

PUBLIC MATTER

1 STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
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FILED

JAN 27 2015

STATE BAR COURT
 CLERK'S OFFICE
 LOS ANGELES

STATE BAR COURT

HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

13	In the Matter of:)	Case No. 14-O-04622
14	VICTOR DEWITT,)	NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES
15	No. 53408,)	
16	<u>A Member of the State Bar.</u>)	

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.

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1 The State Bar of California alleges:

2 JURISDICTION

3 1. Victor DeWitt ("respondent") was admitted to the practice of law in the State of
4 California on December 14, 1972, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges, and is
5 currently a member of the State Bar of California.

6 COUNT ONE

7 Case No. 14-O-04622
8 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1)
[Failure to Release File]

9 2. Respondent failed to release promptly, after termination of Respondent's employment
10 on or about May 1, 2014, to Respondent's client, Paula Dans, all of the client's papers and
11 property following the client's request for the client's file on May 1, 2014, in willful violation of
12 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(1).

13 COUNT TWO

14 Case No. 14-O-04622
15 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(B)(3)
[Failure to Render Accounts of Client Funds]

16 3. On or about November 19, 2012, Respondent received from Respondent's client,
17 Paula Dans, the sum of \$2,500 as advanced fees for legal services to be performed. Respondent
18 thereafter failed to render an appropriate accounting to the client regarding those funds following
19 the client's request for such accounting on or about May 1, 2014 in willful violation of the Rules
20 of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(B)(3).

21 COUNT THREE

22 Case No. 14-O-04622
23 Business and Professions Code, section 6068(i)
[Failure to Cooperate in State Bar Investigation]

24 4. Respondent failed to cooperate and participate in a disciplinary investigation pending
25 against Respondent by failing to provide a substantive response to the State Bar's letters of
26 September 17, 2014 and October 20, 2014, which Respondent received, that requested
27 Respondent's response to the allegations of misconduct being investigated in case no. 14-O-
28 04622, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(i)

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NOTICE - INACTIVE ENROLLMENT!

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

NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!

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

Respectfully submitted,

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

DATED: January 27, 2015

By: 

William Todd
Deputy Trial Counsel

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

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

CASE NUMBER(s): 14-O-04622

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 S. 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))
By U.S. Certified 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 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)
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.: 9414 7266 9904 2010 0906 25 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 to. Row 1: VICTOR DEWITT, 949 E Yorba Linda Blvd Placentia, CA 92870, Electronic Address.

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

N/A

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'). In the ordinary course of the State Bar of California's practice, correspondence collected and processed by the State Bar of California would be deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day, and for overnight delivery, deposited with delivery fees paid or provided for, with UPS that same day.

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 27, 2015

SIGNED: [Signature] LAURA JETT Declarant