To whom it may concern,

My name is Elliot Sgargetta.

I was the recipient of what we estimate to be a \$1,000,000 offer covered in Submission #2 as published by the Senate Inquiry into Foreign Bribery.

I owned a home in Kalorama that was mortgaged to **second second second second**, represented by global law firm Gadens Lawyers.

I was the vendor of that home to a family who, unknown to anyone else, were US citizens from a family with a background in Law Enforcement and IT industry in Silicon Valley.

Every time the mortgage payout money was proffered with a bank cheque, wanted extra money, in the region of \$16,000 to \$30,000, to make fallacious legal problems go away. A dispute over \$24,000 ended up in the High Court and I estimate that Bank Shareholders are about \$600,000 worse off at the end of the day. How could a bank manager think that it was in the bank's best interest to push little people around.

The 'legal problem' was never curable by handing over the agreed payout amount early and in full.

The legal problem was only curable by giving them extra money for extra legal fees and "extra interest" (even though the agreed payout was inclusive of legal fees and any extra interest).

As I never received a bill for legal fees, I think that could be illegal and unethical in itself (but the Legal Services Board whitewashed things anyway).

I queried this extra interest and its rate and the contractual basis. Things felt extortionate to me and the American buyers.

were impervious to me for years.

were untroubled by the Financial Ombudsman Service casting doubt over their independence.

by that.

weren't worried by transcripts.

tried to bluff past an affidavit from an independent pro bono barrister.

claimed their bank could authorise them to ignore Conflict Rules.

weren't worried by rules that say a barrister cannot run a case he testified in as a witness.

ran roughshod over my understanding of the Over-Arching Obligations.

were untroubled by enquiries from "60 Minutes", Fairfax and the ABC.

were untroubled by complaints at the Director of Public Prosecutions, Victoria Police and the Legal Services Board & Commission.

seemed to get away with things in Court that shocked me and dozens of friends and reporters.

beat me in every Court all the way to the High Court. They beat me in VCAT. They beat the purchaser's Caveat with ease. They beat another purchaser's Caveat from a lender.

Judges with shares in the banks failed to disclose their shareholdings and they refused to recuse themselves from cases. (Only one did, at VCAT). In one instance one **declared** having close to a ¼ million dollars and refused to recuse himself.

The Legal Services Board and Commission let them off. The Board's letter essentially states they can do nothing if Judges' don't do anything. Then I have judges stating that if it isn't in the pleadings then they will ignore everything else.

Staff at the Legal Services Board & Commission were very upset.

I was told they could not take action because of their budget, but they are taking action in other cases the FBI and SEC has about them as I have been informed and therefore have money to save themselves.

After losing my cases over and over, LSBC Insiders whispered to go to VCAT, the FBI and the US SEC. That was how deeply troubled the Legal Services Board and Commission people were.

Who would think to call the FBI!? I thought they were insane.

I did anyway.

I am registered with a group at the SEC and the SEC might pay a reward if the Banks are fined.

They spoke to other people about my case even though the LSBC is liable for damages if they blow the whistle or talk to the wrong people. (I estimate that I am entitled to over \$3mill.).

Out of the blue, offered me the \$1m hush up deal as outlined in Submission 2 to the Foreign Bribery Inquiry at Parliament. I couldn't believe it. Everything they said about the FBI must be true, I thought.

The offer looked illegal to me, and it's illegality was the same type of illegality I was tipped off to expect.

also insisted that my purchasers from America must sign up to the Deed. Just as was expected!

Why would anyone know that would insist that the Americans sign a deed to things they weren't involved in? Here would demanded the very things I was expecting they'd demand.

The hush deed was exactly as I was informed by people it would be like.

also refused to make changes that every lawyer and barrister told me to ask for.

Every lawyer that I spoke to from Queensland to Queen Street, said don't touch it. Luckily no one did because the FBI "came out of the bushes".

The hush offer was unacceptable without making it open and honest and on the record, with the Bank's full knowledge of **Example** conduct.

Regrettably, refused to make the changes and make it their own cash (rather than shareholders money). Suspiciously they turned down ideas that would not cost the bank a pretty penny.

Soon afterwards, Channel 7 News said a tip off last year caused audits and arrests of bank executives. (I think the tip off was from the LSBC whistleblowers to the SEC Witnesses).

The FBI wanted the Hush Deed.

Inquiries were made by

- Auditors from Ace Foundation
- Auditors from Computer Science Corporation
- An MP about an accountant in Brighton,
- Bank Reform people in NSW
- 60 Minutes' producer for the ANZ Story that was aired in August this year
- Fairfax and ABC
- The FBI "IC" Division.
- The SEC Office of the Director of Corporate Compliance
- The SEC's Senior Counsel
- IBAC anti-corruption commission
- Victorian Ombudsman
- Parliamentarians who want the names of Legal Services Board officials
- about the American Express Case. They lost billions because of the Reserve Bank of Australia

The LSBC told me to go away despite damning evidence and despite the FBI arresting people. You would think the LSBC might see a few ethics issues if banks executives are arrested over the same Hush Deed they said was legal and ethical. They might be liable to me and the bank shareholders for all I know too.

It all came true.

- The Hush Deed materialised out of thin air
- The Hush Deed was exactly as I was led to believe it would be.
- refused the changes
- Soon after the deed was refused, there was pay-back. We felt like we turned down an offer you can't refuse
- There are Parliamentary Inquiries in the News every day. Submission #2 is at the top of the List.
- The Parliamentary Inquiry into Engineered Defaults started;
- American Express lost billions (and I look forward to sharing the Reward).
- The Audit lady in New York, **Example 1**, is looking at things.
- The was on 60 Minutes.
- You should read the Submissions at the Foreign Bribery Inquiry from Professors, the International Bar Association, the Attorney General + Federal Police, and many others. They want the same things.
- The FBI wanted the Hush Deed
- The SEC wanted information
- MPs called
- Bank Reform Now said MPs want the names of the LSBC officials exposed in Parliament

Every few months the FBI and SEC want something more.

I therefore object to the Legal Services Board & Commission ("LSBC") using its powers to investigate <u>its own role</u> in the \$1m Hush Deed. They owe my family for breaching their privacy laws too. I have friends and colleagues calling me almost daily still troubled about their faith being destroyed after seeing what occurred to me and my family by **sector**, Financial Ombudsman, the judiciary, **sector** and the Legal Services Board & Commission.

If the Senate Inquiry or the Parliamentary Joint Committee want me to testify at their hearings, I will.

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Elliot Sgargetta