduct. You have a responsibility to the members of the public and the Law Society of Alberta to represent their best interests through your best behaviour. You failed in this case, which brings you here today.

The Hearing Guide of the Law Society of Alberta requires that hearing committees take a purposeful approach to sanctioning a member who has been found guilty of conduct deserving of sanction. The fundamental purpose of sanctioning is the protection of the public, the protection of the reputation and standing of the legal profession generally. Taking a proactive approach to resolve complaints and permit citations to be resolved on a more efficient basis, your admission today has permitted the citations you face to be resolved. This is not just a benefit to you but it is a benefit to the public and to the Law Society.

Ms. Adelowokan, you are an experienced lawyer. While you may be reasonably new to this Law Society, you are not new to the law. Your work on behalf of new Canadians and families is important. Your reputation before tribunals must be maintained. It is clear to me that you have a long and principled career ahead of you and will make significant contributions to the administration of justice in Alberta by facilitating access to justice for a vulnerable public in the areas of family law, child welfare and immigration law. Your career has been unblemished until these citations. I expect that facing them now is an enormous personal disappointment to you. You put your professional reputation and integrity at risk and your client's interests at risk.

In making these comments today and expressing this reprimand, I urge you to constantly have at the forefront of your mind and your practice the integrity required of all of us as members of this profession and the diligence that we must all demonstrate to protect our clients' interests and to maintain our reputation and the reputation of this profession for trustworthiness.

This commitment to professional and personal integrity is a high standard required to generate trust in the public and before tribunals charged with administration of justice. A small lapse can have large consequences, as you have found.

In future the Law Society expects you to deliver legal services conscientiously and honestly. As a Bencher delivering this reprimand on behalf of your Law Society, I ask you to learn from what you have done in this case, to reflect on how you may improve and to re-dedicate yourself to maintaining your reputation for unqualified integrity and trustworthiness. The Law Society wants you to take this lesson to heart and move forward with dignity. Your failure to comply with the Code of Conduct in this case does not define you. This was a mistake. It was a stumble, but not a fall, and you can recover. I hope you can move forward with a renewed commitment to excellence in your professional ethics.

Finally, I wish you the best as you move forward from these difficult circumstances and wish you well in your continued work as a lawyer in Alberta. Thank you for your attendance today.