

(Do not write above this line.)

State Bar Court of California
Hearing Department
Los Angeles



<p>Counsel For The State Bar</p> <p>Larry DeSha Deputy Trial Counsel 1149 S. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 765-1336</p> <p>Bar # 117910</p>	<p>Case Number (s)</p> <p>10-C-00365-DFM</p>	<p>(for Court's use)</p> <p>FILED</p> <p>DEC 17 2010 <i>He</i></p> <p>STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES</p> <p>PUBLIC MATTER</p>
<p>In Pro Per Respondent</p> <p>M. Pierre Blahnik 992 Monterey St.; Ste. B San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 545-9649</p>	<p>Submitted to: Assigned Judge</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>	
<p>Bar # 153969</p> <p>In the Matter Of:</p> <p>M. PIERRE BLAHNIK</p> <p>Bar # 153969</p> <p>A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)</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 August 22, 1991.
- (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:
(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."

(Do not write above this line.)

- (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.
- (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. See Stipulation Attachment, page 7.
- (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. See Stipulation Attachment, page 7.
- (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.

(Do not write above this line.)

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. See Stipulation Attachment, pages 7 and 8.
- (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:

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 two (2) years.
- (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 reproof 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 reproof.
- (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 reproof.
- No MPRE recommended. Reason: The misconduct did not involve clients or the practice of law.
- (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:

ATTACHMENT TO
STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: M. PIERRE BLAHNIK
CASE NO.: 10-C-00365-DFM

FACTS:

1. On Sunday, October 18, 2009, at about 5:30 p.m., a police officer on patrol in his car was flagged down by a pedestrian outside a restaurant. The pedestrian reported that Respondent had just driven out of the restaurant's parking lot in an extremely intoxicated condition, headed for home, about 250 yards away. The pedestrian gave the officer Respondent's home address.
2. The police officer proceeded to the address, where he saw Respondent and a female friend exiting Respondent's vehicle. The officer called out to Respondent, and informed Respondent that he wanted to talk to him, but Respondent and his friend ignored the officer and walked through the front door of Respondent's residence. The officer followed them inside and ordered Respondent to step outside. Respondent refused and pushed the police officer toward the front door.
3. The officer then put a physical control hold on Respondent and took him outside. Respondent struggled ineffectively, and his female friend kicked and hit the officer in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue Respondent. The officer was able to keep Respondent subdued until backup police officers arrived, who promptly arrested Respondent and his female friend.
4. Respondent agreed to a blood test, which resulted in a blood alcohol concentration ("BAC") of 0.20 percent.
5. On March 30, 2010, Respondent entered a plea of no contest to a count of "wet/reckless" [Vehicle Code sections 23103(a) / 23103.5], i.e., reckless driving on a public street as a plea to driving under the influence of alcohol, and to one count of resisting, obstructing, or delaying a peace officer [Penal Code section 148(a)(1)]. Respondent was convicted of two misdemeanors.
6. On March 30, 2010, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine of \$750.00. Informal probation was imposed for three years, with conditions which included serving 15 days in jail, and attendance and successful completion of the Wet Reckless Program.
7. Respondent has served his time in custody and has paid the fine. He is currently in compliance with the terms of his probation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

8. The facts and circumstances surrounding the violations of which Respondent was convicted did not involve moral turpitude, but did involve other misconduct warranting discipline.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES:

1. No Prior Discipline

Respondent has had no prior imposition of discipline during more than 19 years as an active member of the State Bar. The present misconduct occurred during his 19th year of membership.

2. Candor/Cooperation

Respondent entered a plea of no contest to the charges against him. He has now admitted all of the material facts set forth in this stipulation, and has stipulated to an appropriate level of discipline.

3. Good Character

A variety of letters attesting to Respondent's good character have been received by the State Bar from community leaders who have known Respondent for many years, and are aware of his conviction in this matter. A retired Superior Court judge saw Respondent "almost daily for many years" and stated that Respondent was a very effective public defender and "at all times conducted himself in the finest traditions of the Bar."

Respondent's employer and supervisor since 1991, who has worked as the county's Contract Public Defender since 1980, regards Respondent as "an accomplished attorney who passionately and vigorously represents his clients." She stated that Respondent is held in high regard by his colleagues and the county's judges. She stated that she has never observed any signs of an alcohol problem.

An elected member of the local school district is a neighbor and has known Respondent for seven years, during which they worked together on local charity and community functions. He is also an attorney and has observed Respondent in court. He considers Respondent to be "well-respected and involved" and an asset to their community.

An elected member of the local harbor district is also a neighbor and attorney who has known Respondent for seven years. He stated that Respondent is "universally known" as a successful "hard-working and dedicated public defender who genuinely cares about his clients." He stated that Respondent has a good reputation with local law enforcement officers and the public.

A member of the Bar for more than 32 years stated that he had worked with Respondent on numerous criminal defense cases since 1991. He sees Respondent in court almost every day. He considers Respondent to be "a credit to the legal profession" and an outstanding public defender. He stated that "no one better represents the Public Defender's unselfish devotion to the representation of the indigent defendant."

One of Respondent's coworkers since 1993, and a member of the State Bar since 1992, stated that Respondent served as a mentor to herself and other new attorneys in the firm. She stated that Respondent is held in high esteem by both sides of the local criminal bar. She stated that a local judge (whom she named), who had been the district attorney, told her a few years ago that he thought that Respondent was "an excellent attorney" and he "enjoyed presiding over his trials."

SUPPORTING AUTHORITY:

Standard 2.6 of the Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct provides that a violation of section 6068(a) of the Business and Professions Code (failure to uphold the laws of California) shall result in disbarment or suspension depending upon the gravity of the offense or the harm, if any, to the victim, with due regard to the purpose of imposing discipline.

In *In re Kelley* (1990) 52 Cal.3d 487, attorney Kelley was convicted for the second time of driving under the influence of alcohol, which offense occurred while she was still on criminal probation for her first offense. The California Supreme Court held that this was not moral turpitude, but was other misconduct warranting discipline. There were mitigating circumstances of no harm to the public or the courts, good character, and candor and cooperation. There were no aggravating circumstances. The imposed discipline was a public reproof with conditions of probation for three years and attendance at the State Bar's alcohol abuse program.

Although Respondent has no prior conviction, he did resist arrest. His primary offense is that he drove his vehicle with a BAC of 0.20 percent. The aggravating and mitigating factors are about the same as in *Kelley*. In imposing discipline of a public reproof, the California Supreme Court made clear that its purpose was for protection of the public from Kelley's clear alcohol abuse problem.

Respondent's resisting arrest shows a temporary lack of respect for law enforcement which, if repeated, could adversely affect his criminal defendant clients in the future. For the same reasons set forth in *Kelley*, a public reproof is the appropriate discipline under these circumstances.

PENDING PROCEEDINGS:

The disclosure date referred to on page 2, paragraph A.(7), was December 7, 2010.

COSTS:

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed Respondent that as of December 6, 2010, the costs in this matter are \$1,636.00. 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.

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter of M. PIERRE BLAHNIK	Case number(s): 10-C-00365-DFM
--	--

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.

December _____, 2010 _____ M. Pierre Blahnik
Date Respondent's Signature Print Name

_____ Respondent's Counsel Signature Print Name

December 8, 2010 _____ Larry DeSha
Date Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature Print Name

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter of M. PIERRE BLAHNIK	Case number(s): 10-C-00365-DFM
--	--

ORDER

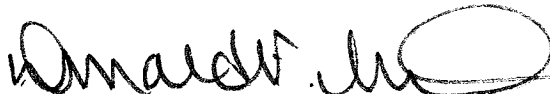
Finding that the stipulation protects the public and that the interests of Respondent will be served by any conditions attached to the reproof, IT IS ORDERED that the requested dismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTED without prejudice, and:

- 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.

12/17/10
Date


Judge of the State Bar Court

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 December 17, 2010, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

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

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:

**M. PIERRE BLAHNIK
992 MONTEREY ST #B
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401**

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

LARRY DeSHA, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on December 17, 2010.



Tammy Cleaver
Case Administrator
State Bar Court