

11th June 2016

Dear Solicitors Regulation Authority

Re: Baker Small Solicitors

Baker Small Solicitors represent LAs at SEND tribunals, because LAs do not want to give in to parents/carers' (mostly legitimate) requests for provisions or their children and young people who have SEND (Special educational needs and disability), and have no other option but to appeal to the SEND tribunal. I believe they also represent LAs in claims of disability discrimination.

Today, I was shocked to see the following Tweet by Baker Small:

"Great ABA Trib win this week...interesting to see how parents continue to persist with it. Funny thing is parents think they won ;)"

Then, Baker Small tweeted the following:

"Whenever someone thinks they have won and they have conceded 90% of their case, it does make me smile..."

When I requested details of their identity, so that I could make a complaint, Baker Small responded in a way that undermined the seriousness of my concern, saying : *"dear oh dear complaints policy is on or website. Can dish it out but not take a different opinion ;)"*

I believe Baker Small has failed to comply with the basic ethical and professional standards that are expected from all firms and individuals regulated by you, in particular **Principle 6** which states [they must] : ***behave in a way that maintains the trust the public places in you and in the provision of legal services,***

They have also provided information which I am sure will lead to an identification of the parents who Baker Small ridicule in the tweets.

It is my view that Baker Small will pursue a claim on behalf of a LA for the 'win' and not for what are the best interests of the child or young person, but while I understand that they are employed to win, they should still uphold the highest standards. I believe that their comments bring the profession into disrepute by such an attitude and the use of such a public platform makes me concerned that it was their intention to be inflammatory.

I would like you to carry out an investigation into why Baker Small feel their comments are appropriate.

I look forward to hearing from you

Diane Kay

