State Bar Court of California Hearing Department Los Angeles

STAYED SUSPENSION

ORIGINAL

Counsel For The State Bar

Jamie Kim Deputy Trial Counsel 845 S. Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90017 (213) 765-1182

Bar # 281574

In Pro Per Respondent

Michael Stephen Steiner 402 W. Broadway Ste. 2500 San Diego, CA 92101-8599 (619) 708-5688

Bar # 262189

In the Matter of:

MICHAEL STEPHEN STEINER

Bar # 262189

A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)

Case Number(s): **14-C-05961-DFM**

For Court use only

PUBLIC MATTER

LILED

AUG 23 2016

STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES

Submitted to: Settlement Judge

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING

STAYED SUSPENSION: NO ACTUAL SUSPENSION

☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED

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:

- Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted January 22, 2009.
- (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."

kwiktag * 211 096 128

(Effective July 1, 2015)

Stayed Suspension

(Do n	ot write	e above this line.)					
(5)	Cor Lav	nclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of v".					
(6)		he parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading Supporting Authority."					
(7)		o more than 30 days prior to the filing of this stipulation, Respondent has been advised in writing of any ending investigation/proceeding not resolved by this stipulation, except for criminal investigations.					
(8)	Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.7 6140.7. (Check one option only):						
	Costs are added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline. Costs are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: to billing cycles following the effective date of the Supreme Court order. (Hardship, special circumstances or other good cause per rule 5.132, Rules of Procedure). If Respondent fails to installment as described above, or as may be modified by the State Bar Court, the remaining bardue and payable immediately.						
		Costs are waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs". Costs are entirely waived.					
Mis		avating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional duct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are d.					
(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.					
(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.					

(Do not write above this line.)						
(8)	\boxtimes	Harm: Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public, or the administration of justice. See attachment, page 7.				
(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.				
Addi	tiona	al 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)	\boxtimes	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. See attachment, page 8.				
(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)	(Do no	ot writ	e abov	e this line	e.)				
content cont	(9)		which resulted from circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and						
in the legal and general communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct. See attachment, page 7. (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 No prior record of discipline, see attachment, page 7. Community service, see attachment, page 8. D. Discipline: (1) Stayed Suspension: (a) Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year. i. and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. 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) in Indianges of information, including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar in Address of information, including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar in Address of information, including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar	(10)		Fam pers	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.					
(13) No mitigating circumstances are involved. Additional mitigating circumstances No prior record of discipline, see attachment, page 7. Community service, see attachment, page 7. Pretrial stipulation, see attachment, page 8. D. Discipline: (1) Stayed Suspension: (a) Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year. i. and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. 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	(11)	\boxtimes	in th	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. See attachment, page 7.					
No prior record of discipline, see attachment, page 7. Community service, see attachment, page 8. D. Discipline: (1) Stayed Suspension: (a) Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year. i. and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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	(12)								
No prior record of discipline, see attachment, page 7. Community service, see attachment, page 8. D. Discipline: (1) Stayed Suspension: (a) Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year. i. and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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	(13)		No r	nitigat	ing circumstances are involved.				
Community service, see attachment, page 7. Pretrial stipulation, see attachment, page 8. D. Discipline: (1) Stayed Suspension: (a) Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year. i. and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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	Addi	tiona	al mit	igating	g circumstances				
(a) Stayed Suspension: (a) Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year. i. and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. 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		Cor	nmur	munity service, see attachment, page 7.					
(a) ⊠ Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year. i. □ and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) ☑ Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) ☑ During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) ☑ 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	D. D	isci	pline	e :					
i. and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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	(1)	\boxtimes							
fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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		(a)	\boxtimes	Respo	ondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year.				
this stipulation. iii. and until Respondent does the following: The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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			i.		fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general law pursuant to standard				
The above-referenced suspension is stayed. (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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			ii.						
 (2) Probation: Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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 			iii.		and until Respondent does the following:				
Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one year , which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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		The	abov	e-refer	renced suspension is stayed.				
Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court.) E. Additional Conditions of Probation: (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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	(2) 🛛 Probation:		ation:						
 (1) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct. (2) 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 									
Professional Conduct. (2) 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	E. A	ddit	iona	l Con	ditions of Probation:				
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	(1)	\boxtimes	Durir Profe	ng the pessions	probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of all Conduct.				
	(2)		State inform	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					

(Do n	ot write	e above	e this line.)						
(3)		and cond prob	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.						
(4)		Respondent must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, A July 10, and October 10 of the period of probation. Under penalty of perjury, Respondent must state whether Respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and conditions of probation during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state whether are any proceedings pending against him or her in the State Bar Court and if so, the case number current status of that proceeding. If the first report would cover less than 30 days, that report must submitted on the next quarter date, and cover the extended period.							
		In ac	ddition to all quarterly reports, a final report, and the period (20) days before the last day of the period	conta d of p	ining the same information, is due no earlier than robation and no later than the last day of probation.				
(5)		cond During in ac	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 to the monitor 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 probation monitor.						
(6)		inqu direc	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 probation conditions.						
(7)		Prob	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 State Bar Ethics School, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.						
			No Ethics School recommended. Reason	:					
(8)		mus	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.						
(9)		The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:							
			Substance Abuse Conditions		Law Office Management Conditions				
			Medical Conditions		Financial Conditions				
F. C)the	r Co	nditions Negotiated by the Parties	:					
(1)	\boxtimes	Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination: 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. Failure to pass the MPRE results in actual suspension without further hearing until passage. But see rule 9.10(b), California Rules of Court, and rule 5.162(A) & (E), Rules of Procedure.							
			No MPRE recommended. Reason: .						
(2)		Ot	her Conditions:						

ATTACHMENT TO

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

MICHAEL STEPHEN STEINER

CASE NUMBER:

14-C-05961-DFM

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Respondent admits that the following facts are true and that the facts and circumstances surrounding the offense for which he was convicted involved other misconduct warranting discipline.

Case No. 14-C-05961-DFM (Conviction Proceedings)

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND IN CONVICTION PROCEEDING:

- 1. This is a proceeding pursuant to sections 6101 and 6102 of the Business and Professions Code and rule 9.10 of the California Rules of Court.
- 2. On August 13, 2014, the San Diego District Attorney's Office filed a misdemeanor complaint in case number S274043, charging respondent with one count of violating Penal Code section 273.5(a) [inflicting corporal injury resulting in a traumatic condition against a spouse or cohabitant] and three counts of violating Penal Code section 273a(b) [child endangerment], one count for each of the three children in the care and custody of respondent.
- 3. On October 17, 2014, the court entered respondent's plea of guilty to an added fifth count for violating Penal Code section 243(e)(1) [domestic battery]. Pursuant to a motion by the District Attorney's Office, the remaining four counts were dismissed.
- 4. On October 17, 2014, the court suspended imposition of sentence, placed respondent on summary probation for 36 months. The court also ordered that respondent enroll in a 52 week Domestic Violence Treatment Program. Respondent was also fined and ordered to pay restitution to the state.
- 5. On April 14, 2016, in case number 14-C-05961, the Review Department referred respondent's conviction for violating Penal Code section 243(e)(1) to the Hearing Department for hearing and decision recommending discipline, in the event that the Hearing Department finds that the facts and circumstances surrounding the misdemeanor violation involved moral turpitude or other misconduct warranting discipline.

FACTS:

6. On August 9, 2014, at approximately 1:00 p.m., respondent engaged in domestic battery. Respondent came home to his residence in Chula Vista, where his girlfriend ("Ms. S"), with whom he had been cohabitating, was present with three minor children who were under the care and custody of respondent. Upon arriving home, respondent and Ms. S got into a verbal altercation. While Ms. S was breast-feeding their infant child, respondent pushed Ms. S against the wall. Respondent then left his residence with his two older children. Ms. S and the infant remained at respondent's residence.

- 7. Respondent returned to his residence a few minutes later with his two older children. Respondent and Ms. S got into another verbal altercation. While inside his residence, respondent grabbed Ms. S by the arm, grabbed her throat, and pushed her into a wall. Ms. S had scrapes on her right arm, neck, and knees.
- 8. On August 9, 2014, at approximately 6:15 p.m., Chula Vista Police Department Officers Carla Rogers and Norene Andersen responded to a radio call report of a domestic battery that occurred at respondent's residence.
- 9. The officers went to respondent's residence, where respondent identified himself to the officers. The officers arrested respondent for violation of Penal Code section 273.5(a) [inflicting corporal injury resulting in a traumatic condition against a spouse or cohabitant] and 273a [willful cruelty to a child without injury or death].

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

10. The facts and circumstances surrounding the above-described violation(s) did not involve moral turpitude but did involve other misconduct warranting discipline.

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Harm (Std. 1.5(j)): Respondent's misconduct caused physical harm to the victim.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Record of Discipline: Respondent was admitted to the practice of law on January 22, 2009. At the time of the misconduct, he had practiced law for five years. While respondent's conduct is serious, he is entitled to nominal mitigation, for practicing for a short period of time without a record of discipline. (In the Matter of Duxbury (Review Dept. 1999) 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 61, 66 [five years of discipline free practice entitled to nominal weight in mitigation].)

Good Character (Std. 1.6(f)): Respondent provided eight character references, from a variety of backgrounds including attorneys and non-attorneys, who attested to respondent's good character, pursuit of rehabilitation, as well as knowledge of the underlying misconduct. The character references have known respondent for an extended period of time spanning 3-35 years, most of whom have known respondent for at least seven years. Five of the character references were attorneys, one of whom is a member of the City of El Centro City Council. The other references included a realtor, paralegal and business person.

Community Service: Respondent has been a volunteer at the Legal Aid Society of San Diego ("LASSD") since 2007. Respondent volunteers at LASSD on a monthly basis by doing legal research, conducting investigations and representing indigent clients in landlord-tenant disputes. In 2016, respondent also started volunteering at the Park View Little League as a substitute tee ball coach and supervises children's tee ball games. (In the Matter of Respondent K (Review Dept. 1993) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 335, 359 [where civic service was recognized as a mitigating circumstance].)

Remorse & Recognition of Wrongdoing (Std. 1.6(g)): On December 2, 2014, respondent received a Certificate of Completion for completing an 8-week program for Anger Management through Anger-Ease. On February 10, 2015, respondent received a Certificate of Completion for completing a parent education class. Respondent voluntarily enrolled in and completed both programs, neither of which was required by respondent's criminal probation.

Pretrial Stipulation: By entering into this stipulation, respondent has acknowledged his misconduct and is entitled to mitigation saving State Bar 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]; In the Matter of Spaith (Review Dept. 1996) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 511, 521 [where the attorney's stipulation to facts and culpability was held to be a mitigating circumstance].)

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).)

Standard 2.16(b) provides that a suspension or reproval is appropriate for a final conviction of a misdemeanor not involving moral turpitude but involving other misconduct warranting discipline. Moral turpitude has been defined as "an act of baseness, vileness or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellowmen, or to society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between man and man." (*In re* Fahey (1973) 8 Cal.3d 842, 849.) A conviction for domestic violence does not involve moral turpitude *per se* and, even upon considering the facts and circumstances, has generally been held not to rise to the level of moral turpitude. (*See In re Hickey* (1990) 50 Cal.3d 571, 579 [infliction of corporal punishment on a cohabitant of the opposite sex resulting in a traumatic condition constituted misconduct warranting discipline].) However, it has been

held to constitute "other misconduct warranting discipline." (*In re Otto* (1989) 48 Cal.3d 970.) Therefore, Standard 2.16(b) is the applicable standard here.

In this matter, respondent was convicted of a misdemeanor for domestic battery. Respondent's conduct was not related to the practice of law, but was nonetheless serious as respondent caused physical harm to his cohabitant. Respondent's misconduct was in the presence of three minor children, one of whom was an infant, which exposed them to potential harm.

Respondent's misconduct is aggravated by the physical harm inflicted on the victim. Although respondent has no prior record of discipline, this is entitled to nominal weight in mitigation as respondent had only practice law for five years prior to the misconduct. Still, respondent is entitled to mitigation for good character established by eight character references, community service, remorse and recognition of wrongdoing, and entry into a pretrial stipulation. (In the Matter of Duxbury, supra, 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. at 66.) Respondent's voluntary acts following the incident, by taking anger management and parenting courses, show that respondent appreciated the seriousness of his misconduct. On balance, the mitigation outweighs the mitigation. Therefore, a one-year stayed suspension with a one-year probation, which is within the range provided for by Standard 2.16(b), is appropriate to protect the public, courts and legal profession; maintain high professional standards by attorneys; and preserve public confidence in the legal profession. (Std. 1.1.)

Case law supports this level of discipline. In In re Hickey (1990) 50 Cal.3d 571, an attorney was convicted of violating Penal Code section 12025(b), carrying a concealed weapon. The facts and circumstances surrounding the conviction involved domestic violence. At a night club in Palm Springs, Hickey took out a loaded gun and hit his wife across the face with it. The wife left the night club and sought refuge at a neighbor's house. Hickey approached the neighbor's house and threatened his wife. Both the neighbor and his wife heard a gunshot fired outside the neighbor's home. Hickey had a prior arrest for domestic violence which was not referred for State Bar discipline, but heard by stipulation as part of the surrounding facts and circumstances. In the prior incident, Hickey had swung a punch at his wife, missed, and then pushed her. When a bystander told him to stop, Hickey verbally assaulted the bystander, ripped a metal sign up from the ground and swung it at the bystander's head, who shielded his face with his hands, suffering a cut and bruises to his arms. While Hickey was being arrested, he threatened to get a gun and shoot the bystander and other witnesses. During the disciplinary proceeding, Hickey was also prosecuted for failing to properly withdraw from a client matter, as well as the conviction. The court found that the attorney's criminal conduct did not involve moral turpitude, but did involve other misconduct warranting discipline and noted harm in aggravation. The court noted that the attorney did not present any evidence of rehabilitation as to the misconduct involving a client matter. The attorney had also represented that his domestic violence was connected to his substance abuse, from which he had not shown a lengthy period of rehabilitation. The court imposed discipline consisting of a three year stayed suspension, a three-year probation with conditions, including a 30-day actual suspension.

Like *Hickey*, respondent committed acts of domestic violence. Respondent's conduct is less egregious that that in *Hickey* as the misconduct did not involve a weapon and respondent did not engage in misconduct as to representation of a client. Respondent also has mitigation for good character, community service, as well as a pretrial stipulation. Respondent has also shown remorse and recognition of wrongdoing by taking anger management courses and a parenting program in his pursuit of rehabilitation. Therefore, the level of discipline in this matter should be less severe than that in Hickey.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of August 12, 2016, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$3,669. 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 MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION ("MCLE") CREDIT

Respondent may <u>not</u> receive MCLE credit for completion of State Bar Ethics School. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

In the Matter of:	Case number(s):	
MICHAEL STEPHEN STEINER	14-C-05961-DFM	

SIGNATURE OF THE PARTIES

By their signatures below,	the parties and the	ir counsel, as a	pplicable, signify	their agreement wit	n each of the
recitations and each of the					

8/12/16	Mich	Michael Stephen Steiner	
Date /	Respondent's Signature	Print Name	
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name	
8/15/2016	/ molling	Jamie kim	,
Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name	

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.) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date of the Supreme Court order herein, normally 30 days after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of Court.)

just 23, 2016

W. KEARSE MCGILL

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 August 23, 2016, 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:

MICHAEL S. STEINER STEINER LAW 402 W BROADWAY STE 2500 SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 - 8599

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

JAMIE KIM, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on August 23, 2016.

Rose M. Luthi
Case Administrator
State Bar Court