

PUBLIC MATTER

1 STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
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FILED
JAN 16 2015
 STATE BAR COURT
 CLERK'S OFFICE
 LOS ANGELES

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STATE BAR COURT
 HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

In the Matter of:) Case No. 14-N-05751
)
 WILFORD THOMAS LEE,) NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES
 No. 166168,)
)
 A Member of the State Bar)

NOTICE - FAILURE TO RESPOND!

IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO THIS NOTICE WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER SERVICE, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT THE STATE BAR COURT TRIAL:

- (1) YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;**
- (2) YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;**
- (3) YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE, AND;**
- (4) YOU SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE. SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT WITHOUT FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. SEE RULE 5.80 ET SEQ., RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA.**

Virgin

1 The State Bar of California alleges:

2 JURISDICTION

3 1. WILFORD THOMAS LEE ("respondent") was admitted to the practice of law in the
4 State of California on December 1, 1993, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges,
5 and is currently a member of the State Bar of California.

6 COUNT ONE

7 Case No. 14-N-05751
8 California Rules of Court, Rule 9.20
[Failure to Comply With Rule 9.20]

9 2. Respondent failed to file a declaration of compliance with California Rules of Court,
10 rule 9.20 in conformity with the requirements of rule 9.20(c) with the clerk of the State Bar
11 Court by September 17, 2014, as required by Supreme Court order no. S218352, in willful
12 violation of California Rules of Court, rule 9.20. (A true and correct copy of the rule 9.20 order
13 is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and is incorporated by reference.)

14 NOTICE - INACTIVE ENROLLMENT!

15 **YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT IF THE STATE BAR
16 COURT FINDS, PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE
17 SECTION 6007(c), THAT YOUR CONDUCT POSES A SUBSTANTIAL
18 THREAT OF HARM TO THE INTERESTS OF YOUR CLIENTS OR TO
19 THE PUBLIC, YOU MAY BE INVOLUNTARILY ENROLLED AS AN
20 INACTIVE MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR. YOUR INACTIVE
21 ENROLLMENT WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO ANY DISCIPLINE
22 RECOMMENDED BY THE COURT.**

20 NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!

21 **IN THE EVENT THESE PROCEDURES RESULT IN PUBLIC
22 DISCIPLINE, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF COSTS
23 INCURRED BY THE STATE BAR IN THE INVESTIGATION, HEARING
24 AND REVIEW OF THIS MATTER PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND
25 PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6086.10.**

24 Respectfully submitted,
25 THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
26 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL
27 DATED: 1-16 2015 By: [Signature]
28 R. KEVIN BUCHER
Deputy Trial Counsel

EXHIBIT 1

(State Bar Court Nos. 12-O-17542 (12-O-17580; 13-O-10240))

JUL - 9 2014

S218352

Frank A. McGuire Clerk

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA

Deputy

En Banc

In re WILFORD THOMAS LEE on Discipline

The court orders that Wilford Thomas Lee, State Bar Number 166168, is suspended from the practice of law in California for two years, execution of that period of suspension is stayed, and he is placed on probation for three years subject to the following conditions:

1. Wilford Thomas Lee is suspended from the practice of law for a minimum of the first six months of probation, and he will remain suspended until the following requirements are satisfied:
 - i. He makes restitution to Bradley and Allison Betke in the amount of \$4,367.00 plus 10 percent interest per year from May 17, 2012 (or reimburses the Client Security Fund, to the extent of any payment from the fund to Bradley and Allison Betke, in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6140.5) and furnishes proof to the State Bar's Office of Probation in Los Angeles; and
 - ii. If he remains suspended for two years or more as a result of not satisfying the preceding condition, he must also provide proof to the State Bar Court of his rehabilitation, fitness to practice and learning and ability in the general law before his suspension will be terminated. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, tit. IV, Stds. for Atty. Sanctions for Prof. Misconduct, std. 1.2(c)(1).)
2. Wilford Thomas Lee must comply with the other conditions of probation recommended by the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court in its Order Approving Stipulation filed on March 5, 2014.

3. At the expiration of the period of probation, if Wilford Thomas Lee has complied with all conditions of probation, the two-year period of stayed suspension will be satisfied and that suspension will be terminated.

Wilford Thomas Lee must also take and pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination within one year after the effective date of this order, or during the period of his suspension, whichever is longer, and provide satisfactory proof of such passage to the State Bar's Office of Probation in Los Angeles within the same period. Failure to do so may result in suspension. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.10(b).)

Wilford Thomas Lee must also comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the effective date of this order. Failure to do so may result in disbarment or suspension.

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment.

I, Frank A. McGuire, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of California, do hereby certify that the preceding is a true copy of an order of this Court as shown by the records of my office.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Court this

_____ day of JUL - 9 2014

Clerk

By: _____

Deputy

CANTIL-SAKAUYE

Chief Justice

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

by

U.S. FIRST-CLASS MAIL / U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL / OVERNIGHT DELIVERY / FACSIMILE-ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

CASE NUMBER(s): 14-O-05751

I, the undersigned, am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action, whose business address and place of employment is the State Bar of California, 845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90017, declare that:

- on the date shown below, I caused to be served a true copy of the within document described as follows:

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

By U.S. First-Class Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a)) - in accordance with the practice of the State Bar of California for collection and processing of mail, I deposited or placed for collection and mailing in the City and County of Los Angeles.

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

By Overnight Delivery: (CCP §§ 1013(c) and 1013(d)) - I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for overnight delivery by the United Parcel Service ("UPS").

By Fax Transmission: (CCP §§ 1013(e) and 1013(f)) Based on agreement of the parties to accept service by fax transmission, I faxed the documents to the persons at the fax numbers listed herein below. No error was reported by the fax machine that I used. The original record of the fax transmission is retained on file and available upon request.

By Electronic Service: (CCP § 1010.6) to: Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept service by electronic transmission, I caused the documents to be sent to the person(s) at the electronic addresses listed herein below. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

(for U.S. First-Class Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)

(for Certified Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing as certified mail, return receipt requested, Article No.: 9414726699042010086864 at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)

(for Overnight Delivery) together with a copy of this declaration, in an envelope, or package designated by UPS, Tracking No.: addressed to: (see below)

Table with 4 columns: Person Served, Business-Residential Address, Fax Number, Courtesy Copy via US Mail to:.

via inter-office mail regularly processed and maintained by the State Bar of California addressed to:

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

I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope or package is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing contained in the affidavit.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on the date shown below.

DATED: January 16, 2015

SIGNED:

Ana Botosaru Nercessian Declarant