

Stephen Howd

CALL/INN: Called to the Bar by Middle Temple, July 1989

TYPE OF HEARING: 3 Person Disciplinary Tribunal

DATE OF DECISION: 5th May 2016

In breach of

Core Duty 3 and 5 of the Bar Standards Board Handbook (1st Edition).

Details of Offence

Stephen Howd, a barrister, failed to act with integrity and behaved in a way likely to diminish the trust and confidence the public places in a barrister or in the profession in that at Zenith Chambers summer party on 11 July 2014 he pestered A by his conduct towards her in that:

- a. At approximately 10pm Stephen Howd took her right hand, pulled her towards him and attempted to kiss her on or near the lips;
- b. At approximately 10pm Stephen Howd held onto A's hand and kept it on or near his crotch area for about 5 seconds until she was able to release her hand from his grip;
- c. Later in the same evening Stephen Howd approached A whilst she was conversing with others and put his hand around her, squeezing her against him and attempted to kiss her on or near her lips again; and/or
- d. Later in the same evening Stephen Howd approached A and put his arm around her and placed his face uncomfortably close to hers.

Stephen Howd, a barrister, failed to act with integrity and behaved in a way likely to diminish the trust and confidence the public places in a barrister or in the profession in that at Zenith Chambers summer party on 11 July 2014 he pestered B by his conduct towards her in that:

- a. At approximately 11pm Stephen Howd took B by the wrist and pulled her towards him;
- b. Shortly after this Stephen Howd grabbed B by the waist and pulled her towards him, placing his hands on the small of her back and placing his cheek next to hers, saying that they should dance "cheek to cheek" and then saying "no, crotch to crotch;" and/or
- c. Later in the same evening he referred to B to her face as a "good girl" while poking her in the breast area of her chest and then kissing her on her cheek, near her mouth.

Stephen Howd, a barrister, failed to act with integrity and behaved in a way likely to diminish the trust and confidence the public places in a barrister or in the profession in that at the Zenith Chambers summer party on 11 July 2014 he pestered C by his conduct towards her in that, at some

point in the evening, whilst at the party, Stephen Howd got hold of the hands of C, made her dance and told her she looked “gorgeous” and attempted to kiss her.

SENTENCE: Fined £1,800 and ordered to pay costs of £400.

STATUS: Open to Appeal.