

BHATT MURPHY SOLICITOR SUCCESSFUL IN LIBEL ACTION

12 October 2010

On 11 October, Megan Phillips, a solicitor at Bhatt Murphy, obtained summary judgment¹ in her claim for libel against the proprietor of the website “Solicitors From Hell”. The claim was brought in respect of a posting on the website which was entirely fictitious. After entering summary judgment on her behalf, Mr Justice Eady awarded damages to Megan and noted that the posting was completely untrue. The Defendant to the claim, Rick Kordowski, informed the court that he accepted the posting was untrue and that he believed it had been entered onto his website by a convicted cyber stalker. The person he believes is responsible for the posting has never been a client of Bhatt Murphy or Megan Phillips. An injunction was also granted preventing any future repetition of the defamatory comments.

Megan Phillips said:

“I am delighted that there has now been public acknowledgement that the posting was entirely made up and contained no truth whatsoever.”

Simon Creighton, a partner at Bhatt Murphy who acted for Megan in the proceedings said:

“Megan is a solicitor who is dedicated to achieving justice and fairness for her clients and she brought this case to deter the proprietor of this website from causing distress to other similarly motivated solicitors. I am absolutely delighted that she had the strength of principle to take these proceedings and to continue through to a public hearing”.

“This website operates on a cavalier basis. It appears that there is little attempt to check material before it is posted and no opportunity is given to the subject of the posting to respond. Instead, there is an opportunity to pay a fee to have postings removed once they have already been published. This is a world away from offering any sort of public service.”

Megan was represented in the proceedings by Guy Vassall-Adams of Doughty Street Chambers.

For further information contact Simon Creighton at Bhatt Murphy Solicitors: 020 7729 1115.

¹ Summary judgment is granted where there is no reasonable prospect of defending a claim.

