




(Do not write above this line.)

State Bar Court of California
Hearing Department
San Francisco
ACTUAL SUSPENSION

Counsel For The State Bar Heather E. Abelson Deputy Trial Counsel 180 Howard Street San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 538-2357 Bar # 216514	Case Number(s): 14-O-04644-PEM	For Court use only <p align="center">PUBLIC MATTER</p> <p align="center">FILED </p> <p align="center">AUG 10 2015</p> <p align="center">STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO</p>
In Pro Per Respondent Daniel Americo Bruce Law Offices of Daniel A Bruce 1113 S Quality Ave Sanger, CA 93657 (559) 288-2420 Bar # 216514	Submitted to: Assigned Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING ACTUAL SUSPENSION <input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED	
In the Matter of: DANIEL AMERICO BRUCE Bar # 216514 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 3, 2001**.
- (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".
- (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):
 - ☒ Until costs are paid in full, Respondent will remain actually suspended from the practice of law unless relief is obtained per rule 5.130, Rules of Procedure.
 - ☐ Costs are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: (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(h) & 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.
- (2) ☐ **Intentional/Bad Faith/Dishonesty:** Respondent's misconduct was dishonest, intentional, or surrounded by, or followed by bad faith.
- (3) ☐ **Misrepresentation:** Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, misrepresentation.
- (4) ☐ **Concealment:** Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, concealment.
- (5) ☐ **Overreaching:** Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, overreaching.
- (6) ☐ **Uncharged Violations:** Respondent's conduct involves uncharged violations of the Business and Professions Code, or the Rules of Professional Conduct.

(Do not write above this line.)

- (7) ☐ **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.
- (8) ☐ **Harm:** Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public, or the administration of justice.
- (9) ☐ **Indifference:** Respondent demonstrated indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the consequences of his or her misconduct.
- (10) ☐ **Candor/Lack of Cooperation:** Respondent displayed a lack of candor and cooperation to victims of his/her misconduct, or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations or proceedings.
- (11) ☒ **Multiple Acts:** Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing. See "Facts Supporting Aggravating Circumstances" in the attachment hereto at page 10.
- (12) ☐ **Pattern:** Respondent's current misconduct demonstrates a pattern of misconduct.
- (13) ☐ **Restitution:** Respondent failed to make restitution.
- (14) ☐ **Vulnerable Victim:** The victim(s) of Respondent's misconduct was/were highly vulnerable.
- (15) ☐ **No aggravating circumstances** are involved.

Additional aggravating circumstances:

C. Mitigating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 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 likely to recur.
- (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 or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations and proceedings.
- (4) ☐ **Remorse:** Respondent promptly took objective steps demonstrating spontaneous 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 objectively 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

(Do not write above this line.)

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 convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.
- (13) ☐ **No mitigating circumstances** are involved.

Additional mitigating circumstances:

No Prior Discipline - See "Facts Supporting Mitigating Circumstances" in the attachment hereto at page 10.

Pre-trial Stipulation - See "Facts Supporting Mitigating Circumstances" in the attachment hereto at page 10.

D. Discipline:

- (1) ☒ **Stayed Suspension:**
- (a) ☒ Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of **two years**.
- i. ☐ and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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) ☒ The above-referenced suspension is stayed.

- (2) ☒ **Probation:**

Respondent must be placed on probation for a period of **two years**, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)

- (3) ☒ **Actual Suspension:**

- (a) ☒ Respondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period of **60 days**.

- i. ☐ and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general 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. Additional Conditions of Probation:

- (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 present learning and ability in the general law, pursuant to standard 1.2(c)(1), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.
- (2) ☒ 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 promptly meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.
- (5) ☒ 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: .

(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

☐ Medical Conditions

☐ 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 during the period of actual suspension or within one year, whichever period is longer. **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) ☐ **Rule 9.20, California Rules of Court:** Respondent must comply with the requirements of rule 9.20, California Rules of Court, 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 the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.

(3) ☐ **Conditional Rule 9.20, California Rules of Court:** If Respondent remains actually suspended for 90 days or more, he/she must comply with the requirements of rule 9.20, California Rules of Court, and perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 120 and 130 calendar days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.

(4) ☐ **Credit for Interim Suspension [conviction referral cases only]:** Respondent will be credited for the period of his/her interim suspension toward the stipulated period of actual suspension. Date of commencement of interim suspension: .

(5) ☐ **Other Conditions:**

ATTACHMENT TO
STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: DANIEL AMERICO BRUCE

CASE NUMBER: 14-O-04644-PEM

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Respondent admits that the following facts are true and that he is culpable of violations of the specified statutes and/or Rules of Professional Conduct.

Case No. 14-O-04644-PEM (Complainant: Billy Jo Flores)

FACTS:

1. Respondent failed to timely pay his annual bar dues by the deadline of February 1, 2014.
2. On March 7, 2014, the State Bar's Membership Billing Department (hereinafter, "Membership Billing") mailed a Final Delinquent Notice to respondent, notifying him that he would be suspended unless his annual bar dues were received by June 30, 2014. Shortly thereafter, respondent received the Final Delinquent Notice.
3. On May 22, 2014, the Supreme Court issued Order No. S218654, which stated that respondent, amongst others listed, would be suspended as of July 1, 2014. The Supreme Court served the Order on respondent, which respondent received.
4. On May 30, 2014, Membership Billing mailed a Notice of Entry of Order to respondent.
5. On June 3, 2014, Membership Billing sent a courtesy reminder email to respondent, specifying that respondent would be suspended as of July 1, 2014. Shortly thereafter, respondent received the email.
6. Respondent failed to pay his bar dues by June 30, 2014, and was placed on administrative suspension from July 1, 2014 to August 7, 2014.
7. As of July 1, 2014, respondent knew that he was not entitled to practice law.
8. On July 1, 2014, respondent appeared in court at an unlawful detainer trial, and entered into a written stipulation for entry of judgment, on behalf of his client in *Kaiuum v. Tarozzi*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL04411.
9. On July 10, 2014, respondent appeared in court at an Order to Show Cause hearing on behalf of his client in *Helm v. City of Kerman*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 13CECG03184.

10. On August 4, 2014, respondent signed an unlawful detainer complaint, and caused to be filed the complaint the following day, on behalf of his client, in *Sak Management LLC v. Bunch*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL06453.

11. On August 4, 2014, respondent signed an unlawful detainer complaint, and caused to be filed the complaint the following day, on behalf of his client, in *Sak Management LLC v. Flores*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL06455.

12. On August 7, 2014, respondent submitted a credit card payment authorization form to the State Bar to pay his overdue annual dues.

13. On August 7, 2014, the State Bar's Membership Billing Department sent a letter to respondent letting him know that his suspension had terminated as of August 7, 2014.

14. On September 11, 2014, a State Bar investigator sent a letter to respondent which requested a written response by respondent to the specified allegations being investigated by the State Bar in case no. 14-O-04644-PEM, by no later than September 25, 2014. Shortly thereafter, respondent received this letter.

15. Respondent failed to respond to the State Bar investigator's letter.

16. On September 24, 2014, a State Bar investigator sent a second letter to respondent which requested a written response by respondent to the specified allegations being investigated by the State Bar in case no. 14-O-04644-PEM, by no later than October 7, 2014. Shortly thereafter, respondent received this letter.

17. Respondent failed to respond to the State Bar investigator's second letter.

18. On September 25, 2014, a State Bar investigator sent a third letter to respondent which requested a written response by respondent to the specified allegations being investigated by the State Bar in case no. 14-O-04644-PEM, by no later than November 7, 2014. Shortly thereafter, respondent received this letter.

19. Respondent failed to respond to the State Bar investigator's third letter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

20. By appearing in court at an unlawful detainer trial on July 1, 2014, and entering into a written stipulation for entry of judgment, on behalf of his client in *Kaiuum v. Tarozi*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL04411, respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when he was not an active member of the State Bar in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6125 and 6126, thereby failing to support the laws of the State of California, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(a).

21. By appearing in court at an unlawful detainer trial on July 1, 2014, and entering into a written stipulation for entry of judgment, on behalf of his client in *Kaiuum v. Tarozi*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL04411, respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when respondent knew that he was not an active member of the State Bar, and thereby

committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6106.

22. By appearing in court at an Order to Show Cause hearing on July 10, 2014 on behalf of his client in *Helm v. City of Kerman*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 13CECG03184, respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when he was not an active member of the State Bar in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6125 and 6126, thereby failing to support the laws of the State of California, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(a).

23. By appearing in court at an Order to Show Cause hearing on July 10, 2014 on behalf of his client in *Helm v. City of Kerman*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 13CECG03184, respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when respondent knew that he was not an active member of the State Bar, and thereby committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6106.

24. By signing an unlawful detainer complaint on August 4, 2014, and causing to be filed the complaint the following day, on behalf of his client, in *Sak Management LLC v. Bunch*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL06453, respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when he was not an active member of the State Bar in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6125 and 6126, thereby failing to support the laws of the State of California, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(a).

25. By signing an unlawful detainer complaint on August 4, 2014, and causing to be filed the complaint the following day, on behalf of his client, in *Sak Management LLC v. Bunch*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL06453, respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when respondent knew that he was not an active member of the State Bar, and thereby committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6106.

26. By signing an unlawful detainer complaint on August 4, 2014, and causing to be filed the complaint the following day, on behalf of his client, in *Sak Management LLC v. Flores*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL06455, respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when he was not an active member of the State Bar in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6125 and 6126, thereby failing to support the laws of the State of California, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(a).

27. By signing an unlawful detainer complaint on August 4, 2014, and causing to be filed the complaint the following day, on behalf of his client, in *Sak Management LLC v. Flores*, Fresno County Superior Court, case no. 14CECL06455, respondent held himself out as entitled to practice law, and actually practiced law, when respondent knew that he was not an active member of the State Bar, and thereby committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6106.

28. By failing to provide a substantive response to the State Bar's letters of September 11, September 24, and October 24, 2014, which respondent received, that requested respondent's written response to the allegations of misconduct being investigated in case no. 14-O-04644-PEM, respondent failed to cooperate and participate in a disciplinary investigation pending against respondent, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(i).

FACTS SUPPORTING AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Multiple Acts of Misconduct (Std. 1.5(b)) – Respondent committed nine acts of misconduct. Respondent’s multiple acts of misconduct constitute an aggravating circumstance pursuant to Standard 1.5(b).

FACTS SUPPORTING MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Discipline: Although respondent’s misconduct is serious, he is entitled to some mitigation for having practiced law for approximately 13 years without discipline. (*In the Matter of Riordan* (Review Dept. 2007) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 41, 49.)

Pretrial Stipulation: Respondent is entitled to mitigation for entering into a full stipulation with the Office of Chief Trial Counsel prior to trial, thereby saving State Bar Court time and resources. (*Silva-Vidor v. State Bar* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 1071, 1079 [where mitigative credit was given for entering into a stipulation as to facts and culpability].)

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).)

In this matter, Respondent committed 9 acts of professional misconduct. Standard 1.7(a) requires that where a respondent “commits two or more acts of misconduct and the Standards specify different sanctions for each act, the most severe sanction must be imposed.” The most severe sanction applicable to respondent’s misconduct is found in Standard 2.11 based on respondent’s violations of Business and Professions Code section 6106. Standard 2.11 provides that “[d]isbarment or actual suspension is the

presumed sanction for an act of moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, corruption, intentional or grossly negligent misrepresentation, or concealment of a material fact. The degree of sanction depends on the magnitude of the misconduct; the extent to which the misconduct harmed or misled the victim, which may include the adjudicator; the impact on the administration of justice, if any; and the extent to which the misconduct harmed or misled the victim and related to the member's practice of law.

Respondent's misconduct warrants a 60-day actual suspension in this matter. A 60-day actual suspension is warranted because respondent engaged in multiple acts of UPL and moral turpitude, and because his misconduct is aggravated by multiple acts of misconduct. Respondent's misconduct does not warrant a higher level of discipline because respondent's unauthorized practice of law occurred over a short timeframe (5 weeks), did not result in any harm to his clients, and because respondent's misconduct is mitigated by 13 years of discipline-free practice. Based on all of these factors, respondent's misconduct warrants a 60-day actual suspension pursuant to Standard 2.11.

"Practicing law while suspended has resulted in a range of discipline from suspension to disbarment, depending on the circumstances of the misconduct, including the nature of any companion charges and the existence and gravity of prior disciplinary proceedings." (*In the Matter of Taylor* (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 563, 580.) For example, in a more aggravated disciplinary matter, *In the Matter of Wells* (Review Dept. 2006), 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 896, the Review Department recommended that the attorney be actually suspended for six months for engaging in the unauthorized practice of law in another jurisdiction, charging an illegal fee, failing to refund unearned fees, failing to maintain funds in trust, and committing acts of moral turpitude, in two client matters. (*Id.* at 899.) The Review Department found that the attorney's misconduct was aggravated by a prior private reproof, multiple acts of misconduct, significant harm, and indifference. (*Id.* at 912.) The court found the attorney's misconduct was mitigated by extreme emotional distress, good character, and entering into a stipulation of material facts. (*Id.* at 913.)

Here, respondent's misconduct is similar to, yet significantly less egregious than, the misconduct at issue in *Wells*. As in *Wells*, respondent unlawfully practiced law and engaged in moral turpitude. Respondent did not commit the additional offenses of violating rules 4-200(A), 3-700(D)(2) or 4-100(A). Respondent's misconduct is also subject to less aggravating circumstances. In particular, respondent does not have a prior record of discipline for similar misconduct as respondent Wells did. Because respondent's misconduct is significantly less egregious than respondent Wells' misconduct, the appropriate level of discipline should be substantially less than 6-months actual suspension.

Balancing all of the appropriate factors, a 60-day actual suspension is consistent with the Standards and *Wells*, and is appropriate taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of this case.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of August 3, 2015, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$8,035. 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 State Bar Ethics School. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter of:
DANIEL AMERICO BRUCE

Case number(s):
14-O-04644-PEM

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.

8/4/15
Date


Respondent's Signature

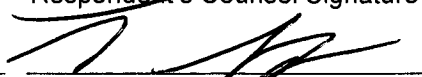
Daniel Americo Bruce
Print Name


Date

Respondent's Counsel Signature

Print Name

8/4/15
Date


Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature

Heather E. Abelson
Print Name

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter of:
DANIEL AMERICO BRUCE

Case Number(s):
14-O-04644-PEM

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:

- ☐ 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.

1. On page 1 of the Stipulation, in lower-right box, "Submitted to: Assigned Judge" is deleted and in its place is inserted "Submitted to: Settlement Judge".

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.)**

Date

Aug 10, 2015


LUCY ARMENDARIZ
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 August 10, 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:
- DANIEL A. BRUCE
LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL A BRUCE
1113 S QUALITY AVE
SANGER, CA 93657
- ☐ by certified mail, No. , with return receipt requested, through the United States Postal 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:

Heather E. Abelson, Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, on August 10, 2015.


George Hue
Case Administrator
State Bar Court