

IN THE MATTER OF CLIVE JAMES COBLE, solicitor

- AND -

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974

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Mr. G B Marsh (in the Chair)

Mr. J N Barnecutt

Mr. D E Marlow

Date Of Hearing: 16th October 1997

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## FINDINGS

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

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An application was duly made on behalf of the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors by Roger Field of 31 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley West Midlands on the 13th May 1997 that Clive James Coble of \_\_\_\_\_, Woodbridge, Suffolk 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 allegation was that the respondent had been guilty of conduct unbecoming a solicitor in that he had been convicted of offences of dishonesty and sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

The application was heard at the Court Room No. 60 Carey Street, London WC2 on the 16th October 1997 when Roger Field solicitor and partner in the firm of Messrs. Higgs & Sons of Inhedge House, 31 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, West Midlands appeared for the applicant and the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

The evidence before the Tribunal included a letter addressed by the respondent to the applicant in which he admitted the allegation.

At the conclusion of the hearing the Tribunal Ordered that Clive James Coble of  
 , Woodbridge, Suffolk solicitor be Struck  
 Off the Roll of Solicitors and they further Ordered him to pay the costs of and incidental to the  
 application and enquiry fixed in the sum of £680.00.

The facts are set out in paragraphs 1 to 3 hereunder:-

1. The respondent, born in 1961, was admitted a solicitor in 1987.
2. From the 8th April 1993 the respondent practised in partnership under the style of Roger Brooker & Co. at 70-72 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex. The partnership was dissolved on the 15th March 1996.
3. On the 3rd January 1997 at the Crown Court at Chelmsford the respondent was tried and upon his own confession convicted upon indictment of three counts of theft and two counts of false accounting. On the 31st January 1997 he was sentenced to a total of eight months imprisonment.

**The submissions of the applicant**

4. The respondent had been convicted of serious criminal offences involving dishonesty and a custodial sentence imposed upon him. The Tribunal was referred to the transcript of the sentencing remarks in the Crown Court in Chelmsford.

**The Findings of the Tribunal**

The Tribunal Found the allegation to have been substantiated. Clearly the respondent had fallen far below the standards required of a member of the solicitors' profession. He had been convicted of criminal offences involving dishonesty and such behaviour could not be tolerated. The damage which he has done to the good reputation of the solicitors' profession was incalculable. The Tribunal Ordered the respondent to be Struck Off the Roll of solicitors and further Ordered that he should pay the applicant's costs in a fixed sum.

DATED this 17th day of November 1997

on behalf of the Tribunal

G B Marsh  
 Chairman

Findings filed with the  
 Law Society on the 27th  
 day of November 1997