

Report form

This form is to help you make your report about the professional conduct or regulatory concerns about a person or firm regulated by the SRA. The information that you provide will assist us to regulate in the public interest and deal with your concerns quickly.

For all other enquiries or complaints, please refer to the services listed at the end of this form.

You can complete this form electronically or print it and fill it in manually.

Please return this form, with supporting documents, by email to report@sra.org.uk or post to:

Solicitors Regulation Authority
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Please provide evidence to support your allegations.

Please do not send us original documents with your report. We scan incoming reports onto our systems and the paper copies are destroyed.

In all cases please tick the relevant boxes.

Contact details
Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Dr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> please specify
Your surname: Osserman
Your first name(s): Jordan
Your firm (if applicable):

Your address and postcode: Flat 4D, 76 Kingsland Road, E2 8DL

Your contact phone numbers(s): 07761751093

Your email address: jordan.osserman@gmail.com

If you need any reasonable adjustments or assistance to report your concerns then please tell us here.

N/A

Details of your report

Name of the person you are reporting: Robin Stewart

Name of the firm: Anthony Gold Solicitors LLP

Firms' address and postcode:
The Counting House
53 Tooley Street
London Bridge City
London SE1 2QN

Firms' phone number: 020 7940 4000

Has the person you are reporting acted for you in the past?

It is important for us to know if you are complaining about someone who is or has acted for you as your solicitor. Please note that if you want to complain about the service that you received from your solicitor, you need to contact the Legal Ombudsman directly – see contact details at the end of this form.

a) Has the solicitor's firm acted for you in the past about this matter?

Yes ☐ No ☒

b) Does the individual you're reporting to us act for another person?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If the answer to the above question is "**Yes**", who is the solicitor acting for?

They were acting for Simpson House 3 Ltd, Reverie Estates AS Ltd and Somerford Assets 3 Ltd

Please tell us your concerns as clearly as possible:

- **provide as much relevant information as possible as this is what we will use to assess your report.**
- **include dates where appropriate.**
- **If you are reporting more than one solicitor/firm, please make clear what you think each has done wrong.**
- **If you have already contacted another organisation about this matter please tell us the outcome.**

I am a leading member of Somerford Grove Renters, an informal association of several hundred tenants of flats in and around Somerford Grove, Hackney, London that are all ultimately owned by John Christodoulou. The landlord companies did not have HMO licences and we took them to the First Tier Tribunal for this violation. We won one case for a flat I lived in and increased this award on cross appeal; we have settled two cases and have sixteen more waiting to be heard.

The landlords were represented by Robin Stewart at Anthony Gold for these cases initially. The landlords are three companies all with identical ownership and directorship structure, all 100% owned by John Christodoulou. Anthony Gold represented these three Christodoulou owned landlord companies: Simpson House 3 Ltd, Reverie Estates AS Ltd and Somerford Assets 3 Ltd. As recently as December they were involved in negotiations over settlement for the Reverie Estates AS Ltd cases.

We believe Anthony Gold's conduct in these cases has involved serious violations of the SRA code, starting with case IH/LON/00AM/HMF/2020/0236 (Osserman, Dousos and Mapp v Simpson House 3 Ltd), which we outline below.

We emailed Robin Stewart at Anthony Gold on 27 December 2022 inviting him to address the concerns that would form the basis of this complaint (**letter attached as a PDF**) and we have not had any acknowledgement or reply.

Here is a timeline of events:

- On 3 August 2021, Robin Stewart sent a letter to the First Tier Tribunal (**attached**) requesting a stay on the case, stating that "Our client owns a

substantial asset (it is the freeholder of the land registered under title NGL283199 upon which Flat 8 Simpson House is situated). It has no intention of disposing of that asset at this time." The stay was granted and no interest was awarded on the accumulating debt. An appeal was subsequently granted at the Upper Tribunal on 28 April 2022.

- However, on 1 March 2022, Simpson House 3 Ltd transferred the freehold of Simpson House to a new company, Simpson Assets 3 Ltd, disposing of the asset in a manner contrary to what Robin Stewart had stated in his letter. Simpson Assets 3 Ltd was established on 28 November 2022, suggesting that plans for the transfer were underway considerably before the freehold transfer. We suggest Anthony Gold did not fulfil their ethical obligation to inform the Tribunal of this change in circumstances once they were aware the transfer might take place, which had a significant and material bearing on our case.
- On 29 March 2022, we wrote to Robin (**attached**) to alert him to the fact that the landlord appeared to be transferring rental agreements to a new company.
- On 6 April 2022, Anthony Gold ceased representation (**attached**) of Simpson House 3 Ltd in the Osseman, Dousos, Mapp case, but did not inform us that they had withdrawn from representing Simpson House 3 Ltd in any of the other cases.
- On 7 April 2022, Simpson House 3 withdrew their appeal at the Upper Tribunal. Our cross appeal went ahead on 28 April 2022.
- On 21 April 2022, we wrote asking if Robin was still representing Simpson House 3 Ltd and Christodoulou's other companies (**attached**). He did not reply.
- On 25 April 2022, we wrote again asking if Robin was representing Christodoulou's companies, including Simpson House 3 Ltd. Later that day, he replied (**attached**) to say that henceforth Anthony Gold would not represent Simpson House 3 or Somerford Assets 3, but would continue to represent Reverie Estates SR.
- Despite the Upper Tribunal increasing the award and the judge being highly critical of the landlord for pulling out of the case at the last minute (**judgement and costs order attached**) we still have not been paid and the landlord has ignored all forms of communication.
- On 9 December 2022 Robin Stewart sent a 100% offer letter (see attached) in the St John's Court cases in December which sought to distance himself from Simpson House 3 Ltd and while we accept he is no longer acting for them he was acting for them during the initial RRO claim and for some time after.

As a tenants' rights organisation, we find it particularly disturbing that Anthony Gold claims to advocate for tenants' rights while at the same time facilitating the actions of Christodoulou and his representatives to avoid payment of court judgements. The landlord used the time while the appeal was waiting to be heard (and the stay which Anthony Gold applied for) to transfer the freehold and all rental contracts and

income to a new company (also owned by John Christodoulou and with the same directors). This applies to the other 16 outstanding cases as well.

This Times article offers a comprehensive summary - Our billionaire landlord owes us £24,000 in rent repayments (**attached**) -
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/our-billionaire-landlord-owes-us-24-000-in-rent-repayments-hffrh8cq>

We would like to know when Robin Stewart or anyone else at Anthony Gold discovered that John Christodoulou was moving the freehold from one company to another, leaving no assets left to pay the judgement. In addition we would like to know why Robin Stewart did not inform the tribunal that this transfer was taking place as he had obtained an order, in part, on the basis of Simpson House 3 Ltd holding a substantial asset.

Suspected SRA Violations:

"SRA Code of Conduct 1.4: You do not mislead or attempt to mislead your clients, the court or others, either by your own acts or omissions or allowing or being complicit in the acts or omissions of others (including your client.)"

We suggest Robin Stewart misled the Tribunal either in making a false (or in any event baseless) claim about the landlord's intention regarding the property, or in failing to inform the Tribunal that this had changed, given that he obtained an order, in part, on this basis.

"SRA Code of Conduct 2.4: You only make assertions or put forward statements, representations or submissions to the court or others which are properly arguable."

In Robin Stewart's letter to the tribunal requesting a stay he asserted the *Ekweozoh* decision showed that there was an arguable case on appeal. We believe this was not properly arguable. The case is close to irrelevant and the summary in his letter appears misleading.

We look forward to hearing your response to these complaints.

Please send in copies of any relevant documentation that supports your report together with a copy of this form. Please do not send us original documents. We scan incoming reports onto our systems and the paper copies are destroyed.

Your signature:



Date: 1 February 2023

We recommend that you keep a copy of this form before you send it to us.

Data protection notice

The information you have provided in this form may be shared with third parties.

We usually have to disclose a complainant's complaint and identity to the person complained about or to the firm in which that person is involved. If a person making a complaint does not want to be identified we will try to respect that. However, if we are unable to progress a complaint where we think there is an overriding need to protect the public we may decide to disclose a person's identity.

If you'd like to know more about how we collect and use your information please read our privacy notice, available on our website at:

www.sra.org.uk/privacy

Useful contacts

Legal Ombudsman

We do not investigate or offer compensation for issues about the service that you received from your solicitor.

If you were a client of a solicitor and you want to complain about the service that you received from your solicitor, please contact the Legal Ombudsman.

Legal Ombudsman
PO Box 6806
Wolverhampton
W V1 9WJ
www.legalombudsman.org.uk
Tel: 0300 555 0333
email: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk

Contact Centre

For general SRA enquiries, including applications and renewals, please contact us at:

Solicitors Regulation Authority
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Our telephone lines are open from 08.00 to 18.00, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 09.30 to 18.00, Tuesday on 0370 606 2555. You can also email us at www.sra.org.uk/contactus

Professional Ethics Helpline

For solicitors regarding advice on the Code of Conduct, please contact Professional Ethics helpline on 0370 606 2577.