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

In the Matter of

SAMUEL J. WOO,

A Member of the State Bar.

) 09-C-12551

) **RECOMMENDATION OF**
) **SUMMARY DISBARMENT**

On September 17, 2009, this court ordered the parties to show cause by October 6, 2009 why summary disbarment should not be recommended to the Supreme Court in this case. Neither party has filed a response. Based on the record of conviction, we recommend that Samuel J. Woo, State Bar Number 188885, be summarily disbarred.

On May 1, 2009, Woo pled nolo contendere to one count of violating Health and Safety Code section 11352, subdivision (a) (transportation, sale, giving away, of designated controlled substances). Woo's accepted nolo contendere plea is a conviction for purposes of attorney discipline. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6101, subd. (e).) As a result of Woo's conviction we placed him on interim suspension effective October 16, 2009, and he has remained on interim suspension since that time. Since Woo has not filed a notice of appeal, and the time to file an appeal has expired, his conviction is now final. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.10(a).)

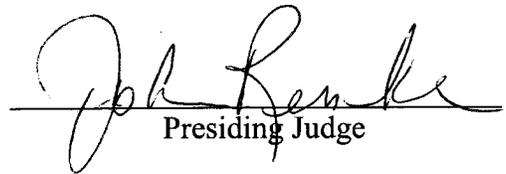
The record of conviction establishes that Woo's conviction meets the criteria for summary disbarment under Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c). First, the offense of which Woo was convicted is a felony. (Pen. Code, § 17, subd. (a).) Second, it involves moral turpitude. The statute was enacted to prevent trafficking in narcotics. (*People v.*



Navarez (1985)169 Cal.App.3d 936, 949.) Crimes involving the distribution of narcotics have traditionally been classified as crimes involving moral turpitude. (See, e.g., *In re Leardo* (1991) 53 Cal.3d 1, 10 [possessing controlled substances with intent to distribute]; *In re Giddens* (1981) 30 Cal. 3d 110, 112 [conspiring to distribute controlled substances].)

When an attorney's conviction meets the requirements for summary disbarment, "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 Samuel J. Woo, State Bar Number 188885, be summarily disbarred from the practice of law in this state. We also recommend that Woo be ordered to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court and to perform the acts specified in paragraphs (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 45 days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's order. Finally, we recommend that costs be awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10, such costs being 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. 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 10, 2009, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

ORDER FILED NOVEMBER 10, 2009

in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing on that date as follows:

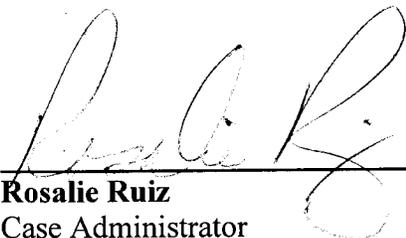
- [X] by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

SAMUEL J. WOO
532 N ROSSMORE AVE #311
LOS ANGELES, CA 90004

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

KRISTEN RITSEMAN, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on November 10, 2009.



Rosalie Ruiz
Case Administrator
State Bar Court