

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

In the Matter of	)	<b>07-C-13532</b>
	)	
	)	<b>RECOMMENDATION OF</b>
<b>WILLIAM BROOK KNOWLES</b>	)	<b>SUMMARY DISBARMENT</b>
Member No. 138745	)	
	)	
<u>A Member of the State Bar.</u>	)	

On October 22, 2010, the State Bar filed a motion for summary disbarment based on William Brook Knowles's felony conviction. Knowles did not file a response. We grant the request and recommend that Knowles be summarily disbarred.

On August 17, 2007, a jury found Knowles guilty of a felony violation of 18 United States Code section 2422(b) (attempting to persuade, induce or entice a minor to engage in sexual activity).<sup>1</sup> As a result of the conviction, we issued an order placing Knowles on interim suspension, effective December 7, 2007. On October 22, 2010, the State Bar transmitted evidence that Knowles's conviction is final.

After the judgment of conviction becomes final, "the Supreme Court shall summarily disbar the attorney if the offense is a felony . . . and an element of the offense is the specific intent to deceive, defraud, steal, or make or suborn a false statement, or involved moral

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<sup>1</sup> A jury also convicted Knowles of a felony violation of title 18 United States Code section 2423(b) (interstate travel for the purpose of engaging in illicit sex with a minor). The only conviction we are relying upon in making our recommendation of summary disbarment is Knowles's section 2422(b) conviction.

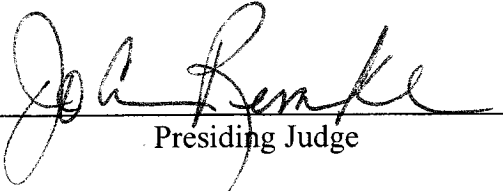
turpitude.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6102, subd. (c).) The record of conviction establishes that Knowles’s criminal offense meets the criteria for summary disbarment under Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c).

First, his offense is a felony. (18 U.S.C. § 3559(a).) Second, we find that a violation of title 18 United States Code section 2422(b) is a crime that inherently involves moral turpitude. Section 2422(b) provides, in relevant part: “Whoever, using the mail or any facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce . . . knowingly persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any individual who has not attained the age of 18 years, to engage in . . . any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined . . . and imprisoned. . . .” Under this statute an individual must use a facility of interstate commerce to “‘knowingly’ (1) actually or attempt to (2) persuade, induce, entice, or coerce (3) a person under 18 years of age (4) to engage in sexual activity that would constitute a criminal offense... [T]he term ‘knowingly’ refers both to the verbs – ‘persuades, induces, entices, or coerces’ – as well as to the object – ‘a person who has not achieved the age of 18 years.’ [Citations.]” (*United States v. Meek* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004) 366 F.3d 705, 718.) The statute requires that the defendant knowingly seek sexual activity, and knowingly seek it with a minor. (*Ibid.*)

“In the attorney discipline context, the terms ‘moral turpitude’ includes ‘particular crimes that that are extremely repugnant to accepted moral standards such as . . . serious sexual offenses [citation]. [Citation.]” (*In re Lesansky* (2001) 25 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 11, 17.) Section 2422(b) was enacted in “response to the horrifying menace of sex crimes against children, particularly assaults facilitated by computers. H.R.Rep. No. 105-557, at 10 (1998).” (*United States v. Tykarsky* (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 2006) 446 F.3d 458, 467.) We find that section 2422(b) is a serious sexual offense and conduct in violation thereunder is not in accordance with good morals. (See *Lesansky, supra*, 25

Cal.4<sup>th</sup> at p. 17 [attempting to commit lewd act on a child is a “serious sexual offense likely to result in harm to a child” and involves moral turpitude].)

We therefore recommend that William Brook Knowles, State Bar No. 138745, be disbarred from the practice of law in this state. We also recommend that he 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 January 26, 2011, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

RECOMMENDATION OF SUMMARY DISBARMENT FILED JANUARY 26, 2011

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:

WILLIAM B. KNOWLES  
PO BOX 61252  
SEATTLE, WA 98141

- ☐ 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:

Murray B. Greenberg, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on January 26, 2011.



Milagro del R. Salmeron  
Case Administrator  
State Bar Court