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STATE BAR COURT
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STATE BAR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

REVIEW DEPARTMENT

IN BANK

In the Matter of)	Case No. 11-C-13903
)	
ARMEN EARVIN GEKCHYAN,)	RECOMMENDATION OF SUMMARY
)	DISBARMENT
A Member of the State Bar, No. 220324.)	
_____)	

On August 12, 2011, the State Bar filed a request for recommendation of summary disbarment based on Armen Earvin Gekchyan's felony convictions. Gekchyan did not file a response. We grant the request and recommend that Gekchyan be summarily disbarred.

On April 29, 2011, Gekchyan pled guilty to felony violations of Penal Code sections 487, subdivision (a) (grand theft), 186.10, subdivision (a) (money laundering), and 470, subdivision (d) (forgery). Effective October 1, 2011, we placed Gekchyan on interim suspension. On August 12, 2011, the State Bar filed evidence that Gekchyan's conviction is now final.

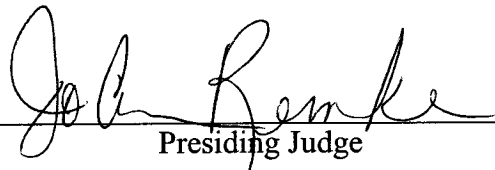
After the judgment of conviction becomes final, "the Supreme Court shall summarily disbar the attorney if the offense is a felony . . . and an element of the offense is the specific intent to deceive, defraud, steal, or make or suborn a false statement, or involved moral turpitude." (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6102, subd. (c).) The record of conviction establishes that Gekchyan's offenses meet the criteria for summary disbarment under Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c).



First, his offenses are felonies. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6102, subd. (b).) Second, the grand theft and forgery offenses necessarily involve moral turpitude. (*In re Basinger* (1988) 45 Cal.3d 1348, 1358 [grand theft necessarily involves moral turpitude]; *In re Prantil* (1989) 48 Cal.3d 227, 234 [crime of forgery is a serious one involving moral turpitude].) Gekchyan's money laundering conviction also involves moral turpitude because he laundered money with the specific intent to facilitate the promotion of criminal activity, that being embezzlement. (Penal Code § 186.10(a); *In re Paguirigan* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 1, 5 ["crimes of robbery, embezzlement and other forms of theft necessarily involve moral turpitude"]; see also *Smalley v. Ashcroft* (5th Cir. 2003) 354 F.3d 332, 336 [laundering money to conceal proceeds of illegal drug transaction as part of federal racketeering conviction is moral turpitude for deportation purposes].)

When an attorney's conviction meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c), "the attorney is not entitled to a State Bar Court hearing to determine whether lesser discipline is called for." (*In re Paguirigan, supra*, 25 Cal.4th at p. 7.) Disbarment is mandatory. (*Id.* at p. 9.)

We therefore recommend that Armen Earvin Gekchyan, State Bar number 220324, be disbarred from the practice of law in this state. We also recommend that he be ordered to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court and to perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's order. Finally, we recommend that the costs be awarded to the State Bar in accordance with section 6086.10 of the Business and Professions Code and that such costs be enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment.



Presiding Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

[Rule 62(b), Rules Proc.; Code Civ. Proc., § 1013a(4)]

I am a Case Administrator of the State Bar Court 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 September 28, 2011, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

ORDER FILED SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

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:

ARMEN E. GEKCHYAN
LAW OFFICES OF ARMEN E GEKCHYAN
100 W BROADWAY STE 1250
GLENDALE, CA 91210

- ☐ 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:

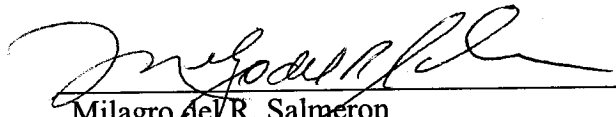
- ☐ by fax transmission, at fax number . No error was reported by the fax machine that I used.

- ☐ 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:

Murray B. Greenberg, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on September 28, 2011.


Milagro de R. Salmeron
Case Administrator
State Bar Court