

Former Lawyer Lyle Howe prepares to fight Nova Scotia Barristers' Society [NSBS] in court on grounds of racism



Halifax, Nova Scotia Mar 26, 2024 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Former lawyer Lyle Howe is preparing to fight the [Nova Scotia Barristers' Society \[NSBS\]](#) in court, again, in May. Howe said he hopes to finally receive recognition of the Society's systematic discrimination.

On Feb. 5, 2024, Howe won the right to pursue legal action against [the Society](#).

“For over the past 11 years, I have compiled evidence of investigations and procedures tainted by systematic racism in various public and private Nova Scotian institutions,” said Howe. “I look forward to the opportunity to lay out this systematic injustice in court.”

In 2017, the Society disbarred Howe on the grounds of “professional misconduct and professional incompetence,” and gave one example as overbooking.

Howe said that while some of his white counterparts faced suspensions over the same breach, his career was dismantled; “I know in my heart this was all connected to my race.”

Howe took this ruling to the Supreme Court, arguing that “issues of historical, systemic, and actual racism must be taken into account by the Panel when considering his actions... [that he] was in a situation, due to his race, that other lawyers do not face.”

On appeal, [the Supreme Court made the decision that Howe's case should be heard](#).

In the suit, Howe described himself in responding to such situations as a “warrior,” with an inherent need to fight back against the Society, which he claims, is fundamentally geared against Black lawyers. During his hearing panel in 2015, Howe discovered that the Society had never hired a black person by that point.

“The Society backed me into a corner. And then they were perplexed when I came back swinging. I worked very hard to get where I was. And I have spent over a decade fighting for my fundamental right to equality under the Charter,” said Howe.

Howe's lawsuit will address the actions of Victoria Rees, Martin Herschorne, Darrell Pink, Judge Alanna Murphy, Judge Perry Borden, Michelle James, and others. He hopes the litigation will underscore the Society's willingness to address discrimination but only to the extent that it shields its members from scrutiny.

“Our system is broken and while we have some people trying to repair it, it's not enough,” said Howe. “And I will keep fighting until I'm heard.”

Howe is due in court on May 8 for the discovery phase of his lawsuit against [the NSBS](#).

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