## State Bar Court of California **Hearing Department** Los Angeles **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 09-C-17095 PUBLIC MATTER Hugh G. Radigan 11-O-13987(inv) **Deputy Trial Counsel** 1149 Soth Hill Street Los Angeles, California 90015 213-765-1206 NOV 2 2 2011 Bar # 94251 STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO Counsel For Respondent Scott J. Drexel 1325 Howard Avenue, #151 Burlingame, California 94010 650-918-8328 Submitted to: Settlement Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND Bar # 65670 DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING In the Matter of: Leon Rubin Laufer **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED Bar # 100995 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 December 1, 1981.
- (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 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."

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| (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<br>per  | 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) | Pay<br>614   | ment<br>0.7. (  | of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & Check one option only):  |  |  |  |
|     |  |   | til costs are paid in full, Respondent will remain actually suspended from the practice of law unless lefts obtained per rule 5.130. Rules of Procedure  |  |  |  |
|     | $\boxtimes$  | 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: two cycles following the effective date of the Supreme Court order. (Hardship, special circumstate or other good cause per rule 5.132, Rules of Procedure.) If Respondent fails to pay any installment described above, or as may be modified by the State Bar Court, the remaining balance is due and payable immediately. |  |  |  |  |
|     |  | Co  | sts are waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs". sts are entirely waived.  |  |  |  |
|     | Aggr<br>Profe<br>are r   | essi  | ting Circumstances [for definition, see Standards for Attorney Sanctions for onal Misconduct, standard 1.2(b)]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances red.  |  |  |  |
| (1) | $\boxtimes$  | Prio  | r record of discipline [see standard 1.2(f)]   |  |  |  |
|     | (a)  | $\boxtimes$   | State Bar Court case # of prior case 90-O-17747  |  |  |  |
|     | (b)  | $\boxtimes$   | Date prior discipline effective January 16, 1993   |  |  |  |
|     | (c)  | $\boxtimes$   | Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(B) and Business and Professions Code section 6106   |  |  |  |
|     | (d)  |   | Degree of prior discipline two years stayed suspension, two years probation and two months actual suspension.  |  |  |  |
|     | (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<br>to the client or person who was the object of the misconduct for improper conduct toward said funds or<br>property.   |  |  |  |  |
| (4) | $\boxtimes$  | Resp  | n: Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public or the administration of justice. condent's conviction of violation of Penal Code section 549 (accepting false or fraudulent ms against insurers) significantly harmed the public and the administration of justice. In the 11-   |  |  |  |

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|       |  | O-13987 matter, the client was required to enter into a payment plan with the medical lien holder and his credit rating negatively impscted.   |  |  |  |  |
| (5)   |  | <b>Indifference:</b> 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.   |  |  |  |  |
| Addi  | itiona   | al aggravating circumstances:  |  |  |  |  |
|       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|       | _  | ating Circumstances [see standard 1.2(e)]. Facts supporting mitigating mstances 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)   | $\boxtimes$  | 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. Respondent cooperated with the State Bar during the pendency of this matter.  |  |  |  |  |
| (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)   |  | <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)   | 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.   |  |  |  |  |

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| (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)  | (13) No mitigating circumstances are involved.  |   |                     |  |  |  |  |
| Addi  | tion  | al mit  | igating             | circumstances:   |  |  |  |
|       |   |   |                     |  |  |  |  |
| D. D  | isc   | iplin   | e:                  |  |  |  |  |
| (1)   | $\boxtimes$   | Stay  | ed Sus              | spension:  |  |  |  |
|       | (a)   | $\boxtimes$   | Respo               | ondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two 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 ab              | pove-referenced suspension is stayed.  |  |  |  |
| (2)   | Probation:  |   |                     |  |  |  |  |
|       | Res<br>date   | ponde<br>of th  | ent mus<br>le Supre | st be placed on probation for a period of two years, which will commence upon the effective eme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)   |  |  |  |
| (3)   | 3) 🗵 Actual Suspension:   |   | pension:            |  |  |  |  |
|       | (a)   | $\boxtimes$   | •                   | ndent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period months.  |  |  |  |
|       |   | 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 |  |  |  |
|       |   | il.   |                     | 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 Con               | ditions of Probation:  |  |  |  |
| (1)   | If Respondent is actually suspended for two years or more, he/she must remain actually suspended until he/she proves to the State Bar Court his/her rehabilitation, fitness to practice, and learning and ability in the general law, pursuant to standard 1.4(c)(ii), Standards for Attomey Sanctions for Professional Misconduct. |   |                     |  |  |  |  |

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|        | <b>1</b> 21 | During the analytics and I be a second Rules of   |  |  |  |  |  |
| (2)    |             | During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of <b>Professional Conduct</b> .   |  |  |  |  |  |
| (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 promotely meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (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)    | $\boxtimes$ | 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 or Probation satisfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School, and passage of the test give at the end of that session.   |  |  |  |  |  |
|        |             | □ No Ethics School recommended. Reason: .   |  |  |  |  |  |
| (9)    | Ø           | 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:   |  |  |  |  |  |
|        |             |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|        |             |   |  |  |  |  |  |

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| (1)    |             | Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination: 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 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)    | $\boxtimes$ | 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)    | $\boxtimes$ | 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: July 8, 2011.   |
| (5)    |             | Other Conditions:   |

| In the Matter of:<br>Leon Rubin Laufer |  |  | Case Number(s): 09-C-17095 and 11-O-13987(inv)  |  |  |
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| in                                     | ancial Conditions  | ····   |   |  |  |
|  | Restitution  |  |   |  |  |
|  | pavee(s) listed below. If the  | Client Security Fund ("(<br>al amount(s) listed below  | pal amount, plus interest of 10% per annum) to the SF*) has reimbursed one or more of the payee(s) for , Respondent must also pay restitution to CSF in the   |  |  |
|  | Payee  | Principal Amount   | Interest Accrues From   |  |  |
|  | Yevgeny Korolyov   | 1160.25  | April 24, 2009  |  |  |
|  |  |  |   |  |  |
|  |  |  |   |  |  |
|  |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Probation not later than Nin.  | ety days from the filin  | and provide satisfactory proof of payment to the Office g of the Supreme Court discipline order herein  |  |  |
|  | Probation not later than Nine  Installment Restitution Payme  Respondent must pay the atmust provide satisfactory provide satisfactory provide satisfactory by the   | nts  oove-referenced restitution of payment to the Of Office of Probation. Noval), Respondent must i   | on on the payment schedule set forth below. Responsice of Probation with each quarterly probation report, later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period nake any necessary final payment(s) in order to comp   |  |  |
|  | Probation not later than Nine  Installment Restitution Payme  Respondent must pay the alt must provide satisfactory pro as otherwise directed by the probation (or period of repro-  | ety days from the filin<br>nts<br>cove-referenced restitution<br>of of payment to the Office of Probation. No<br>val), Respondent must a<br>coluding interest, in full.  | on on the payment schedule set forth below. Responsice of Probation with each quarterly probation report, later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period nake any necessary final payment(s) in order to comp   |  |  |
|  | Probation not later than Nine  Installment Restitution Payme  Respondent must pay the ald must provide satisfactory produce as otherwise directed by the probation (or period of reproduce the payment of restitution, in  | ety days from the filin<br>nts<br>cove-referenced restitution<br>of of payment to the Office of Probation. No<br>val), Respondent must a<br>coluding interest, in full.  | on on the payment schedule set forth below. Responsice of Probation with each quarterly probation report, later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period nake any necessary final payment(s) in order to comp   |  |  |
|  | Probation not later than Nine  Installment Restitution Payme  Respondent must pay the ald must provide satisfactory produce as otherwise directed by the probation (or period of reproduce the payment of restitution, in  | ety days from the filin<br>nts<br>cove-referenced restitution<br>of of payment to the Office of Probation. No<br>val), Respondent must a<br>coluding interest, in full.  | on on the payment schedule set forth below. Responsice of Probation with each quarterly probation report, later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period nake any necessary final payment(s) in order to comp   |  |  |
|  | Probation not later than Nine  Installment Restitution Payme  Respondent must pay the ald must provide satisfactory produce as otherwise directed by the probation (or period of reproduce the payment of restitution, in  | ety days from the filin<br>nts<br>cove-referenced restitution<br>of of payment to the Office of Probation. No<br>val), Respondent must a<br>coluding interest, in full.  | on on the payment schedule set forth below. Responsice of Probation with each quarterly probation report, later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period nake any necessary final payment(s) in order to comp   |  |  |
|  | Installment Restitution Payme  Respondent must pay the all must provide satisfactory propas otherwise directed by the probation (or period of reprothe payment of restitution, in Payee/CSF (as applicable   | nts  oove-referenced restitution of of payment to the Office of Probation. Noval), Respondent must including interest, in full.  Minimum Payment  or installment as described.   | on on the payment schedule set forth below. Responsice of Probation with each quarterly probation report, later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period nake any necessary final payment(s) in order to compare the payment of the period nake any necessary final payment frequency.  Amount Payment Frequency  ed above, or as may be modified by the State Bar Co |  |  |
|  | Installment Restitution Payme  Respondent must pay the all must provide satisfactory provide as otherwise directed by the probation (or period of reprovide payment of restitution, in  Payee/CSF (as applicable)  | nts  oove-referenced restitution of of payment to the Office of Probation. Noval), Respondent must including interest, in full.  Minimum Payment  or installment as described.   | on on the payment schedule set forth below. Responsice of Probation with each quarterly probation report, later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period nake any necessary final payment(s) in order to compare the payment of the period nake any necessary final payment frequency.  Amount Payment Frequency  ed above, or as may be modified by the State Bar Co |  |  |
|  | Installment Restitution Payme  Respondent must pay the atmust provide satisfactory provide as otherwise directed by the probation (or period of reprovide payment of restitution, in  Payee/CSF (as applicable  If Respondent fails to pay arthe remaining balance is due  Client Funds Certificate  1. If Respondent posses report Respondent | nts  oove-referenced restitution of of payment to the Office of Probation. No val), Respondent must including interest, in full.  Minimum Payment  oy installment as describe and payable immediate esses client funds at any must file with each requirement. | on on the payment schedule set forth below. Responsice of Probation with each quarterly probation report, later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period nake any necessary final payment(s) in order to compare the payment of the period nake any necessary final payment frequency.  Amount Payment Frequency  ed above, or as may be modified by the State Bar Co |  |  |

- 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.
  - 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.
  - 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 |
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| 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:

Leon Rubin Laufer

CASE NUMBER(S):

09-C-17095 and 11-O-13987(inv)

## FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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.

## Case No. 09-C-17095 (Conviction 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 February 17, 2011, Respondent was convicted of violating Penal Code section 549.
- 3. On June 9, 2011, the Review Department of the State Bar Court issued an order referring the matter to the Hearing Department on the following issues:

#### **FACTS:**

- 4. In the underlying matter, between April 12, 2006 and April 23, 2007, an employee paid an individual for referring personal injury cases to Respondent's law firm. Although Respondent did not authorize the payment and was not aware of it, Respondent's failure to adequately supervise the employee allowed the situation to occur.
- 5. On February 17, 2011, Respondent pled nolo contendere to one count of violating Penal Code section 549 (accepting false or fraudulent claims against insurers).
- 6. As a condition of the plea, the court reduced the charge to a misdemeanor and described the offense as failure to supervise an office assistant. The court ordered that Respondent provide proof of restitution to the defrauded insurance carriers in the amount of \$60,000.00, that Respondent perform 250 hours of community service, placed Respondent on three years probation, fined Respondent a total of \$90.00, sentenced Respondent to no actual jail time and dismissed the remaining forty-nine counts of the complaint against Respondent. Respondent has made the ordered restitution and performed the required community service.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

7. The facts and circumstances surrounding the above-described violation(s) did not involve moral turpitude but did involve other misconduct warranting discipline. By failing to properly supervise his office staff, Respondent allowed a fraudulent claim arising out of a staged accident to be accepted by his office for handling and in so doing, willfully and recklessly failed to perform with competence in violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

## Case No. 11-O-13987 (Complainant: Korolyov)

#### **FACTS:**

- 8. On November 6, 2008, Respondent was retained by Korolyov to pursue his claim in a personal injury matter.
- 9. Respondent negotiated a settlement on behalf of Korolyov. Although he does not specifically recall making such a statement, Respondent acknowledges that he may have told Korolyov, after Respondent had mailed a check to the ambulance company, that the bill had been paid. However, because of a dispute over the amount of the bill, Respondent subsequently stopped payment on the check.
- 10. An outstanding ambulance bill in the amount of \$1,160.25 was not addressed or satisfied at the time of the negotiated settlement and disbursement of settlement proceeds, resulting in Korolyov now facing a collection action to recover that outstanding balance.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

11. By not paying \$1,160.25 to the ambulance lien holder or Korolyov or an additional \$1,160.25 to Korolyov from the settlement funds, Respondent wilfully failed to pay promptly, as requested by his client, any funds in Respondent's possession which Korolyov was entitled to receive in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(B)(4).

### PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page 2, paragraph A(7), was November 1, 2011.

### **AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING DISCIPLINE.**

In State Bar disciplinary proceedings involving criminal convictions, the conviction is considered conclusive evidence of guilt and the Respondent may not collaterally attack it. *In re Utz* (1989) 48 Cal.3<sup>rd</sup> 468, 480.

Moral turpitude has been defined as an "act of baseness, vileness or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellow men, or to society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between man and man [citation]. The concept of moral turpitude depends upon the state of public morals, and may vary according to the community or the times,

[citations] as well as on the degree of public harm produced by the act in question." In Re Fahey (1973) 8 Cal.3d 842, 849.

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 these standards appropriate to the nature and extent of the misconduct found to have been committed by the member."

Under standard 1.2(b), "Circumstances which shall be considered aggravating include:...

- (i) the existence of prior record of discipline and the nature and extent of that record (see also standard 1.7);...
- (iv) that the member's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public or the administration of justice;...."

In consideration of the facts and circumstances surrounding Respondent's misconduct, and the aggravating and mitigating circumstances present, the parties submit that the intent and goals of the Standards are met in this matter with the imposition of a five month actual suspension, two year stayed suspension and two year probation.

#### COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of October 31, 2011, the prosecution costs in this matter are approximately \$3,179.00. 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.

## 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.

| î i           |                                  |                 |  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 11/7/11       | Dean! Jaup                       | Leon R. Laufer  |  |
| Date / /      | Respondent's Signature           | Print Name      |  |
| 1/7/11        | , Soft Driver                    | Scott J. Drexel |  |
| Date *        | Respondent's Counsel Signature   | Print Name      |  |
| Novembre 8 11 | 1 typ & Radigan                  | Hugh G. Radigan |  |
| Date          | Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature | Print Name      |  |

| In the Matter of:   | Case Number(s):  |
|---|--|
| LEON RUBIN LAUFER   | 09-C-17095; 11-O-13987 (inv)   |
| ACT   | TUAL SUSPENSION ORDER  |
| inding the stipulation to be fair to the partie equested dismissal of counts/charges, if an | es and that it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the sy, is GRANTED without prejudice, and: |
| The stipulated facts and disposition Supreme Court.   | osition are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the   |
| The stipulated facts and disponsition DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMEN                                | osition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DED to the Supreme Court.                       |
| All Hearing dates are vacated   |  |
| DAVE D - SECTION A. C   | (8) - CHECKED BOX. AFTER FIRST   |
| Sentence - Add C" YE  | (8) - CHECKED BOX. AFTER FIRST FARS JULY DAMA DOLY")   |
|   |  |
|   |  |

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 5.58(E) & (F), 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.)

11-21-4

Milled

Data

Judge of the State Bar Court

RICHARD A. PLATEL

## DECLARATION OF SERVICE

bv

U.S. FIRST-CLASS MAIL / U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL / OVERNIGHT DELIVERY / FACSIMILE-ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

CASE NUMBER(s): 09-C-17095; 11-O-13987 (inv)

I, the undersigned, am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action, whose business address and place of employment is the State Bar of California, 1149 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90015, declare that:

- on the date shown below, I caused to be served a true copy of the within document described as follows:

# STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING ACTUAL SUSPENSION

| ACTUAL SUSPENSION  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| By U.S. First-Class Ma in accordance with the pof Los Angeles.   | il: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a)) practice of the State Bar of California for collection and proc   | By U.S. Certified Neessing of mail, I deposited or place | lail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a)) ed for collection and mailing in the City and County |  |  |  |  |
| By Overnight Delivery: (CCP §§ 1013(c) and 1013(d))  - I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for overnight delivery by the United Parcel Service ('UPS').  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| By Fax Transmission:   | By Fax Transmission: (CCP §§ 1013(e) and 1013(f))  Based on agreement of the parties to accept service by fax transmission; I faxed the documents to the persons at the fax numbers listed herein below. No error was reported by the fax machine that I used. The original record of the fax transmission is retained on file and available upon request.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Based on a court order or a  | By Electronic Service: (CCP § 1010.6)  Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept service by electronic transmission, I caused the documents to be sent to the person(s_ at the electronic addresses listed herein below. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (for U.S. First-Class Mail)  | in a sealed envelope placed for collection and maili  | ng at Los Angeles, addressed                             | to: (see below)  |  |  |  |  |
| (for Certified Mail) in a  | a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing a at Los A  | s certified mail, return receipt r                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| (for Overnight Delivery) Tracking No.:   | together with a copy of this declaration, in an envelop   | oe, or package designated by taddressed to: (see below)  | JPS,   |  |  |  |  |
| Person Served  | Business-Residential Address  | Fax Number   | Courtesy Copy to:  |  |  |  |  |
| SCOTT J. DREXEL  1325 HOWARD AVENUE, #151 BURLINGAME, CA 94010  Electronic Address   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| via inter-office mail regularly p  | processed and maintained by the State Bar of Califor  | nia addressed to:  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | N/A   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service, and overnight delivery by the United Parcel Service ('UPS'). In the ordinary course of the State Bar of California's practice, correspondence collected and processed by the State Bar of California would be deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day, and for overnight delivery, deposited with delivery fees paid or provided for, with UPS that same day. |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope or package is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing contained in the affidavit.   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I declare under penalty of   | of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, the  | nat the foregoing is true and co                         | rrect. Executed at Los Angeles,  |  |  |  |  |
| California, on the date shown belo   |   |  | -  |  |  |  |  |
| DATED: November 8, 2011  SIGNED: JULI JENEWEIN  Declarant  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

State Bar of California DECLARATION OF SERVICE

#### **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 San Francisco, on November 22, 2011, 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 San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:

SCOTT JOHN DREXEL 1325 HOWARD AVE #151 BURLINGAME, CA 94010

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

HUGH G. RADIGAN, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, on November 22, 2011.

Bernadette C.O. Molina Case Administrator State Bar Court