

Jonathan Edwards

CALL/INN: Called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn, July 1981

TYPE OF HEARING: 5 person Disciplinary Tribunal

DATE OF DECISION: 29 May 2013

In breach of

Contrary to paragraph 301(a)(i) and/or (iii) and paragraph 901.7 of the Code of Conduct of the Bar of England and Wales (8th Edition).

Details of Offence

Jonathan Edwards, a barrister, engaged in conduct which was discreditable to a barrister, in that, between 7th August 2009 and 24th June 2010, when he was Head of Foregate Chambers, Worcester and Miss Julia Vaughan was clerk in those Chambers, he sexually harassed Miss Vaughan by:

[b] writing to her on 13th August 2009 stating that he had fallen in love with her, although she had previously stated to him that she wished their relationship to remain a purely professional business relationship; and/or

[c] commenting inappropriately on her appearance; and/or

[d] touching her inappropriately and attempting to hug and kiss her, despite Miss Vaughan having told him on numerous occasions that she wished their relationship to remain a purely professional business relationship; and/or

[e] persistently trying to persuade her to enter into a personal relationship with him by making suggestions of spending time together or participating in joint business ventures, despite Miss Vaughan having told him on numerous occasions that she wished their relationship to remain a purely professional business relationship.

Jonathan Edwards, a barrister, engaged in conduct which was discreditable to a barrister, in that, between about 24th June 2010 and 20th February 2011, when he was a member of Foregate Chambers, Worcester (and shortly after leaving such Chambers) and Miss Julia Vaughan was clerk in those Chambers, and despite warnings given to him orally and by email by the then Head of Chambers of Foregate Chambers, he harassed and/or bullied Miss Vaughan by:

[a] making inappropriate, harassing and/or bullying comments to her in face to face conversations and in written notes;

[b] touching and hugging her inappropriately despite Miss Vaughan having told him on numerous occasions that she wished their relationship to remain a purely professional business relationship;

[c] sending her unnecessary, inappropriate and offensive emails and text messages.

SENTENCE: Suspension for 4 months and £5000 Fine.

STATUS: Final.