



The Bar Tribunals & Adjudication Service

The Council of the Inns of Court

Disciplinary Tribunal

ALTHEA SONIA BROWN

Called to the Bar by: Lincoln's Inn, February 1995

Type of hearing: 3 Person Tribunal

Date of decision: 12 March 2022

In breach of:

Core Duties 1 and 5 and/or Rule rC3.2 and/or Rule rC7 of the Bar Standards Board Handbook.

Details of Offence:

Althea Brown, a barrister, failed to observe her duty to the court in the administration of justice at an Employment Tribunal hearing on 12 and 13 September 2019, in that she:

- a) In the course of her submissions to the tribunal on the afternoon of 12 September 2019 alleged that Ms C (the opposing barrister) had made an untruthful statement to the tribunal, without reasonable basis; and/or

- b) In the course of her submissions mimicked and/or mocked Ms C by:
 - i. On one or more occasions repeating the words used by Ms C adopting a noticeably different and disrespectful tone of voice to her usual voice; and/or

 - ii. Comparing Ms C's submissions to the words of the literary character Violet Bott "I'm going to scream and scream until I'm sick", thereby imputing without reasonable basis that Ms C was behaving in a juvenile and/or petulant manner; and/or

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- c) In the course of her submissions to the tribunal on the morning of 13 September 2019 said that Ms C had a “fundamental intellectual difficulty”.

By so doing Ms Brown displayed a pattern of behaviour that undermined Ms C and/or distracted the tribunal from matters relevant to the hearing.

Althea Brown, a barrister, behaved in a way which is likely to diminish the trust and confidence which the public places in her or the profession, and/or abused her role as an advocate at a hearing on 12 and 13 September 2019, in that she:

- a) In the course of her submissions to the tribunal on the afternoon of 12 September 2019 alleged that Ms C (the opposing barrister) had made an untruthful statement to the tribunal, without reasonable basis; and/or
- b) In the course of her submissions mimicked and/or mocked Ms C by:
 - i. On one or more occasions repeating the words used by Ms C adopting a noticeably different and disrespectful tone of voice to her usual voice; and/or
 - ii. Comparing Ms C’s submissions to the words of the literary character Violet Bott “I’m going to scream and scream until I’m sick”, thereby imputing without reasonable basis that Ms C was behaving in a juvenile and/or petulant manner; and/or
- c) In the course of her submissions to the tribunal on the morning of 13 September 2019 said that Ms C had a “fundamental intellectual difficulty”.

By so doing Ms Brown (1) improperly undermined, insulted, humiliated and/or annoyed Ms C and/or (2) was in the circumstances unprofessional and likely to diminish the trust and confidence that the public places in her or the profession.

Sanction: Reprimanded / Fined £1500. Costs of £5,820 to be paid to the Bar Standards Board within 28 days.

Status: Final.