State Bar Court of California Hearing Department Los Angeles **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 14-N-03471-PEM. Ann J. Kim 14-O-06215 (Inv.) **PUBLIC MATTER Deputy Trial Counsel** 845 S. Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90017 (213) 765-1230 Bar # 259222 In Pro Per Respondent JAN 0 7 2015 Raymond Faulkner Choi 18697 Fairfax Lane STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE **Huntington Beach, CA 92648 SAN FRANCISCO** (949) 423-9151 Submitted to: Settlement Judge Bar # 227132 STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING In the Matter of: **RAYMOND FAULKNER CHOI** ACTUAL SUSPENSION Bar # 227132 ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED 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 December 1, 2003.
- (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 12 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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Conduct.

property.

(2)

(3)

Dishonesty: 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

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

(Do	not write	above this line.)
(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.
(7)	\boxtimes	Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct: Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing or demonstrates a pattern of misconduct. (See stipulation, at page 9.)
(8)		Restitution: Respondent failed to make restitution.
(9)		No aggravating circumstances are involved.
Add	ditiona	al aggravating circumstances:
C.	Mitig circu	ating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(g) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating mstances 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)		Remorse: 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)		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 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.

(Do no	ot write	e above	e this lin	e.)
(10)				oblems: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her fe which were other than emotional or physical in nature.
(11)		Goo in th	d Cha e lega	rracter: Respondent's extraordinarily good character is attested to by a wide range of references I and general communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct.
(12)		Reh follo	abilita wed b	ation: Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred y convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.
(13)		No r	nitiga	ting circumstances are involved.
Addi	tiona	al mit	igatin	g circumstances:
	P	retria	l Stip	ulation: see stipulation, at page 9.
D. D)isci	plin	e:	
(1)	\boxtimes	Stay	ed Su	spension:
	(a)	\boxtimes	Resp	pondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of three (3) years.
		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)	\boxtimes	Prol	pation	
				ust be placed on probation for a period of three (3) years , which will commence upon the of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)
(3)		Actu	ual Su	spension:
	(a)	\boxtimes		condent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period (2) years.
		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. <i>A</i>	Addi	tiona	al Co	nditions of Probation:

(Do no	ot write	e above this line.)
(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)	\boxtimes	During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.
(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
(5)		promptly meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request. Respondent must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, 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 all conditions of probation during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state 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 days, that report must be submitted on the next 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 period of probation and no later than the last day of probation.
(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 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.
(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 probation conditions.
(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: Respondent is already required to 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 within one year of the effective date of the discipline imposed on March 26, 2014, in case numbers 10-O-09367, 10-O-09369, and 12-O-15314 (Supreme Court Order S215199).
(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)		The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:
		☐ Substance Abuse Conditions ☐ Law Office Management Conditions

ATTACHMENT TO

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

RAYMOND FAULKNER CHOI

CASE NUMBERS:

14-N-03471; 14-O-06215

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Respondent admits that the following facts are true and that he is culpable of the violation of the specified statute.

Case No. 14-N-03471 (State Bar Investigation)

FACTS:

- 1. On February 24, 2014, the California Supreme Court filed Order Number S215199 (hereinafter "Supreme Court Order") (State Bar Court case numbers 10-O-09367, 10-O-09369, and 12-O-15314). Pursuant to the Supreme Court Order, respondent was suspended from the practice of law for two (2) years, execution of suspension was stayed, and respondent was placed on probation for two (2) years subject to the conditions of probation recommended by the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court in its November 6, 2013 Order approving the Stipulation, including the condition that respondent be actually suspended for ninety (90) days. Pursuant to the Supreme Court Order, respondent also was required to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court.
- 2. The Supreme Court Order required respondent to comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court Order.
- 3. On February 24, 2014, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of California served upon respondent a copy of the Supreme Court Order. Respondent received the Supreme Court Order. At all relevant times, respondent had notice of the terms and conditions of the Supreme Court Order.
 - 4. The Supreme Court Order became effective on March 26, 2014, thirty days after it was filed.
- 5. On March 20, 2014, a Probation Deputy in the Office of Probation of the State Bar of California sent a courtesy reminder letter notifying respondent of the terms of the Supreme Court Order. The letter specifically reminded respondent that a rule 9.20 compliance declaration was to be filed with the State Bar Court no later than May 5, 2014. Respondent received the letter.
- 6. According to respondent, at the time the Supreme Court Order was filed, he had only one client. Pursuant to rule 9.20(a), respondent gave written notice to opposing counsel on April 25, 2014 and sent a letter to his client on April 26, 2014 informing her of his 90 day suspension.
- 7. Respondent did not file a rule 9.20 compliance declaration with the State Bar Court by May 5, 2014.

- 8. On May 9, 2014, the Probation Deputy sent a reminder letter notifying respondent that his rule 9.20 compliance declaration was to have been filed with the State Bar Court no later than May 5, 2014. The letter also notified respondent that if he did not file a rule 9.20 compliance declaration, respondent may be referred for additional discipline. Respondent received the letter.
- 9. On June 18, 2014, the Probation Deputy sent another courtesy reminder letter notifying respondent of the terms of the Supreme Court Order. The letter specifically reminded respondent that a rule 9.20 compliance declaration was to have been filed with the State Bar Court no later than May 5, 2014. Respondent received the letter.
- 10. On December 8, 2014, respondent filed his 9.20 compliance declaration with the State Bar Court.

CONCLUSION OF LAW:

11. By failing to file the rule 9.20 compliance affidavit in conformity with the requirements of rule 9.20 subdivision (c) within forty (40) days of the effective date of the Supreme Court Order as required by the Supreme Court Order, respondent willfully violated California Rules of Court, rule 9.20.

Case No. 14-O-06215 (State Bar Investigation)

FACTS:

- 12. The stipulated facts set forth in paragraphs 1, 3, and 4 are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in full.
- 13. As a condition of probation, respondent was required to contact the Office of Probation to schedule a meeting with his assigned Probation Deputy by April 25, 2014, and upon the direction of the of Office of Probation, respondent was required to meet with the Probation Deputy. Respondent contacted his assigned Probation Deputy on April 25, 2014. A telephonic meeting was scheduled for May 1, 2014. However, on May 1, 2014, respondent emailed the Probation Deputy requesting to reschedule the meeting for the following week. Although the Probation Deputy requested respondent to provide dates on which he would be available to meet the following week, respondent failed to do so. Respondent did not contact the Probation Deputy again to schedule a meeting until December 11, 2014. The required meeting took place on December 15, 2014.
- 14. As another condition of probation, respondent was required to submit written reports to the Office of Probation for each calendar quarter of his probationary period. Respondent failed to timely submit to the Office of Probation the quarterly reports due on July 10, 2014 and October 10, 2014.

CONCLUSION OF LAW:

15. By failing to timely meet with his Probation Deputy, and failing to timely submit the quarterly reports due on July 10, 2014 and October 10, 2014, respondent failed to comply with all conditions attached to a disciplinary probation in willful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(k).

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AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Prior Record of Discipline (Std. 1.5(a)): Respondent has one prior record of discipline consisting of a two (2) year stayed suspension and a two (2) year probation subject to conditions including a ninety (90) day actual suspension and until payment of a court-ordered sanction, and an order to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court in State Bar cases 10-O-09367, 10-O-09369, and 12-O-15314, which became effective March 26, 2014. The violation of rule 9.20 is the basis for this matter. In the prior matter, Respondent stipulated to two counts of violating Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A) (failure to appear for hearings and failure to notify the client and the court of non-appearance; intentional reckless, or repeated failure to perform legal services with competence), one count of violating Business and Professions Code section 6103 (willful disobedience of a court order to pay sanctions), and one count of violating Business and Professions Code section 6068(1) (failure to keep all agreements made in lieu of disciplinary prosecution). In mitigation, Respondent had no prior discipline and he entered into a pre-trial stipulation. In aggravation, Respondent committed multiple acts of misconduct, and Respondent's misconduct harmed the administration of justice.

Multiple Acts of Misconduct (Std. 1.5(b)): From May 2014 to present, respondent committed multiple acts of misconduct by failing to timely comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and three conditions of his probation.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Pre-trial Stipulation. Respondent admitted his misconduct and entered into this stipulation fully resolving this matter prior to the trial, thus saving State Bar resources and time. (Silva-Vidor v. State Bar (1989) 49 Cal.3d 1071, 1079 [where mitigating credit was given for entering in to a stipulation as to facts and culpability]; In the Matter of Spaith (Review Dept. 1996) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 511, 521.)

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 1.8(a) provides that if an attorney has a record of one prior discipline, the discipline imposed for the current misconduct must be greater than the previous discipline unless the prior discipline was remote in time and the offense was of minimal severity. Respondent has one prior record of discipline: a 90-day actual suspension and until payment of a court-ordered sanction, which became effective March 26, 2014. Respondent's prior discipline is not remote and involved harm to the administration of justice. Accordingly, the current discipline must be greater than respondent's prior discipline.

In this case, rule 9.20 itself suggests the range of discipline appropriate for a violation of rule 9.20. Rule 9.20(d) states, "... A suspended member's willful failure to comply with the provisions of this rule is a cause for disbarment or suspension and for revocation of any pending probation. Additionally, such failure may be punished as a contempt or a crime." The fact that the legislature considers non-compliance with rule 9.20 a potential crime, as well as an act of professional misconduct, confirms the serious nature of 9.20 violations.

However, respondent made efforts to comply with rule 9.20. On April 26, 2014, respondent sent a letter to his client informing her of his 90-day suspension. On April 25, 2014, respondent gave written notice to opposing counsel of his 90-day suspension and filed the written notice with the Riverside County Superior Court on April 29, 2014. On December 8, 2014, respondent belatedly filed his 9.20 compliance affidavit. Respondent's efforts to comply with rule 9.20 indicate that respondent is willing to conform his conduct to ethical requirements in the future, and therefore disbarment is not necessary to protect the public, courts and the legal profession.

Standard 2.10 applies to respondent's failure to comply with the conditions of probation and provides that actual suspension is appropriate for a failure to comply with the conditions of probation (Business and Professions Code section 6068(k)).

Case law on violations of rule 9.20 supports suspension. In Shapiro v. State Bar (1990) 51 Cal. 3d 251, the Supreme Court noted that it had previously imposed a six-month suspension for a 9.20 violation where the attorney complied with subdivision (a), but failed in reporting compliance in Durbin v. State Bar (1979) 23 Cal.3d 461. The Supreme Court determined that a two-year stayed suspension with a one-year actual suspension was the appropriate level of discipline for an attorney who failed to timely file the 9.20 compliance affidavit with the court and failed to perform in one client matter.

In this case, respondent complied with subdivision (a) of rule 9.20, but failed to timely file a rule 9.20 compliance affidavit. Respondent also failed to comply with three probation conditions. In addition, the aggravating circumstances, including respondent's prior record of discipline and multiple acts of misconduct, outweigh the mitigation afforded respondent's cooperation in entering into a pretrial stipulation. Accordingly, pursuant to rule 9.20(d) and Standard 2.10, actual suspension is appropriate and respondent should demonstrate rehabilitation, present fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the law prior to being able to practice law again.

A three (3) year stayed suspension and three (3) year probation with conditions including a two (2) year actual suspension and until respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation, present fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the law pursuant to standard 1.2(c)(1) will serve the goals of protection of the public, the courts, and the legal profession.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of December 12, 2014, the prosecution costs in this matter are approximately \$3,497. 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.

SIGNATURE OF THE PARTIES

By their signatures below, recitations and each of the	the parties and their counsel, as applicable, signification terms and conditions of this Stipulation Re Facts	fy their agreement with each of the , Conclusions of Law, and Disposition.
10/1/11	Pal	·
12/15/19	1300	RAYMOND F. CHOI
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name

Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
12/16/2014		ANN J. KIM
Date /	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name

In the Matter of: RAYMOND FAULKNER CHOI	Case Number(s): 14-N-03471-PEM 14-O-06215 (Inv.)

ACTUAL SUSPENSION ORDER

Finding the stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it adequately protects the public,	IT IS ORDERED that the
requested dismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTED without prejudice, and:	

M	The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
	The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
	All Hearing dates 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.) 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.)

1-5-15

Date

GEORGE E. SCOTT, JUDGE PRO TEM

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 January 7, 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 San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:
RAYMOND F. CHOI JUSTICEOC ATTORNEYS AT LAW 18697 FAIRFAX LN HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648
by certified mail, No. , with return receipt requested, through the United States Posta Service at , California, addressed as follows:
by overnight mail at , California, addressed as follows:
by fax transmission, at fax number . No error was reported by the fax machine that I used.
By personal service by leaving the documents in a sealed envelope or package clearly labeled to identify the attorney being served with a receptionist or a person having charge of the attorney's office, addressed as follows:
by interoffice mail through a facility regularly maintained by the State Bar of California addressed as follows:
Ann J. Kim, Enforcement, Los Angeles
I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, or January 7, 2015.

Case Administrator State Bar Court