



The Bar Tribunals & Adjudication Service

The Council of the Inns of Court

Disciplinary Tribunal

NATARAJAN BALACHNDRAN

CALLED TO THE BAR BY: LINCOLN'S INN, JULY 1986

TYPE OF HEARING: 5 PERSON TRIBUNAL

Date of decision: 5 December 2019

In breach of:

Paragraphs 301 [a][i] and 901.7 and 301 [a][iii] and 901.7 of the Code of Conduct of England and Wales [8th Edition] and Core Duty 9 and/or rC65.3 of the Bar Standards Board Handbook.

Details of offence:

Natarajan Balachandran, an unregistered barrister, engaged in conduct whether in pursuit of his profession or otherwise which was dishonest or otherwise discreditable to a barrister in that, between around July 2011 and 5 January 2014, while in practice as an Advocate and Solicitor in Malaysia, he dishonestly failed to return a deposit in the sum of USD 150,000 paid to him by his client for the purpose of obtaining for the client a loan of USD 3,000,000, that he failed to obtain for the client. By order dated 11 March 2016, he was struck off the Roll of Advocates and Solicitors of the High Court of Malaya, following a finding of the Disciplinary Committee that he was guilty of dishonesty and displaying conduct unbecoming of an Advocate and Solicitor.

Natarajan Balachandran, an unregistered barrister, engaged in conduct whether in pursuit of his profession or otherwise which was likely to diminish public confidence in the legal profession or the administration of justice or otherwise bring the legal profession into disrepute in that, between around July 2011 and 5 January 2014, while in practice as an Advocate and Solicitor in Malaysia, he dishonestly failed to return a deposit in the sum of USD

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150,000 paid to him by his client for the purpose of obtaining for the client a loan of USD 3,000,000, that he failed to obtain for the client. By order dated 11 March 2016, he was struck off the Roll of Advocates and Solicitors of the High Court of Malaya, following a finding of the Disciplinary Committee that he was guilty of dishonesty and displaying conduct unbefitting of an Advocate and Solicitor.

Natarajan Balachandran, an unregistered barrister, failed to co-operate with the Bar Standards Board and/or failed to report promptly or at all that to his knowledge he was the subject of disciplinary or other regulatory or enforcement action by another regulator, in that, following a complaint made on or around 3 September 2012 by his client while he was in practice as an Advocate and Solicitor in Malaysia, on 4 June 2015, the Disciplinary Committee found that he was guilty of dishonesty and displaying conduct unbefitting of an Advocate and Solicitor and, on 11 March 2016, he was ordered to be struck off the Roll of Advocates and Solicitors of the High Court of Malaya. Natarajan Balachandran failed to report any of these matters to the Bar Standards Board, which only became aware of them after the Bar Council of Malaysia notified the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn by letter dated 19 October 2017 that he had been struck off.

Sanction: Disbarred.

Status: Final.