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Lawyer hanged himself

A LAWYER hanged himself during a probe into an alleged cash swindle, a court heard yesterday.

Ian Walker, 63, took his own life only seven days after denying involvement in the affair.

Before he died he claimed his partner, Colin Tucker, 35, was responsible for handling the cash of a senile 79-year-old woman.

But at the High Court in Edinburgh Tucker, who is accused of a £47,000 embezzlement, has lodged a special defence blaming Walker.

Funds

Tucker, now of London, has denied stealing the cash from widow Mrs Jessie McGinty and 90-year-old Miss Doris Duncan. Both offences are alleged to have happened while Tucker was working for Edinburgh law firm Burnett, Walker, of which Ian Walker was senior partner.

Yesterday Law Society chief accountant Leslie Cumming told the court Walker's bank accounts - he had eight totalling almost £700,000 in Edinburgh and London - showed he had been credited with cash from Mrs McGinty's funds.

The trial continues.

Lawyer's shame in note of death

A SUICIDE note from a lawyer blamed for a cash swindle was read to a jury yesterday.

Ian Walker, 63, hanged himself while Law Society chiefs were probing his firm.

The note which his wife found in their home at Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh, said:

"I am so, so sorry. I cannot go on. The humiliation is and will be awful. Forgive me."

Defence

The note was read at the trial of Walker's partner Colin Tucker at the High Court in Edinburgh.

Tucker, 35, has denied embezzling £47,000 from two elderly women clients. One was 79, the other 90.

Tucker has lodged a special defence blaming Walker.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Suicide note read to jury at fraud trial

EXTRACTS from a lawyer's suicide note were read to a jury yesterday at a £47,000 embezzlement trial.

Ian Walker, 63, hanged himself in his home at Whitehouse Loan, Barnton, Edinburgh, while his firm's books were being investigated, the High Court in Edinburgh has heard.

A fraud squad detective said the solicitor had left a note for his wife. Det Sgt Peter Brown told the jury Mr Walker had written: "I am so, so sorry. I cannot go on. The humiliation is and will be awful. Forgive me."

On trial is Colin Tucker, 35, of The Mansion House, London, who denies embezzling £28,012 and £19,344 from two elderly clients between April 1986 and May last year while a partner in the law firm of Burnett Walker, W8, which had its offices in Stafford Street, Edinburgh. He has lodged a special defence of incrimination, naming Mr Walker, his superior at the time.

The trial continues

Police investigate warehouse fire

ALMOST 21 million worth of electrical goods were destroyed in a mystery fire at the North of Scotland Hydro-electric Board's store