### State Bar Court of California kwiktag ® 018 038 755 **Hearing Department** Los Angeles **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 08-O-14650 Monique T. Miller, DTC State Bar of California Office of The Chief Trial Counsel 1149 South Hill Street Los Angeles CA 90015-2299 Tel: (213) 765-1486 MAR 1.5 2011 STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE Bar # 212469 LOS ANGELES In Pro Per Respondent PUBLIC MATTER Gregory M. Burke **BURKE MOLINA** 3419 Via Lido Ste 360 Newport Beach CA 92663 Submitted to: Assigned Judge Tel: (888)679-5767 STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND **DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING** Bar # 188891 **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** In the Matter of: GREGORY M. BURKE ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED Bar # 188891 A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)

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 3, 1997.
- (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.

100	HOL WHILE	e above this line.)				
(3)	this	investigations or proceedings listed by case number in the caption of this stipulation are entirely resolved by stipulation and are deemed consolidated. Dismissed charge(s)/count(s) are listed under "Dismissals." The ulation consists of 12 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)		more than 30 days prior to the filing of this stipulation, Respondent has been advised in writing of any ding investigation/proceeding not resolved by this stipulation, except for criminal investigations.				
(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 unless relief is obtained per rule 5.130, Rules of Procedure.  Costs are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: 2012 & 2013. (Hardship, special circumstances or other good cause per rule 5.132, Rules of Procedure.) If Respondent fails to pay any installment as described above, or as may be modified by the State Bar Court, the remaining balance is due and payable immediately.  Costs are waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs". Costs are entirely waived.				
!	Profe	avating Circumstances [for definition, see Standards for Attorney Sanctions for essional 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)		<b>Dishonesty:</b> 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)	$\boxtimes$	<b>Trust Violation:</b> 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. Trust Funds were involved.				

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(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)		<b>Lack of Cooperation:</b> 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)		<b>Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct:</b> Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing or demonstrates a pattern of misconduct.
(8)		No aggravating circumstances are involved.
Add	itiona	al aggravating circumstances:
		ating Circumstances [see standard 1.2(e)]. Facts supporting mitigating imstances are required.
(1)		<b>No Prior Discipline:</b> 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)		<b>Candor/Cooperation:</b> Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation with the victims of his/her misconduct and to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation and proceedings.
(4)		<b>Remorse:</b> 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)		<b>Restitution:</b> Respondent paid \$ on in restitution to without the threat or force of disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.
(6)		<b>Delay:</b> 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)		<b>Emotional/Physical Difficulties:</b> 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)		<b>Severe Financial Stress:</b> 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)		<b>Family Problems:</b> At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her personal life which were other than emotional or physical in nature.

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(11)		God and	<b>d Cha</b> gener	<b>aracter:</b> Respondent's good character is attested to by a wide range of references in the legal al communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct.	
(12)		<b>Rehabilitation:</b> Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred followed by convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.			
(13)		No	mitiga	ting circumstances are involved.	
Addi	itiona	al mit	igatin	g circumstances:	
	Se	ee A	ttachr	ment Page 10.	
D. C	)isci	iplin	e:		
(1)	$\boxtimes$	Stay	red Su	spension:	
	(a)		Resp	ondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of Two (2) years.	
		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:	
	(b)	$\boxtimes$	The a	above-referenced suspension is stayed.	
(2)		Prot	ation	:	
	Res date	pond of th	ent mu le Sup	ust be placed on probation for a period of two (2) years, which will commence upon the effective reme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)	
(3)	$\boxtimes$	Actu	ıal Sus	spension:	
	(a)	$\boxtimes$	Resp of sixt	ondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period by (60) 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. A	ddit	iona	l Cor	nditions of Probation:	
(1)		he/st	ne prov	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 the v, pursuant to standard 1.4(c)(ii), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.	

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(2)	$\boxtimes$	During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules o Professional Conduct.					
(3)	$\boxtimes$	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					
(5)		promptly meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request. Respondent must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the period of probation. 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 probation during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state 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 days, that report must be submitted on the next 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 period of probation and no later than the last day of probation.					
(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 to the monitor 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 probation 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 probation conditions.					
(8)	$\boxtimes$	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)	$\boxtimes$	The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:					
		☐ Substance Abuse Conditions ☐ Law Office Management Conditions					
		☐ Medical Conditions ☐ Financial Conditions					
F. C	the	Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:					
(1)	$\boxtimes$	<b>Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination:</b> Respondent must provide proof of passage of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE"), administered by the National					

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		Conference of Bar Examiners, to the Office of Probation during the period of actual suspension or within one year, whichever period is longer. Failure to pass the MPRE results in actual suspension without further hearing until passage. But see rule 9.10(b), California Rules of Court, and rule 5.162(A) & (E), Rules of Procedure.
		☐ No MPRE recommended. Reason: .
(2)		Rule 9.20, California Rules of Court: Respondent 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 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.
(3)		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, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.
(4)		Credit for Interim Suspension [conviction referral cases only]: Respondent will be credited for the period of his/her interim suspension toward the stipulated period of actual suspension. Date of commencement of interim suspension:
(5)		Other Conditions:

<u>(Do</u>	o not write above this line.)				
	In the Matter of: GREGORY M. BURKE		Case Number(s): 08-O-14650		
Fir	nancial Conditions				
a.	Restitution				
	Respondent must pay restitute payee(s) listed below. If the or any portion of the principal amount(s) paid, plus application	Client Security Fund ("( al amount(s) listed below	CSF") has r	reimbursed one or more of t	he payee(s) for all
	Payee	Principal Amount		Interest Accrues From	] .
					1
					]
b.	Installment Restitution Paymer  Respondent must pay the abmust provide satisfactory proas otherwise directed by the probation (or period of reprothe payment of restitution, in	pove-referenced restitution of of payment to the Of Office of Probation. No val), Respondent must r	fice of Prob later than	pation with each quarterly pr 30 days prior to the expirati	obation report, or on of the period of
	Payee/CSF (as applicable	) Minimum Payment	Amount	Payment Frequency	]
					]
	If Respondent fails to pay an the remaining balance is due	y installment as describe and payable immediate	ed above, ely.	or as may be modified by th	e State Bar Court,
c.	Client Funds Certificate				
	public accountant or a. Respondent has California, at a b	must file with each requestion other financial profession maintained a bank acc	ired report onal approv ount in a ba s State of C	g the period covered by a real certificate from Responde yed by the Office of Probationank authorized to do busine alifornia, and that such accessions.	ent and/or a certified on, certifying that: ss in the State of

- b. Respondent has kept and maintained the following:
  - i. A written ledger for each client on whose behalf funds are held that sets forth:
    - 1. the name of such client;
    - 2. the date, amount and source of all funds received on behalf of such client;
    - 3. the date, amount, payee and purpose of each disbursement made on behalf of such client; and.
    - 4. the current balance for such client.
  - i. 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.
  - iii. 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:
  - i. 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:

GREGORY M. BURKE, Bar #188891

CASE NUMBER:

08-O-14650

#### PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page 2, paragraph A(6), was January 20, 2011.

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

#### FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW IN CASE NO. 08-O-14650

#### **FACTS**

- 1. At all times relevant herein, Respondent maintained a client trust account at Washington Mutual Bank, in Los Angeles, California, account no. xxxxx-x4747¹ (the "CTA").
- 2. Between September 2008 and February 2009, Respondent made several withdrawals from his CTA to pay for personal expenses, as follows:

<u>Date</u>	Method of Payment	Amount	Payee
9/19/08	E Check 0171669	\$186	Verizon Wireless
10/14/08	debit	\$357.50	AT&T
10/16/08	E Check 9602426	\$412	Verizon Wireless
10/22/08	debit	\$500	Paypal
10/22/08	debit	\$2.34	Paypal
11/3/08	debit	\$301	Paypal
11/3/08	E Check 000100	\$219	Cox Communications
11/21/08	debit	\$89.99	Paypal
11/24/08	debit	\$278.76	AT&T
11/28/08	debit	\$200	Paypal
1/2/09	debit	\$377.75	AT&T
1/6/09	debit	\$205.74	Cox Enterprises Broadband
1/16/09	debit	\$34.95	Paypal
2/9/09	debit	\$233.32	Cox Enterprises Broadband
3/13/09	debit	\$269.95	Paypal

3. In 2008 and 2009, Respondent employed his wife, Mrs. Burke, as his secretary and bookkeeper, delegating to her the task of handling the monthly reconciliation of the clients' funds coming into Respondent's possession in his CTA. As a result of Respondent's failure to provide Mrs. Burke with any method by which she could reconcile or verify the CTA balances, Mrs. Burke issued the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The account number is excluded to protect the account from identity theft.

following electronic debits and checks issued from the CTA, resulting in the debits and checks being returned for or paid against insufficient funds in the CTA:

Presentment Date Check N Or Electr Debit (E)	ronic	CTA Balance at Presentment
9/15/08 ED	\$186	\$ 19.51
9/15/08 ED	\$312.73	\$ 19.51
9/17/08 ED	\$312.73	\$ 67.51
9/23/08 ED	\$312.73	\$ 31.51
10/17/08 ED	\$219	\$ 45.01
10/24/08 #100	\$219	\$167.67
11/3/08 #99	\$248.41	\$ 47.67
3/2/09 ED	\$179.36	\$ 3.67

4. On March 19, 2009, Respondent deposited into his CTA two settlement checks issued by Intercare Insurance Services, dated March 11, 2009, totalling \$30,000 and payable to client Nanci Kassol and Respondent.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 5. By using his client trust account to pay for personal expenses, Respondent commingled funds belonging to Respondent in a bank account labeled "Trust Account," "Client's Funds Account" or words of similar import, in wilful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(A).
- 6. By failing to supervise the work delegated to a staff member, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence, in wilful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

#### **MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

Respondent has been practicing for 14 years without a prior record of discipline.

No client harm resulted from Respondent's misconduct in this matter.

Respondent cooperated with the State Bar upon being contacted regarding his commingling of funds in his client trust account and promptly entered into the instant stipulation.

#### **AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING DISCIPLINE.**

The Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct

Standard 1.6(a) provides that where 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 sanctions imposed shall be the more or most severe of the different applicable sanctions.

Standard 2.2(b) states that "culpability of a member of commingling of entrusted funds or property with personal property or the commission of another violation of rule 4-100, none of which results in a wilful 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 that a wilful failure to perform services in an individual matter or matters not demonstrating a pattern of misconduct shall result in reproval or suspension depending upon the extent of the misconduct and the degree of harm to the client.

#### Case Law

In *In Re Ronald Robert Silverton* (2005) Supreme Court Order S123042, the Supreme Court stated that the standards are entitled to great weight and that the State Bar court should follow the guidance of the Standards for Attorney Sanctions whenever possible.

In *In the Matter of Whitehead* (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 354, the Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct are not to be rigidly applied, and an actual suspension of less than three months for commingling may be appropriate in the circumstances of a particular case.

#### PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page 2, paragraph A(6), was January 20, 2011.

## **COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed Respondent that, as of January 20, 2011, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$1,983. 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.

In the Matter of:	Case number(s):	
	1	
GREGORY M. BURKE	08-O-14650	

# 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 Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition.

2/18/11		_ Gregory M. Burke
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
02/25/11 Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Monique T. Miller
Date	Deputy Thai Cognsel's Signature	Drint Name

(Do not write al	bove this line.)	
In the Matt	er of: Y M. BURKE	Case Number(s): 08-o-14650
	ACTUAL SU	SPENSION ORDER
	stipulation to be fair to the parties and that ismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRAN	it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the ITED without prejudice, and:
	The stipulated facts and disposition are a Supreme Court.	APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the
	The stipulated facts and disposition are a DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the	APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the Supreme Court.
□ P:	All Hearing dates are vacated. Aらど 5~ SECTION E、CT	) - PLACE CHECK MARIL IN BOX.
within 15 day stipulation. (	ys after service of this order, is granted; or See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure	nless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved .) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date is after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of
03	14-11	Com
Date	Ju	dge of the State Bar Court

RICHARD A. PLATEL

(Effective January 1, 2011)

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

[Rules Proc. of State Bar; Rule 5.27(B); 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 March 15, 2011, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

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

in a se	aled 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:
	GREGORY M BURKE BURKE MOLINA 3419 VIA LIDO STE 360 NEWPORT BEACH CA 92663
	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.
<b>.</b>	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:
	MONIQUE MILLER, Enforcement, Los Angeles
	25, 2011.  Executed in Los Angeles, California, on  Angela Carpenter  Case Administrator  State Bar Court