

PUBLIC MATTER

STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
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FILED

APR 09 2014

STATE BAR COURT
CLERK'S OFFICE
LOS ANGELES

STATE BAR COURT

HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

In the Matter of:)	Case No. 13-O-15850
)	
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.

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1 The State Bar of California alleges:

2 JURISDICTION

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

6 COUNT ONE

7 Case No. 13-O-15850
8 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(A)(2)
[Improper Withdrawal from Employment]

9 2. Respondent failed, upon termination of employment, to take reasonable steps to avoid
10 reasonably foreseeable prejudice to Respondent's client, LaVon Simmons-Robinson, by
11 constructively terminating Respondent's employment on March 11, 2013 by failing to take any
12 action on the client's behalf after March 11, 2013, and thereafter failing to inform the client that
13 Respondent was withdrawing from employment, in willful violation of Rules of Professional
14 Conduct, rule 3-700(A)(2).

15 COUNT TWO

16 Case No. 13-O-15850
17 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1)
[Failure to Release File]

18 3. Respondent failed to release promptly, after termination of Respondent's employment
19 on or about May 9, 2013, to Respondent's client, LaVon Simmons-Robinson, all of the client's
20 papers and property following the client's request for the client's file on May 9, 2013, in willful
21 violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

22 COUNT THREE

23 Case No. 13-O-15850
24 Business and Professions Code, section 6068(i)
[Failure to Cooperate in State Bar Investigation]

25 4. Respondent failed to cooperate and participate in a disciplinary investigation pending
26 against Respondent by failing to provide a substantive response to the State Bar's letters of
27 November 19, 2013 and December 4, 2013, which Respondent received, that requested
28

1 Respondent's response to the allegations of misconduct being investigated in case no. 13-O-
2 15850 in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(i).

3
4 **NOTICE - INACTIVE ENROLLMENT!**

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

13
14 **NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!**

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

20 Respectfully submitted,

21 THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
22 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

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DATED: April 9, 2014

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): **13-O-15850**

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, 845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90017, 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))

- in accordance with the practice of the State Bar of California for collection and processing of mail, I deposited or placed for collection and mailing in the City and County of Los Angeles.

☒

By U.S. Certified Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a))

☐

By Overnight Delivery: (CCP §§ 1013(c) and 1013(d))

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

☐

By Fax Transmission: (CCP §§ 1013(e) and 1013(f))

Based on agreement of the parties to accept service by fax transmission, I faxed the documents to the persons at the fax numbers listed herein below. No error was reported by the fax machine that I used. The original record of the fax transmission is retained on file and available upon request.

☐

By Electronic Service: (CCP § 1010.6)

Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept service by electronic transmission, I caused the documents to be sent to the person(s) at the electronic addresses listed herein below. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

☒

(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 1008 1790** 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)*

Person Served	Business-Residential Address	Fax Number	Courtesy Copy to:
Christopher S. Hammatt	Law Offc Christopher S. Hammatt 41877 Enterprise Cir N Ste 211 Temecula, CA 92590	Electronic Address	

☐ 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"). In the ordinary course of the State Bar of California's practice, correspondence collected and processed by the State Bar of California would be deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day, and for overnight delivery, deposited with delivery fees paid or provided for, with UPS that same day.

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, 2014

SIGNED:

Laura Jett
Declarant