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State Bar Court of California Hearing Department Los Angeles STAYED SUSPENSION			kwiktag * 183 822 653 
Counsel For The State Bar Shane C. Morrison Deputy Trial Counsel 845 S. Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515 (213) 765-1000 Bar # 284115	Case Number(s): 14-O-01537	For Court use only <div style="text-align: center;"> PUBLIC MATTER FILED  JAN 14 2015 </div> STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO	
Counsel For Respondent Blithe C. Leece Law Office of Blithe C. Leece 609 Deep Valley Dr. Suite 200 Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274 (310) 896-2335 Bar # 202208	Submitted to: Settlement Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING STAYED SUSPENSION; NO ACTUAL SUSPENSION <input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED		
In the Matter of: MICHAEL AMNON BARUCH Bar # 150313 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 4, 1990**.
- (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."

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- (5) Conclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of Law".
- (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.
 - ☒ Costs are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: **two billing cycles following the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter.** (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.

B. Aggravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, standards 1.2(f) & 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."
- (2) ☐ **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 Conduct.
- (3) ☐ **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.
- (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.

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- (7) ☐ **Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct:** Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing or demonstrates a pattern of misconduct.
- (8) ☐ **Restitution:** Respondent failed to make restitution.
- (9) ☒ **No aggravating circumstances** are involved.

Additional aggravating circumstances

C. Mitigating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(g) & 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 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.
- (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.

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(13) ☐ No mitigating circumstances are involved.

Additional mitigating circumstances

Pre-Filing Stipulation (See Attachment at p. 8.)

Pro Bono Work and Community Service (See Attachment at p. 9.)

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 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:

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 purposes, as prescribed by section 6002.1 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (3) ☒ 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, 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.

- (5) ☐ 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.

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- (6) ☒ 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) ☒ 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) ☐ 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:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Law Office Management Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Conditions |

F. Other Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:

- (1) ☒ **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) ☐ **Other Conditions:**

ATTACHMENT TO
STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: MICHAEL AMNON BARUCH
CASE NUMBER: 14-O-01537

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-O-01537 (State Bar Investigation)

FACTS:

1. As a member of the State Bar of California, respondent was required to complete 25 hours of minimum continuing legal education ("MCLE") during the period commencing on February 1, 2010 and ending on January 31, 2013 (the "compliance period").
2. On January 31, 2013, respondent electronically reported to the State Bar under penalty of perjury that he was in compliance with the MCLE requirements and, in particular, that he had completed 25 hours of MCLE during the compliance period.
3. In fact, respondent had not completed any of the required MCLE hours during the compliance period. When respondent reported to the State Bar that he was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, respondent was grossly negligent in not knowing that he was not in compliance.
4. On July 9, 2013, the Office of Member Records and Compliance ("OMRC") sent an MCLE audit notice for the compliance period to respondent. The notice requested that respondent submit proof of MCLE compliance by August 23, 2013.
5. On August 22, 2013, respondent sent a letter to OMRC indicating he had not completed his MCLE requirements because he was under the belief that he had through the end of 2013 to do so. Respondent indicated he now understood he was supposed to complete his MCLE requirements by January 31, 2013, he would complete his MCLE requirements by November 21, 2013, and he agreed to pay the \$75 penalty for late compliance.
6. On November 8, 2013, respondent sent his MCLE audit submission to OMRC. Respondent's MCLE audit submission showed that respondent completed zero hours of MCLE between February 1, 2010 and October 20, 2013, and that respondent completed 25 hours of MCLE between October 21, 2013 and November 8, 2013.
7. On April 9, 2014, the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel ("OCTC") mailed a letter to respondent informing him of the investigation of the allegation that he affirmed that he had completed all 25 required hours of MCLE during the compliance period, when in fact he had not completed the required hours at the time he made the affirmation.

8. On April 25, 2014, respondent provided an email response to the State Bar's allegations. Respondent acknowledged that he did not comply with his MCLE requirements, but indicated that at the time he affirmed he had complied he believed that he had until the end of 2013 to complete his MCLE requirements. Respondent indicated his mistaken belief was due to a lack of focus and not having paid attention to the details. Respondent indicated he has not practiced law in 20 years, he is a business executive, and maintains his active status as a symbol of hard work and dedication. Respondent indicated that his actions were incorrect, that he has now learned the rules, and offered his word that this will not happen again.

9. On December 4, 2014, respondent provided a signed declaration outlining the preventative measures he has put in place to avoid future MCLE compliance issues. The declaration indicates respondent will register and pay for MCLE at the beginning of each future compliance period, calendar two to four hours per month during each future compliance period to ensure that he has completed his MCLE requirements well in advance of future compliance deadlines, obtain certificates of completion for each of his MCLE activities, and maintain such documentation in an MCLE file in his office.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

1. By reporting under penalty of perjury to the State Bar that he was in compliance with the MCLE requirements when he was grossly negligent in not knowing that he was not in compliance with the MCLE requirements, respondent committed an act involving moral turpitude in violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106.

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

None.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Good Character: Standard 1.6(f) permits mitigation for extraordinary good character attested to by a wide range of references in the legal and general communities, who are aware of the full extent of the misconduct. Seven individuals provided affidavits attesting to respondent's good character, but particularly his integrity. All of the affidavits indicate the respective authors are aware of respondent's misconduct with respect to his MCLE compliance, and they endorse respondent's high moral character nonetheless. The affiants include various attorneys and business professionals. The quality and quantity of respondent's character evidence warrants significant mitigating weight. (See, *In the Matter of Yee* (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. ____ 2014 WL 3748590.)

Remorse/Recognition of Wrongdoing: Standard 1.6(g) permits mitigation for prompt objective steps, demonstrating spontaneous remorse and recognition of the wrongdoing. Respondent is entitled to mitigating credit because he acknowledged that his affirmation of having complied with his MCLE requirements was incorrect, further acknowledged that his mistaken belief about the nature of his affirmation was due to his own nonfeasance, promptly completed MCLE coursework to bring himself into substantial compliance with his requirements, and has instituted corrective measures to ensure timely MCLE compliance in the future. (See, *In the Matter of Yee* (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. ____ 2014 WL 3748590.)

Additional Mitigating Circumstances:

Pre-Filing Stipulation: Respondent is entitled to mitigating credit for entering into this stipulation as to facts and conclusions of law, thereby obviating the need for trial and saving State Bar 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].)

Pro Bono Work and Community Service: Pro bono work and community service may mitigate an attorney's misconduct. (*Calvert v. State Bar* (1991) 54 Cal.3d 765, 785.) In addition to attesting to respondent's integrity, the character affidavits also detail respondent's community service. Respondent is on the Board of Directors for ETTA – an organization that provides assistance and housing to the developmentally disabled – and received the ETTA Visionary Award in 2013. Respondent also volunteers at the Entertainment Industry Foundation, a charitable organization of the entertainment industry; Project Angel Food, a nonprofit that provides meals for individuals with life-threatening illnesses; and the Art of Elysium, an organization that arranges for local artists to perform at children's hospitals. Respondent's extensive community service is compelling mitigation. (*Rose v. State Bar* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 646, 667 [mitigation for demonstrated legal abilities and zeal in undertaking pro bono work].)

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 Silvertown* (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).)

Respondent was grossly negligent in affirming under penalty of perjury that he had complied with his MCLE requirements, when in fact he had not complied. The Supreme Court has held that “[e]ven if an attorney's misconduct is not wilful and dishonest, ‘Gross carelessness and negligence constitute a

violation of the oath of an attorney to 'faithfully discharge the duties of an attorney. . . to the best of his knowledge and ability' and involve moral turpitude, in that they are a breach of the fiduciary relation which binds 'him to the most conscientious fidelity' (to his clients' interest). (Citation.)'." (*Doyle v. State Bar* (1976) 15 Cal.3d 973, 978.) In *In the Matter of Yee* (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. __ 2014 WL 3748590, the Review Department of the State Bar Court found that an attorney who inaccurately reported her compliance with MCLE requirements to the State Bar, where she did not check or maintain any records to confirm if her recollections about having complied were accurate, committed an act of gross negligence amounting to moral turpitude.

Here, respondent acknowledged that his affirmation of having complied with his MCLE requirements during the compliance period was incorrect. Respondent asserts that he affirmed he had complied because he was under the mistaken belief that he was affirming he would complete his MCLE requirements before the end of the year. Respondent further acknowledged that his mistaken belief about the nature of his affirmation was due to his own nonfeasance in "not paying attention to the details" of the affirmation.

Similar to *Yee*, respondent's action of inaccurately reporting his compliance with MCLE requirements to the State Bar, where he did not check any records to confirm his compliance or "pay attention to the details" of what he was affirming, was an act of gross negligence amounting to moral turpitude. However, the present matter is distinguishable from *Yee* in that respondent not only made an affirmation without confirming its accuracy, but also made an affirmation without paying attention to the details to ensure that he fully understood what he was declaring to the State Bar under penalty of perjury.

Business and Professions Code section 6106 provides: "The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption... constitutes a cause for disbarment or suspension." Standard 2.7 is most applicable to respondent's misconduct, and it provides:

"[d]isbarment or actual suspension is appropriate for an act of moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, corruption or concealment of a material fact. The degree of sanction depends on the magnitude of the misconduct and the extent to which the misconduct harmed or misled the victim and related to the member's practice of law."

Respondent's misrepresentation to the State Bar, made under penalty of perjury, was an act of moral turpitude directly relating to the practice of law. Misrepresentations are compounded when made under penalty of perjury, which includes an additional imprimatur of veracity that should place a reasonable person on notice to take care that his or her statement is accurate, complete, and true. (*In the Matter of Maloney and Virsik* (Review Dept. 2005) 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 774, 786.)

Although respondent's failure to accurately report his MCLE compliance was related to the practice of law, it was a one-time error. While respondent can only be credited with three years of discipline-free practice, the fact that respondent has not practiced law in twenty years, and maintains his active status for symbolic purposes, is indicative of the limited concern for public protection presented by the instant matter. Further, respondent provided significant evidence of his good character, he has an exemplary record of community service, and his misconduct caused no harm to the public or the judicial system. Most importantly, respondent immediately accepted responsibility for his wrongdoing, rectified the situation by completing the required hours after discovering that he was not in compliance, and has implemented a corrective plan to avoid future problems. (*In the Matter of Yee, supra*, 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. __ 2014 WL 3748590.) Considering the circumstances, a lesser discipline than called for in Standard 2.7 is appropriate.

Standard 1.7(c) provides that a lesser discipline than called for in the applicable standard is appropriate in "cases of minor misconduct, where there is little or no injury to a client, the public, the legal system, or the profession and where the record demonstrates that the member is willing and has the ability to conform to ethical responsibilities in the future." Such are the circumstances here. Given respondent's mitigation, the lack of aggravating circumstances, and respondent's corrective plan to avoid future problems, a period of stayed suspension will adequately serve the goals of attorney discipline. (*In the Matter of Yee, supra*, 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. ____ 2014 WL 3748590.)

In light of the foregoing, discipline consisting of one year of stayed suspension and a one year period of probation with standard conditions is appropriate to protect the public, the courts, and the legal profession; to maintain high professional standards by attorneys; and to preserve public confidence in the legal profession.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of December 19, 2014, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$2,992.00. 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

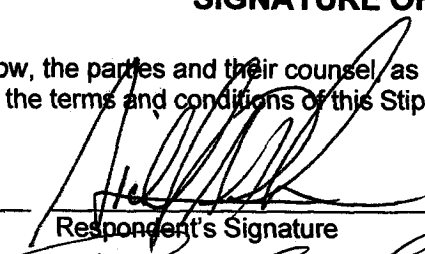
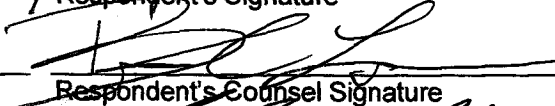
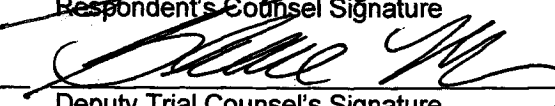
Pursuant to rule 3201, respondent may not receive MCLE credit for completion of Ethics School ordered as a condition of discipline. (Rules of Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

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In the Matter of: BARUCH, MICHAEL AMNON	Case number(s): 14-O-01537
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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.

12/22/14		Michael Baruch
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
12/30/14		Britte Leece
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
12/30/14		Shane Morrison
Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name

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In the Matter of:
MICHAEL AMNON BARUCH

Case Number(s):
14-O-01537

STAYED 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:

- ☒ 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.)**

Jan. 14, 2015
Date


Judge of the State Bar Court

LUCY ARMENDARIZ

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 14, 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:

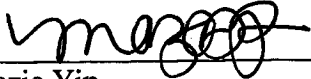
- ☒ by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:

BLITHE C. LEECE
LAW OFFICE OF BLITHE C. LEECE
609 DEEP VALLEY DR STE 200
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, CA 90274

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

SHANE C. MORRISON, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, on January 14, 2015.



Mazie Yip
Case Administrator
State Bar Court