

**DECISION OF THE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT PANEL MADE ON
23 JANUARY 2020 IN THE MATTER OF THE
DECLARATION OF PRIOR CONDUCT MADE BY JACQUELINE PABLA**

1. Jacqueline Pabla, a Fellow of CILEx, declared on 20 November 2019 in her annual membership renewal that she had been the subject of an investigation by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) following a complaint by a client. The investigation concluded in the SRA taking no further action. The firm (at which Ms Pabla is a partner) was notified by the SRA of the complaint on 6 June 2019. The basis of the complaint was that Ms Pabla signed a legal document to say that she had witnessed her clients' signatures when she had not.
2. The SRA identified that Ms Pabla's actions amounted to a breach of Principle 2 of its Code of Conduct (act with integrity). Such a breach also indicates a potential breach of Principle 3 of the CILEx Code of Conduct 2015, which requires CILEx members to act with honesty and integrity.
3. The SRA decided to take no further action against Ms Pabla as the breach was a one-off incident and there was no suggestion that the firm would have benefited from Ms Pabla's actions.

Information provided by Ms Pabla and CILEx Regulation

4.

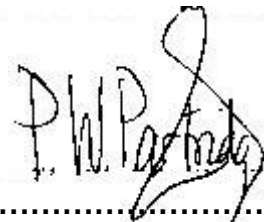
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<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prior Conduct declaration2. Personal statement3. Letter from the SRA 21.06.194. Email from the SRA 24.06.19 with outcome to complainants5. Reference from Malcolm Dennis Turner, Solicitor 23.12.196. Reference from David Yates 30.12.197. Email exchange dated 9 January 2020 between CILEx Regulation and Ms Pabla8. Email dated 21 January 2020 from Ms Pabla to CILEx Regulation

Oral representations of Ms Pabla

5. Ms Pabla was not requested to attend before the Panel. There were therefore no oral representations.

Decision and Reasons

6. The Panel considered the Sanctions Guidance and noted the aggravating factors, namely that the prior conduct is recent and there is little evidence of remorse. The Panel also noted that there was delay in disclosing the SRA investigation to CILEx Regulation.
7. In mitigation, there is evidence of rehabilitation namely Ms Pabla states she has re-read procedures as to witnessing of documents.
8. Although the SRA consider the incident was a one-off, the Panel felt that Ms Pabla, as a CILEx Fellow, partner and experienced conveyancer, should have known better than to sign that she had witnessed signatures when she had not.
9. The Panel considered that this conduct was so serious to warrant a sanction. It decided that a reprimand is sufficient to uphold the reputation of the profession and mitigate any risk to the public or consumer.
10. In accordance with Rule 14(3)(f) CILEx Regulation Enforcement Rules 2018 the Panel decided to reprimand Ms Pabla.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. W. Partridge', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Phillip Partridge
23 January 2020