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<b>State Bar Court of California</b> <b>Hearing Department</b> <b>Los Angeles</b> <b>DISBARMENT</b>		
Counsel For The State Bar  BRANDON K. TADY Deputy Trial Counsel 1149 South Hill Street Los Angeles, California 90015  Bar # 83045	Case Number(s): 02-C-10058	For Court use only  <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;"> <b>FILED</b>  <b>APR 06 2011</b> <i>AC</i>                      STATE BAR COURT                      CLERK'S OFFICE                      LOS ANGELES                 </div>
In Pro Per Respondent  Ronald Craver Kline 16 Rimrock Irvine, California 92603  Bar # 58903	<b>PUBLIC MATTER</b>	
In the Matter of: Ronald Craver Kline  Bar # 58903  A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)	Submitted to: <b>Settlement Judge</b>  STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING; ORDER OF INVOLUNTARY INACTIVE ENROLLMENT  <b>DISBARMENT</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED	

**Note: All information required by this form and any additional information which cannot be provided in the space provided, must be set forth in an attachment to this stipulation under specific headings, e.g., "Facts," "Dismissals," "Conclusions of Law," "Supporting Authority," etc.**

**A. Parties' Acknowledgments:**

- (1) Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted April 26, 1974.
- (2) The parties agree to be bound by the factual stipulations contained herein even if conclusions of law or disposition are rejected or changed by the Supreme Court.
- (3) All investigations or proceedings listed by case number in the caption of this stipulation are resolved by this stipulation and are deemed consolidated. Dismissed charge(s)/count(s) are listed under "Dismissals." The stipulation consists of (9) pages, not including the order.
- (4) A statement of acts or omissions acknowledged by respondent as cause or causes for discipline is included under "Facts."



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- (5) Conclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of Law."
- (6) The parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading "Supporting Authority."
- (7) No more than 30 days prior to the filing of this stipulation, respondent has been advised in writing of any pending investigation/proceeding not resolved by this stipulation, except for criminal investigations.
- (8) Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 6140.7. (Check one option only):
- Costs to be awarded to the State Bar.
  - Costs are waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs".
  - Costs are entirely waived.
- (9) ORDER OF INACTIVE ENROLLMENT:  
The parties are aware that if this stipulation is approved, the judge will issue an order of inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code section 6007, subdivision (c)(4), and Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, rule 5.111(D)(1).

**B. Aggravating Circumstances [for definition, see Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, standard 1.2(b)]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are required.**

- (1)  **Prior record of discipline**
- (a)  State Bar Court case # of prior case
  - (b)  Date prior discipline effective
  - (c)  Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations:
  - (d)  Degree of prior discipline
  - (e)  If respondent has two or more incidents of prior discipline, use space provided below:
- (2)  **Dishonesty:** Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by or followed by bad faith, dishonesty, concealment, overreaching or other violations of the State Bar Act or Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (3)  **Trust Violation:** Trust funds or property were involved and respondent refused or was unable to account to the client or person who was the object of the misconduct for improper conduct toward said funds or property.
- (4)  **Harm:** Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public or the administration of justice. See "Attachment Re Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition," page 2.
- (5)  **Indifference:** Respondent demonstrated indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the consequences of his or her misconduct.

- (6)  **Lack of Cooperation:** Respondent displayed a lack of candor and cooperation to victims of his/her misconduct or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation or proceedings.
- (7)  **Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct:** Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing or demonstrates a pattern of misconduct. See "Attachment Re Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition," page 2.
- (8)  **No aggravating circumstances** are involved.

**Additional aggravating circumstances:**

**C. Mitigating Circumstances [see standard 1.2(e)]. Facts supporting mitigating circumstances are required.**

- (1)  **No Prior Discipline:** Respondent has no prior record of discipline over many years of practice coupled with present misconduct which is not deemed serious.
- (2)  **No Harm:** Respondent did not harm the client or person who was the object of the misconduct.
- (3)  **Candor/Cooperation:** Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation with the victims of his/her misconduct and to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation and proceedings.
- (4)  **Remorse:** Respondent promptly took objective steps spontaneously demonstrating remorse and recognition of the wrongdoing, which steps were designed to timely atone for any consequences of his/her misconduct.
- (5)  **Restitution:** Respondent paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ in restitution to \_\_\_\_\_ without the threat or force of disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.
- (6)  **Delay:** These disciplinary proceedings were excessively delayed. The delay is not attributable to respondent and the delay prejudiced him/her.
- (7)  **Good Faith:** Respondent acted in good faith.
- (8)  **Emotional/Physical Difficulties:** At the time of the stipulated act or acts of professional misconduct respondent suffered extreme emotional difficulties or physical disabilities which expert testimony would establish was directly responsible for the misconduct. The difficulties or disabilities were not the product of any illegal conduct by the member, such as illegal drug or substance abuse, and respondent no longer suffers from such difficulties or disabilities. See "Attachment Re Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition," page 2.
- (9)  **Severe Financial Stress:** At the time of the misconduct, respondent suffered from severe financial stress which resulted from circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and which were directly responsible for the misconduct.
- (10)  **Family Problems:** At the time of the misconduct, respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her personal life which were other than emotional or physical in nature.
- (11)  **Good Character:** Respondent's good character is attested to by a wide range of references in the legal and general communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct. See "Attachment Re Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition," page 2.

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- (12)  **Rehabilitation:** Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred followed by convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.
- (13)  **No mitigating circumstances** are involved.

**Additional mitigating circumstances:**

None

**D. Discipline: Disbarment.**

**E. Additional Requirements:**

- (1) **Rule 9.20, California Rules of Court:** Respondent must comply with the requirements of rule 9.20, California Rules of Court, and perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.
- (2)  **Restitution:** Respondent must make restitution to \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus 10 percent interest per year from \_\_\_\_\_. If the Client Security Fund has reimbursed \_\_\_\_\_ for all or any portion of the principal amount, respondent must pay restitution to CSF of the amount paid plus applicable interest and costs in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6140.5. Respondent must pay the above restitution and furnish satisfactory proof of payment to the State Bar's Office of Probation in Los Angeles no later than \_\_\_\_\_ days from the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this case.
- (3)  **Other:**

**ATTACHMENT TO**  
**STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION**

IN THE MATTER OF:                      Ronald Craver Kline

CASE NUMBER(S):                      02-C-10058-RAP

**FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.**

Respondent admits that the following facts are true and that he is culpable of violations of the specified statutes and/or Rules of Professional Conduct.

Case No. 02-C-10058-RAP (Conviction Proceedings)

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND IN CONVICTION PROCEEDING:

1. This is a proceeding pursuant to sections 6101 and 6102 of the Business and Professions Code and rule 9.10 of the California Rules of Court.
2. On December 12, 2005, Respondent was convicted of four counts of violating Title 18 United States Code, section 2252 A (a) (5) (B) (Possession of Child Pornography).
3. On August 15, 2007, the Review Department of the State Bar Court issued an order referring the matter to the Hearing Department on the following issues: the discipline to be imposed in the event the Hearing Department finds that the facts and circumstances surrounding the violation of title 18 United States Code, section 2252 A (a) (5) (B), of which Respondent Ronald Craver Kline was convicted, involved moral turpitude or other misconduct warranting discipline.

FACTS:

4. On November 5, 2001, at his residence in Irvine, California, Respondent knowingly possessed a Gateway Computer hard drive, Model Number GP6-400, Serial Number 0010631088, several 3.5" computer diskettes, and a 100MB Zip diskette ("computer equipment and diskettes") that contained multiple images of minor boys engaged in sexually explicit conduct. In excess of 100 visual depictions stored on Respondent's computer equipment and diskettes are known images of nude, minor boys and these images involved the use of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct ("child pornography").
5. Respondent knew the boys depicted in the images were under the age of 18 years and knew that the minor boys were engaged in sexually explicit conduct.
6. Certain images of child pornography possessed by Respondent clearly depict prepubescent boys or boys under the age of 12 years.
7. Respondent possessed 100 or more items, including files stored on electronic media, containing visual depictions involving the sexual exploitation of a minor.

8. The images of child pornography on Respondent's computer equipment and diskettes had been mailed, or shipped, or transported in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer. Each image of child pornography was (a) copyrighted outside of state or outside this country, and/or (b) produced using computer materials manufactured out of state or outside this country.

#### AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

(4) Harm: Respondent was convicted of violating Title 18, United States Code, section 2252 A (a) (5) (B), possession of child pornography. Respondent's misconduct harmed the children depicted in the photographs that Respondent possessed. Respondent's possession of child pornography contributed support to an industry that sexually exploits and degrades children.

(7) Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct: Respondent possessed 100 or more items, including files stored on electronic media, containing visual depictions involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

#### MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

(8) Emotional/Physical Difficulties: As part of his "Position Paper Re Sentencing," Respondent submitted a report from Sheila Balkan, Ph.D. who is a criminologist and court consultant. According to Dr. Balkan, Respondent was suffering for many years from severe emotional difficulties including social isolation and depression.

(11) Good Character: As a part of Respondent's "Position Paper Re Sentencing" filed in the criminal proceeding for his conviction for possession of child pornography, Respondent attached as exhibits numerous letters from judges, attorneys, and from church members attesting to his good character as an attorney and a judge. Respondent was prepared to call many, if not all, of these good character witnesses at the trial of this matter.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Respondent does not contest that the facts and circumstances surrounding the offenses leading to his conviction of four counts of violating Title 18, United States Code, section 2252 A (a) (5) (B) involved moral turpitude.

#### PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page 2, paragraph A (7), was March 8, 2011.

#### AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING DISCIPLINE.

Standard 3.2 provides that final conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, either inherently or in the facts and circumstances surrounding the crime's commission shall result in disbarment. Only if the most compelling mitigating circumstances clearly predominate, shall disbarment not be imposed. In those latter cases, the discipline shall not be less than two years actual suspension, prospective to any interim suspension imposed, irrespective of mitigating circumstances.

In the present proceeding, Respondent does not contest that the facts and circumstances surrounding the commission of Respondent's criminal conviction involve moral turpitude because he possessed in excess of 100 visual depictions of known images of nude, minor boys and these images involved the use

of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct ("child pornography"). Respondent knew the boys depicted in the images were under the age of 18 years and knew that the minor boys were engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Further, certain images of child pornography possessed by Respondent clearly depict prepubescent boys or boys under the age of 12 years.

#### **COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.**

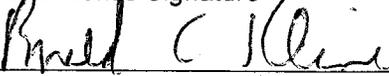
Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of March 11, 2011, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$ 1724.34. Respondent further acknowledges that should this stipulation be rejected or should relief from the stipulation be granted, the costs in this matter may increase due to the cost of further proceedings.

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In the Matter of: Ronald Craver Kline	Case number(s): 02-C-10058
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**SIGNATURE OF THE PARTIES**

By their signatures below, the parties and their counsel, as applicable, signify their agreement with each of the recitations and each of the terms and conditions of this Stipulation Re Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition.

<u>3/24/11</u> Date	<u></u> Respondent's Signature	<u>RONALD C. KLINE</u> Print Name
<u>3/24/11</u> Date	<u></u> Respondent's Counsel Signature	<u>RONALD C. KLINE</u> Print Name
<u>3/28/11</u> Date	<u></u> Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	<u>BRANDIN K. TADY</u> Print Name

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In the Matter of: Ronald Craver Kline	Case Number(s): 02-C-10058
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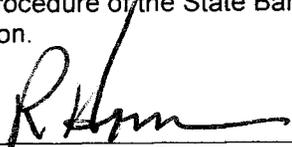
### DISBARMENT ORDER

Finding the stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the requested dismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTED without prejudice, and:

- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
- All Hearing dates are vacated.

The parties are bound by the stipulation as approved unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed within 15 days after service of this order, is granted; or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved stipulation. (See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure.) **The effective date of this disposition is the effective date of the Supreme Court order herein, normally 30 days after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of Court.)**

Respondent is ordered transferred to involuntary inactive status pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6007, subdivision (c)(4). Respondent's inactive enrollment will be effective three (3) calendar days after this order is served by mail and will terminate upon the effective date of the Supreme Court's order imposing discipline herein, or as provided for by rule 5.111(D)(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California, or as otherwise ordered by the Supreme Court pursuant to its plenary jurisdiction.

Date 4/5/11 Judge of the State Bar Court 

**RICHARD A. HONN**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

[Rule 62(b), Rules Proc.; Code Civ. Proc., § 1013a(4)]

I am a Case Administrator of the State Bar Court of California. I am over the age of eighteen and not a party to the within proceeding. Pursuant to standard court practice, in the City and County of Los Angeles, on April 6, 2011, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING, ORDER OF INVOLUNTARY INACTIVE ENROLLMENT

in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing on that date as follows:

by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

RONALD CRAVER KLINE  
16 RIMROCK  
IRVINE CA 92603

by certified mail, No. , with return receipt requested, through the United States Postal Service at , California, addressed as follows:

by overnight mail at , California, addressed as follows:

by fax transmission, at fax number . No error was reported by the fax machine that I used.

By personal service by leaving the documents in a sealed envelope or package clearly labeled to identify the attorney being served with a receptionist or a person having charge of the attorney's office, addressed as follows:

by interoffice mail through a facility regularly maintained by the State Bar of California addressed as follows:

BRANDON TADY, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on April 6, 2011.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Carpenter  
Case Administrator  
State Bar Court