



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 NC (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 NC by:
 - i. On one or more occasions repeating the words used by NC adopting a noticeably different and disrespectful tone of voice to her usual voice, accompanied by exaggerated body language; and/or

 - ii. Comparing NC'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 NC was behaving in a juvenile and/or petulant manner; and/or

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- iii. Imitating NC by silently mouthing her words when the judge was not looking; and/or
- iv. Calling NC by the wrong name and/or pronouncing NC's name in an insulting tone of voice; and/or
- c) In the course of her submissions to the tribunal on the morning of 13 September 2019 said that NC had a "fundamental intellectual difficulty" and/or had an "inability to grasp" the case being put by Ms Brown; and/or
- d) Mimicked and/or mocked VW (NC's instructing solicitor) in the course of the hearing on 13 September 2019 by facing VW during VW's submissions and silently mouthing the words VW had said in an exaggerated fashion; and/or
- e) Throughout the proceedings on 12/13 September 2019 distracted NC and/or the judge during NC's submissions by repeatedly gesturing in an exaggerated and/or audible way and/or sighing loudly; and/or
- f) Repeatedly spoke over NC and the judge; and/or
- g) Repeatedly made reference to her seniority over NC during submissions.

By so doing Ms Brown displayed a pattern of behaviour that undermined NC and/or VW 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 NC (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 NC by:
 - i. On one or more occasions repeating the words used by NC adopting a noticeably different and disrespectful tone of voice to her usual voice, accompanied by exaggerated body language; and/or

- ii. Comparing NC'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 NC was behaving in a juvenile and/or petulant manner; and/or
 - iii. Imitating NC by silently mouthing her words when the judge was not looking; and/or
 - iv. Calling NC by the wrong name and/or pronouncing NC's name in an insulting tone of voice; and/or
- c) In the course of her submissions to the tribunal on the morning of 13 September 2019 said that NC had a "fundamental intellectual difficulty" and/or had an "inability to grasp" the case being put by Ms Brown; and/or
 - d) Mimicked and/or mocked VW (NC's instructing solicitor) in the course of the hearing on 13 September 2019 by facing VW during VW's submissions and silently mouthing the words VW had said in an exaggerated fashion; and/or
 - e) Throughout the proceedings on 12/13 September 2019 distracted NC and/or the judge during NC's submissions by repeatedly gesturing in an exaggerated and/or audible way and/or sighing loudly; and/or
 - f) Repeatedly spoke over NC and the judge.

By so doing Ms Brown (1) improperly undermined, insulted, humiliated and/or annoyed NC and/or VW; 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: Open to Appeal.