

Failure to Respond to Law Society

SEFTON LEWIS LEVINE

Vancouver, B.C.

Called to the Bar: July 4, 1957

The Law Society wrote to the member on December 4, 1986 requesting his explanation of a matter. Reminder letters were sent December 31, 1986 and January 14, 1987. He wrote back on January 29, apologizing for his delay and stating he had recently changed offices.

Law Society staff wrote for more information on February 27, June 19, and July 3, 1987, but did not receive a response until July 17. The Society wrote again on August 25, following up with reminder letters on September 9 and 23. the member responded on October 1. Three more letters were sent by the Law Society to the member on October 15, November 9 and November 24. the member did not reply until December 3, 1987.

On August 4, 1988 the Society wrote to the member for an update on the matter. His secretary wrote the Society on August 9 to say that Mr. Levine was on vacation until the end of the month but would respond to the August 4 letter upon his return. The Society wrote to the member on September 6 and again on September 13 requesting a response, and telephoned him on September 23 and 27. Mr. Levine said he would send his letter by the end of the following week. On October 6 he called the Society to provide an update, and he answered by letter on October 11, 1988.

During a telephone conversation with Law Society staff on November 18, Mr. Levine agreed to send some documents to the Society as soon as they were prepared. The Society wrote requesting the documents on December 9, 1988 and January 3, 1989. The member gave an update by telephone on January 20, and sent the documents on February 6.

The Law Society wrote for more information on April 24, sending reminder letters on May 16 and May 29. The member provided an oral update on June 27. On October 1 the Law Society wrote the member again for an update and sent a reminder letter October 23. Two days later Mr. Levine's secretary telephoned to provide an update, noting that Mr. Levine was out of the province. Mr. Levine called November 3, and sent a letter on November 8, 1989.

On December 13 the Law Society wrote to ask for a confirmation of certain information. The request was followed up by two more letters from the Law Society on December 27, 1989 and January 4, 1990. Mr. Levine responded by letter on January 15.

The Standing Discipline Committee authorized a citation against the member on November 1, 1990.

The member had in several instances been awaiting information from sources outside his office before responding to the Law Society, which partly accounted for his delay. He admitted that he had professionally misconducted himself in failing to reply promptly to Law Society correspondence, contrary to Ruling F/1 of the *Professional Conduct Handbook*.

The Standing Discipline Committee agreed to accept this admission on June 6, 1991, record it on Mr. Levine's professional conduct record, and rescind the outstanding citation.

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