FORMAL ORDER OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL LEGAL COUNCIL

### **COMPLAINT NO: 160/2016**

# IN THE MATTER OF ANTHONY E. MORGAN VS HOWARD LETTMAN

VIL DIVISIO

### AND

## IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 1971

## PANEL: MR. TREVOR HO-LYN MR. JEFFERY DALEY MISS MARJORIE SHAW

### **DECISION DELIVERED 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2019**

**UPON THE APPLICATION** made under section 12 (1) (a) of the Legal Profession Act and dated the 9<sup>th</sup> May,2016 and coming on for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018

AND UPON the Respondent Attorney-at-law Howard Lettman not appearing

**AND UPON** the Complainant Anthony E. Morgan appearing and having given evidence on oath

AND UPON DUE CONSIDERATION of the sworn evidence of Anthony E. Morgan

**AND UPON** the Committee having found the Attorney-at-law Howard Lettman guilty of professional misconduct on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019

**AND UPON** the Attorney having been given the opportunity to make submissions in mitigation of sanction on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019 and not attending

#### THE COMMITTEE FINDS THAT:

The Attorney Howard Lettman is guilty of professional misconduct. In that, he has breached Canons 4 (r), 4(s) 7(b) (ii) and 1(b) of the Legal Profession (Canons of Professional Ethics) Rules.

The Attorney was retained by the Complainant and his wife to act on their behalf in the purchase of property for the purchase price of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars. The Complainant and his wife paid a deposit to the Attorney of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars towards the purchase of the property on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1994. The sale

was never perfected, and the vendor is still in possession. Despite repeated request, the Attorney has not refunded the deposit paid to the Complainant after 14 years.

# PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING FINDINGS THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY HEREBY ORDERS THAT: -

Pursuant to section 12 (5) (a) of the Legal Profession Act as amended:

- 1. The Attorney is ordered to make restitution forthwith to the Complainant and his wife in the sum of \$200,000.00.
- 2. The Attorney is suspended from practice until this sum is paid in full.
- 3. Costs of \$50,000.00 is to be paid to the Complainant and costs of \$50,000.00 is to be paid to the General Legal Council.
- 4. The costs orders are to be paid in full before the suspension is lifted.

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CHAIRMAN OF PANEL

Dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019