

Failing to Respond to the Law Society

RAGHBIR SINGH BASI

Victoria, B.C.

Called to the bar: May 19, 1989

On February 24, 1995 Mr. S complained to the Law Society that Mr. Basi had delayed in pursuing a civil action on his behalf. A Law Society staff lawyer wrote to Mr. Basi on March 24 requesting a response and sent follow-up letters on April 19 and May 4.

On May 16 a Law Society staff member called Mr. Basi's office and left a message for him to return the call; a second message was left on May 24. On May 31 the staff member called and spoke with Mr. Basi, who explained that he had been away for a week because of illness. He said that he had spoken to Mr. S that day and would be meeting with him on June 6, and also said that Mr. S would be withdrawing the complaint.

On June 19 Mr. Basi wrote to the Law Society to state that Mr. S had said he was now satisfied and would withdraw his complaint.

However, Mr. S subsequently reiterated his complaint. The Society sent a copy of Mr. S's letter to Mr. Basi on August 14, 1995, with a request for a response, and sent reminder letters on September 7 and 21.

On October 5, 1995 the Society informed Mr. Basi that the complaint and Mr. Basi's failure to respond would be referred to the Discipline Committee. The Committee directed issuance of a citation on October 12 against Mr. Basi for his failure to respond.

Mr. Basi subsequently provided the Law Society with an explanation in response to the complaint of Mr. S.

On March 7, 1996 Mr. Basi admitted to the Discipline Committee under Rule 468 that his failure to respond promptly to the Law Society respecting the complaint against him constituted professional misconduct, and this admission was recorded on his professional conduct record.

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