

FORMAL ORDER OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL  
LEGAL COUNCIL MADE ON COMPLAINT NO. 146/2002

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT BY  
WILBERN WALLACE AGAINST ARLENE  
BECKFORD, AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

A N D

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION  
ACT

PANEL: MRS. PAMELA BENKA-COKER, Q.C.  
MRS. GLORIA LANGRIN  
MR. DAVID BATTS

DECISION DELIVERED 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2005

UPON THE APPLICATION dated 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2002 made pursuant to section 12(1) (a) of the Legal Profession Act and coming on for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2003, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2003, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2003, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2003, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2004.

AND UPON the complainant Mr. Wilbern Wallace appearing with his attorney-at-law Ms. Marcia Robertson and having given evidence on oath

AND UPON the attorney-at-law Ms. Arlene Beckford appearing with her attorney Mr. Audel Cunningham and having given evidence on oath

AND UPON Eileen Ellis witness for the complainant appearing and having given evidence on oath

AND UPON DUE CONSIDERATION of the sworn evidence of Mr. Wilbern Wallace, Ms. Eileen Ellis and Ms. Arlene Beckford and having considered the submissions of Counsel appearing in the matter


THE COMMITTEE made findings of Fact set forth in its written decision dated 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 and decided that:

- (a) the attorney is in breach of Canon IV(s) in failing to verify the signature prior to witnessing the document;
- (b) the attorney in withholding information from her colleague and in pretending to have documents supportive of title when indeed she had none, acted in breach of Canon 1(b);
- (c) it is therefore right that a sufficient punishment be imposed so as to ensure that attorneys are reminded of the duty of utmost honesty when dealing with their colleagues as well as with unrepresented persons. It is also important that lawyers who witness documentation take great care when doing so to ascertain the identity of the person whose signature is being witnessed.

PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING FINDINGS AND AFTER HEARING FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PUNISHMENT TO BE IMPOSED THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ORDERED THAT:-

1. A fine of \$250,000.00 be imposed on the attorney-at-law Arlene Beckford and that the attorney pays costs of \$50,000.00 to the complainant.

Dated the 5 February, 2005

  
CHAIRMAN OF PANEL