

State	Bar Court of Californ Hearing Department	nia
Counsel For The State Bar CARLA L. GARRETT Deputy Trial Counsel 1149 South Hill Street Los Angeles, California 90015-2299 Bar #138472 Tel # (213) 765-1380 ALABA S. AJETUNMOBI 3350 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 980 Los Angeles, California 90010 Bar # 219228 Tel # (213) 380-9488		(for Court's use) FILED OCT 3 1 2008 STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE ANGELES
In the Matter Of: ALABA SIKIRU AJETUNMOBI Bar # 219228		CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND APPROVING
A Member of the State Bar of California	☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATIO	N 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
- (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 consists of 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."
- (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.

(Stipulation form approved by SBC Executive Committee 10/16/00. Revised 12/16/2004; 12/13/2006.)

Actual Suspension

kwiktage 035 134 546

700	HOL WI	above this line.)				
(8)		ment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 0.7. (Check one option only):				
	until costs are paid in full, Respondent will remain actually suspended from the practice of law unle relief is obtained per rule 284, Rules of Procedure. costs to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 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 in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs" costs entirely waived					
	Prof	avating Circumstances [for definition, see Standards for Attorney Sanctions for ssional Misconduct, standard 1.2(b)]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances equired.				
(1)		Prior record of discipline [see standard 1.2(f)]				
	(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)	X	Harm: Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public or the administration of justice.				
(5)		ndifference: Respondent demonstrated indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the consequences of his or her misconduct.				
(6)		ack of Cooperation: Respondent displayed a lack of candor and cooperation to victims of his/her nisconduct 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.				
lddi	tiona	aggravating circumstances:				

		gating Circumstances [see standard 1.2(e)]. Facts supporting mitigating umstances are required.			
(1)	X	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)	Ø	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 Falth: 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.			
(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.			
Addi	itiona	Il mitigating circumstances			
D. I	D. Discipline:				
(1)	X	Stayed Suspension:			

(DO	HOL WILL	e appr	6 (1113 H	16.)		
	(a)	X	Res	pondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two (2) years.		
		ł.		and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and present fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the law pursuant to standard 1.4(c)(ii) Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.		
		ii.		and until Respondent pays restitution as set forth in the Financial Conditions form attached to this stipulation.		
		iii.		and until Respondent does the following:		
	(b)	X	The	above-referenced suspension is stayed.		
(2)	X	③ Probation:				
		two (2) years espondent must be placed on probation for a period of _^_, which will commence upon the effective dat le Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)				
(3)	X	Actual Suspension:				
	(a)	X		condent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period nety (90) days.		
		i.		and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and present fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the law pursuant to standard 1.4(c)(ii), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct		
		ii.		and until Respondent pays restitution as set forth in the Financial Conditions form attached to this stipulation.		
		iii.		and until Respondent does the following:		
E. <i>A</i>	Addi	iona	ıl Coı	nditions of Probation:		
(1)		he/sl	ne pro	ent is actually suspended for two years or more, he/she must remain actually suspended until ves to the State Bar Court his/her rehabilitation, fitness to practice, and learning and ability in v, pursuant to standard 1.4(c)(ii), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.		
(2)	X	During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules Professional Conduct.				
(3)	X	State inform	Bar a	(10) days of any change, Respondent must report to the Membership Records Office of the and to the Office of Probation of the State Bar of California ("Office of Probation"), all changes of an including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar as prescribed by section 6002.1 of the Business and Professions Code.		
(4)		and s condi proba	chedi itions d ation d	y (30) days from the effective date of discipline, Respondent must contact the Office of Probation ale a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss these terms and of probation. Upon the direction of the Office of Probation, Respondent must meet with the leputy either in-person or by telephone. During the period of probation, Respondent must eet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.		
(5)				nt must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, d October 10 of the period of probation. Under penalty of perjury, Respondent must state		

(3)

respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.

and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.

Conditional Rule 9.20, California Rules of Court: If Respondent remains actually suspended for 90

days or more, he/she 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 120 and 130 calendar days.

5) [commencement of interir Other Conditions:	•		
				,	
	••				

In the Matter of

a.

b.

ALABA SIKIRU AJETUNMOBI Member #219228

A Member of the State Bar

Case number(s):

07-O-10220; 07-O-11794; 07-O-12657; and

07-0-14714

Financial Conditions

Restitution		
annum) to the payee(s) listed one or more of the payee(s) for	on (including the principal amour below. If the Client Security Fun or all or any portion of the principa stitution to CSF in the amount(s)	id ("CSF") has reimbursed al amount(s) listed below,
Payee	Principal Amount	Interest Accrues From
payment to the Office of Proba	nents	
below. Respondent must prov with each quarterly probation of No later than 30 days prior to t	ve-referenced restitution on the pide satisfactory proof of payment eport, or as otherwise directed by the expiration of the period of proake any necessary final payment uding interest, in full.	t to the Office of Probation y the Office of Probation. bation (or period of
Payee/CSF (as applicable)	Minimum Payment Amount	Payment Frequency
		
		L

c. Client Funds Certificate

- 1. If Respondent possesses client funds at any time during the period covered by a required quarterly report, Respondent must file with each required report a certificate from Respondent and/or a certified public accountant or other financial professional approved by the Office of Probation, certifying that:
 - Respondent has maintained a bank account in a bank authorized to do business in the State of California, at a branch located within the State of California, and that such account is designated as a "Trust Account" or "Clients' Funds Account";

- b. Respondent has kept and maintained the following:
 - A written ledger for each client on whose behalf funds are held that sets forth:
 - 1. the name of such client:
 - the date, amount and source of all funds received on behalf of such client;
 - the date, amount, payee and purpose of each disbursement made on behalf of such client; and,
 - 4. the current balance for such client.
 - ii. a written journal for each client trust fund account that sets forth:
 - 1. the name of such account:
 - 2. the date, amount and client affected by each debit and credit; and,
 - 3. the current balance in such account.
- all bank statements and cancelled checks for each client trust account; and.
- iv. each monthly reconciliation (balancing) of (i), (ii), and (iii), above, and if there are any differences between the monthly total balances reflected in (i), (ii), and (iii), above, the reasons for the differences.
- c. Respondent has maintained a written journal of securities or other properties held for clients that specifies:
- each item of security and property held:
- ii. the person on whose behalf the security or property is held;
- iii. the date of receipt of the security or property;
- iv. the date of distribution of the security or property; and,
- v. the person to whom the security or property was distributed.
- 2. If Respondent does not possess any client funds, property or securities during the entire period covered by a report, Respondent must so state under penalty of perjury in the report filed with the Office of Probation for that reporting period. In this circumstance, Respondent need not file the accountant's certificate described above.
- 3. The requirements of this condition are in addition to those set forth in rule 4-100, Rules of Professional Conduct.

d. Client Trust Accounting School

Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must supply to the Office of Probation satisfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School Client Trust Accounting School, within the same period of time, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

Alaba Ajetunmobi

CASE NUMBER(S):

07-O-10220; 07-O-11794; 07-O-12657; 07-O-

12657

A. FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent admits that the following facts are true and that he is culpable of violating the specified statutes.

FACTS

1. Respondent was admitted to the practice of law in the State of California on May 20, 2002, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges, and is currently a member of the State Bar of California.

The Okonta Matter

- 2. On or about April 4, 2006, John O. Okonta ("Okonta") employed Respondent to represent him in a lawsuit against Office Depot Inc., a case that Okonto had been handling in pro per. Respondent filed a Substitution of Attorney in the matter on April 20, 2006.
- 3. On May 15, 2006, Office Depot filed a Notice of Motion and Motion for Summary Judgment, to which Respondent failed to oppose. On June 1, 2006, Office Depot faxed a letter to Respondent about the Motion for Summary Judgment, explaining that the Court would not be hearing oral argument and that the hearing on the motion, scheduled for June 5, 2006, was removed from the Court's calendar. Thereafter, the Court granted Office Depot's Motion for Summary Judgment. On or about June 5, 2006, Respondent advised Okonta about the ruling against him for summary judgment.
- 4. Beginning June 5, 2006, Okonta began calling Respondent regarding the filing of a Motion to Set Aside Entry of Judgment, to which Respondent did not respond.
- 5. On June 9, 2006, the Court ordered, among other things, that Office Depot could recover costs incurred in the lawsuit filed by Okonta. On June 28, 2006, Office Depot filed a Notice of Application to Tax Costs on Okonta, to which Respondent failed to oppose. On July 13, 2006, the Court taxed costs against Okonta in the amount of \$4,636.13

- 6. By the end of July 2006, when Respondent still had not filed a Motion to Set Aside Entry of Default, Okonta went to Respondent's office, and retrieved his client file. Thereafter, on November 15, 2006, Okonta substituted Attorney Ogochukwu Victor Onwaeze ("Owaeze") in Respondent's place.
- 7. Owaeze filed a Motion to Set Aside the Judgment, however the Court denied the motion, stating, among other things, that Respondent had failed to immediately protect Okonta's interests by moving for reconsideration, moving to set aside the judgment, or by filing an appeal.

Misconduct Involving Client Trust Account

- 8. On or about March 3, 2007, Respondent issued check no. 1222 in the amount of \$190.00, payable to Standard Parking, with the memo section stating "Suite 980". Respondent's law office is located in Suite 980 at 3350 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90012. When check no. 1222 was presented to Wells Fargo Bank on or about March 7, 2007, Wells Fargo paid the check. However, Respondent's client trust account balance reached -\$143.57.
- 9. On or about May 2, 1007, Respondent issued check no. 1244 in the amount of \$906.00, payable to Jenny Diaz, his former employee. When check no. 1244 was presented to Wells Fargo Bank on May 2, 2007, Respondent's client trust account balance was only \$623.86. Wells Fargo returned the check, unpaid, as Respondent had written the check against insufficient funds.
- 10. Respondent also wrote, from his client trust account, check number 1298, dated September 9, 2007, in the amount of \$190.00 for office parking; check number 1299, dated September 12, 2007, in the amount of \$1,200.00 for his office lease; check number 1300, dated September 17, 2007, in the amount of \$72.00 for his secretary, Jenny Diaz; check number 1305, dated October 10, 2007, in the amount of \$190.00 for office parking; check number 1306, dated October 16, 2007, in the amount of \$1,350.00 for his office rent; and check number 1309, dated October 24, 2007, in the amount of \$456 for his secretary, Jenny Diaz.
- 11. The checks described in paragraphs 8, 9, and 10 above were for personal or business expenses.
- 12. On or about October 10, 2007, Respondent deposited into his client trust account a check in the amount of \$600.00 from his office tenant for office rent.
- 13. On or about October 15, 2007, Respondent deposited into his client trust account a check in the amount of \$600.00 from his office tenant for "secretary's salary."

14. Respondent admitted in a December 11, 2007 letter addressed to the State Bar investigator the following: "I am guilty of commingling personal money in the Trust Account." Respondent also stated in his answer to the NDC the following: "Respondent admits that he misused the CTA to pay business expenses but denies that he issued the checks when he knew there were insufficient funds in the account."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 15. Respondent violated Rule 3-110(A) of the Rules of Professional Conduct by failing to perform services competently on behalf of Okonta.
- 16. Respondent violated Rules 4-100(A) of the Rules of Professional Conduct by misusing his client trust account and issuing checks against insufficient funds.

B. PENDING PROCEEDINGS

The disclosure date referenced on page one, paragraph A(7), is October 23, 2008.

C. SUPPORTING AUTHORITIES

Standards

Standard 1.6(a) provides, in part, as the follows:

If two or more acts of professional misconduct are found or acknowledged in a single disciplinary proceeding, and different sanctions are prescribed by these standards for said acts, the sanction imposed shall be the more or most severe of the different applicable standards.

Standard 2.2 provides as follows:

(b) Culpability of a member of commingling of entrusted funds or property with personal property or the commission of another violation of 4-100, Rules of Professional Conduct, none of which offenses result in the willful misappropriation of entrusted funds or property shall result in at least a three month actual suspension from the practice of law, irrespective of mitigating circumstances.

Standard 2.4(b) provides as follows:

Culpability of a member of willfully failing to perform services in an individual client matter or culpability of a member of willfully failing to communicate with a client shall result in reproval or suspension depending upon the extent of the misconduct and the degree of harm to the client.

Case Law

The relevant case law also indicates that significant actual suspension time is the appropriate level of discipline in this matter.

Respondent's practice of depositing personal funds into his client trust account and using that account for his personal expenses constitute commingling within the meaning of rule 4-100(A), even where there are no client funds in the account. *Arm v. State Bar* (1990) 50 Cal.3d 763, 776-777; *In the Matter of Koehler* (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 615, 625).

In the Matter of McKiernan (Review Dept. 1995) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 420, Respondent repeatedly misused and neglected his client trust account, and issued two checks when he knew that there were insufficient funds to cover them. The Review Department recommended that Respondent be suspended from the law for two years, that such suspension be stayed, and that he be placed on two years probation on conditions, including ninety days actual suspension.

D. DISMISSAL

The parties respectfully request the Court to dismiss the following alleged violations in the interest of justice:

Case No.	Count	Alleged Violation
07-O-10220	2	Business and Professions Code Section 6103.5
07-O-11794/07-O-12657	4	Business and Professions Code Section 6106

E. COSTS

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed Respondent that, as of October 28, 2008, the costs in this matter are \$ 5,695.25. 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.

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter of

ALABA SIKIRU AJETUNMOBI Member #219228 Case number(s):

07-O-10220; 07-O-11794; 07-O-12657; and

07-0-14714

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 Fact, Conclusions of Law and Disposition.

10/29/0P

Respondent's Signature

ALABA S. AJETUNMOBI

Print Name

Date

124/08

Respondent's Course Signature

Deputy Trial Coursel's Signature

Print Name

CARLA L. GARRETT

Print Name

 In the Matter Of
 Case Number(s):

 ALABA SIKIRU AJETUNMOBI
 07-O-10220; 07-O-11794; 07-O-12657; and

 Member #219228
 07-O-14714

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:

X	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 135(b), 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.)

Date

| Court | Court

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 October 31, 2008, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING

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: ALABA S AJETUNMOBI LAW OFFICE OF ALABA AJETUNMOBI 3350 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 980 LOS ANGELES CA 90010 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: \boxtimes by interoffice mail through a facility regularly maintained by the State Bar of California addressed as follows: CARLA GARRETT, Enforcement, Los Angeles I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on October 31, 2008.

Angela Owens-Carpenter Case Administrator

- Carpentu

State Bar Court