

**REVIEW DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE BAR COURT  
IN BANK**

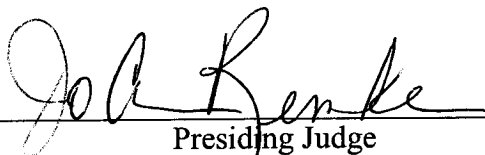
In the Matter of	)	Case No.: 07-C-10739
	)	
JAMES MICHAEL KORDELL	)	
	)	<b>RECOMMENDATION OF SUMMARY</b>
	)	<b>DISBARMENT</b>
A Member of the State Bar.	)	
_____	)	

On March 11, 2008, James Michael Kordell pled nolo contendere to a felony violation of Health and Safety Code section 11366 because he maintained a place for selling or using methamphetamine. Effective May 14, 2008, we placed him on interim suspension. On July 2, 2008, the State Bar transmitted evidence that Kordell's conviction was final. However, on September 18, 2008, we abated this matter because Kordell's serious health problems prevented his participation. We terminated abatement on December 30, 2009, and requested the parties to file briefs addressing whether the crime in this matter involves moral turpitude per se for purposes of summary disbarment. Kordell filed no response.

The record of conviction establishes that Kordell's criminal violation meets the criteria for summary disbarment under Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c). First, the offense is a felony. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6102, subd. (b).) Second, the offense involves moral turpitude. (*People v. Vera* (1999) 69 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1100 [this crime necessarily involves moral turpitude because it involves the intent to corrupt others].)

When an attorney's conviction meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c), "the attorney is not entitled to a State Bar Court hearing to determine whether lesser discipline is called for." (*In re Paguirigan* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 1, 7.) Disbarment is mandatory. (*Id.* at p. 9.)

We therefore recommend that James Michael Kordell, State Bar number 90869, be disbarred from the practice of law in this state. We also recommend that Kordell be ordered to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court and to perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's order. Finally, we recommend that the costs be awarded to the State Bar in accordance with section 6086.10 of the Business and Professions Code and that such costs be enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Judge

## 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 February 16, 2010, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):


RECOMMENDATION OF SUMMARY DISBARMENT FILED FEBRUARY 16, 2010

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:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| JAMES MICHAEL KORDELL<br>LAW OFFICES OF J.M KORDELL<br>PO BOX 668<br>WOODLAKE, CA 93286 - 0668 | JAMES M. KORDELL<br>4131 WEST COUNTRY AVE.<br>VISALIA, CA 93277 |
|--|---|
- ☐ 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:

Donald Robert Steedman, Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on February 16, 2010.

  
Milagro del R. Salmeron  
Case Administrator  
State Bar Court