

Oliver White

CALL/INN: Called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn, November 2001

TYPE OF HEARING: 5 Person Disciplinary Tribunal

DATE OF DECISION: 17th June 2015

In breach of

Contrary to paragraphs rC73, Rc9.1 and rC64.1 of the Bar Standards Board Handbook (1st Edition).

Details of Offence

Oliver White, a barrister acting by direct access for his client, the Claimant in a High Court Claim, on and shortly after the 11 June 2014, received, controlled and/or handled client money, namely the sum of £400,000 being money provided for the benefit of his client or intended by another party to be transmitted to his client.

Oliver White, a barrister, failed to act with integrity in that, on the 13 August 2014, he wrote by email to his solicitors for a client stating that [in respect of his handling client money on or shortly after the 11th June 2014] he was entitled to "conduct litigation with all the same freedoms that a solicitor is able to operate within" whereas in fact: [1] he was not entitled to conduct litigation; and [2] he was not entitled to receive, control or handle client money. Oliver White's purpose in writing such a statement was to dissuade the client [or their solicitors] from complaining to the Bar Standards Board that he had breached rC73 of the Conduct Rules in the BSB Handbook [in relation to the handling of client money], and he thereby recklessly misled or attempted to mislead the client [or their solicitors].

Oliver White, a barrister, failed to promptly or at all to provide to the Bar Standards Board information which it requested from him for the purpose of its regulatory functions, in that he failed to reply to a letter and email sent to him on the 26th September 2014 requiring him to provide his written comments on the complaint made about his professional conduct by the 20th October 2014, notwithstanding a reminder letter and email sent to him on the 13th October 2014.

SENTENCE: 3 months Suspension. To pay Fines of £1,500 and £500 [Total £2000].

STATUS: Open to Appeal.