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State Bar Court of California Hearing Department Los Angeles ACTUAL SUSPENSION		
Counsel For The State Bar Rizamari C. Sitton The State Bar of California Office of the Chief Trial Counsel 1149 S. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 765-1364 Bar # 138319	Case Number(s): 10-O-02489 10-O-03709 10-O-04579 10-O-05438 10-O-06067 10-O-06488 10-O-06492 10-O-06493 10-O-07903 10-O-09732 10-O-09965 10-O-09968	For Court use only <p style="text-align: center;">FILED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUN 02 2011 <i>HC</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES</p>
In Pro Per Respondent Ghassan G. Bridi The Bridi Firm 15760 Ventura Blvd Ste 700 Encino, CA 91436 (818) 379-1700 Bar # 188070	PUBLIC MATTER	
In the Matter of: Ghassan G. Bridi Bar # 188070 A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)	Submitted to: STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING ACTUAL SUSPENSION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED	

Note: All information required by this form and any additional information which cannot be provided in the space provided, must be set forth in an attachment to this stipulation under specific headings, e.g., "Facts," "Dismissals," "Conclusions of Law," "Supporting Authority," etc.

A. Parties' Acknowledgments:

- (1) Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted June 2, 1997.
- (2) The parties agree to be bound by the factual stipulations contained herein even if conclusions of law or disposition are rejected or changed by the Supreme Court.
- (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 30 pages, not including the order.



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- (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):
 - 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: (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 : 00-O-15574 and 01-O-02257
 - (b) Date prior discipline effective : August 10, 2001
 - (c) Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: 3-110(A), 6068(m), 3-700(D)(2), 3-700(D)(1)
 - (d) Degree of prior discipline : Private reproof
 - (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.

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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.
- (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.
- (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.

(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:

Personal problems caused Respondent to suffer depression and anxiety that necessitated hospitalization in 2008, and continued medical treatment thereafter. In April 2010, Respondent voluntarily enrolled in the Lawyer's Assistance Program, and he continues to participate in that program. In additional recognition of his problems, Respondent made changes in his law practice in March 2010 and he stopped accepting employment that involved loan modification matters or other real property issues.

The parties agreed to attach hereto Respondent's unilateral Statement of Mitigation, as Attachment 4, at page 8.

D. Discipline:

(1) **Stayed Suspension:**

(a) Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of three (3) 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 three (3) 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 one (1) year.

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:

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- (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.
- (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:
 - Substance Abuse Conditions
 - Law Office Management Conditions
 - Medical Conditions
 - 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 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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Attachment language (if any):

See, Respondent's Statement of Mitigation, page 8.

See, Financial Conditions, pages 9-11.

See, Statement of Facts, pages 12-21.

See, Conclusions of Law, pages 22-28.

See, Supporting Authority, page 29.

Statement of Mitigation

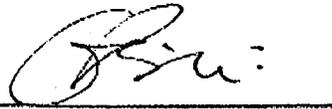
In late 2008 I was hospitalized with severe abdominal pains that left me completely immobile, which was later determined to be a result of the stress associated with my work and the anxiety and depression resulting therefrom. I was hospitalized for 4 days and underwent a litany of diagnostic testing for nearly 2 months afterwards in out patient procedures at various hospitals.

Unfortunately due to my case load, I couldn't afford to take a prolonged time period off, so I had to immediately return to work and deal with the workload that accumulated. I managed to hang on and keep the practice afloat and deal with the challenges associated with a small practice, though the daily mental stress associated with this and the lack of assistance, quickly became overwhelming again, and again I began falling behind on a few files.

My stomach pains returned, and due to financial restraints I was unable to seek medical attention because I couldn't keep up with my health insurance premiums and let my policy lapse. I felt the weight of the world on my shoulders and knew I needed to do something to save my practice, my reputation, and my career.

In order to more adequately deal with the physical and mental challenges associated with my health issues and work issues, I paid out of my own pocket to hire a therapist whom I now see once a week and who has helped me tremendously in allowing me to manage the mental difficulties associated with the running of a law practice.

In addition, I have taken it upon myself to enroll in the Lawyer Assistance Program sponsored by the California Bar Association. Where I attend support meetings led by a psychologist once per week with other lawyers encountering similar issues as I am.



Ghassan G. Briedi, Esq.

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In the Matter of: Ghassan G. Bridi	Case Number(s): 10-O-02489, 10-O-03709, 10-O-04579, 10-O-05438, 10-O-06067, 10-O-06488, 10-O-06492, 10-O-06493, 10-O-07903, 10-O-09732, 10-O-09965, 10-O-09968
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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
See, page 11.	See, page 11.	See, page 11.

- Respondent must pay above-referenced restitution and provide satisfactory proof of payment to the Office of Probation not later than

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:

Financial Conditions- Restitution

Payee	Principal	Interest Accrues From
Marin L. Parra	\$3,000.00	01/01/2010
Randolph R. Meyer	\$1,500.00	02/01/2010
Terry Danuser	\$1,750.00	02/16/2010
Peter & Renee Fillmore	\$2,500.00	03/09/2010
James A. & Janet A. Clausman	\$3,000.00	04/05/2010
Jose Sanchez	\$1,850.00	06/07/2010
Nancy Fairbanks	\$ 973.00	06/28/2010
Arturo Sequeira	\$1,500.00	09/01/2010
Dianna Walter	\$2,500.00	09/17/2010

STATEMENT OF FACTS

IN THE MATTER OF: GHASSAN G. BRIDI

CASE NUMBERS: 10-O-02489, 10-O-03709, 10-O-05438,
 10-O-06067, 10-O-6488, 10-O-6493,
 10-O-6492, 10-O-07903, 10-O-09732,
 10-O-09968, 10-O-04579, 10-O-09965

Respondent acknowledges and stipulates that the following facts are true:

Case No. 10-O-02489

1. In August 2009, James A. Clausman and Janet A. Clausman (collectively "Clausmans"), husband and wife, hired Respondent to provide them with loan modification and loss mitigation services, including negotiations with their mortgage lender about restructuring their debt and avoiding foreclosure of their home. The Clausmans paid Respondent approximately \$3000, in advanced attorney's fees.

2. Between October 28, 2009, and November 17, 2009, inclusive, the Clausmans contacted Respondent by email and by telephone at least six times, and each time they inquired about the status of their loan matter. Respondent did not reply to any of the emails and he did not return any of the calls.

3. Between October 28, 2009, and November 17, 2009, inclusive, on at least three occasions, the Clausmans received past-due notices and payment demands from their lenders. On each occasion, the Clausmans informed Respondent about the notices and demands.

4. On November 18, 2010, having not heard back from Respondent, the Clausmans contacted their lender directly and learned that negotiations to restructure their loan had not started. Immediately thereafter, the Clausmans terminated Respondent's employment, and they asked him for a refund of the advanced fees.

5. Between August 2009, and January 2010, Respondent did not initiate negotiations with the Clausmans's lender; he did not submit any proposal to the lender; and, he did not otherwise submit to the lender an application for a loan modification on behalf of the Clausmans.

6. In January 2010, the lender informed the Clausmans that their home would be foreclosed in February 2010.

7. On April 5, 2010, the Clausmans sent Respondent a letter requesting their files and documents, and a refund of all advanced fees.

8. Respondent did not provide the services that the Clausmans had hired him to perform. Respondent did not earn any part of the fees advanced by the Clausmans.

9. To date, Respondent has not paid to the Clausmans the unearned fees.

10. To date, Respondent has not returned to the Clausmans any of their files and documents.

Case No. 10-O-03709

11. In September 2009, Terry Danuser ("Danuser") hired Respondent to represent him in an audit of his mortgage loan. Danuser paid Respondent \$1,750, in advanced attorney's fees.

12. Between September 2009, and February 2010, Danuser left telephone messages and sent emails to Respondent, on at least 13 occasions, asking about the status of his loan audit matter. Respondent did not return the phone calls; he did not reply to the emails; and, he did not otherwise provide Danuser with information regarding the status of his matter.

13. Between September 2009 and February 2010, Respondent did not perform any services on behalf of Danuser.

14. On February 16, 2010, Danuser terminated Respondent's employment. Danuser requested his files and documents, and he requested a refund of the advanced fees.

15. Respondent did not earn any of the fees advanced by Danuser.

16. To date, Respondent has not released to Danuser any of his documents or files.

17. To date, Respondent has not refunded any portion of the unearned fees.

Case no. 10-O-05438

18. On May 19, 2009, Mary K. Hanson ("Hanson") hired Respondent on a contingency fee basis to file and handle to conclusion a certain mortgage fraud lawsuit on her behalf. Respondent knew that time was of the essence in filing the lawsuit.

19. Beginning in August 2009, Respondent stopped communicating with Hanson. Between August 2009, and December 2009, inclusive, Hanson telephoned Respondent at least once each month, and she sent him at least one letter by mail, and two email messages. Each time, Hanson inquired about the status of her lawsuit. Respondent did not respond to any of Hanson's calls, letter and email between August 2009 and December 2009.

20. Respondent did not file a mortgage fraud lawsuit, and he did not otherwise perform any services on behalf of Hanson.

21. In late December 2009, Hanson terminated Respondent's employment, and she began looking for another attorney.

22. Between December 2009 and June 2010, Hanson requested her files and documents from Respondent.

23. To date, Respondent has not released to Hanson any of her files and documents.

Case no. 10-O-06067

24. At all times pertinent herein, Respondent was the counsel of record for Jose A. Hernandez in a certain federal lawsuit, *Jose A. Hernandez vs. City of Simi Valley, et al.*, filed in the Central District of California.

25. Respondent did not comply with certain federal statutes regarding filing requirements.

26. On December 21, 2009, the Court issued an order requiring compliance with the filing requirements. Respondent received notice of the order. Respondent did not comply with the order.

27. On February 3, 2010, as a result of Respondent's non-compliance with the court's December 21, 2009, order, the court issued an Order to Show Cause (OSC) requiring Respondent to personally appear in court on March 1, 2010, and to show cause why monetary sanctions should not be imposed against Respondent. The OSC also required Respondent to file a written response no later than February 22, 2010. Respondent received notice of the OSC and the hearing.

28. Respondent did not file the requisite written response to the OSC. Respondent did not make appear at the OSC hearing. As a result, the court imposed personal sanctions against Respondent in the amount of \$500. The court issued a further Order to Show Cause (second OSC) requiring Respondent to comply with the federal filing rules and to appear in court at a hearing on March 29, 2010. Respondent received notice of the sanctions, and notice of the second OSC.

29. Respondent did not appear at the hearing on March 29, 2010; he did not pay the \$500, sanctions; and he did not comply with the federal filing rules.

30. Consequently, on March 29, 2010, the court ordered Respondent to pay additional personal sanctions of \$1,000. Respondent received notice of the additional sanctions.

31. To date, Respondent has not paid the \$500 sanctions; he has not paid the \$1000 sanctions; and, he has not otherwise complied with the OSC and the second OSC.

32. Respondent did not report to the State Bar the sanctions of \$1000, imposed by the court on March 29, 2010.

Case no. 10-O-6488

33. In September 2009, Nancy Fairbanks ("Fairbanks") hired Respondent to represent her in a certain real estate dispute. Fairbanks paid Respondent \$3,500, as advanced attorney's fees.

34. Beginning in mid-October 2009, Respondent stopped communicating with Fairbanks.

35. Between October 2009, and June 2010, inclusive, Fairbanks telephoned Respondent on several occasions, sent him at least two emails, and sent him at least two letters by mail. Each time, she inquired about the status of her real estate matter, and asked Respondent to respond. Respondent did not return any of the phone calls, he did not reply to the emails, he did not reply to the letters, and he did not otherwise provide Fairbanks with information about the status of her matter.

36. On April 23, 2010, Fairbanks sent Respondent a letter requesting the return of certain documents. Respondent did not reply to the letter.

37. On June 28, 2010, Fairbanks terminated Respondent's employment, and she began looking for a new attorney.

38. Respondent did not perform any services on behalf of Fairbanks.

39. Respondent did not earn any part of the attorney's fees advanced by Fairbanks.

40. To date, Respondent has refunded a total of approximately \$2,527 to Fairbanks.

41. To date, Respondent has not released to Fairbanks any of her files or documents.

42. To date, Respondent has not refunded to Fairbanks the balance of the unearned fees.

Case no. 10-O-6493

43. On January 28, 2010, Elsa M. Flores ("Flores") hired Respondent to file and handle to conclusion a bankruptcy petition on her behalf. Flores paid Respondent \$1,800, as advanced attorney's fees.

44. On February 11, 2010, Respondent filed an incomplete bankruptcy petition on behalf of Flores. Respondent received court notice that the bankruptcy petition was incomplete, and that certain additional documents must be filed by February 25, 2010. Respondent also received notice that a Meeting of Creditors will be held on March 30, 2010.

45. Respondent did not file the requisite additional documents in Flores' bankruptcy matter.

46. Respondent did not attend the Meeting of Creditors on March 30, 2010.

47. Between January 28, 2010, and March 30, 2010, Flores telephoned Respondent at least ten times, and sent him at least one email. On each call and email, Flores inquired about the status of her bankruptcy matter. On each call, Respondent was not available, and Flores left a message asking him to call back. Respondent did not return any of Flores's calls; he did not reply to Flores's email; and, he did not otherwise provide Flores with information about the status of her case.

48. On April 12, 2010, the court issued an order and notice of dismissal of Flores's bankruptcy petition for failure to file the requisite additional documents. Respondent received the order and notice of dismissal.

49. Respondent did not reply to the April 12, 2010, order and notice of dismissal, and he did not otherwise take any action regarding the order and notice.

50. On April 16, 2010, Respondent informed Flores that he would file a motion to reopen her bankruptcy matter. Respondent did not file a motion to reopen Flores's bankruptcy case, and he did not otherwise take any further action in Flores's matter.

51. In June 2010, Flores terminated Respondent's employment, and she hired a new attorney.

52. Respondent did not earn the fees advanced by Flores.

53. In June 2010, Respondent refunded the unearned fees to Flores, and released a portion of her files to Flores.

54. In June 2010, Flores asked Respondent for the remainder of her files and documents.

55. To date, Respondent has not released to Flores the remainder of her files and documents.

Case no. 10-O-06492

56. On May 17, 2010, Jose Sanchez ("Sanchez") hired Respondent to apply for, negotiate and obtain a mortgage loan modification. Sanchez paid Respondent \$1,850 as advanced attorney fees.

57. In early June 2010, Sanchez discovered that Respondent had not been in contact with his lender, and that Respondent had not otherwise performed any work on his matter.

58. During the first week of June 2010, Sanchez repeatedly telephoned Respondent and sent emails to him, requesting to discuss the status of his matter. Respondent did not return any of the phone calls; he did not reply to any of the emails; and, he did not otherwise communicate with Sanchez about the status of his loan matter.

59. On June 7, 2010, Sanchez terminated Respondent's services.

60. Respondent did not earn any of fees advanced by Sanchez.

61. In June 2010, Sanchez requested his files and documents, and a refund of the unearned fees.

62. Respondent released to Sanchez his files and documents in November 2010.

63. To date, Respondent has not refunded to Sanchez any portion of the unearned fees.

Case no. 10-O-07903

64. In January 2010, Rudolph Meyer ("Meyer") hired Respondent to represent him in a real property line dispute with a neighbor. Meyer paid Respondent \$1,500 as advanced attorney fees.

65. Between January 8, 2010, and February 24, 2010, Meyer repeatedly telephoned Respondent and sent him emails, each time asking about the status of his matter. Respondent did not return any of the telephone calls; he did not reply to any of the emails; and, he did not otherwise communicate with Meyer about the status of his matter.

66. In February 2010, Meyer terminated Respondent's employment, and he hired a new attorney.

67. Respondent did not earn any portion of the fees advanced by Meyer.

68. In February 2010, Meyer asked Respondent for a refund of the unearned fees, and a return of his files and documents.

69. To date, Respondent has not returned any of Meyer's files and documents.

70. To date, Respondent has not refunded to Meyer any portion of the unearned fees.

Case no. 10-O-09732

71. On June 8, 2009, Maria Parra ("Parra") hired Respondent to handle a mortgage loan audit, and to apply for, negotiate and obtain a mortgage loan modification on her behalf. Parra paid Respondent \$3,000 as advanced attorney fees.

72. In August 2009, Respondent stopped communicating with Parra. He did not return any of her telephone calls, and he did not otherwise provide her with information about the status of her matter.

73. In January 2010, Parra terminated Respondent's employment.

74. Respondent did not perform any services for Parra.

75. Respondent did not earn any of the fees advanced by Parra.

76. To date, Respondent has not refunded to Parra any portion of the unearned fees.

Case no. 10-O-09968

77. On August 21, 2010, Dianna Walter ("Walter") hired Respondent to pursue a certain civil lawsuit against her mortgage lenders. Walter paid Respondent \$2,500 as advanced attorney fees.

78. Between August 21, 2010, and September 17, 2010, Walter repeatedly telephoned Respondent and sent him emails, each time asking about the status of her lawsuit. Respondent did not return any of her calls; he did not reply to any of her emails; and, he did not otherwise provide her with any information regarding the status of her lawsuit.

79. On September 17, 2010, Walter discovered that Respondent had not had any contact with her lender. Walter terminated Respondent's services on September 17, 2010.

80. Respondent did not earn any portion of the fees advanced by Walter.

81. To date, Respondent has not refunded to Walter any portion of the unearned fees.

Case no. 10-O-04579

82. On May 29, 2009, Peter Fillmore and Renee Fillmore (collectively "Fillmores"), husband and wife, hired Respondent to handle a mortgage loan audit, and to apply for, negotiate and obtain a mortgage loan modification on their behalf. The Fillmores paid Respondent \$2,500 as advanced attorney fees.

83. Between May 29, 2009, and March 9, 2010, the Fillmores repeatedly telephoned Respondent, sent him emails, and sent him letters, each time asking Respondent about the status of their matter. Respondent did not return any of the telephone calls; he did not reply to any of the emails; he did not respond to any of the letters; and, he did not otherwise provide the Fillmores with information about the status of their matter.

84. In early March 2010, the Fillmores discovered that Respondent had not performed any work on their behalf.

85. Respondent did not earn any portion of the attorney fees advanced by the Fillmores.

86. On March 9, 2010, the Fillmores terminated Respondent's services, and asked for a refund of the advanced attorney fees.

87. In January 2011, Respondent returned to the Fillmores their loan audit documents.

88. To date, Respondent has not refunded to the Fillmores any portion of the unearned fees.

Case no. 10-O-09965

89. On March 12, 2010, Arturo Sequeira ("Sequeira") hired Respondent to represent him in a dispute with his mortgage lender regarding his impound account. Sequeira paid Respondent \$1,500 as advanced attorney fees.

90. Beginning in May 2010, Respondent stopped communicating with Sequeira despite Sequeira's repeated telephone calls to Respondent. Between May 2010 and September 2010, Sequeira repeatedly telephoned Respondent, each time asking about the

status of his matter. Respondent did not return any of Sequeira's phone calls, and he did not otherwise provide him with information about the status of his matter.

91. In September 2010, Sequeira terminated Respondent's services.

92. Respondent did not perform any work on behalf of Sequeira.

93. Respondent did not earn any portion of the fees advanced by Sequeira.

94. To date, Respondent has not refunded to Sequeira any portion of the unearned fees.

Case nos. 10-O-06488 and 10-O-06493

95. Between June 2010 and December 2010, the State Bar was conducting disciplinary investigations concerning Respondent's conduct in Case no. 10-O-06488, which arose out of a complaint filed by Nancy Fairbanks, and Case no. 10-O-06493, which arose out of a complaint filed by Elsa M. Flores.

96. The State Bar sent letters to Respondent requesting that respondent cooperate and participate in the investigations by providing a written response to the allegations under investigation. The State Bar mailed its letters on July 29, 2010, August 3, 2010, August 20, 2010, and on August 27, 2010.

97. Respondent received the State Bar letters sent and dated July 29, 2010, August 3, 2010, August 20, 2010, and on August 27, 2010, shortly after they were sent.

98. The State Bar gave Respondent a reasonable period of time to respond to its letters.

99. Respondent did not respond to the State Bar letters. Respondent did not raise any statutory or constitutional privilege in failing to cooperate and participate in the State Bar investigations.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

IN THE MATTER OF: GHASSAN G. BRIDI

CASE NUMBERS: 10-O-02489, 10-O-03709, 10-O-05438,
 10-O-06067, 10-O-6488, 10-O-6493,
 10-O-6492, 10-O-07903, 10-O-09732,
 10-O-09968, 10-O-04579, 10-O-09965

Respondent admits, and the parties stipulate, that by his conduct described in the attached Statement of Facts, Respondent is culpable of the following violations.

Case no. 10-O-02489

1. By not submitting an application for a mortgage loan modification on behalf of the Clausmans, by not otherwise initiating negotiations to restructure their loan, and by not otherwise performing any services on behalf of the Clausmans, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

2. By not replying to the Clausmans's emails and by not returning their phone calls, between October 28, 2009, and November 17, 2009, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(m).

3. By not refunding the unearned fees to the Clausmans, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

4. By not returning to the Clausmans their files and documents, Respondent failed to release promptly, upon termination of employment, to the client, at the request of the client, all the client papers and property in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

Case no. 10-O-03709

5. By not performing any services which Danuser had hired Respondent to perform, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

6. By not releasing to Danuser his documents and files, Respondent failed to release promptly, upon termination of employment, to the client, at the request of the client, all the client papers and property, Respondent willfully violated Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

7. By not refunding to Danuser the unearned fees, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned, Respondent willfully violated Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

8. By not providing Danuser with any information about the status of his loan matter despite Danuser's repeated requests for approximately five months, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services, Respondent willfully violated Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

Case no. 10-O-05438

9. By not filing or otherwise pursuing the lawsuit that he had agreed to file on behalf of Hanson, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

10. By not replying to any of Hanson's calls, letters and e-mails between approximately August 2009 and December 2009, and by not otherwise providing Hanson with information regarding the status of her lawsuit, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had

agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

11. By not releasing to Hanson her file and documents, Respondent failed to release promptly, upon termination of employment, to the client, at the request of the client, all the client papers and property in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

Case no. 10-O-06067

12. By not complying with the OSC nor with the second OSC, and by not paying the monetary sanctions as ordered by the court, Respondent willfully disobeyed or violated an order of the court requiring him to do or forbear an act connected with or in the course of Respondent's profession which he ought in good faith to do or forbear in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6103.

13. By not reporting to the State Bar the \$1000, personal sanctions ordered by the court on March 29, 2010, Respondent failed to report to the agency charged with attorney discipline, in writing, within 30 days of the time Respondent had knowledge of the imposition of any judicial sanctions against Respondent, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(o)(3).

Case no. 10-O-06488

14. By not taking any action in Fairbanks's real estate dispute, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

15. By not returning any of Fairbanks's telephone calls, by not replying to her emails, and by not replying to her letters, between October 2009, and June 2010, inclusive, and by not otherwise providing Fairbanks with information about the status of her matter during that time period, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

16. By not releasing any files or documents to Fairbanks after Respondent's employment terminated, Respondent failed to release promptly, upon termination of employment, to the client, at the request of the client, all the client papers and property in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

17. By not paying Fairbanks the unearned fees, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

Case no. 10-O-06493

18. By not filing the requisite documents for Flores's bankruptcy case, by not attending the Meeting of Creditors, and by not taking any action in response to the dismissal of Flores's case, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

19. By not releasing to Flores her complete set of documents and files, Respondent failed to release promptly, upon termination of employment, to the client, at the request of the client, all the client papers and property in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

20. By not providing Flores with any information about the status of her bankruptcy matter despite Flores's repeated requests for approximately two months, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

Case nos. 10-O-06488 and 10-O-06493

21. By not responding to the State Bar letters, Respondent failed to cooperate and participate in a disciplinary investigation pending against Respondent in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(i).

Case no. 10-O-06492

22. By not releasing to Sanchez his files and documents for five months, Respondent failed to release promptly, upon termination of employment, to the client, at the request of the client, all the client papers and property in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

23. By not providing Sanchez with any information about the status of loan matter despite Sanchez's repeated inquiries, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

24. By not refunding to Sanchez the unearned fees, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

Case no. 10-O-07903

25. By not releasing to Meyer his files and documents, Respondent failed to release promptly, upon termination of employment, to the client, at the request of the client, all the client papers and property in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

26. By not providing Meyer with any information about civil dispute despite Meyers's repeated inquiries, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

27. By not refunding to Meyer the unearned fees, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

Case no. 10-O-09732

28. By not providing Parra with any information about civil dispute despite Parra's repeated inquiries, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

29. By not performing any services which Parra had hired Respondent to perform, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

30. By not refunding to Parra the unearned fees, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

Case no. 10-O-09968

31. By not providing Walter with any information about her civil lawsuit against her mortgage lenders despite Walter's repeated inquiries, Respondent failed to respond promptly to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

32. By not refunding to Walter the unearned fees, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

Case no. 10-O-04579

33. By not releasing to the Fillmores their files and documents for ten months, Respondent failed to release promptly, upon termination of employment, to the client, at the request of the client, all the client papers and property in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

34. By not providing the Fillmores with any information about their loan matter despite the Fillmores's repeated inquiries, Respondent failed to respond promptly to

reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

35. By not performing any of the services that the Fillmores had hired Respondent to perform, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

36. By not refunding to the Fillmores the unearned fees, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

Case no. 10-O-09965

37. By not providing Sequeira with any information about his civil dispute with his mortgage lender despite Sequeira's repeated inquiries, Respondent failed to promptly respond to reasonable status inquiries of a client in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

38. By not performing any of the services that Sequeria had hired Respondent to perform, Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

39. By not refunding to Sequeira the unearned fees, Respondent failed to refund promptly any part of a fee paid in advance that has not been earned in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

SUPPORTING AUTHORITY

IN THE MATTER OF: GHASSAN G. BRIDI

CASE NUMBERS: 10-O-02489, 10-O-03709, 10-O-05438,
 10-O-06067, 10-O-6488, 10-O-6493,
 10-O-6492, 10-O-07903, 10-O-09732,
 10-O-09968, 10-O-04579, 10-O-09965

Culpability of a member of willfully failing to perform services in matters not demonstrating a pattern of misconduct or culpability of a member of willfully failing to communicate with a client shall result in reproof or suspension depending upon the extent of the misconduct and the degree of harm to the client. *Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California, Standard 2.4.*

Culpability of a member of a violation of any provision of the Business and Professions Code not specified in these standards or of a willful violation of any Rules of Professional Conduct not specified in these standards shall result in reproof or suspension according to the gravity of the offense or the harm, if any, to the victim, with due regard to the purposes of imposing discipline set forth in standard 1.3. *Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California, Standard 2.10.*

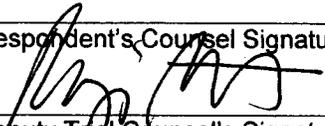
In a case where in one matter, the respondent improperly used his client trust account; in two client matters, the respondent failed to promptly refund unearned costs advances; and, in one of those two matters, respondent failed to perform legal services competently, the court determined that discipline of three years suspension, stayed, on conditions of a five-year probation with six months actual suspension was well grounded in the standards and was fairly reflective of the balancing of mitigating and aggravating circumstances. One aggravating circumstance was respondent's act of moral turpitude by concealing from the California Franchise Tax Board personal funds which respondent improperly maintained in a client trust account. Respondent's prior record that manifestly showed his failure to abide by his duties of proper client representation was also properly considered to be an aggravating circumstance, and was not too remote in time, given the circumstances of the present case. *In the Matter of Henry James Koehler, IV* (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct.Rptr. 615.

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter of: Ghassan G. Bridi	Case number(s): 10-O-02489, 10-O-03709, 10-O-04579, 10-O-05438, 10-O-06067, 10-O-06488, 10-O-06492, 10-O-06493, 10-O-07903, 10-O-09732, 10-O-09965, 10-O-09968
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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.

Date <u>5/6/11</u>	Respondent's Signature 	Ghassan G. Bridi Print Name
Date <u>5/11/2011</u>	Respondent's Counsel Signature 	N/A Print Name
Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Rizamari C. Sitton Print Name

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter of: Ghassan G. Bridi	Case Number(s): 10-O-02489, 10-O-03709, 10-O-04579, 10-O-05438, 10-O-06067, 10-O-06488, 10-O-06492, 10-O-06493, 10-O-07903, 10-O-09732, 10-O-09965, 10-O-09968
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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.

PAGE 11 - FIRST LISTED PAYEE SHOULD READ "MARIA L. PARRA"

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.)**

Date

06-01-11

Judge of the State Bar Court



RICHARD A. PLATEL

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 June 2, 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 Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

GHASSAN G BRIDI
THE BRIDI FIRM
15760 VENTURA BLVD STE 700
ENCINO CA 91436

by certified mail, No. , with return receipt requested, through the United States Postal Service at , California, addressed as follows:

by overnight mail at , California, addressed as follows:

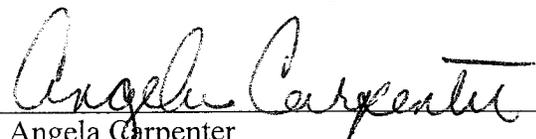
by fax transmission, at fax number . No error was reported by the fax machine that I used.

By personal service by leaving the documents in a sealed envelope or package clearly labeled to identify the attorney being served with a receptionist or a person having charge of the attorney's office, addressed as follows:

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

RIZAMARI SITTON, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on June 2, 2011.



Angela Carpenter
Case Administrator
State Bar Court