

SU2020C00969



**FORMAL ORDER  
OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL LEGAL COUNCIL**

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**COMPLAINT NO: 116/2015**

**IN THE MATTER OF HYACINTH RANKINE & LIONEL  
RANKINE VS HOWARD LETTMAN**

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 1971**

**PANEL: MR. WALTER SCOTT, Q.C.  
MR. CHARLES PIPER, Q.C.  
MR. MICHAEL THOMAS**

**DECISION DELIVERED 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

**UPON THE APPLICATION** made under section 12 (1) (a) of the Legal Profession Act and dated the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 and sworn to on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 and coming on for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016; 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016; 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 (Evidence taken) and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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

**AND UPON** the Complainants Hyacinth Rankine & Lionel Rankine appearing and having given evidence on oath

**AND UPON DUE CONSIDERATION** of the sworn evidence of the Complainants

**AND UPON** the Committee having found the Attorney-at-law Howard Lettman guilty of professional misconduct on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**AND UPON** the Attorney having been given the opportunity to make submissions in mitigation of sanction on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to no avail

**THE COMMITTEE FINDS THAT:**

The Attorney Howard Lettman is guilty of professional misconduct in that, the Attorney was retained by the Complainants in February 1997 to act on their behalf in respect of the purchase of Lot 1 Spitzbergen in the parish of Manchester.

The Agreement for Sale was signed by the Vendor and the Complainants and a deposit of \$570,000.00 was paid leaving a balance of \$230,000.00 to be paid on completion, completion being within twelve (12) months of signing and on presentation of the registered title in the name of the purchasers. The Complainants visited the Attorneys' office on several occasions not having heard from him concerning their business but still did not receive any information. The Complainants retained the services of two separate Attorneys to assist and one of the Attorneys wrote the Respondent Attorney on three separate occasions and received no response. The Complainant filed a complaint with the General Legal Council and up to the 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 the date of giving evidence, the Complainants had still not received the Certificate of Title from the Attorney or any information as to the progress of their business.

The Attorney has failed to provide the Complainants with information as to the progress of their business and failed to deal with their matter with due expedition in breach of Canons 4(r)

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

Pursuant to section 12 (4) (a) of the Legal Profession Act as amended:

1. The Respondent Howard Lettman name is struck from the Roll of Attorneys-at-law entitled to practice in the several courts of the Island of Jamaica
2. The Respondent Attorney is ordered to pay costs in the sum of \$400,000.00 of which \$250,000.00 is to be paid to the Complainants and \$150,000.00 is to be paid to the General Legal Council.



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CHAIRMAN OF PANEL

Dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020