

PUBLIC MATTER

1 STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
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FILED

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STATE BAR COURT
CLERK'S OFFICE
LOS ANGELES

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STATE BAR COURT
HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

In the Matter of:) Case No. 12-O-16785
CHRISTOPHER SCOTT HAMMATT,) NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES
No. 222209,)
A Member of the State Bar.)

NOTICE - FAILURE TO RESPOND!

IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO THIS NOTICE WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER SERVICE, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT THE STATE BAR COURT TRIAL:

- (1) YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;**
- (2) YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;**
- (3) YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE, AND;**
- (4) YOU SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE. SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT WITHOUT FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. SEE RULE 5.80 ET SEQ., RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA.**



1 The State Bar of California alleges:

2 JURISDICTION

3 1. Christopher Scott Hammatt ("Respondent") was admitted to the practice of law in the
4 State of California on December 3, 2002, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges,
5 and is currently a member of the State Bar of California.

6 COUNT ONE

7 Case No. 12-O-16785
8 Rules of Professional Conduct rule 4-100(A)
9 [Failure to Maintain Client Funds in Trust Account]

10 2. Respondent willfully violated Rules of Professional Conduct rule 4-100(A) by failing
11 to maintain the balance of funds received for the benefit of a client and deposited in a bank
12 account labeled "Trust Account," "Client's Funds Account" or words of similar import, as
13 follows:

14 3. In or about 2011, Angele Karma ("Karma") employed Respondent to resolve a
15 dispute between Karma and John Hancock Insurance Company regarding a life insurance policy.

16 4. On or about February 14, 2012, Respondent resolved Karma's dispute with John
17 Hancock Insurance Company. As part of the agreement, John Hancock Insurance Company
18 agreed to make a \$150,000 payment to Respondent on behalf of Karma.

19 5. On or about March 7, 2012, Respondent deposited, or caused to be deposited, a check
20 from John Hancock Insurance Company made payable to Respondent in the amount of \$150,000
21 into his client trust account at Union Bank of California account no. xxxxxx5256¹("Respondent's
22 CTA").

23 6. Between on or about March 7, 2012 and on or about October 4, 2012, Respondent did
24 not make any payment to, or on behalf of, Karma from Respondent's CTA. On or about
25 September 28, 2012, the balance of Respondent's CTA fell to a low of \$7,768.02.

26 7. On or about October 4, 2012, \$3.5 million was wire transferred into Respondent's
27 CTA. On that same day, Respondent withdrew \$150,000 from his CTA and delivered it to
28 Karma.

¹ The complete account number has been omitted due to privacy concerns.

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NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!

IN THE EVENT THESE PROCEDURES RESULT IN PUBLIC DISCIPLINE, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE STATE BAR IN THE INVESTIGATION, HEARING AND REVIEW OF THIS MATTER PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6086.10.

Respectfully submitted,

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



DATED: April 9, 2013

By: _____

William Todd
Deputy Trial Counsel

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

by

U.S. FIRST-CLASS MAIL / U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL / OVERNIGHT DELIVERY / FACSIMILE-ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

CASE NUMBER(s): 12-O-16785

I, the undersigned, am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action, whose business address and place of employment is the State Bar of California, 1149 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90015, declare that:

- on the date shown below, I caused to be served a true copy of the within document described as follows:

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

- By U.S. First-Class Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a))
By U.S. Certified Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a))
By Overnight Delivery: (CCP §§ 1013(c) and 1013(d))
By Fax Transmission: (CCP §§ 1013(e) and 1013(f))
By Electronic Service: (CCP § 1010.6)

- (for U.S. First-Class Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)
(for Certified Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing as certified mail, return receipt requested, Article No.: 7196 9008 9111 6411 3201 at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)
(for Overnight Delivery) together with a copy of this declaration, in an envelope, or package designated by UPS, Tracking No.: addressed to: (see below)

Table with 4 columns: Person Served, Business-Residential Address, Fax Number, and Courtesy Copy to. Includes address for Joseph M. Hoats, Esq.

via inter-office mail regularly processed and maintained by the State Bar of California addressed to:

N/A

I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service, and overnight delivery by the United Parcel Service ('UPS').

I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope or package is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing contained in the affidavit.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on the date shown below.

DATED: April 9, 2013

SIGNED:

Handwritten signature of Teresa Amos

Teresa Amos
Declarant