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| State Bar Court of California Hearing Department Los Angeles ACTUAL SUSPENSION | | |
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| <p>Counsel For The State Bar</p> <p>Ashod Mooradian Deputy Trial Counsel 1149 S. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 765-1004</p> <p>Bar # 194283</p> | <p>Case Number(s): 10-O-00159-DFM</p> | <p>For Court use only</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FILED OCT - 2 2012 <i>File</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC MATTER</p> |
| <p>In Pro Per Respondent</p> <p>Louis Gordon Bruno 650 Flintridge Place Escondido, CA 92026 (760) 480-1375</p> <p>Bar # 137898</p> | <p>Submitted to: Assigned Judge</p> <p>STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING</p> | |
| <p>In the Matter of: LOUIS GORDON BRUNO</p> <p>Bar # 137898</p> <p>A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)</p> | <p>ACTUAL SUSPENSION</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REMANDED BY SUPREME COURT ORDER NO. S198627</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 December 7, 1988.
- (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 14 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."

(Effective January 1, 2011)

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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 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):
 - 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: Costs to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following two billing cycles beginning from the 2014 membership year. (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.

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 05-O-04360
 - (b) Date prior discipline effective September 9, 2007
 - (c) Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Rule 3-110(A), Rules of Professional Conduct and Business and Professions Code section 6068(m)
 - (d) Degree of prior discipline One (1) year suspension, stayed, two (2) years probations on standard terms and conditions including passage of State Bar Ethics School and the MPRE.
 - (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 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. See Stipulation Attachment, page 11, section "B".

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- (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. See Stipulation Attachment, page 11, section "B".
- (8) **No aggravating circumstances** are involved.

Additional aggravating circumstances:

None.

C. Mitigating Circumstances [see standard 1.2(e)]. Facts supporting mitigating circumstances are required.

- (1) **No Prior Discipline:** Respondent has no prior record of discipline over many years of practice coupled with present misconduct which is not deemed serious.
- (2) **No Harm:** Respondent did not harm the client or person who was the object of the misconduct.
- (3) **Candor/Cooperation:** Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation with the victims of his/her misconduct and to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation and proceedings.
- (4) **Remorse:** Respondent promptly took objective steps spontaneously demonstrating remorse and recognition of the wrongdoing, which steps were designed to timely atone for any consequences of his/her misconduct.
- (5) **Restitution:** Respondent paid \$ _____ on _____ in restitution to _____ without the threat or force of disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.
- (6) **Delay:** These disciplinary proceedings were excessively delayed. The delay is not attributable to Respondent and the delay prejudiced him/her.
- (7) **Good Faith:** Respondent acted in good faith.
- (8) **Emotional/Physical Difficulties:** At the time of the stipulated act or acts of professional misconduct Respondent suffered extreme emotional difficulties or physical disabilities which expert testimony would establish was directly responsible for the misconduct. The difficulties or disabilities were not the product of any illegal conduct by the member, such as illegal drug or substance abuse, and Respondent no longer suffers from such difficulties or disabilities.
- (9) **Severe Financial Stress:** At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered from severe financial stress which resulted from circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and which were directly responsible for the misconduct.
- (10) **Family Problems:** At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her personal life which were other than emotional or physical in nature.
- (11) **Good Character:** Respondent's good character is attested to by a wide range of references in the legal and general communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct.

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- (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:

See Stipulation Attachment, page 12, section "C".

D. Discipline:

- (1) **Stayed Suspension:**
- (a) Respondent 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) The above-referenced suspension is stayed.

(2) **Probation:**

Respondent must be placed on probation for a period of two(2) years, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)

(3) **Actual Suspension:**

- (a) Respondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period of six (6) 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
- 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. Additional Conditions 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 Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.
- (2) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.

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- (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 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) 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) 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Conditions |

F. Other Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:

- (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**

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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:**

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| In the Matter of: LOUIS GORDON BRUNO | Case Number(s): 10-O-00159-DFM |
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Financial Conditions

a. Restitution

- Respondent must pay restitution (including the principal amount, plus interest of 10% per annum) to the payee(s) listed below. If the Client Security Fund ("CSF") has reimbursed one or more of the payee(s) for all or any portion of the principal amount(s) listed below, Respondent must also pay restitution to CSF in the amount(s) paid, plus applicable interest and costs.

| Payee | Principal Amount | Interest Accrues From |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Carlos and Elizabeth Romero | \$1,000.00 | February 1, 2009 |
| Carlos and Elizabeth Romero | \$500.00 | March 1, 2009 |
| | | |
| | | |

- Respondent must pay above-referenced restitution and provide satisfactory proof of payment to the Office of Probation not later than ninety (90) days from the effective date of the discipline order.

b. Installment Restitution Payments

- Respondent must pay the above-referenced restitution on the payment schedule set forth below. Respondent must provide satisfactory proof of payment to the Office of Probation with each quarterly probation report, or as otherwise directed by the Office of Probation. No later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period of probation (or period of reprobation), Respondent must make any necessary final payment(s) in order to complete the payment of restitution, including interest, in full.

| Payee/CSF (as applicable) | Minimum Payment Amount | Payment Frequency |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

- 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.

c. Client Funds Certificate

1. If Respondent possesses client funds at any time during the period covered by a required quarterly report, Respondent must file with each required report a certificate from Respondent and/or a certified public accountant or other financial professional approved by the Office of Probation, certifying that:
- Respondent has maintained a bank account in a bank authorized to do business in the State of California, at a branch located within the State of California, and that such account is designated as a "Trust Account" or "Clients' Funds Account";

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 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: LOUIS GORDON BRUNO

CASE NUMBER(S): 10-O-00159-DFM

A. FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

LOUIS GORDON BRUNO (“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:

1. On April 13, 2007, Respondent entered into a stipulation to resolve a disciplinary action, State Bar Court case number 05-O-04360, then pending against him (“Prior Matter”). On April 26, 2007, the State Bar Court filed its order approving the stipulated disposition in the Prior Matter and served Respondent. Then, on August 10, 2007, the Supreme Court of California filed its disciplinary order in the Prior Matter requiring Respondent to, among other things, pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (“MPRE”) on or before September 8, 2008.

2. On September 16, 2008, Respondent filed a motion for extension of time to pass the MPRE. On October 6, 2008, after receiving no opposition from the Office of Probation, the Review Department of the State Bar Court (“Review Department”) filed its order granting Respondent’s motion and giving an extension to Respondent to pass the MPRE until one week after the release of the results for the MPRE to be administered on November 8, 2008.

3. On December 8, 2008, the Office of Probation received the official MPRE results for the MPRE administered on November 8, 2008 which showed that Respondent did not receive a passing score. On December 10, 2008, the Office of Probation notified the Review Department of Respondent’s failure to pass the MPRE and also sent Respondent a courtesy copy of the notification.

4. On December 19, 2008, the Review Department filed an order suspending Respondent from the practice of law effective January 12, 2009 pending proof of Respondent’s passage of the MPRE and served Respondent with a copy of the order.

5. Prior to December 19, 2008, Respondent had met with Carlos and Elizabeth Romero (the “Romeros”) on more than one occasion. During these meetings, Respondent told the Romeros that there was a high probability of the Romeros receiving a right to relief under the consumer laws and lending regulations regarding their impending foreclosure.

6. On December 19, 2008, Respondent and the Romeros signed an hourly fee agreement wherein Respondent agreed to assist them in resisting foreclosure and pursuing legal claims against their mortgage lender and their mortgage broker.

7. From January 12, 2009 until April 14, 2009, the Supreme Court of California suspended Respondent from the practice of law for failing to pass the MPRE. Respondent knew that he was suspended from the practice of law during this period. Because Respondent was not entitled to practice law during this period, he was no longer able to represent the Romeros.

8. On January 12, 2010, Respondent filed another motion to extend the deadline for passage of the MPRE and for relief from suspension.

9. On January 15, 2010, the Office of Probation filed its opposition to Respondent's motion to extend the deadline for passage of the MPRE and for relief from suspension. In its opposition, the Office of Probation pointed out that the stipulation in the prior disciplinary matter signed by Respondent on April 13, 2007 stated, "Failure to pass the MPRE results in actual suspension without further hearing until passage."

10. On January 23, 2010, the Review Department denied Respondent's motion to extend the deadline for passage of the MPRE and for relief from suspension.

11. On January 25, 2009 and on February 22, 2009, Respondent met with the Romeros. During these meetings, Respondent never informed the Romeros that he was suspended from the practice of law. Specifically, when Respondent met with the Romeros, Respondent knew that he was suspended for failure to pass the MPRE and Respondent knew that his motion to extend the deadline for passage of the MPRE and for relief from suspension had been denied by the Review Department.

12. On February 1, 2009 and on March 1, 2009, Respondent accepted payments totaling \$1,500.00 from the Romeros for advanced legal fees. Respondent did not inform the Romeros that he was unable to accept advanced legal fees from them because he was suspended from the practice of law.

13. In March 2009, Respondent participated in an email communication involving the Romeros lender.

14. From July 1, 2009 until January 15, 2010, the California Supreme Court suspended Respondent from the practice of law for failing to pay his State Bar membership dues. Respondent knew that he was suspended from the practice of law but he never informed the Romeros of his suspension.

15. On or about July 29, 2009, Respondent prepared and delivered to the Romeros a document entitled "Declaration of Louis G. Bruno in Support of Rescission and/or Claims of Carlos and Elizabeth Romero" (the "Declaration"). The Declaration contained numerous citations to law, legal arguments and legal conclusions regarding the Romeros rights and

obligations under their loan agreement with their bank. The Romeros received Respondent's document containing legal arguments and legal conclusions.

Conclusions of law:

16. By accepting payments totaling \$1,500.00 from the Romeros on February 1, 2009 and on March 1, 2009, which were both dates when Respondent was not an active member of the State Bar, Respondent charged and collected an illegal fee in willful violation Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-200(A).

17. By continuing to represent the Romeros between January 12, 2009 until April 14, 2009 and between July 1, 2009 until January 15, 2010, when Respondent knew he was not an active member of the State Bar of California, Respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when he was not an active member of the State Bar in violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 6125 and 6126, and thereby failed to comply with the laws of California in willful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(a).

18. By continuing to represent the Romeros between January 12, 2009 until April 14, 2009 and between July 1, 2009 until January 15, 2010, when he knew he was not an active member of the State Bar and not informing the Romeros that he was not entitled to practice law, Respondent misrepresented his entitlement to practice law and committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption in willful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106.

B. FACTS IN SUPPORT OF AGGRAVATION.

Respondent has a prior record of discipline that is not remote in time and that involved serious misconduct. (Standard 1.2(b)(i)). In the prior matter, Respondent stipulated to one count of failure to perform with competence and two counts of failure to communicate. Also, Respondent committed the misconduct herein while on probation. (*In the Matter of Katz* (Review Dept. 1995) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 430, 438 [aggravating circumstance of prior misconduct was magnified by the fact that the respondent committed the current misconduct while on probation in the prior disciplinary proceeding]).

Respondent's misconduct significantly harmed a client. (Standard 1.2(b)(iv)). The Romeros hired Respondent because they were in financial distress and facing foreclosure. But the deprivation and loss of the use of the funds they paid to Respondent when he was not entitled to practice law caused significant financial harm to the Romeros. (*In the Matter of Bouyer* (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 404, 417 [failure to make restitution to a client is an aggravating factor]).

Respondent's misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing. Standard 1.2(b)(ii). Respondent's misconduct herein involved three (3) counts of violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the State Bar Act including the knowing unauthorized practice of law and the charging and collecting of an illegal fee. (*In the Matter of Elkins* (Review Dept. 2010) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 160, 168 [multiple acts of misconduct are an aggravating factor]).

C. FACTS IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL MITIGATION.

Respondent is entitled to mitigation for entering into a full stipulation with the Office of Chief Trial Counsel prior to the filing of a Notice of Disciplinary Charges demonstrating cooperation and thereby saving State Bar Court time and resources. (*In the Matter of Downey* (Review Dept. 2009) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 151, 156; *In the Matter of Van Sickle* (Review Dept. 2006) 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 980, 993-994).

D. DISCUSSION OF DISCIPLINE.

The Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct provide a “process of fixing discipline” pursuant to a set of written principles to “better discharge the purposes of attorney discipline as announced by the Supreme Court.” (Rules Proc. of State Bar, tit. IV, Stds. for Atty. Sanctions for Prof. Misconduct, Introduction (all further references to standards are to this source).) The primary purposes of disciplinary proceedings and of the sanctions imposed are “the protection of the public, the courts and the legal profession; the maintenance of high professional standards by attorneys and the preservation of public confidence in the legal profession.” (*In re Morse* (1995) 11 Cal.4th 184, 205; std 1.3.)

Although not binding, the standards are entitled to “great weight” and should be followed “whenever possible” in determining level of discipline. (*In re Silverton* (2005) 36 Cal.4th 81, 92, quoting *In re Brown* (1995) 12 Cal.4th 205, 220 and *In re Young* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 257, 267, fn. 11.) Adherence to the standards in the great majority of cases serves the valuable purpose of eliminating disparity and assuring consistency, that is, the imposition of similar attorney discipline for instances of similar attorney misconduct. (*In re Naney* (1990) 51 Cal.3d 186, 190.) Any discipline recommendation different from that set forth in the applicable standards should clearly explain the reasons for the deviation. (*Blair v. State Bar* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 762, 776, fn. 5.)

Respondent admits to committing three acts of professional misconduct. Standard 1.6 (a) requires that where a Respondent acknowledges two or more acts of misconduct, and different sanctions are prescribed by the standards that apply to those acts, the sanction imposed shall be the more or most severe prescribed in the applicable standards.

The most severe sanction applicable to Respondent’s misconduct is found in Standard 2.3, which applies to Respondent’s violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106.

Standard 2.3 provides that culpability of a member of an act of moral turpitude, fraud, or intentional dishonesty toward a court, client or another person or of concealment of a material fact to a court, client or another person shall result in actual suspension or disbarment depending upon the extent to which the victim of the misconduct is harmed or misled and depending upon the magnitude of the act of misconduct and the degree to which it relates to the member's acts within the practice of law.

In this matter, Respondent practiced law when he knew he was suspended and he concealed that he was not entitled to practice law from his clients the Romeros. Further, an

attorney's practice of deceit is "...inimical to the high ethical standards of honesty and integrity required of members of the legal profession and to promoting confidence in the trustworthiness of members of the profession. (*Stanley v. State Bar* (1990) 50 Cal.3d 555, 567). Thus, an act of moral turpitude is an act of misconduct of the greatest magnitude, especially where, as in this matter, Respondent's misconduct related directly to the practice of law and occurred in the context of an attorney-client relationship.

The victims of Respondent's concealment were the Romeros. The Romeros, believing that Respondent was entitled to practice law, did not seek another attorney to help them in defending their home from foreclosure and paid Respondent fees for legal services. Where a suspended attorney accepted money to perform legal services, that attorney violated the prohibition against law practice by anyone other than active State Bar members. (*In the Matter of Taylor* (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 563, 581. The Romeros ultimately lost their home in foreclosure.

In addition, the misconduct herein is aggravated by a prior record of discipline which is not remote in time and Standard 1.7(a) states that the discipline imposed in this matter shall be greater than prior discipline. Further, Respondent committed misconduct in this matter while still subject to the terms and conditions of a probation imposed as part of his prior record of discipline. Also, the misconduct herein is aggravated because it involved multiple acts of misconduct and significantly harmed a client. However, the misconduct herein is mitigated by the fact that Respondent has entered into a stipulation regarding facts, conclusions of law and disposition. Taken together, the misconduct herein and the aggravating and mitigating factors point to a significant increase from the one year suspension, stayed with two years probation imposed in the prior record of discipline.

E. PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to on page two, paragraph A. (7) was August 24, 2012.

F. COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

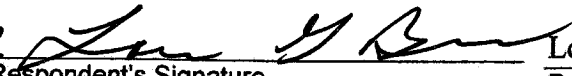
Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed him that as of August 24, 2012, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$2,797.00. Respondent acknowledges that this figure is an estimate only. Respondent further acknowledges that should this stipulation be rejected or should relief from the stipulation be granted, the costs in this matter may increase due to the cost of further proceedings.

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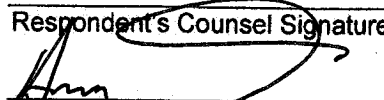
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| In the Matter of: LOUIS GORDON BRUNO | Case number(s): 10-O-00159-DFM |
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SIGNATURE OF THE PARTIES

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

20 Sept 2012  Louis Gordon Bruno
Date Respondent's Signature Print Name

Date Respondent's Counsel Signature Print Name

09-25-12  Ashod Mooradian
Date Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature Print Name

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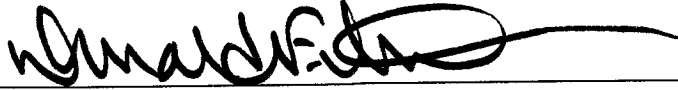
ACTUAL SUSPENSION ORDER

Finding the stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it adequately protects the public, 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 DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
- All Hearing dates 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 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.)**

10/1/12
Date


DONALD F. MILES
Judge of the State Bar Court

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 October 2, 2012, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

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

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:

**LOUIS G. BRUNO
650 FLINTRIDGE PL
ESCONDIDO, CA 92026**

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

ASHOD MOORADIAN, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on October 2, 2012.



Tammy Cleaver
Case Administrator
State Bar Court