



# The Bar Tribunals & Adjudication Service

The Council of the Inns of Court

## Disciplinary Tribunal

### NEIL FREW ESQ

**Called to the Bar by: Middle Temple, October 2004**

**Type of hearing: 5 Person Tribunal**

**Date of decision: 17 January 2019**

#### **In breach of:**

Paragraphs 301(a)(i) and 901.7 of the Code of Conduct of the Bar of England and Wales (8<sup>th</sup> Edition), Core Duties 5 and rC8, 9 and rC65.2 and rC65.3 of the Bar Standards Board Handbook.

#### **Details of offence:**

Neil Frew, an unregistered barrister, who was also admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in 2008, engaged in conduct whether in pursuit of his profession or otherwise, which was dishonest or otherwise discreditable to a barrister, in that between 30 September 2010 and 5 January 2014, he conspired with others to defraud the Legal Aid Agency by dishonestly claiming to have used and paid a company called Legal Support Services for interpreters' services, when in fact, no such agency was used to obtain the interpreters. On 23 November 2016, he was convicted of conspiracy to defraud by the Crown Court at Sheffield. On 9 June 2017 he was sentenced to two years imprisonment suspended for two years and ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work before 8 June 2018.

Neil Frew, an unregistered barrister, who was also admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in 2008, behaved in a way which was likely to diminish the trust and confidence which the public places in a barrister or in the profession and/or behaved in a manner which could reasonably be seen by the public to undermine his honesty and integrity in that between 6 January 2014 and 1 October 2014, he conspired with others to defraud the Legal Aid Agency by dishonestly

#### **The Bar Tribunals & Adjudication Service**

9 Gray's Inn Square,  
London  
WC1R 5JD  
T: 020 3432 7350  
E: [info@tbtas.org.uk](mailto:info@tbtas.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

claiming to have used and paid a company called Legal Support Services for interpreter services, when in fact, no such agency was used to obtain the interpreters. On 23 November 2016, he was convicted of conspiracy to defraud by the Crown Court at Sheffield. On 9 June 2017 he was sentenced to two years imprisonment suspended for two years and ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work before 8 June 2018.

Neil Frew, an unregistered barrister, failed to report promptly to the Bar Standards Board that he had been convicted of a criminal offence other than a minor criminal offence, in that on 23 November 2016, he had been convicted of conspiracy to defraud by the Crown Court at Sheffield and did not report the said conviction to the Bar Standards Board until 23 February 2018.

Neil Frew, an unregistered barrister, failed to report promptly to the Bar Standards Board that he had been the subject of regulatory and enforcement action and disciplinary proceedings by another Approved Regulator, in that on 1 September 2017, the Solicitors Regulatory Authority brought proceedings before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal against Neil Frew, which Tribunal on 6 November 2017 made an order striking him off the Roll of Solicitors. Mr Frew did not report these actions to the Bar Standards Board until 23 February 2018.

**Sanction:** Disbarred.

**Status:** Open to Appeal.