



The Bar Tribunals & Adjudication Service

The Council of the Inns of Court

Disciplinary Tribunal

MARTHA KNOWLDEN

Called to the Bar by: Inner Temple, November 2000

Type of hearing: 3 Person Tribunal

Date of decision: 18 January 2019

In breach of:

Core Duties 10, 7 and/or Core Duty 5 and/or rC125, rC15, rC88.2, rC73 and rC8 of the Bar Standards Board Handbook.

Details of offence:

Martha Knowlden, a barrister in self-employed practice on or about 1 October 2014 accepted public access instructions to act in family proceedings in the Family Court at Maidstone and failed to notify her public access client in writing of the matters set out in rC125 in breach of that rule and by reason of the same, failed to take reasonable steps to manage her practice competently and in such a way as to achieve compliance with her legal and regulatory obligations contrary to Core Duty 10.

Martha Knowlden, a barrister in self-employed practice while instructed by a public access client to conduct litigation on her behalf in family proceedings in the Family Court at Maidstone failed to advise her client to and filed herself to take steps to ensure compliance by her client with paragraphs 1 – 4 of the order made on 24 November 2014 following a First Appointment Hearing in those proceedings on 20 November 2014 and thereby failed to provide a competent standard of work and service to her client in breach of rule rC15 and so contrary to Core Duty 7.

Martha Knowlden, a barrister in self-employed practice while instructed by a public access client to conduct litigation on her behalf in family proceedings in the Family Court at

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9 Gray's Inn Square,
London
WC1R 5JD
T: 020 3432 7350
E: info@tbts.org.uk

The Council of the Inns of Court. Limited by Guarantee
Company Number: 8804708
Charity Number: 1155640
Registered Office:
9 Gray's Inn Square, London WC1R 5JD

Maidstone failed to provide her client with records supporting fees charged or claimed or details of the work she had done in respect of the period 1 November 2014 to 20 February 2015 as were reasonably required for the purpose of verifying her charges contrary to rule rC88.2 and by reason of the same failed to take reasonable steps to manage her practice competently and in such a way as to achieve compliance with her legal and regulatory obligations contrary to Core Duty 10.

Martha Knowlden, a barrister in self-employed practice instructed by a public access client to conduct litigation on her behalf in family proceedings in the Family Court at Maidstone and received client money by receiving £500 “on account” on or about 2 October 2014 and between £3000 and £4000 “on account” on or about 8 December 2014 from her client contrary to rule rC73 and by reason of the same failed to take reasonable steps to manage her practice competently and in such a way as to achieve compliance with her legal and regulatory obligations contrary to Core Duty 10.

Martha Knowlden, a barrister in self-employed practice while instructed by a public access client to conduct litigation on her behalf in family proceedings in the Family Court at Maidstone: 1] on or about 8 December 2014 procured a payment to her of between £3000 and £4000 from her client on terms that this sum or part of it would be applied by her to discharge the outstanding fees of another barrister instructed by her client in that case; 2] thereafter purported to apply all that sum to discharge her own fees claimed as due in respect of the period before and after 8 December 2014; and 3] made no payment to the barrister, and thereby acted without integrity contrary and in a way which could reasonably be seen by the public to undermine her integrity contrary to rule rC8 and by so doing behaved in a way which is likely to diminish the trust and confidence which the public places in a barrister or in the profession contrary to Core Duty 5.

Sanction: Reprimanded. Suspended for 4 months and 6 weeks to run concurrently. Fined £1000.

Status: Open to Appeal.