

## State Bar Court of California **Hearing Department** San Francisco **ACTUAL SUSPENSION**

Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 13-0-11855 Erica L. M. Dennings **PUBLIC MATTER Senior Trial Counsel 180 Howard Street** San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 538-2285 Bar # 145755 MAY 1 5 2014 In Pro Per Respondent STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE Floyd Charles Frisch SAN FRANCISCO 1986 Las Encinos Court Los Gatos, CA 95032 (408) 655-4217 Submitted to: Settlement Judge Bar # 44220 STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND **DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING** In the Matter of: FLOYD CHARLES FRISCH **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED Bar # 44220 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:

- (1) Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted June 26, 1969.
- The parties agree to be bound by the factual stipulations contained herein even if conclusions of law or (2) 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."

(Effective January 1, 2014)



**Actual Suspension** 

(Do	not wr	rite above this line.)		
(5)	Co La	Conclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of aw".		
(6)	Th "S	The parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading "Supporting Authority."		
(7)	No pe	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 §§6 6140.7. (Check one option only):				
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 year (Hardship, special circumstances or other good cause per rule 5.132, Rules of Procedure.) Respondent fails to pay any installment as described above, or as may be modified by the Court, the remaining balance is due and payable immediately.		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".		
	Viisc	ravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional conduct, standards 1.2(f) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are nired.		
(1)	□ (a)	Prior record of discipline  State Bar Court case # of prior case		
	(b)	☐ Date prior discipline effective		
	(c)	Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations:		
	(d)	Degree of prior discipline		
	(e)	If Respondent has two or more incidents of prior discipline, use space provided below.		
(2)		<b>Dishonesty:</b> Respondent's misconduct was intentional, surrounded by, or followed by bad faith, dishonesty, concealment, overreaching or other violations of the State Bar Act or Rules of Professional Conduct.		
(3)		<b>Trust Violation:</b> 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.		
(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.		

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· (7)	×	Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct: Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing or demonstrates a pattern of misconduct. See Attachment to Stipulation, p. 8		
(8)		Restitution: Respondent failed to make restitution.		
(9)		No aggravating circumstances are involved.		
Add	ditior	al aggravating circumstances:		
C.	Mitiq circ	gating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(g) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating umstances 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, the public, or the administration of justice.		
.(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)		<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 with a good faith belief that was honestly held and reasonable.		
(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 or mental 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 the difficulties or disabilities no longer pose a risk that Respondent will commit misconduct.		
(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)		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 extraordinarily 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)		<b>Rehabilitation:</b> Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred followed by convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.		

<u>(Do</u>	not wri	te abov	ve this I	line.)	
(13)	) - 🗆	No	mitig	ating circumstances are involved.	
Add	dition	al mi	tigati	ng circumstances:	
	F	Prefili	ng St	scipline, See Attachment to Stipulation, p. 8 ipulation, See Attachment to Stipulation, p. 8 v Service, See Attachment to Stipulation, p. 8	
D.	Disc	iplin	e:		
(1)	1) 🗵 Stayed Suspension:			uspension:	
	(a)	$\boxtimes$	Res	pondent must be suspended from the practice of law 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 1.2(c)(1) 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) Probation:		<b>1:</b>			
				oust be placed on probation for a period of <b>two (2) years</b> , 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)	$\boxtimes$		condent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period irty (30) 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 1.2(c)(1), 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	ddit	iona	l Co	nditions of Probation:	
(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 1.2(c)(1), 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)	$\boxtimes$	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			

<u>(Do r</u>	not write	above this line.)
		☐ 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:

FLOYD CHARLES FRISCH

CASE NUMBER:

13-0-11855

### 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. 13-O-11855 (Complainant: Marilyn Zecher)

#### **FACTS:**

- 1. Between 2009 and 2012, Respondent represented Marilyn Zecher ("Zecher") on several estate planning matters. Respondent had known Zecher for many years as a friend and colleague.
- 2. In March 2012, during Respondent's representation of Zecher, Respondent requested and Zecher agreed to loan Respondent \$10,000 to remodel his house before putting it up for sale. On March 30, 2012, Zecher gave Respondent a check for \$10,000 and on that same date, Respondent gave Zecher a promissory note secured by his home and agreed to repay the loan by July 30, 2012, with four percent interest. Respondent stated he would record the promissory note and that he would repay the loan from the net proceeds from the sale of his home. Thereafter, Respondent failed to record the promissory note.
- 3. At the time of the loan, Respondent failed to disclose to Zecher the following material facts: that payments on his home were in default and that there was more than \$100,000 in liens filed against the home. The terms of the business transaction were not fair and reasonable to the client in that the loan was unsecured. Respondent did not fully disclose in writing to Zecher the terms of the loan in a manner which should reasonably have been understood by her. Respondent failed to advise Zecher that she could seek the advice of an independent lawyer of her choice and did not give her a reasonable opportunity to seek the advice. Zecher did not consent in writing to the terms of the loan.
- 4. In July 2012, Respondent asked for an extension until November 30, 2012, to repay the loan. Respondent failed to present a new promissory note with the new due date of November 30, 2012. Zecher agreed to the extension. The terms of the loan were not fair and reasonable to Zecher in that the loan was unsecured. Respondent did not fully disclose in writing to Zecher the terms of the loan in a manner which should reasonably have been understood by her. Respondent failed to advise Zecher that she could seek the advice of an independent lawyer of her choice and did not give her a reasonable opportunity to seek the advice. Zecher did not consent in writing to the terms of the loan.
- 5. On November 28, 2012, Respondent's home sold and he received net proceeds of \$186,287.77 from the sale. Thereafter, Respondent failed to repay the loan to Zecher.

6. On November 26, 2013, Zecher filed a complaint with the State Bar about Respondent. Thereafter, Respondent repaid \$10,000 to Zecher. On December 18, 2013, Respondent paid \$800.00 in interest to Zecher.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- 7. By entering into a business transaction with his client the terms of which were not fair and reasonable to the client because the loan was unsecured, by not fully disclosing in writing to the client the terms of the loan in a manner which should reasonably have been understood by the client, by not advising the client in writing that she may seek the advice of an independent lawyer of the client's choice and not giving the client a reasonable opportunity to seek that advice, and by not obtaining client's consent in writing to the terms of the loan, Respondent wilfully violated Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-300.
- 8. By intentionally failing to disclose material facts about his home mortgage to Zecher on two separate occasions, Respondent committed acts of moral turpitude, dishonesty, or corruption in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106.

#### AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Multiple Acts of Misconduct (Std. 1.5 (b)): Respondent committed multiple acts of misconduct during an eight month period regarding the loan.

#### MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Discipline: Respondent has no prior record of discipline in 43 years. Although the present misconduct is serious, Respondent is entitled to mitigation for his many years of practice without any State Bar discipline. (In the Matter of Stamper (Review Dept. 1990) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 96, 106 fn. 13; In the Matter of Riordan (Review Dept. 2007) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 41, 49.)

**Prefiling Stipulation:** Respondent is entering into a full stipulation which will resolve the entire matter thereby saving the State Bar Court time and resources. (*Silva-Vidor v. State Bar* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 1071, 1079 [where mitigative credit was given for entering into a stipulation as to facts and culpability].)

Community Service: Respondent has provided documentation attesting to his community service work. He has served as an Associate Priests Volunteer for Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Saratoga, California from 1973 to the present. Respondent has volunteered in the FBI Citizens' Academy Program, San Francisco Division since 2007. (See *In re Respondent K* (Review Dept. 1993) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rprt. 335, 359. [Court gave mitigating credit under former Std. 1.6(e)(vi) for civic service].)

### AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING DISCIPLINE.

The Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct "set forth a means for determining the appropriate disciplinary sanction in a particular case and to ensure consistency across cases dealing with similar misconduct and surrounding circumstances." (Rules Proc. of State Bar, tit. IV, Stds. for Atty. Sanctions for Prof. Misconduct, std. 1.1. All further references to Standards are to this source.) The Standards help fulfill the primary purposes of discipline, which include: protection of the public, the

courts and the legal profession; maintenance of the highest professional standards; and preservation of public confidence in the legal profession. (See Std. 1.1; *In re Morse* (1995) 11 Cal.4th 184, 205.)

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.4th 81, 92, quoting In re Brown (1995) 12 Cal.4th 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.) If a recommendation is at the high end or low end of a Standard, an explanation must be given as to how the recommendation was reached. (Std. 1.1.) "Any disciplinary recommendation that deviates from the Standards must include clear reasons for the departure." (Std. 1.1; Blair v. State Bar (1989) 49 Cal.3d 762, 776, fn. 5.)

In determining whether to impose a sanction greater or less than that specified in a given Standard, in addition to the factors set forth in the specific Standard, consideration is to be given to the primary purposes of discipline; the balancing of all aggravating and mitigating circumstances; the type of misconduct at issue; whether the client, public, legal system or profession was harmed; and the member's willingness and ability to conform to ethical responsibilities in the future. (Stds. 1.7(b) and (c).)

Respondent admits to committing two acts of professional misconduct. Standard 1.7(a) requires that where a Respondent acknowledges two or more acts of misconduct, and different sanctions are prescribed by the standards that apply to those acts, the sanction imposed shall be the more or most severe prescribed in the applicable standards.

The most severe sanction applicable to Respondent's misconduct is found in standard 2.7, which applies to Respondent's violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106. Standard 2.7 provides that disbarment or actual suspension is appropriate for an act of moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, corruption or concealment of a material fact. The degree of sanction depends on the magnitude of the misconduct and the extent to which the misconduct harmed or misled the victim and related to the member's practice of law.

In this case, Respondent took advantage of his long standing relationship with his client and her trust in him to first obtain a loan and later to extend the due date for repayment. In doing so, Respondent failed to disclose material facts to the client, and then failed to record the note, making the note unsecured. Respondent's misconduct was serious and Respondent's client was misled by Respondent's actions. In aggravation, Respondent committed multiple acts of misconduct. In mitigation, Respondent has practiced law for 43 years with no prior record of discipline, which is entitled to significant mitigation. In addition, Respondent has engaged in years of community service work and agreed to enter into this stipulation, fully resolving the matter at an early stage. Although Respondent is not entitled to mitigation for having repaid the \$10,000 loan to Zecher after the commencement of these proceedings (*Doyle v. State* Bar (1982) 32 Cal.3d 12, 24), the fact that Respondent has done so is relevant to an assessment of harm and is evidence that Respondent has accepted responsibility for his misconduct Following Standard 2.7 and considering the totality of the misconduct including the aggravating and mitigating circumstances, a 30-day actual suspension is required to protect the public, the courts and the legal profession under Standard 1.1, and falls squarely within the Standards for discipline in these matters.

Case law is also instructive. In Rose v. State Bar (1989) 49 Cal.3d 646, the Supreme Court imposed a two-year actual suspension against an attorney for violations of former rule 5-101 (now 3-300) for inducing a widow with two children to invest \$70,000 in a business in which he was involved and failing to disclose the significant risks of the investment. The attorney was also found culpable of failing to perform competently and failure to account for client funds in five other client matters. The court found several mitigating factors including extensive community service work and depression due to the attorney's dissolution of marriage.

Respondent's misconduct is less egregious than that in *Rose* and, therefore, warrants less discipline. First, Respondent's client was not as financially vulnerable as the client in *Rose* and the amount of money involved in this case is much less. Second, Respondent's misconduct was limited to one client matter. Third, Respondent is entitled to significant mitigation for 43 years in practice with no discipline.

On balance, a 30-day actual suspension with a two-year probationary period will protect the public and is consistent with the goals of attorney discipline.

#### COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of May 1, 2014, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$5,418.00. 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.)

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Case number(s): 13-O-11855	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

### 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.

Ill hall hand	FLOYD CHARLES FRISCH
Respondent's Signature	Print Name
Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	ERICA L. M. DENNINGS Print Name
	Respondent's Signature  Respondent's Counsel Signature  Butto Am Journal

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In the Mat	ter of: CHARLES FRISCH	Case Number(s): 13-O-11855		
L				
	ACTUAL	SUSPENSION ORDER		
	stipulation to be fair to the parties and t fismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GI	that it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the RANTED without prejudice, and:		
	The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDE Supreme Court.			
	The stipulated facts and disposition a DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to	are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the othe Supreme Court.		
. 🗆	All Hearing dates are vacated.			
within 15 da stipulation. (	ys after service of this order, is granted; See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Proced	ed unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed it; or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved dure.) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date days after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of		
	ay 15, 2014.	Jal McEling		
Date	()	Judge of the State Bar Court √		

### **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 San Francisco, on May 15, 2014, 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 San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:

FLOYD CHARLES FRISCH 1986 LAS ENCINOS CT LOS GATOS, CA 95032

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

ERICA L.M. DENNINGS, Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, on May 15, 2014.

Mazie Yip

Case Administrator

State Bar Court