

# Ashi Patel

## Solicitor

### 277429

*Fined Date: 8 February 2022*

#### *Decision - Fined*

Outcome: Fine

Outcome date: 8 February 2022

Published date: 17 February 2022

#### *Firm details*

##### **Firm or organisation at time of matters giving rise to outcome**

Name: Oury Clark Solicitors

Address(es): 10 John Street, London, WC1N 2EB.

Firm ID: 266280

##### **Firm or organisation at date of publication**

Name: Excello Law Limited

Address(es): 5 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1LG.

Firm ID: 833800

#### *Outcome details*

This outcome was reached by SRA decision.

#### *Decision details*

Ashi Patel is a solicitor. At the time of his misconduct in 2019, he worked as a manager at Oury Clark Solicitors whose head office is at 10 John Street, London, WC1N 2EB.

He is currently working as a solicitor at Excello Law Limited whose head office is at 5 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1LG.

It was found that:

1. By acting on the instructions of an individual to transfer funds of £180,000 from the client ledger account of corporate client to a third party company Mr Patel failed to



act with independence and on the appropriate authority of the directors of the corporate client. As a result, he:

- a. breached principles 2 and 3 of the SRA Principles 2019
- b. breached rule 5.1(b) of the SRA Accounts Rules 2019

2. By acting on the instructions of an individual to arrange for transfer of funds totalling £180,000 from the client ledger account of a corporate client to a third party company for the purchase of a boat Mr Patel allowed the client bank account of Oury Clark to be used as a banking facility. As a result, he:

- a. breached Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2019
- b. breached rule 3.3 of the SRA Accounts Rules 2019

#### *SRA Accounts Rules 2019*

Rule 3.3: You must not use a client account to provide banking facilities to clients or third parties. Payments into, and transfers or withdrawals from a client account must be in respect of the delivery by you of regulated services.

Rule 5.1(b): You only withdraw client money from a client account:

- a. for the purpose for which it is being held;
- b. following receipt of instructions from the client, or third party for whom the money is held; or
- c. on the SRA's prior written authorisation or in prescribed circumstances.

#### *SRA Principles 2019*

Principle 2: You act in a way that upholds public trust and confidence in the solicitors' profession and in legal services provided by authorised persons.

Principle 3: You act with independence.

Mr Patel was directed to pay a financial penalty of £1,000 and costs of £1,350.

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