

IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT HUGH VANE, solicitor

- AND -

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974

Mr. J.R.C. Clitheroe (in the Chair)
Mr. J.C. Chesterton
Mr. K.J. Griffin

Date Of Hearing: 14th November 1995

FINDINGS

of the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal
constituted under the Solicitors Act 1974

An application was duly made on behalf of the Solicitors Complaints Bureau by Roger Field solicitor of Inhedge House, 31 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, West Midlands on the 4th September 1995 that Robert Hugh Vane of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire solicitor might be required to answer the allegations contained in the statement which accompanied the application and that such Order might be made as the Tribunal should think right.

The allegations were that the respondent had been guilty of conduct unbecoming a solicitor in each of the following circumstances, namely that he had:-

- (i) acted towards solicitors in a way which was fraudulent, deceitful or otherwise contrary to his position as a solicitor;
- (ii) failed to reply to correspondence from the Solicitors Complaints Bureau concerning his professional conduct.

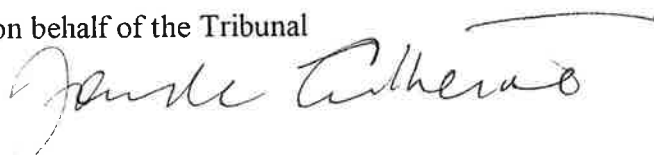
Woodbridge requesting a reference by his superior and it had been suggested that he should deal with it himself. It was then that the seed had been placed in his mind and he had written and signed the letter. His action had been "crazy and foolish."

7. The respondent was employed as a trainee manager in a company. He said he did not intend to return to the solicitors' profession: he believed he would be struck off the Roll as a result of his actions and he never wanted to find himself in that position again.

The Tribunal FOUND the allegations to have been substantiated, indeed they were not contested. The Tribunal found this a very sad case where a young man at the very start of his career had felt constrained to act in this way. It was very much to the respondent's credit that he appeared before the Tribunal and made it very plain to the Tribunal that in his view his actions had been foolish and stupid. He clearly suffered great remorse for what he had done. The Tribunal had taken into account that he was under considerable pressure and was coming to the end of what appeared to have been an unhappy and unsatisfactory relationship with his employers. Unfortunately the only proper way to handle that situation would have been to explain it to his prospective new employers. The sad fact was that he did not at first make true disclosure to his new employers and compounded that by signing a letter purporting to be sent from representatives of his previous employers. The Tribunal had noted that the respondent was very well aware of the seriousness of what he had done, his great remorse, and the fact that he had learned a salutary lesson. Unfortunately in the circumstances, even after giving him credit where it is due and recognising his extreme youth and inexperience, the Tribunal considered it right to make an Order Striking him Off the Roll of Solicitors and further Ordered him to pay fixed costs of the application and enquiry.

DATED this 28th day of December 1995

on behalf of the Tribunal



J.R.C. Clitheroe
Chairman

Findings filed with the
Law Society on the 11th
day of January 1996