

The Hon. Chris Minns, Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RE: Urgent Request for Executive Action – Regulatory Abuse by Law Society of NSW and Office of the Legal Services Commissioner (OLSC).

Dear Premier Minns

1. We urgently refer you to the **enclosed** formal notice dated 16 June 2025 (**Notice**), calling for the immediate investigation of regulatory officers within Law Society of NSW (**LSNSW**), and public officers: the Legal Services Commissioner, the Attorney General of NSW and MP Hugh McDermott.
2. This is a matter of public importance. Unlawful and corrupt conduct by regulatory/public officials undermines the legal system, endangers the public, puts the legal profession in disrepute, and erodes the rule of law.
3. It is alleged that Ms Valerie Griswold, Director of the LSNSW Professional Standards Department (**PSD**), Ms Nadya Haddad, Deputy Director of the PSD/Head of Licensing, the Council of the Law Society of NSW, and Legal Services Commissioner Ms Samantha Gulliver have acted unlawfully and in reprisal against whistleblower solicitors, who are also victims and witnesses, for exposing gross regulatory abuse, institutional corruption, systemic corporate and judicial fraud, the circumvention of Commonwealth Credit Laws and penalties, and serious misconduct involving legal practitioners and unqualified persons.
4. The LSNSW and the Office of the Legal Services Commissioner (**OLSC**) are alleged to have concealed multiple reports submitted by solicitor Ms Marie Odtojan (**Ms Odtojan**) since 2016. The LSNSW and OLSC withheld critical issues raised in those reports from Parliament, disregarding their annual reporting obligations under Section 34 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (**Uniform Application Act**). This omission obstructed reform and denied both lawmakers and the public the opportunity to address flaws within the legal system and address serious institutional failures.
5. The LSNSW and OLSC have a statutory obligation under section 465 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW)* (**Uniform Law**) to report suspected offences to relevant authorities. Ms Odtojan's report on Piper Alderman dated 27 June 2018 pertained to serious misconduct including the impersonation of lawyers by unqualified persons. The report provided a sworn affidavit of Mr Florian Ammer (Partner, Piper Alderman), which recorded that a paralegal had instructed counsel and was charging solicitor rates. Despite this direct evidence, and the OLSC identifying 7 possible categories of serious offences, the then Legal Services Commissioner, Mr John McKenzie, and the LSNSW Professional Standards Department closed the matters without investigation.
6. The alleged conduct of the above officers includes the fabrication of misconduct allegations, denial of procedural fairness in breach of Chapter 5 of the Uniform Law, tampering with official solicitor records, and the concealment of Ms Odtojan's reports dating back from 2016. Despite being given notice, the Attorney General, together with MP Hugh McDermott, ignored our notices, and instead condoned the conduct and justified Ms Griswold's false statements of facts as "alleged prior misconduct."

7. In their letter dated 25 October 2024, the Attorney General and MP McDermott's endorsement of LSNSW's actions emboldened them to do further unlawful acts, including the removal of solicitor data from the Law Society's public registry, non-renewal of paid memberships, no adherence to the lawful process under the Uniform Law, and a complete failure to respond to repeated requests for particulars or clarification.
8. Relying on fabricated allegations, the LSNSW unlawfully stripped two innocent solicitors with unblemished records of their statutory rights to practice law, resulting in Ms Otojan's legal practice to cease operations. This is a gross miscarriage of justice committed by the very body entrusted to uphold the law, to protect the public and the legal practitioners it regulates and to preserve the integrity of the legal profession.
9. This case serves as a serious warning: unfounded allegations fabricated by a regulatory body can irreparably destroy innocent lives, businesses, and careers.
10. These actions are not only in direct violation of the Uniform Law and the Uniform Application Act, but also constitute possible offences under the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW), including but not limited to: sections 192E, 192G, 192H, and 314–319 (excluding 316A).
11. Those responsible must be held to account. Their failure to self-report their alleged misconduct while holding statutory or regulatory authority as legal practitioners, renders them potential accessories to unlawful conduct, subject to investigation and removal from office.
12. The public must be protected from individuals who abuse their authority, show contempt for the law, and act with willful intent to violate it, disregarding the serious and lasting harm their unlawful conduct inflicts on others.
13. Your leadership is urgently needed, to affirm that corrupt conduct by public officials and legal regulators will not be tolerated. When unchecked, such conduct endangers the public, and erodes the Rule of Law. See 'Call for Action' at paragraph 28 in our Notice enclosed.
14. We believe in exposing systemic failure, it also presents an opportunity for reform, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen legal protections and rebuild public trust in both the legal system and the profession. As solicitors, we hold valuable insights and lived experience that could meaningfully contribute to legal reform.
15. What has happened to us, and the concealment of our reports by the LSNSW and OLSC, exposes systemic failure that demands urgent action. It also presents an opportunity for meaningful reform. There is a clear need to strengthen legal protections and rebuild public trust in both the legal system and the profession. As solicitors, we offer valuable insights and lived experience that can directly contribute to that reform.
16. We respectfully call on your office to act, by referring this matter for urgent investigation and initiating executive oversight into the conduct of the relevant regulatory bodies.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms Marie Otojan and Mr Artem Bryl
 Solicitors of the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia
 Whistleblowers, Victims and Witnesses
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Encl. Notice to Premier Minns dated 16 June 2025 (6pp).