

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE *LEGAL PROFESSION ACT*, SBC 1998, C. 9

AND

**RAVNEET SINGH RAKHRA**

(a member of the Law Society of British Columbia)

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**RULE 3-7.1 CONSENT AGREEMENT SUMMARY**

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1. On June 20, 2023, the Chair of the Discipline Committee approved a consent agreement proposal submitted by Ravneet Singh Rakhra (the “Lawyer”) under Rule 3-7.1 of the Law Society Rules (“Rules”).
2. Under the proposal, the Lawyer admitted that he committed the following misconduct, and that it constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to s. 38(4) of the *Legal Profession Act*:
  - i. On February 12, 2019, in the course of representing his client during a telephone interview with a Service Canada program officer in support of his client’s Owner-Operator Labour Market Impact Assessment immigration application, he failed to act honourably and with integrity by emailing his client’s translator six brief messages containing written answers to the interviewer’s questions, contrary to rule 2.2-1 of the *Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia*.
3. Under the proposal, the Lawyer agreed to pay a fine of \$5,000 and to complete five hours of continuing legal education in the area of professional ethics, to be approved by the Law Society, on or before December 31, 2023.
4. In making its decision, the Chair of the Discipline Committee considered an Agreed Statement of Facts signed by the Lawyer on June 14, 2023, and a letter to the Chair of the Discipline Committee signed by the Lawyer on June 14, 2023. The Chair also considered that the Lawyer does not have a prior Professional Conduct Record.
5. This consent agreement will now form part of the Lawyer’s Professional Conduct Record.

6. Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(5) of the Rules, and subject to Rule 3-7.2 of the Rules, the Law Society is bound by an effective consent agreement, and no further action may be taken on the complaint that gave rise to the agreement.
7. The admitted facts set out in the Agreed Statement of Facts have been summarized below.

### **Summary of Facts**

#### *Member Background*

8. The Lawyer was called and admitted as a member of the Law Society of British Columbia on May 10, 2018.
9. Between May 2018 and February 2019, the Lawyer practised law at M. Joomratty Law Corporation in Surrey, British Columbia, primarily in the area of administrative law.
10. The Lawyer has no prior disciplinary history in British Columbia or any other jurisdiction.

#### *Background Facts*

11. At the time of the misconduct, the Lawyer worked as an independent contract lawyer at M. Joomratty Law Corporation in Surrey under senior counsel, Mohammud Massood Joomratty (“Mr. Joomratty”).
12. On or about December 5, 2017, a client retained the Lawyer’s firm to assist him with obtaining permanent resident status in Canada.
13. Mr. Joomratty and the Lawyer prepared and submitted an application on behalf of the client under the federal government’s Owner-Operator Labour Market Impact Assessment Work Permit program (the “Application”).
14. In order to assess the Application, a Service Canada program officer arranged a telephone interview with the client on February 12, 2019.
15. The client attended the interview by telephone from Regina, Saskatchewan with his brother, who was present to provide translation services for the client. The Lawyer attended the interview by telephone from his office in Surrey.
16. During the interview, the interviewer asked the client questions relating to the Application. The Lawyer emailed the client’s brother with answers to six of the interviewer’s questions.

One or both of the client or his brother then verbally gave the emailed answers to the interviewer.

17. Shortly after the interview, the Application was rejected.
18. Mr. Joomratty submitted a second application on behalf of the client under the Owner-Operator Labour Market Impact Assessment Work Permit program on April 26, 2019. The client's second application was successful.

*Mitigating Factors*

19. At the time the conduct occurred, the Lawyer had been called to the British Columbia bar for a period of nine months.
20. The Lawyer admitted to sending emails to his client's brother during his client's interview with Service Canada, and expressed remorse and embarrassment for his conduct.
21. In order to provide some context for what occurred, the Lawyer explained that his articling experience was very challenging and he received very little mentorship or guidance.
22. The Lawyer's former articling principal, Mr. Joomratty, has undertaken to resign from the practice of law pursuant to a Rule 3.7-1 Consent Agreement for several admissions of misconduct relating to the same client matter.
23. The Lawyer advises that since the initiation of the complaint process, he has carefully reflected on his conduct and the importance of a lawyer's duty to carry on the practice of law honourably and with integrity. He is committed to ensuring that this type of conduct does not arise in his practice again.
24. The Lawyer now practices at a different law firm with the benefit of guidance and mentorship.
25. As noted above, the Lawyer does not have a prior professional conduct record.