

**To:**

The Law Society of Alberta  
Office of the Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director

**Subject:** Formal Request for Disbarment Proceedings Against Stillman LLP and Associated Parties

**Date:** May 24, 2025

**From:** Ben Beveridge | Proconsul [ben@proconsul.ca](mailto:ben@proconsul.ca)

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to submit a formal request for disciplinary review and disbarment proceedings against the partners, associates, and principal investors of Stillman LLP — specifically:

- Gregory R. Bentz (Partner)
- Erik L. Bruveris (Partner)
- John W. Hagg (Partner)
- Christopher G. Hoose (Partner)
- Ara L. McKee (Partner)
- Blair E. Maxston, K.C. (Partner)
- Taylor Maxston (Associate)
- Jessie Bakker (Associate)
- Hassin Sam Mraiche (Litigation Director or equivalent role)

This request is submitted on the basis of a direct violation of professional, ethical, and constitutional obligations under the Law Society's mandate, as well as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

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**Summary of Facts:**

1. On May 23, 2025, I received legal correspondence from Stillman LLP, attached, targeting me personally for a public statement that had no connection to any client or case currently under litigation.
2. The contents of the correspondence were not legal in nature. They constituted an act of coercion designed to suppress commentary protected under Section 2(b) of the Charter (freedom of expression) and intended to induce silence through reputational and financial threat.
3. The firm's actions constitute a textbook example of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP), executed not for the purpose of remedy, but of suppression.
4. The correspondence attempted to imply that truth could be negotiated — that personal integrity was for sale — and that legal authority could be hired to erase public consequence.
5. I have no commercial or political interest in any Stillman-related litigation. I have no history of criminal, civil, or professional misconduct. I have not, at any point, breached any legal boundaries. I

am a private Canadian citizen, operating within my constitutional rights, and commenting on publicly observable patterns of institutional behaviour.

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**Request for Action:**

I hereby request that the Law Society of Alberta initiate immediate and comprehensive review proceedings, with the following objectives:

- A full disciplinary hearing to determine whether the actions of Stillman LLP and its partners meet the threshold for professional misconduct, abuse of legal process, and ethical breach.
  - An interim restriction on their ability to represent clients in cases involving individual whistleblowers, journalists, or critics of public interest institutions until said review is completed.
  - A structural recommendation to introduce and enforce Anti-SLAPP mechanisms in Alberta's legal framework, modelled on BC and Ontario legislation.
  - A formal inquiry into the role of private law firms in suppressing democratic speech through litigation, and the systemic implications thereof.
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**Conclusion:**

Stillman LLP has crossed a threshold. This is not about one case. This is about a pattern of behaviour, action, and outcome. A fishing expedition to solicit leverage outside of litigation proceedings.

They have positioned themselves not as legal professionals, but as ideological enforcers for commercial entities. They do not defend justice. They execute silence.

That is not the rule of law. That is a system of fear.

If this is allowed to stand, the Law Society becomes complicit — not neutral.

I am prepared to deliver full documentation, recorded correspondence, and sworn testimony of the event in question.

Canada cannot afford lawyers who act as censors.

I ask this body to do its duty — and restore the public trust.

Sincerely,

Ben Beveridge  
Proconsul