

**REPORT OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE of the
AMERICAN WATCHMAKERS-CLOCKMAKERS INSTITUTE**

August 25, 2017

Since the last report in August 2017, two complaints have been filed and one member's business practices are in question.

In June 2017 a business owner in Texas filed a complaint against member **LW** who works at a business in Georgia. The story is a long and complicated one but can be summarized as concerning overlong delays in the return of a Rolex and a pocket watch which were to be repaired.

The Chairman spoke with the parties involved and parts availability and poor communication factored into the problem. At the time of last contact, the issues have been resolved to both parties' satisfaction.

In July 2017, a complaint was filed by one of our members in behalf of a friend who had received a wristwatch from the original owner. Our member had serviced the watch in the past for the original owner. The allegation was that the watch retailed by Tiffany and Co. had been recently improperly repaired by Tiffany's watch department.

The Chairman spoke with the parties involved including the head of Tiffany's watch department in New York. The issue now rests with the current owner who is to contact the Tiffany repair department himself to obtain service records to determine the condition of the watch at the time that it was presented to Tiffany for repair.

The problem here is that with two owners and who knows how many services by unknown watchmakers, can blame be placed upon Tiffany for faulty work as detected by our member? Only photos by Tiffany at the time of presentation can prove the point. We await communication from the current owner.

In August 2017, **JH**, who had been denied membership several years ago after deliberation by the Board, came to the attention of the Ethics Committee. He gained membership last April due to a clerical oversight. He is alleged to have cheated several other AWCI members.

He runs a web based referral service in which he advertises watch repair and then subcontracts the work to our members initially paying them, but subsequently withholding payment. Members have lost as much as \$20,000. Legal action by them has not been pursued for two main reasons. One is the cost of litigation with no assurance of collection even if legally successful and the other is fear of internet reputation sabotage.

Consequently, we have no formal complaints against him. The Legal Department of the AWCI is currently reviewing the options regarding expulsion from the AWCI.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Jabbour, M.D., ISA

Chairman, Ethics Committee of the AWCI