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**State Bar Court of California
Hearing Department
Los Angeles**

<p>Counsel For The State Bar</p> <p>Hugh G. Radigan Deputy Trial Counsel 1149 S. Hill Street Los Angeles, California 90015 (213) 765-1206</p> <p>Bar # 94251</p>	<p>Case Number (s) 08-C-11529</p>	<p>(for Court's use)</p> <p align="center">FILED</p> <p align="center">NOV 06 2008</p> <p align="center">STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES</p>
<p>In Pro Per Respondent</p> <p>Donald Peter Balzano 5150 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Ste. 500 Long Beach, California 90804</p> <p>Bar # 68648</p>	<p align="center">PUBLIC MATTER</p> <p>Submitted to: Assigned Judge</p>	
<p>In the Matter Of: Donald Peter Balzano</p> <p>Bar # 68648</p> <p>A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)</p>	<p>STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING</p> <p>PUBLIC REPROVAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED</p>	

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 **June 25, 1976**.
- (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 **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."
- (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 added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline (public reproof)
 - case ineligible for costs (private reproof)
 - costs to be paid in equal amounts for the following membership years: **prior to February 1 in three billing cycles following the effective date of the State Bar Court order.**
(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
- (9) 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
 - (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 or a separate attachment entitled "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. **Please see attachment page 3.**
- (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.
- (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:

The absence of any prior discipline in over thirty-two years of practice.

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 must comply with the conditions attached to the reproval for a period of **one (1) year**.
- (2) During the condition period attached to the reproval, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (3) Within ten (10) days of any change, Respondent must report to the Membership Records Office of the State Bar and to the Office of Probation of the State Bar of California ("Office of Probation"), 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) Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of discipline, Respondent must contact the Office of Probation and schedule a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss these terms and conditions of probation. Upon the direction of the Office of Probation, Respondent must meet with the probation deputy either in-person or by telephone. During the period of probation, Respondent must promptly meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.
- (5) Respondent must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the condition period attached to the reproval. Under penalty of perjury, Respondent must state whether Respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all conditions of the reproval during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state in each report whether there are any proceedings pending against him or her in the State Bar Court and if so, the case number and current status of that proceeding. If the first report would cover less than 30 (thirty) days, that report must 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.

- (6) Respondent must be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent must 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 must furnish such reports as may be requested, in addition to the quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Office of Probation. Respondent must cooperate fully with the monitor.
- (7) Subject to assertion of applicable privileges, Respondent must answer fully, promptly and truthfully any inquiries of the Office of Probation 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 reprobation.
- (8) Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must provide to the Office of Probation satisfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.
- No Ethics School recommended. Reason: .
- (9) Respondent must comply with all conditions of probation imposed in the underlying criminal matter and must so declare under penalty of perjury in conjunction with any quarterly report to be filed with the Office of Probation.
- (10) Respondent must provide proof of passage of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE"), administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, to the Office of Probation within one year of the effective date of the reprobation.
- No MPRE recommended. Reason: .
- (11) 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 type="checkbox"/> Financial Conditions |

F. Other Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:

(Do not write above this line.)

Attachment language (if any):

ATTACHMENT TO

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: Donald Peter Balzano

CASE NUMBER(S): 08-C-11529

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

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

Case No. 08-C-11529

1. On October 3, 2007, Respondent Donald P. Balzano (“Respondent”) pled nolo contendere and was convicted of violating Vehicle Code section 23152(b) (driving with alcohol level of more than .08%), a misdemeanor. As part of the terms of his sentence, Respondent was not to operate a vehicle without a valid California driver’s license in his possession.

2. On April 14, 2008, Respondent pled nolo contendere and was convicted of two separate charges of violating Vehicle Code section 14601.2(a)(driving when privilege suspended), a misdemeanor. These charges arose out of two separate and distinct incidents.

3. The first underlying offense occurred on November 29, 2007, at which time Respondent was involved in a vehicular accident where it was determined during the course of the accident investigation, Respondent was operating his vehicle with a suspended license. Respondent was cited for violation of Vehicle Code sections 14601.2(a) (driving when privilege suspended) and 14601.5(a) (knowingly driving with a suspended license), both misdemeanors.

4. The second offense occurred on April 7, 2008, at which time Respondent was cited for the same two identical charges above-referred while driving himself from a court appearance involving those charges arising out of the first offense.

5. As a result of the negotiated plea, both second counts arising out of the violation of Vehicle Code section 14601.5(a), were dismissed.

6. On April 14, 2008, Respondent was sentenced to three years summary probation, to serve 10 days in Los Angeles County jail, and to pay fines and penalties with the option to perform community service in lieu of those same fines and penalties.

Conclusions of Law

7. The parties stipulate that the facts and circumstances surrounding Respondent's plea of nolo contendere and conviction for successively violating Vehicle Code section 14601.2(a) (driving with suspended license), a misdemeanor, involved other misconduct warranting discipline.

PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page one, paragraph A.(7), was August 11, 2008.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of August 11, 2008, the costs in this matter are \$1636.00. 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.

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 April 14, 2008, respondent was convicted of violating Vehicle Code section 14601.2(a) (driving when privilege suspended), a misdemeanor.
3. On May 28, 2008, the Review Department of the State Bar Court issued an order referring the matter to the Hearing Department on the following issues: Whether the facts and circumstances surrounding the offense involved moral turpitude or other misconduct warranting discipline.

AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING DISCIPLINE.

Standard 3.4 provides that "Final conviction of a member of a crime which does not involve moral turpitude inherently or in the facts and circumstances surrounding the crime's commission but which does involve other misconduct warranting discipline shall result in a sanction as prescribed under part B of the standards appropriate to the nature and extent of the misconduct found to have been committed by the member."

In re Lesansky (2001) 25 Cal. 4th 11, 16; Criminal conduct not committed in the practice of law does not evidence moral turpitude unless it shows a character deficiency necessary to the practice of law, or a serious breach of duty to society or flagrant disrespect for the laws that would undermine public confidence in the profession.

In re Kelley (1990) 52 Cal. 3rd 457; while the respondent was on probation for a prior April 1984 DUI conviction, in November 1986 respondent received a second DUI conviction. The California Supreme Court imposed discipline consisting of a public reproof and three years of probation with conditions. In aggravation the Court found that respondent made no attempts to show rehabilitative efforts and maintained she had no alcohol-abuse problem.

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

FACTS SUPPORTING AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Under Standard 1.2(b)(ii), Respondent's misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing and demonstrates a pattern of misconduct by virtue of continuously operating a vehicle during a period of time when his operators privilege was suspended.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

FACTS SUPPORTING MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Under Standard 1.2(e)(i), there is an absence of any prior discipline assessed against Respondent over thirty-two years of practice. Under Standard 1.2(e)(iii), there is a lack of harm to either a client or others by virtue of the misconduct, and under Standard 1.2(e)(v), Respondent has expressed candor and cooperation to the State Bar during these proceedings.

STATE BAR ETHICS SCHOOL.

Because Respondent has agreed to attend State Bar Ethics School as part of this stipulation, Respondent may receive Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit upon the satisfactory completion of State Bar Ethics School.

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In the Matter of Donald P. Balzano	Case number(s): 08-C-11529 RAH
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SIGNATURE OF THE PARTIES

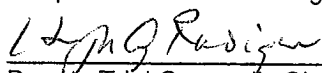
By their signatures below, the parties and their counsel, as applicable, signify their agreement with each of the recitations and each of the terms and conditions of this Stipulation Re Fact, Conclusions of Law and Disposition.

10/30/08
Date


Respondent's Signature

Donald P. Balzano
Print Name

November 3 '08
Date


Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature

Print Name
Hugh G. Radigan
Print Name

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In the Matter Of Donald P. Balzano	Case Number(s): 08-C-11529 RAH
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ORDER

Finding that the stipulation protects the public and that the interests of Respondent will be served by any conditions attached to the reproof, 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 court dates in the Hearing Department 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 125(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 reproof may constitute cause for a separate proceeding for willful breach of rule 1-110, Rules of Professional Conduct.

11-5-08
Date



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 November 6, 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:

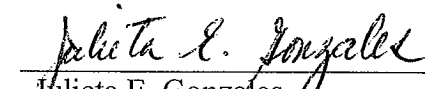
- by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

DONALD PETER BALZANO ESQ
MEDEX HEALTHCARE INC
5150 E PACIFIC COAST HWY STE 500
LONG BEACH, CA 90804

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

Michael J. Glass and Hugh G. Radigan, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on November 6, 2008.



Julieta E. Gonzales
Case Administrator
State Bar Court