

**FILED**

JUL 22 2016

STATE BAR COURT  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
LOS ANGELES

**STATE BAR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

**REVIEW DEPARTMENT**

**IN BANK**

In the Matter of	)	Case No. 14-C-06323
	)	
RICHARD CHARLES BRIZENDINE,	)	RECOMMENDATION OF SUMMARY
	)	DISBARMENT
A Member of the State Bar, No. 101597.	)	
_____	)	

On May 9, 2016, the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar (OCTC) filed a motion for summary disbarment based on Richard Charles Brizendine's felony conviction. Brizendine did not respond. We grant the motion and recommend that Brizendine be summarily disbarred.

On December 15, 2014, Brizendine pled guilty to violations of title 18 United States Code sections 1957(a) (money laundering) and 371 (conspiracy to structure financial transactions in violation of 31 U.S.C. § 5324(a)(3)). Effective March 11, 2015, Brizendine was placed on interim suspension from the practice of law. With its motion for summary disbarment, OCTC submitted evidence that the conviction had become final. Specifically, no party filed a notice of appeal within the statutory time period after the entry of judgment. (See Fed. Rules App.Proc., rule 4(b), 28 U.S.C.) Therefore, the conviction is final.

After the judgment of conviction becomes final, "the Supreme Court shall summarily disbar the attorney if the offense is a felony . . . and an element of the offense is the specific intent to deceive, defraud, steal, or make or suborn a false statement, or involved moral



turpitude.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6102, subd. (c).)

The record of conviction establishes both criteria for summary disbarment. First, Brizendine’s money laundering offense is a felony. (18 U.S.C. §§ 3559(a) [classifying offenses based on sentencing ranges], 1957 [punishable with imprisonment up to 10 years].) Second, Brizendine’s money laundering conviction required proof that: (1) he knowingly engaged in a monetary transaction; (2) he knew the transaction involved criminal property; (3) the property’s value exceeded \$10,000; and (4) the property was derived from a specified unlawful activity. (*United States v. Messer* (9th Cir. 1999) 197 F.3d 330, 341.) Crimes based on “knowledge of the falsity of certain facts or documents, or of the illegality of certain conduct” involve moral turpitude. (*In re Rivas* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 794, 800, citing *In re Bloom* (1987) 44 Cal.3d 128, 143; see also *In re Berman* (1989) 48 Cal. 3d 517, 526 [money laundering involves moral turpitude].) Accordingly, Brizendine’s conviction qualifies him for summary disbarment.

When an attorney’s conviction meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c), “the attorney is not entitled to a State Bar Court hearing to determine whether lesser discipline is called for.” (*In re Paguirigan* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 1, 7.) Disbarment is mandatory. (*Id.* at p. 9.)

We therefore recommend that Richard Charles Brizendine, State Bar number 101597, be disbarred from the practice of law in this state. We also recommend that he be ordered to comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20 and to perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court’s order. Finally, we recommend that costs be awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10, and that such costs be enforceable both as

provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment.

**PURCELL**

---

Presiding Judge

## 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 July 22, 2016, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

ORDER FILED JULY 22, 2016

in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing on that date as follows:

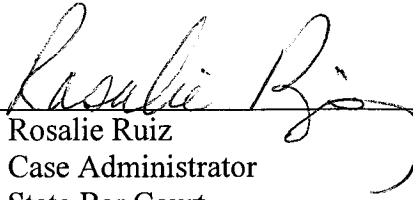
- ☒ by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

RICHARD C. BRIZENDINE  
59 64TH PL  
LONG BEACH, CA 90803

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

CHARLES MURRAY, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on July 22, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rosalie Ruiz  
Case Administrator  
State Bar Court