

Summaries of Administrative Penalties Issued

AP 30 - Failure to verify instructing individual

On October 28, 2024, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules, which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this matter, the lawyer assisted an organizational client in a matter involving acquisition of land. Prior to the financial transaction in the matter, the lawyer completed the verification required for the corporate client, however, they did not take steps to identify and verify the instructing individual pursuant to Rule 3-102(2)(a).

The rules require lawyers to verify the identity of an individual who provides instructions on behalf of a client in relation to a financial transaction. Importantly, the verification requirements for the instructing individual are in addition to the verification requirements for the corporate client, which fall under Rule 3-102(2)(b).

The lawyer paid the penalty on November 15, 2024, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 29 - Failure to verify instructing individual

On August 21, 2024, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules, which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this matter, the lawyer assisted an organizational client in and around November 2022 with respect to the sale of a business. The lawyer did not complete any of the verification requirements for the instructing individual or the corporate client pursuant to Rule 3-102.

The lawyer paid the penalty on October 3, 2024, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 28 - Failure to verify individual clients

On August 20, 2024, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules, which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of individual clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this matter, the lawyer assisted individual clients in and around 2022 and early 2023 in separate matters each involving financial transactions. Prior to the financial transactions, the lawyer did not meet with each of the clients in person, nor retain an agent to verify their identities in accordance with Rule 3-102 and 3-104 as they applied in 2022 and 2023.

The lawyer paid the penalty on September 5, 2024, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

Please note that in March 2024, the Benchers amended the rules and rescinded Rules 3-102(3), (3.1) and 3-104(5).

AP 27 - Failure to verify individual clients

On August 20, 2024, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules, which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of individual clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this matter, the lawyer assisted individual clients in and around January 2023 in respect of a share purchase agreement. Prior to the financial transactions, the lawyer did not meet with all of the clients in person, nor retain an agent to verify their identities in accordance with Rule 3-102 and 3-104 as they applied in 2023. While some exceptions applied to the client identification and verification rules in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the lawyer did not meet with the client by web conference for the purpose of verification as permitted at the time.

The lawyer paid the penalty on October 4, 2024, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

Please note that in March 2024, the Benchers amended the rules and rescinded Rules 3-102(3), (3.1) and 3-104(5).

AP 26 - Failure to verify instructing individual

On August 20, 2024, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules, which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this matter, the lawyer assisted an organizational client in and around October 2022 with respect to a mortgage loan. The lawyer obtained an electronic copy of the identification for the instructing individual, but did not take any other steps to verify their identity pursuant to Rule 3-102, as it applied in 2022, such as meet the client in person, or retain an agent to verify their identity.

The lawyer paid the penalty on September 25, 2024, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

Please note that in March 2024, the Benchers amended the rules and rescinded Rules 3-102(3), (3.1) and 3-104(5).

AP 25 - Failure to properly verify client

On July 31, 2024, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5,000.00.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 and Rule 3-107 which requires lawyers to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction and to record and retain information and documents used to verify the identity of the client.

In this case, this lawyer breached Rule 3-102 in a client file where the lawyer did not properly verify the identities of three individual clients. The lawyer did not properly verify the identity of

an individual client located in another province. The lawyer met the client by web conference, however, they did not meet their obligations pursuant to Rule 3-102 or 3-104. For one client, the lawyer verified the clients identity in an in-person meeting, however, the lawyer did not record the date on which they obtained the verification documents, as required by Rule 3-107(3).

The Penalty was due on September 4, 2024 (the “Due Date”). The lawyer did not pay the Penalty by the Due Date, nor did the lawyer apply to the chair of the Discipline Committee for a review of the Penalty by the Due Date. Therefore, the lawyer has been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(b).

AP 24 - Violation of the cash transactions rule

On September 22, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Law Society Rule 3-59 (cash transactions). A breach of this Rule occurs where a lawyer receives or accepts cash funds, in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 in respect of any one client matter, the lawyer makes use of the cash, and no exceptions set out in Rule 3-59 apply. Although Rule 3-59 permits a lawyer to receive cash in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 for professional fees, disbursements or expenses in connection with the provision of legal services, a lawyer must make any refund out of such money in cash.

In this case, the lawyer accepted several cash payments in legal fees by way of direct deposit in an amount which totaled more than \$7,500. After the file was closed, the lawyer returned the remaining trust funds to the client by trust cheque. Therefore, the unused portion of the retainer fee was not returned to the client in cash, as required by Rule 3-59(5).

The lawyer paid the penalty on October 18, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 23 - Failure to properly verify client

On September 29, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5,000.00.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 which requires lawyers to verify the identity of individual clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this case, this lawyer breached Rule 3-102 in a client file where the lawyer did not properly verify the client's identity who was located outside of Canada, prior to the lawyer providing services with respect to a real estate transaction.

The lawyer paid the penalty on October 2, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 22 - Violation of the cash transactions rule

On September 22, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Law Society Rule 3-59 (cash transactions). A breach of this Rule occurs where a lawyer receives or accepts cash funds, in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 in respect of any one client matter, the lawyer makes use of the cash, and no exceptions set out in Rule 3-59 apply. Although Rule 3-59 permits a lawyer to receive cash in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 for professional fees, disbursements or expenses in connection with the provision of legal services, a lawyer must make any refund out of such money in cash.

In this case, the lawyer accepted several cash payments which amounted to more than \$7,500 from a client as retainer fees. After the file was closed, the lawyer returned the remaining trust funds to the client by trust cheque. Therefore, the unused portion of the retainer fee was not returned to the client in cash, as required by Rule 3-59(5).

The lawyer paid the penalty on September 29, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 21 - Failure to properly verify individual clients and instructing individual

On September 22, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from breaches of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules, which

requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this matter, the lawyer assisted individuals and an organizational client in separate matters involving real estate transactions. The lawyer did not meet with any of the individual clients in person and, instead, had a notary or other lawyer assist with verification. However, the lawyer did not have an agent agreement in place with any of the notaries or lawyers who verified the clients' identification, as required by Rule 3-104.

With respect to the organisational client, the lawyer failed to verify the identity of the instructing individual prior to the financial transaction.

The lawyer paid the penalty on September 27, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breaches per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 20 - Failure to verify instructing individual

On September 19, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules, which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this matter, the lawyer assisted an organizational client with the sale of a business. The instructing individuals did not reside in Canada, and the lawyer failed to verify their identities in a manner compliant with Rule 3-102 prior to the financial transaction. The lawyer did not meet with the clients in person, nor retain an agent to assist with client verification.

The lawyer paid the penalty on September 22, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 19 - Failure to verify instructing individual

On September 6, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$3000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules, which

requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this matter, the lawyer assisted two individual clients with the administration of an estate which involved financial transactions. The lawyer had previously met with the clients in person, however, the lawyer failed to obtain copies of their identification records.

The lawyer paid the penalty on September 16, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 18 - Violation of the cash transactions rule

On August 18, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Law Society Rule 3-59 (cash transactions). A breach of this Rule occurs where a lawyer receives or accepts cash funds, in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 in respect of any one client matter, the lawyer makes use of the cash, and no exceptions set out in Rule 3-59 apply. Although Rule 3-59 permits a lawyer to receive cash in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 for professional fees, disbursements or expenses in connection with the provision of legal services, a lawyer must make any refund out of such money in cash.

In this case, the lawyer accepted several cash payments which amounted to more than \$7,500 from a client as retainer fees. After the file was closed, the lawyer returned the remaining trust funds to the client by trust cheque. Therefore, the unused portion of the retainer fee was not returned to the client in cash, as required by Rule 3-59(5).

The lawyer paid the penalty on September 15, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 17 - Failure to verify instructing individual and failure to identify shareholders

On June 29, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from breaches of Rules 3-102 and 3-103 of the Law Society Rules, which require a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the

lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction, and which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of a client who is an organization by collecting specific documents and information, including recording the names and addresses of all persons who own a 25% share of a client who is an organization.

In this case, the lawyer acted for an organizational client whose instructing individuals resided outside of Canada. Prior to settlement funds being deposited into the lawyer's trust account and redistributed, the lawyer failed to identify the instructing individuals in a manner that complied with Rule 3-102. The lawyer met with the instructing individuals by web conference, however, they did not satisfy their obligations pursuant to Rule 3-102. Additionally, the lawyer did not take any steps to identify all persons who owned a 25% share of the organizations.

The lawyer applied to the chair of the Discipline Committee for a review of the assessed penalty, per Rule 4-60(1). On October 13, 2023, the Chair confirmed the original penalty and the lawyer has been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(c).

AP 16 - Failure to verify instructing individual and failure to identify shareholders

On May 30, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from breaches of Rules 3-102 and 3-103 of the Law Society Rules, which require a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction, and which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of a client who is an organization by collecting specific documents and information, including recording the names and addresses of all persons who own a 25% share of a client who is an organization.

In this case, the lawyer acted for an organizational client in settlement negotiations. Prior to the settlement funds being deposited into the lawyer's trust account, or distributed to the client, the lawyer failed to identify the instructing individual in a manner that complied with Rule 3-102. The lawyer did not physically meet with the client, and did not satisfy their obligations regarding proper client verification. Additionally, the lawyer did not take any steps to identify all persons who owned a 25% share of the organizations.

The lawyer paid the penalty on June 21, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 15 - Failure to verify instructing individual and failure to identify shareholders

On May 30, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$3000. The administrative penalty resulted from breaches of Rules 3-102 and 3-103 of the Law Society Rules, which require a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction, and which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of a client who is an organization by collecting specific documents and information, including recording the names and addresses of all persons who own a 25% share of a client who is an organization.

In this case, the lawyer acted for two organizational clients in two separate client matters involving settlement negotiations. In either case, the lawyer did not verify the identity of the instructing individual. Additionally, the lawyer did not take any steps to identify all persons who owned a 25% share of the organizations.

The lawyer paid the penalty on June 21, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 14 - Failure to verify instructing individual and failure to identify shareholders

On May 30, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$3000. The administrative penalty resulted from breaches of Rules 3-102 and 3-103 of the Law Society Rules, which require a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction, and which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of a client who is an organization by collecting specific documents and information, including recording the names and addresses of all persons who own a 25% share of a client who is an organization.

The lawyer negotiated a settlement on behalf of an organizational client and paid out settlement funds. While the lawyer verified the identity of the instructing individual, the lawyer did not retain the verification records contrary to Rule 3-102 and 3-107. Additionally, as the client was

an organization, the lawyer did not record the names and addresses of all persons who owned a 25% share of the organization.

The lawyer paid the penalty on June 21, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 13 - Failure to properly verify client

On May 2, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5,000.00.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 which requires lawyers to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this case, this lawyer breached Rule 3-102 in two client files where the lawyer did not properly verify the client's identity who was located outside of Canada, prior to the lawyer providing services with respect to real estate transactions.

The lawyer paid the penalty, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 12 - Failure to properly verify client

On April 6, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5,000.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Law Society Rule 3-102. Rule 3-102 requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In this case, the lawyer represented the client in a loan payout. The lawyer obtained a copy of the instructing individual's drivers license, however, the lawyer failed to verify the identity of the instructing individual prior to paying out a portion of the loan. Accordingly, the lawyer did not comply with Rule 3-102.

The lawyer applied to the chair of the Discipline Committee for a review of the assessed penalty, per Rule 4-60(1). On November 22, 2023, the Chair confirmed the original penalty and the lawyer has been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(c).

AP 11 - Failure to properly verify client

On March 13, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5,000.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Law Society Rules 3-102 and 3-104. Rule 3-102 requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction. Rule 3-104 sets out the verification requirements for a client who is not physically present before the lawyer.

In this case, the lawyer represented two plaintiffs in a lawsuit. When the lawsuit settled, the defendant deposited settlement funds into the lawyer's trust account, which the lawyer distributed to the clients. The lawyer did not meet with the clients in person prior to this financial transaction, and did not verify the clients' identities in accordance with the rules.

The lawyer applied to the chair of the Discipline Committee for a review of the assessed penalty, per Rule 4-60(1). On June 22, 2023, the Chair made the following order:

The Administrative Penalty is confirmed and must be paid in accordance with the original notice delivered under Rule 4-59, except that the Administrative Penalty is due by July 22, 2023.

Because the original penalty was confirmed, the lawyer has been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(c).

Please note that in March 2024, the Benchers amended the rules and rescinded Rules 3-102(3), (3.1) and 3-104(5).

AP 10 - Violation of the cash transactions rule

On February 16, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Law Society Rule 3-59 (cash transactions). A breach of this Rule occurs where a lawyer receives or accepts cash funds, in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 in respect of any one client matter, the lawyer makes use of the cash, and no exceptions set out in Rule 3-59 apply. Although Rule 3-59 permits a lawyer to receive cash in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 for professional fees, disbursements or expenses

in connection with the provision of legal services, a lawyer must make any refund out of such money in cash.

In this case, the lawyer accepted several cash payments from a client as retainer fees. After the matter was transferred to another lawyer, the lawyer issued a trust cheque to the new lawyer for the unused portion of the retainer fees, which was a sum in excess of \$7,500. Therefore, the unused portion of the retainer fees were not returned to the client in cash, as required by Rule 3-59(5).

The lawyer applied to the chair of the Discipline Committee for a review of the assessed penalty, per Rule 4-60(1). On April 18, 2023, the Chair made the following order:

The penalty is confirmed and must be paid in accordance with the original notice delivered under Rule 4-59 and is due by May 18, 2023.

Because the original penalty was confirmed, the lawyer has been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(c).

AP 9 - Failure to verify instructing individual and failure to identify shareholders

On February 10, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$3000. The administrative penalty resulted from breaches of Rules 3-102 and 3-103 of the Law Society Rules 2015, which require a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction, and which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of a client who is an organization by collecting specific documents and information, including recording the names and addresses of all persons who own a 25% share of a client who is an organization.

The lawyer did not collect the necessary identification verification documents for three client files, where the lawyer met with the clients in person. Additionally, in one of these cases, where one client was an organization, the lawyer did not record the names and addresses of all persons who owned a 25% share of the organization.

The lawyer paid the penalty on February 14, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 8 - Failure to verify instructing individual

On February 3, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from breaches of Rules 3-102 and 3-104 of the Law Society Rules 2015, which require a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction, and which require a lawyer to use an agent to complete the verification process where the client is not present in Canada and is not physically present before the lawyer.

Specifically, for one client who was located in Canada, when using government identification to verify that client's identity, the lawyer failed to do so in the physical presence of the client, contrary to Rule 3-102(2)(a)(i)(B). The lawyer also relied on electronic copies of identification documents to verify the client's identity, contrary to Rule 3-102(3).

In two other client matters, where the clients were located outside Canada, although the lawyer did retain an agent to verify client identity, in the first case the lawyer failed to obtain a copy of the documents used by the agent to verify client identity, as required by Rule 3-104(6)(a), and, in the second case, the lawyer failed to ensure that the agent verified the client's identity in accordance with the Rule 3-102, as required by Rule 3-104(6)(b).

The lawyer paid the penalty on February 16, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

Please note that in March 2024, the Benchers amended the rules and rescinded Rules 3-102(3), (3.1) and 3-104(5).

AP 7 - Failure to verify instructing individual and failure to identify shareholders

On January 28, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against the lawyers for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of the Law Society Rules, and specifically Rule 3-102 (requirement to verify client identity), 3-103 (requirement to identify directors, shareholders and owners), 3-104 (use of an agent for client verification), and 3-105 (timing of verification for individuals). These rules require a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

The lawyer did not correctly complete the client identification and verification (CIV) procedures for four client files, three of which included non-face-to-face financial transactions.

The lawyer did not take one of the required actions outlined in Rule 4-59(4) by February 27, 2023, and he has therefore been deemed to admit the breach per Rule 4-59(5)(b).

AP 6 - Failure to verify instructing individual and failure to identify shareholders

On January 25, 2023, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5,000.

The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Law Society Rules 3-102 and 3-104. Rule 3-102 requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction. Rule 3-104 sets out the verification requirements for a client who is not physically present before the lawyer.

In this case, the lawyer represented a corporate client and its instructing individual in the purchase of real property. The lawyer breached the rules by providing the client with legal services in respect of a financial transaction, and failing to enter into written agreements with an agent to verify the identity of the client, who was not located in Canada and who the lawyer did not meet in person.

The lawyer paid a portion of the penalty on March 6, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

Please note that in March 2024, the Benchers amended the rules and rescinded Rules 3-102(3), (3.1) and 3-104(5).

AP 5 - Failure to verify instructing individual

On December 13, 2022, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules 2015, which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

In one matter, the lawyer failed to verify the identity of an individual client and did not meet with that client in person (i.e. a non-face-to-face financial transaction), and in a second matter did not verify the identity of an individual client or the company owned/operated by that client.

The lawyer paid the penalty on January 4, 2023, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

Please note that in March 2024, the Benchers amended the rules and rescinded Rules 3-102(3), (3.1) and 3-104(5).

AP 4 - Failure to verify instructing individual

On October 4, 2022, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-102 of the Law Society Rules 2015, which requires a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, and a breach of 3-104, which required a lawyer to retain an agent to verify the client's identity if the client was not physically present before the lawyer.

The lawyer did not retain an agent to verify the identity of an individual client in a non-face-to-face financial transaction in one matter, and did not verify the identity of an individual client in a second matter.

The lawyer paid the penalty on November 7, 2022, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

Please note that in March 2024, the Benchers amended the rules and rescinded Rules 3-102(3), (3.1) and 3-104(5).

AP 3 - Failure to verify instructing individual and failure to identify shareholders

On October 4, 2022, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$3000. The administrative penalty resulted from breaches of Rules 3-102 and 3-103 of the Law Society Rules 2015, which require a lawyer to verify the identity of instructing clients, and to verify the directors and majority shareholders for organizational clients, for any file where the lawyer provides legal services in respect of a financial transaction.

Specifically, the lawyer:

- a. failed to verify the identity, or could not provide documentation to confirm identities had been verified, for the instructing individuals in five client files; and
- b. failed to record the names and addresses of all persons who own 25 per cent of an organization along with the date when this information was obtained for four organizational corporate clients.

The lawyer paid the penalty on November 7, 2022, and has therefore been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 2 - Breach of Rule 3-96.1

On October 4, 2022, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$3000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-96.1 of the Law Society Rules 2015, which prohibits a lawyer from sharing their Juricert password with another person, or permitting another person to use the password to access the Land Titles Office online system. Specifically, the lawyer admitted to sharing their Juricert password with their assistant, and permitting their assistant to affix their signature on Land Title Office documents on their behalf.

The lawyer paid the penalty on November 3, 2022, and has therefore been deemed to admit the breach per Rule 4-59(5)(a).

AP 1 - Breach of the cash transaction rule

On October 4, 2022, an administrative penalty was assessed against a lawyer for \$5000. The administrative penalty resulted from a breach of Rule 3-59 (cash transactions) of the Law Society Rules 2015. A breach of this Rule occurs where a lawyer receives or accepts cash funds, in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 in respect of any one client matter, the lawyer makes use of the cash, and no exceptions as set out in Rules 3-59 apply.

The lawyer breached Rule 3-59 as follows:

1. In May 2021, while acting for the buyer in a residential real estate transaction, the lawyer accepted \$46,000.00 in cash into his trust account from the buyer (the “Cash Funds”), for the purpose of completing the real estate transaction.
2. Six days later, the Cash Funds were used to pay the seller, as part of the down payment for the transaction.

The lawyer applied to the chair of the Discipline Committee (the “Chair”) for a review of the assessed penalty, per Rule 4-60(1). On December 21, 2022, after considering the submissions of the Law Society and of the lawyer, and pursuant to Rule 4-60(2), the Chair confirmed the administrative penalty.

Because the original penalty was confirmed, the lawyer has been deemed to admit the above breach per Rule 4-59(5)(c).