


<p>Counsel for the State Bar THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL ENFORCEMENT SHARI SVENINGSON, BAR NO. 195298 1149 South Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90015-2299 Telephone: (213) 765-1004</p>	<p>Case number(s) 02-0-11417 kwiktag® 031 975 418 </p>	<p>(for Court's use) FILED JUN 10 2004 STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC MATTER</p>
<p>Counsel for Respondent ARNOLD MELVIN JOHNSON STATE BAR NO. 52505 1200 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 206 Los Angeles, CA 90017 Telephone: (213) 250-9577</p>	<p>Submitted to <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> assigned judge <input type="checkbox"/> settlement judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING REPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC <input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED</p>	
<p>In the Matter of LARRY D. LEWELLYN Bar # 141687 A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)</p>		

A. Parties' Acknowledgments:

- (1) Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted August 25, 1989
 (date)
- (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 entirely resolved by this stipulation, and are deemed consolidated. Dismissed charge(s)/count(s) are listed under "Dismissals." The stipulation and order consist of 9 pages.
- (4) A statement of acts or omissions acknowledged by Respondent as cause or causes for discipline is included under "Facts."
- (5) Conclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of Law."
- (6) 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.
- (7) Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 6140.7. (Check one option only):
 - costs added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline (public reproval)
 - case ineligible for costs (private reproval)
 - costs to be paid in equal amounts for the following membership years:

 (hardship, special circumstances or other good cause per rule 284, Rules of Procedure)
 - costs waived in part as set forth under "Partial Waiver of Costs"
 - costs entirely waived

Note: All information required by this form and any additional information which cannot be provided in the space provided, shall be set forth in the text component of this stipulation under specific headings, i.e. "Facts," "Dismissals," "Conclusions of Law."

(8) The parties understand that

- (a) A private reproof imposed on a respondent as a result of a stipulation approved by the Court prior to initiation of a State Bar Court proceeding is part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, but is not disclosed in response to public inquiries and is not reported on the State Bar's web page. The record of the proceeding in which such a private reproof was imposed is not available to the public except as part of the record of any subsequent proceeding in which it is introduced as evidence of a prior record of discipline under the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar.
- (b) A private reproof imposed on a respondent after initiation of a State Bar Court proceeding is part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page.
- (c) A public reproof imposed on a respondent is publicly available as part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page.

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 [see standard 1.2(f)]

(a) State Bar Court case # of prior case 00-0-15002

(b) Date prior discipline effective November 8, 2001

(c) Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Rules of Professional Conduct,
rule 3-110(A)

(d) degree of prior discipline private reproof

(e) If Respondent has two or more incidents of prior discipline, use space provided below or under "Prior Discipline".

(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.

- (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.
- (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 to 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. Respondent had a good faith belief that he had full authority under the IAEA when he allowed the property to be sold.
- (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.
- (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.

(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:

D. Discipline:

(1) Private reproof (check applicable conditions, if any, below)

(a) Approved by the Court prior to initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (no public disclosure).

(b) Approved by the Court after initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (public disclosure).

or

(2) Public reproof (check applicable conditions, if any, below)

E. Conditions Attached to Reproval:

(1) Respondent shall comply with the conditions attached to the reproof for a period of ONE (1) YEAR.

(2) During the condition period attached to the reproof, Respondent shall comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.

(3) Within ten (10) days of any change, Respondent shall report to the Membership Records Office and to the Probation Unit, all changes of information, including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar purposes, as prescribed by section 6002.1 of the Business and Professions Code.

(4) Respondent shall submit written quarterly reports to the Probation Unit on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the condition period attached to the reproof. Under penalty of perjury, respondent shall state whether respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all conditions of the reproof during the preceding calendar quarter. If the first report would cover less than thirty (30) days, that report shall be submitted on the next following quarter date and cover the extended period.

In addition to all quarterly reports, a final report, containing the same information, is due no earlier than twenty (20) days before the last day of the condition period and no later than the last day of the condition period.

- (5) Respondent shall be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent shall promptly review the terms and conditions of probation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. During the period of probation, respondent shall furnish such reports as may be requested, in addition to quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Probation Unit. Respondent shall cooperate fully with the monitor.
- (6) Subject to assertion of applicable privileges, Respondent shall answer fully, promptly and truthfully any inquiries of the Probation Unit of the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel and any probation monitor assigned under these conditions which are directed to Respondent personally or in writing relating to whether Respondent is complying or has complied with the conditions attached to the reproof.
- (7) Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, respondent shall provide to the Probation Unit satisfactory proof of attendance of the Ethics School and passage of the test given at the end of that session.
- No Ethics School ordered. Respondent completed Ethics School within the last 2 years in connection with case No. 00-0-15002
- (8) Respondent shall comply with all conditions of probation imposed in the underlying criminal matter and shall so declare under penalty of perjury in conjunction with any quarterly report required to be filed with the Probation Unit.
- (9) Respondent shall provide proof of passage of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE"), administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, to the Probation Unit of the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel within one year of the effective date of the reproof.
- No MPRE ordered. Respondent provided proof of passage of the MPRE on 08/09/02 in connection with case No. 00-0-15002.
- (10) The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Law Office Management Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Conditions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Conditions <i>see page 8</i> |
- (11) Other conditions negotiated by the parties:

ATTACHMENT TO
STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: LARRY D. LEWELLYN

CASE NUMBER(S): 02-O-11417

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

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

1. In or about April 1998, LaVar Thompson (“Thompson”) employed Respondent to represent her as administrator of the estate of Willie Mae Franklin (the “probate matter”). Respondent promptly filed the court documents required for administration of the estate, and the court appointed Thompson as administrator on June 3, 1998.

2. On or about October 5, 1998, Thompson paid Respondent \$3,250.00 for his legal fees. There were no liquid assets in the estate, therefore the Administrator agreed to be responsible for the legal fees.

3. On or about September 10, 1999, a deed of the real property in the estate was executed by Thompson for the purpose of its sale. Respondent failed to obtain full authority to administer the estate without court supervision under the Independent Administration of Estates Act (“the IAEA”) until September 30, 1999 when he appeared at an ex parte hearing.

4. On or about October 30, 2001, the court ordered that the sale of real property in the estate be rescinded because the deeds had been executed before Respondent obtained full authority under the IAEA to sell real property.

5. In or about November 2001, Thompson hired a new attorney, Sandra DeMeo (“DeMeo”), to represent her in the probate matter. DeMeo was successful in reversing the sale of the real property transaction.

6. On or about April 15, 2002, the court filed an Order Approving Final Report of Administrator ("Order") in the probate matter. The Order approved fees to Respondent in the amount of \$1,975 and ordered that Respondent disgorge \$1,275 of the fees he previously received from Thompson to DeMeo. The Order further ordered Thompson to pay DeMeo an additional \$2,757.50 for extraordinary attorney fees for her work in reversing the sale of the real property.

LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

By representing that he had authority to administer the estate without court supervision under the IAEA, which resulted in an invalid sale of the real property, which caused Thompson to incur extraordinary attorney fees, Respondent failed to perform legal services with competence in violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page one, paragraph A.(6), was by letter dated April 14, 2004.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of **April 5th, 2004**, the estimated prosecution costs in this matter are approximately **\$1,983**. Respondent acknowledges that this figure is an estimate only and that it does not include State Bar Court costs which will be included in any final cost assessment. 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.

AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING DISCIPLINE.

In the Matter of Roger S. Hanson (1994) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 703:

The attorney received a public reproof for misconduct involving failure to prevent foreseeable prejudice to his client.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS, RESTITUTION.

Within **three (3) months** from the effective date of discipline in this matter, respondent must make restitution to **LaVar Thompson** or the Client Security Fund if it has paid, in the principal amount of **\$2,757.50 plus interest at the rate of 10% per annum from April 15, 2002** and furnish satisfactory evidence of restitution to the Probation Unit. Respondent shall include in the first and second quarterly report required herein satisfactory evidence of all restitution payments made by him during that reporting period.

This amount represents the fees LaVar Thompson had to pay her new attorney to invalidate the improper sale of the real property.

April 15, 2004
Date

Larry Lewellyn
Respondent's signature

LARRY LEWELLYN
print name

April 15, 2004
Date

[Signature]
Respondent's Counsel's signature

ARNOLD MELVIN JOHNSON
print name

4-20-04
Date

[Signature]
Deputy Trial Counsel's signature

SHARI SVENINGSON
print name

ORDER

Finding that the stipulation protects the public and that the interests of Respondent will be served by any conditions attached to the reproval, 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 REPROVAL IMPOSED.

The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the REPROVAL IMPOSED.

All references to "Probation Unit" or "Probation Unit of the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel" shall be deemed deleted and replaced with "Office of Probation."

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 135(b), Rules of Procedure.) Otherwise the stipulation shall be effective 15 days after service of this order.

Failure to comply with any conditions attached to this reproval may constitute cause for a separate proceeding for willful breach of rule 1-110, Rules of Professional Conduct.

6/7/04
Date

[Signature]
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. 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 June 10, 2004, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

**STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION
AND ORDER APPROVING, filed June 10, 2004**

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

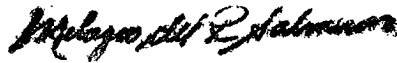
- [X] by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

**ARNOLD MELVIN JOHNSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1200 WILSHIRE BLVD #206
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017 1976**

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

Shari Sveningson, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on **June 10, 2004**.



Milagro del R. Salmeron
Case Administrator
State Bar Court