

# PUBLIC MATTER

**FILED**

JUN 27 2014

STATE BAR COURT  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
LOS ANGELES

1 STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
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STATE BAR COURT

HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

13 In the Matter of: ) Case No. 12-O-16961  
 14 JAMES EDWARD GRISWOLD, )  
 15 No. 207294, ) NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES  
 16 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.

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The State Bar of California alleges:

JURISDICTION

1. James Edward Griswold ("respondent") was admitted to the practice of law in the State of California on June 6, 2000, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges, and is currently a member of the State Bar of California.

COUNT ONE

Case No. 12-O-16961  
Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A)  
[Failure to Perform with Competence]

2. On or about June 10, 2008, Kevin Meadows, Elicia Hernandez, and Ray Pizinger employed Respondent to perform legal services, namely to represent them in a civil lawsuit entitled *Kevin Meadows, et al. v. Pacific Property Company*, Orange County Superior Court case no. 30-2010-00335320 in Orange County Superior Court , in which Respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform with competence, in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A), by the following:

- A) failing to provide responses to discovery requests served on Respondent on or about February 28, 2011;
- B) failing to oppose or otherwise respond to the motions to compel responses to discovery and for monetary and terminating sanctions filed on or about October 20, 2011;
- C) failing to appear at the hearing on the motions to compel responses to discovery and for monetary and terminating sanctions held on or about December 13, 2011; and
- D) failing to oppose or otherwise respond to the motions for monetary and terminating sanctions filed on or about February 22, 2012.

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COUNT TWO

Case No. 12-O-16961  
Business and Professions Code section 6068(m)  
[Failure to Respond to Client Inquiries]

3. Respondent failed to respond promptly to several written and telephonic reasonable status inquiries made by and on behalf of Respondent's clients, Kevin Meadows, Elicia Hernandez, and Ray Pizinger, between on or about September 2011 and on or about March 2012, that Respondent received in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(m).

**NOTICE - INACTIVE ENROLLMENT!**

**YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT IF THE STATE BAR COURT FINDS, PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6007(c), THAT YOUR CONDUCT POSES A SUBSTANTIAL THREAT OF HARM TO THE INTERESTS OF YOUR CLIENTS OR TO THE PUBLIC, YOU MAY BE INVOLUNTARILY ENROLLED AS AN INACTIVE MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR. YOUR INACTIVE ENROLLMENT WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO ANY DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED BY THE COURT.**

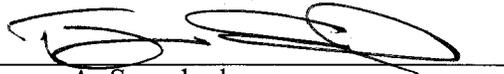
**NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!**

**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.**

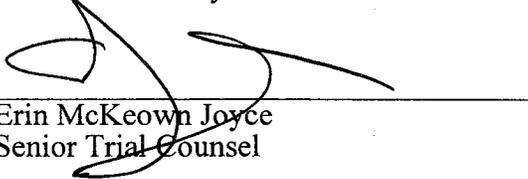
Respectfully submitted,

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

DATED: June 27, 2014

By:   
Tyrone A. Sanodval  
Contract Attorney for the State Bar

DATED: June 27, 2014

By:   
Erin McKeown Joyce  
Senior 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-16961

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.: 71969008911164112167 & at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)
71969008911164112174
(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, Courtesy Copy to. Includes names James E. Griswold and Edward O. Lear, and email addresses oclawman@earthlink.net and lear@centurylawgroup.com.

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: June 27, 2014

SIGNED: [Signature]
JULI FINNILA
Declarant