



The Law
Society
OF TASMANIA

Media Release

Janet Margaret Scott

12 September 2007

Law Society spokeswoman and immediate past President Leanne Topfer, today rejected any notion of a Law Society 'witch-hunt' against the Hobart legal practitioner, Janet Margaret Scott.

Ms Scott's name was removed from the Roll of Legal Practitioners yesterday by order of Justice Tennent of the Supreme Court, after her Honour had found Ms Scott to have lied to the Court.

Ms Topfer said it was 'ridiculous to suggest the Law Society was doing anything other than its statutory duty to bring allegations of unprofessional conduct by lawyers to the attention of the Court.' It is a decision for the Court, not the Society to judge whether a practitioner's conduct has been unprofessional and what penalty should be imposed.

Ms Topfer added, "it is also nonsense to suggest the Society is a 'boy's club' that 'attacked sole practitioners' as alleged by Ms Scott in today's Mercury given that of Tasmania's 144 law firms, 86 are sole practitioners. It is simply a case about Ms Scott's conduct.

The Court found Ms Scott's misconduct included breaching trust accounting Rules, and misleading and abusing clients when they complained. The Court also found Ms Scott lied to the Court.

"Lawyers are officers of the court and we must meet very high standards of candour and openness to ensure the public are protected from wrongdoing" Ms Topfer concluded.

The Court's order was made on the application of the Law Society following the receipt of a number of complaints concerning the practitioner. The Society had earlier applied to the Court for the appointment of a manager to Ms Scott's practice to protect client interests.

Details of the complaints are contained in her Honour's judgment which is available from the Supreme Court or the Law Society website at: [Scott Judgment](#)

ENDS

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