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		nia PUBLIC MATTER
Counsel For The State Bar	Case Number(s): 12-H-13870-RAH	For Court use only
Meredith A. McKittrick	12-H-138/U-KAH	
Deputy Trial Counsel		
1149 S. Hill Street		
Los Angeles, CA 90015		FILED
(213) 765-1204		
		JAN 02 2013
Bar # 234484		STATE BAR COURT
		CLERK'S OFFICE
In Pro Per Respondent		LOS ANGELES
Abel Hernandez		
4614 Hawthorn Woods		
San Antonio, TX 78249		
(213) 214-1534		
	Submitted to: Assigned Jud	lge
Bar # 159902	STIPULATION RE FACTS, C DISPOSITION AND ORDER	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND APPROVING
In the Matter of:		
Abel Hernandez	ACTUAL SUSPENSION	
Bar # 159902	☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATIO	N REJECTED
A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)		

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

# A. Parties' Acknowledgments:

- Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted October 14, 1992.
- (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 11 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."



(Do r	not writ	e abov	re this line.)
(5)	Co La		ions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of
(6)			ies must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading ing Authority."
(7)			than 30 days prior to the filing of this stipulation, Respondent has been advised in writing of any investigation/proceeding not resolved by this stipulation, except for criminal investigations.
(8)			t of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & (Check one option only):
		rel Co be efi pe ma Co	ntil costs are paid in full, Respondent will remain actually suspended from the practice of law unless ief is obtained per rule 5.130, Rules of Procedure. Sets 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 three billing cycles following the fective date of the Supreme Court order. (Hardship, special circumstances or other good cause or rule 5.132, Rules of Procedure.) If Respondent fails to pay any installment as described above, or as any be modified by the State Bar Court, the remaining balance is due and payable immediately. The part is set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs".
1	Prof	essi	ting Circumstances [for definition, see Standards for Attorney Sanctions for onal Misconduct, standard 1.2(b)]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances red.
(1)	$\boxtimes$	Prio	er record of discipline [see standard 1.2(f)]
	(a)		State Bar Court case # of prior case 10-O-10687.
	(b)	$\boxtimes$	Date prior discipline effective December 26, 2011.
	(c)		Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Rules of Professional Conduct rule 3-110(A) and Business and Professions code section 6068(m). See Stipulation page 8.
	(d)	$\boxtimes$	Degree of prior discipline Private Reproval.
	(e)		If Respondent has two or more incidents of prior discipline, use space provided below.
(2)		<b>Disl</b>	nonesty: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by or followed by bad faith, dishonesty, cealment, overreaching or other violations of the State Bar Act or Rules of Professional Conduct.
(3)		to th	st Violation: Trust funds or property were involved and Respondent refused or was unable to accoun se client or person who was the object of the misconduct for improper conduct toward said funds or perty.
(4)		Hari	m: 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. See Stipulation page 8.
(6)		<b>Lack of Cooperation:</b> Respondent displayed a lack of candor and cooperation to victims of his/her misconduct or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation or proceedings.
(7)	$\boxtimes$	<b>Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct:</b> Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing or demonstrates a pattern of misconduct. See Stipulation page 8.
(8)		No aggravating circumstances are involved.
Addi	tiona	al aggravating circumstances:
		ating Circumstances [see standard 1.2(e)]. Facts supporting mitigating imstances are required.
(1)		<b>No Prior Discipline:</b> Respondent has no prior record of discipline over many years of practice coupled with present misconduct which is not deemed serious.
(2)		No Harm: Respondent did not harm the client or person who was the object of the misconduct.
(3)		<b>Candor/Cooperation:</b> Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation with the victims of his/her misconduct and to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation and proceedings.
(4)		<b>Remorse:</b> Respondent promptly took objective steps spontaneously demonstrating remorse and recognition of the wrongdoing, which steps were designed to timely atone for any consequences of his/her misconduct.
(5)		<b>Restitution:</b> Respondent paid \$ on in restitution to without the threat or force of disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.
(6)		<b>Delay:</b> These disciplinary proceedings were excessively delayed. The delay is not attributable to Respondent and the delay prejudiced him/her.
(7)		Good Faith: Respondent acted in good faith.
(8)		<b>Emotional/Physical Difficulties:</b> At the time of the stipulated act or acts of professional misconduct Respondent suffered extreme emotional difficulties or physical disabilities which expert testimony would establish was directly responsible for the misconduct. The difficulties or disabilities were not the product of any illegal conduct by the member, such as illegal drug or substance abuse, and Respondent no longer suffers from such difficulties or disabilities.
(9)		<b>Severe Financial Stress:</b> 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)		<b>Family Problems:</b> 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.

(Do no	ot write	e abov	e this lir	ne.)
(12)		<b>Rehabilitation:</b> Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred followed by convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.		
(13)	No mitigating circumstances are involved.			
Addi	tiona	al mit	igatin	g circumstances:
D. D	isci	plin	e:	
(1)		Stay	ed Su	uspension:
	(a)	$\boxtimes$	Resp	condent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two years.
		i.		and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and present fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the law pursuant to standard 1.4(c)(ii) Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.
		ii.		and until Respondent pays restitution as set forth in the Financial Conditions form attached to this stipulation.
		iii.		and until Respondent does the following:
	(b)	$\boxtimes$	The	above-referenced suspension is stayed.
(2)	$\boxtimes$	Probation:		
				ust be placed on probation for a period of two years, which will commence upon the effective preme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)
(3)	$\boxtimes$	Actual Suspension:		
	(a)	$\boxtimes$		pondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period nety (90) days.
		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. A	ddi	tiona	al Co	nditions of Probation:
(1)		he/s	he pro	dent is actually suspended for two years or more, he/she must remain actually suspended until oves to the State Bar Court his/her rehabilitation, fitness to practice, and learning and ability in the w, pursuant to standard 1.4(c)(ii), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.
(2)	$\boxtimes$			e probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of nal Conduct.

(Do n	ot write	e above	e this line.)		
(3)		State infor	Bar and to the Office of Probation of the	e State B and telep	report to the Membership Records Office of the ar of California ("Office of Probation"), all changes of hone number, or other address for State Bar ness and Professions Code.
(4)		and s cond proba	schedule a meeting with Respondent's a litions of probation. Upon the direction o ation deputy either in-person or by telep	assigned   f the Offic hone. Du	line, Respondent must contact the Office of Probation probation deputy to discuss these terms and se of Probation, Respondent must meet with the ring the period of probation, Respondent must
(5)		Resp July whet cond are a curre	10, and October 10 of the period of prob ther Respondent has complied with the s litions of probation during the preceding any proceedings pending against him or	ports to the pation. Un State Bar calendar her in the eport wou	ne Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, der penalty of perjury, Respondent must state Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all quarter. Respondent must also state whether there state Bar Court and if so, the case number and all cover less than 30 days, that report must be
		In ad	ldition to all quarterly reports, a final reports (20) days before the last day of the po	ort, contai eriod of pi	ining the same information, is due no earlier than robation and no later than the last day of probation.
(6)		Respondent must be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent must promptly review the terms and conditions of probation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. During the period of probation, Respondent must furnish to the monitor such reports as may be requested, in addition to the quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Office of Probation. Respondent must cooperate fully with the probation monitor.			
(7)	$\boxtimes$	Subject to assertion of applicable privileges, Respondent must answer fully, promptly and truthfully any inquiries of the Office of Probation and any probation monitor assigned under these conditions which are directed to Respondent personally or in writing relating to whether Respondent is complying or has complied with the probation conditions.			
(8)	$\boxtimes$	Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must provide to the Office 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. Rea	son:	
(9)		must	condent must comply with all conditions tso declare under penalty of perjury in cobation.	of probati onjunctio	on imposed in the underlying criminal matter and n with any quarterly report to be filed with the Office
(10)		The f	following conditions are attached hereto	and inco	rporated:
			Substance Abuse Conditions		Law Office Management Conditions
			Medical Conditions		Financial Conditions
F. C	the	r Cor	nditions Negotiated by the Part	ies:	
(1)		the Cor	Multistate Professional Responsibility Enference of Bar Examiners, to the Office	xamination of Proba	on: Respondent must provide proof of passage of on ("MPRE"), administered by the National tion during the period of actual suspension or within as 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:

# **ATTACHMENT TO**

# STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

Abel Hernandez

CASE NUMBER(S):

12-H-13870-RAH

#### FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Respondent admits that the following facts are true and that he is culpable of violations of the specified statutes and/or Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### Case No. 12-H-13870-RAH

#### **FACTS:**

- 1. On November 22, 2011, Respondent entered into a Stipulation Re Facts, Conclusions of Law and Disposition and Order Approving Private Reproval ("Stipulation") with the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar of California in case number 10-O-10687. In the Stipulation Respondent agreed to comply with certain conditions of reproval.
- 2. On November 30, 2011, the State Bar court filed an Order approving the Stipulation ("Reproval Order"). Respondent was served with and received a copy of the Reproval Order. The Reproval Order became effective on December 26, 2011.
- 3. Pursuant to the Reproval Order, Respondent was ordered to comply with the following conditions of reproval, among others:
  - a. Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of the discipline, to contact the Office of Probation and schedule a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss the terms and conditions of probation.
  - b. Submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the condition period attached to the reproval stating under penalty of perjury whether Respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all conditions of reproval during the preceding quarter.
- 4. Respondent failed, by January 25, 2012, to contact the Office of Probation and schedule a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss the terms and conditions of probation.
- 5. Respondent failed to file his quarterly report due April 10, 2012, with the Office of Probation.
- 6. Respondent failed to file his quarterly report due July 10, 2012, with the Office of Probation.

7. Respondent failed to file his quarterly report due October 10, 2012, with the Office of Probation.

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

8. By failing to contact the Office of Probation and schedule a meeting with his assigned probation deputy to discuss the terms and conditions of probation by January 25, 2012, and by failing to file his quarterly reports due April 10, 2012, July 10, 2012, and October 10, 2012, with the Office of Probation, Respondent failed to comply with conditions attached to his private reproval in willful violation of rule 1-110 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### ADDITIONAL FACTS RE AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

**Prior Record of Discipline:** On November 21, 2011, Respondent entered into a stipulation in case number 10-O-10687. Effective December 26, 2011, Respondent received a private reproval with public disclosure with conditions for a term of one year. In March of 2010, Pastor Andres Vasquez ("Vasquez") asked his administrative assistant, Virginia Tellers ("Tellers"), to search the internet for an expert to help Vasquez start his new church, New Living Way. On March 15, 2010, Tellers contacted Respondent regarding Vasquez's request. Respondent quoted Tellers a fee of \$1,997.00 with an additional fee of \$750.00 plus \$35.00 for his services in regard to Vasquez's request. On March 16, 2010, Vasquez contacted Respondent and was also quoted a fee of \$1,997.00 for his services in regard to Vasquez's request. On March 17, 2010, Vasquez sent Respondent a \$1,997.00 check for his legal services. On March 23, 2010, Respondent negotiated the check from Vasquez. Thereafter, Respondent provided no legal services to Vasquez. Between April 1 and July 20, 2010, Vasquez and Tellers repeatedly telephoned and e-mailed Respondent, Respondent received these messages but did not reply. Respondent stipulated to one violation of rule 3-110(A) of the Rules of Professional Conduct (failure to perform with competence) and one violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(m) (failure to communicate with his clients).

Indifference: Respondent has not, since the origination of this matter, contacted the Office of Probation to schedule a meeting with his assigned probation deputy to discuss the terms and conditions of his probation, nor has he filed the quarterly reports that were due April 10, 2012, July 10, 2012, and October 10, 2012. Respondent's failure to rectify these failures in his compliance with the conditions attached to his private reproval evidence his indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the consequences of his misconduct under standard 1.2(b)(v). (In the Matter of Meyer (Review Dept. 1997) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 697, 702.)

Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct: Respondent's misconduct consists of his failure to contact the Office of Probation to schedule a meeting with his assigned probation deputy to discuss the terms and conditions of his probation by January 25, 2012, and his failure to timely file the quarterly reports that were due April 10, 2012, July 10, 2012, and October 10, 2012. As such, Respondent has engaged in four acts of misconduct under standard 1.2(b)(ii).

## **AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING 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.4<sup>th</sup> 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.4<sup>th</sup> 81, 92, quoting In re Brown (1995) 12 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 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.)

Standard 2.9 provides that a finding of culpability for a willful violation of rule 1-110 of Rules of Professional Conduct "shall result in suspension."

Standard 1.7(a) further provides, in instances where a member has one prior imposition of discipline, the degree of discipline to be imposed in the current proceeding shall be greater than that imposed in the prior proceeding unless the prior discipline was so remote in time to the current proceeding and the offense for which it was imposed was so minimal in severity that imposing greater discipline in the current proceeding would be manifestly unjust.

In Conroy v. State Bar (1990) 51 Cal. 3d 799, the California Supreme Court ordered a one year stayed suspension, one year probation, and a 60 day actual suspension as a result of Conroy's violation of the reproval condition requiring him to take and pass the Professional Responsibility Exam ("PRE") within one year of the effective date of his reproval. The Supreme Court recognized the value of Conroy's belated completion of the PRE requirement but found "this single extenuating factor substantially outweighed by numerous aggravating circumstances." (Id. at p. 805.) In aggravation, the Court recognized Conroy's prior record of discipline, through his failure to participate in the proceedings his "failure 'to appreciate the seriousness of the charges in the instant proceeding or to comprehend the importance of participating in the disciplinary proceedings", and through his implication that the current violation was a technical violation his "lack of understanding of the gravity of his earlier misdeeds and the import of the State Bar's regulatory functions." (Id. at. p. 805-806.)

By failing to contact the Office of Probation in order to schedule the required initial meeting with his assigned probation deputy, and then failing to submit his quarterly reports due April 10, 2012, July 10, 2012, and October 10, 2012, Respondent failed to comply with the conditions of his reproval and thus willfully violated rule 1-110 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. As such, some measure of suspension is required under standard 2.9. In *Conroy*, for his failure to comply with a single condition of his reproval, with which he belatedly complied, and in light of the aggravating circumstances present, a 60 day actual suspension was imposed. Here, Respondent has totally abandoned his responsibilities under his reproval to date, a far more extensive violation that in *Conroy*. In addition, Respondent has not belatedly brought himself into compliance with the conditions of his reproval. Respondent has one prior imposition of discipline, and other factors in aggravation apply. Further, under standard 1.7(a) Respondent's level of discipline in the current matter must increase from the private reproval previously

imposed. Therefore, a two year stayed period of suspension, a two year period of disciplinary probation, and a 90 day actual suspension in appropriate in this matter.

## PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page 2, paragraph A(7), was November 13, 2012.

## COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of November 13, 2012, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$6,597.00. Respondent further acknowledges that should this stipulation be rejected or should relief from the stipulation be granted, the costs in this matter may increase due to the cost of further proceedings.

## **EXCLUSION FROM MCLE CREDIT**

Pursuant to rule 3201, Respondent may <u>not</u> receive MCLE credit for completion of State Bar Ethics School. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

n the Matter of:	Case number(s):	
Abel Hernandez	12-H-13 <b>8</b> 70-RAH	
1001 Hornandez	12-11-13870-12411	

# 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.

11/14/2012	Respondent's Signature	Abel Hernandez
Date/	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
12/11/2012	Lurioteth	
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
12   4   2012 Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Meredith A. McKittrick Print Name
2.9		

	er of:	Case Number(s):
Abel Hernandez		12-H-13870-RAH
	ACTUAL SUS	PENSION ORDER
Finding the s requested di	stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it smissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANT	adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the ED without prejudice, and:
ÌΧ	The stipulated facts and disposition are AF Supreme Court.	PPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the
	The stipulated facts and disposition are AF DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the S	PPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the Supreme Court.
<b>₽</b>	All Hearing dates are vacated.	
		ess: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed
within 15 day stipulation. (S <b>of the Supr</b> e	See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure.)	this court modifies or further modifies the approved  The effective date of this disposition is the effective date after file date (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of
within 15 day stipulation. (S of the Supre Court.)	/s after service of this order, is granted; or 2) See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure.)	this court modifies or further modifies the approved  The effective date of this disposition is the effective date

#### **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 January 2, 2013, 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:

ABEL HERNANDEZ ESQ 4614 HAWTHORN WOODS SAN ANTONIO, TX 78249 Courtesy copy:

ABEL HERNANDEZ ESQ 326 LONE STAR BLVD. SAN ANTONIO, TX 78204

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

Meredith A. McKittrick, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on January 2, 2013.

Julieta E. Gonzales

State Bar Court