Hearing File No.: HE20240007 Citation Issued: April 16, 2024

LAW SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TRIBUNAL HEARING DIVISION

BETWEEN:

LAW SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND:

RAHUL WADHERA

RESPONDENT

CITATION

TO: Rahul Wadhera

Warnett Hallen LLP

720 Robson Street, 5th Floor Vancouver, BC V6Z 1A1

AND TO: His Solicitor, Scott Wright

Pender Litigation

1175 - 510 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6C 3A8

TAKE NOTICE THAT by direction of the Discipline Committee of the Law Society of British Columbia, a Hearing Panel of the Law Society will, at a date and time to be set, conduct a hearing to inquire into your conduct or competence as an articled student enrolled in the admission program of the Law Society of British Columbia, in accordance with section 38 of the *Legal Profession Act*. Parts 4 and 5 of the Law Society Rules outline the procedures to be followed at the hearing. Your appearance before the Hearing Panel may be your only opportunity to present evidence, call witnesses or make submissions.

The allegations against you are:

1. Between approximately August 2, 2019 and August 12, 2019, in relation to your communications with an inmate, AA, you engaged in activities that you knew or

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ought to have known assisted in or encouraged dishonesty, crime, or fraud, contrary to one or more of rules 2.1-1, 2.2-1, and 3.2-7 of the *Code of Professional Conduct* for British Columbia, by doing one or both of the following:

- (a) communicating with AA when you knew or ought to have known that AA was communicating with you on a contraband cellular telephone; and
- (b) communicating with AA about smuggling a contraband cellular telephone into a federal penitentiary.

This conduct constitutes professional misconduct or conduct unbecoming the profession, pursuant to s. 38(4) of the *Legal Profession Act*.

2. On or about April 19, 2020, in relation to BB, a former client of the firm at which you were an articled student, you engaged in activities that you knew or ought to have known assisted in or encouraged dishonesty, crime, or fraud, by communicating with BB about trafficking marijuana, contrary to one or more of rules 2.1-1, 2.2-1, and 3.2-7 of the *Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia*.

This conduct constitutes professional misconduct or conduct unbecoming the profession, pursuant to s. 38(4) of the *Legal Profession Act*.

- 3. Between approximately September 17, 2023 and December 7, 2023, in relation to communications you had with BB on or about April 19, 2020, you made one or more of the following representations to a Law Society investigator that you knew or ought to have known were misleading or false, or both, contrary to one or both of rules 2.2-1 and 7.1-1 of the *Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia*:
 - that for a period of time before you communicated with BB, you received threatening phone calls from unknown persons who referenced AA;
 - (b) that you engaged in communications with BB because AA asked you to send text messages to them on AA's behalf and dictated what to say; and

(c) that when you communicated with BB you did not know until the next day that you were engaging in a conversation about trafficking marijuana.

This conduct constitutes professional misconduct, pursuant to s. 38(4) of the *Legal Profession Act*.

If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Hearing Panel may proceed with the hearing in your absence and make any order that it could have made had you been present.

DATED at Vancouver, British Columbia, this 16th day of April, 2024.

Tara McPhail

Director of Discipline and External Litigation

The Law Society of British Columbia