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<b>State Bar Court of California</b> <b>Hearing Department</b> <b>Los Angeles</b> <b>REPROVAL</b>		
<p><b>PUBLIC MATTER</b></p> <p>Counsel For The State Bar</p> <p><b>Alex Hackert</b>                  Deputy Trial Counsel                  845 S. Figueroa St.                  Los Angeles, CA 90017                  (213) 765-1498</p> <p>Bar # 267342</p>	<p>Case Number(s):                  14-C-03047-YDR</p>	<p>For Court use only</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FILED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOV 13 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE BAR COURT                  CLERK'S OFFICE                  LOS ANGELES</p>
	<p>In Pro Per Respondent</p> <p><b>Jeffrey Paul McMorro</b>                  915 W. Imperial Hwy. Ste. 110                  Brea, CA 92821</p> <p>Bar # 165266</p>	
<p>In the Matter of:  <b>JEFFREY PAUL MCMORROW</b></p> <p>Bar # 165266</p> <p>A Member of the State Bar of California                  (Respondent)</p>	<p>STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND                  DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING</p> <p><b>PUBLIC REPROVAL</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED</p>	

**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 11, 1993**.
- (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."
- (5) Conclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of Law".



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- (6) The parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading "Supporting Authority."
- (7) 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 §§6086.10 & 6140.7. (Check one option only):
- Costs are added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline (public reproof).
  - Case ineligible for costs (private reproof).
  - 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".
  - Costs are entirely waived.
- (9) The parties understand that:
- (a)  A private reproof imposed on a respondent as a result of a stipulation approved by the Court prior to initiation of a State Bar Court proceeding is part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, but is not disclosed in response to public inquiries and is not reported on the State Bar's web page. The record of the proceeding in which such a private reproof was imposed is not available to the public except as part of the record of any subsequent proceeding in which it is introduced as evidence of a prior record of discipline under the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar.
  - (b)  A private reproof imposed on a respondent after initiation of a State Bar Court proceeding is part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page.
  - (c)  A public reproof imposed on a respondent is publicly available as part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page.

**B. Aggravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are required.**

- (1)  **Prior record of discipline**
- (a)  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 or a separate attachment entitled "Prior Discipline".

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- (2)  **Intentional/Bad Faith/Dishonesty:** Respondent's misconduct was dishonest, intentional, or surrounded by, or followed by bad faith.
- (3)  **Misrepresentation:** Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by misrepresentation.
- (4)  **Concealment:** Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by concealment.
- (5)  **Overreaching:** Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by overreaching.
- (6)  **Uncharged Violations:** Respondent's conduct involves uncharged violations of the Business and Professions Code or the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (7)  **Trust Violation:** 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.
- (8)  **Harm:** Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public, or the administration of justice.
- (9)  **Indifference:** Respondent demonstrated indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the consequences of his or her misconduct.
- (10)  **Candor/Lack of Cooperation:** Respondent displayed a lack of candor and cooperation to victims of his/her misconduct, or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations or proceedings.
- (11)  **Multiple Acts:** Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing.
- (12)  **Pattern:** Respondent's current misconduct demonstrates a pattern of misconduct.
- (13)  **Restitution:** Respondent failed to make restitution.
- (14)  **Vulnerable Victim:** The victim(s) of Respondent's misconduct was/were highly vulnerable.
- (15)  **No aggravating circumstances** are involved.

**Additional aggravating circumstances:**

**C. Mitigating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating circumstances 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 likely to recur.
- (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 or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations and proceedings.
- (4)  **Remorse:** Respondent promptly took objective steps demonstrating spontaneous remorse and recognition of the wrongdoing, which steps were designed to timely atone for any consequences of his/her misconduct.

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- (5)  **Restitution:** Respondent paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ in restitution to \_\_\_\_\_ without the threat or force of disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.
- (6)  **Delay:** 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 objectively reasonable.
- (8)  **Emotional/Physical Difficulties:** 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)  **Severe Financial Stress:** 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)  **Rehabilitation:** Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred followed by subsequent rehabilitation.
- (13)  **No mitigating circumstances** are involved.

**Additional mitigating circumstances:**

**Pretrial Stipulation: see stipulation, at page 8.**

**No Record of Prior Discipline: see stipulation, at page 8.**

**D. Discipline:**

- (1)  **Private reproof (check applicable conditions, if any, below)**
- (a)  Approved by the Court prior to initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (no public disclosure).
- (b)  Approved by the Court after initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (public disclosure).

or

- (2)  **Public reproof (Check applicable conditions, if any, below)**

**E. Conditions Attached to Reproval:**

- (1)  Respondent must comply with the conditions attached to the reproof for a period of **one year**.
- (2)  During the condition period attached to the reproof, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.

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- (3)  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 information, including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar purposes, as prescribed by section 6002.1 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (4)  Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of discipline, Respondent must contact the Office of Probation and schedule a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss these terms and conditions of probation. Upon the direction of the Office of Probation, Respondent must meet with the probation deputy either in-person or by telephone. During the period of probation, Respondent must promptly meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.
- (5)  Respondent must 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 reprobation. Under penalty of perjury, Respondent must state whether Respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all conditions of the reprobation during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state in each report whether there are any proceedings pending against him or her in the State Bar Court and if so, the case number and current status of that proceeding. If the first report would cover less than 30 (thirty) days, that report must be submitted on the next following quarter date, and cover the extended period.

In addition to all quarterly reports, a final report, containing the same information, is due no earlier than twenty (20) days before the last day of the condition period and no later than the last day of the condition period.

- (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 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 monitor.
- (7)  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 conditions attached to the reprobation.
- (8)  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. Reason: .
- (9)  Respondent must comply with all conditions of probation imposed in the underlying criminal matter and must so declare under penalty of perjury in conjunction with any quarterly report to be filed with the Office of Probation.
- (10)  Respondent must provide proof of passage of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE"), administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, to the Office of Probation within one year of the effective date of the reprobation.

No MPRE recommended. Reason: **The protection of the public and the interests of the Respondent do not require passage of the MPRE in this case. (See In the Matter of Respondent G (Review Dept. 1992) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 181; Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.19.)**

- (11)  The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:

Substance Abuse Conditions                       Law Office Management Conditions

(Effective July 1, 2015)

Reprobation

(Do not write above this line.)

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Medical Conditions

Financial Conditions

**F. Other Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:**

**None.**



## FACTS:

8. On the night of March 23, 2014, respondent was driving westbound on Pomeroy Road in an unincorporated area of San Luis Obispo County. At a curve in the road, respondent drove off the side of the road onto the dirt shoulder, struck a telephone junction box and then collided with a field fence, damaging an approximately ninety-foot section of the fence

9. The fence abutted the residence of G.H. and M.S., who contacted respondent at the scene. Respondent told G.H. he had been drinking that evening. Respondent left the area on foot, before the arrival of the responding California Highway Patrol (“CHP”) officer.

10. Once a tow truck arrived to the scene, the responding CHP officer retrieved the respondent’s driver’s license from respondent’s vehicle and showed it to G.H., who confirmed that respondent was the person who left the scene earlier.

11. The CHP was unable to locate respondent that night.

12. On April 2, 2014, respondent’s insurance carrier issued a check to M.S. in the amount of \$1,667 for the damage to the fence.

13. Respondent was never charged with driving under the influence.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

14. The facts and circumstances surrounding the above-described violation did not involve moral turpitude but *did involve other misconduct warranting discipline.*

## ADDITIONAL FACTS RE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

**Pretrial Stipulation:** Respondent is entitled to mitigation for entering into this stipulation prior to trial, thereby preserving State Bar time and resources. (*Silva-Vidor v. State Bar* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 1071, 1079 [where mitigating credit was given for entering into a stipulation as to facts and culpability].)

**No Record of Prior Discipline:** Respondent was admitted to practice law in California in 1993 and had been in practice for more than twenty years with no record of prior discipline at the time the misconduct occurred. The Review Department has found an attorney with twenty-four years of practice without discipline to be entitled to “significant” mitigation. (*In the Matter of Elkins* (Review Dept. 2009) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 160, 167.)

## 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).)

Std. 2.16(b) indicates that suspension or reproof is the presumed level of discipline for a misdemeanor conviction not involving moral turpitude, but involving other misconduct warranting discipline. Respondent was convicted of violating Vehicle Code section 20002(a) for hit-and-run with property damage after he drove his car off the roadway and collided with a phone box and a fence. Respondent left the scene before law enforcement arrived. Respondent had been drinking prior to the collision, although he was not charged with driving under the influence. Comparatively, drunk driving has been held not to involve moral turpitude *per se* and even upon viewing the surrounding facts and circumstances, has generally been held not to rise to the level of moral turpitude. (See *In re Kelley* (1990) 52 Cal.3d 487.) Similarly, respondent’s conviction for hit-and-run with property damage does not involve moral turpitude *per se*, nor do the surrounding circumstances establish moral turpitude. However, the conviction and its surrounding circumstances reflect poorly on respondent’s judgment and on the legal profession, and therefore discipline is warranted. (*Id.*) Thus, Standard 2.16(b) is applicable in this matter and a suspension or reproof is appropriate.

In *In re Kelley* (supra, 52 Cal.3d 487), the Supreme Court considered the conviction cases of an attorney stemming from two drunk driving convictions. The first drunk driving incident occurred just sixteen months after the attorney was admitted to practice law. (*Id.* at 491.) The second drunk driving incident occurred two-and-a-half years later and while the attorney was still on probation regarding her first drunk driving conviction. (*Id.*) The Standard at the time stated only that discipline be “appropriate to the nature and extent of the misconduct.” (*Id.* at 498.) The Supreme Court also considered the attorney’s lack of a prior disciplinary record, extensive involvement in community service, and cooperation during disciplinary proceedings as factors in mitigation. (*Id.*) Thus, the Supreme Court ordered that the attorney be publicly reproofed, placed on disciplinary probation for three years and referred to the State Bar Alcohol Program. (*Id.* at 499.)

In contrast, this matter stems from only a single criminal conviction, respondent does not have any prior criminal convictions and at time of the subject incident had been admitted to practice for twenty-two years without the imposition of discipline, which constitutes “significant” mitigation. (*In the Matter of Elkins, supra*, Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. at 167.) Thus, a level of discipline somewhat less than *In re Kelley* and at the lower end of the range prescribed by Standard 2.16(b) is appropriate. The appropriate level of discipline is a public reproof with conditions for a period of one year.

### **COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.**

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of October 28, 2015, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$2,507. 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 not receive MCLE credit for completion of State Bar Ethics School. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

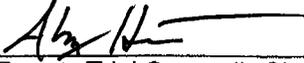
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In the Matter of: <b>Jeffrey Paul McMorrow</b>	Case number(s): <b>14-C-03047</b>
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**SIGNATURE OF THE PARTIES**

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.

10/30/15            Jeffrey Paul McMorrow  
Date                      Respondent's Signature                      Print Name

11/5/15            Alex Hackert  
Date                      Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature                      Print Name

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In the Matter of:  
Jeffrey Paul McMorrow

Case Number(s):  
14-C-03047

### REPROVAL ORDER

Finding that the stipulation protects the public and that the interests of Respondent will be served by any conditions attached to the reproof, IT IS ORDERED that the requested dismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTED without prejudice, and:

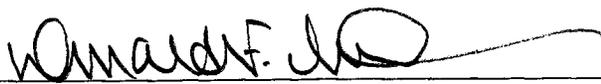
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AND THE REPROVAL IMPOSED.
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the REPROVAL IMPOSED.
- All court dates in the Hearing Department are vacated.

The parties are bound by the stipulation as approved unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed within 15 days after service of this order, is granted; or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved stipulation. (See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure.) **Otherwise the stipulation shall be effective 15 days after service of this order.**

**Failure to comply with any conditions attached to this reproof may constitute cause for a separate proceeding for willful breach of rule 1-110, Rules of Professional Conduct.**

Date

11/10/2015

  
DONALD F. MILES  
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 Los Angeles, on November 13, 2015, 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:

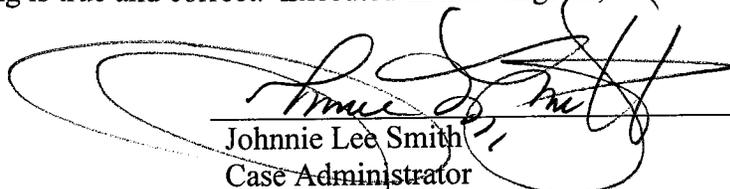
- by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

**JEFFREY P. MCMORROW  
915 W IMPERIAL HWY STE 110  
BREA, CA 92821**

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

**ALEX HACKERT, Enforcement, Los Angeles**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on November 13, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnnie Lee Smith  
Case Administrator  
State Bar Court