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STATE BAR COURT
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STATE BAR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

REVIEW DEPARTMENT

En Banc

In the Matter of)	Case No. 15-C-12444
)	
KEN ZHIYI LIANG)	RECOMMENDATION OF
)	SUMMARY DISBARMENT
State Bar No. 237027.)	
_____)	

On August 16, 2018, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar (OCTC) filed a request for summary disbarment based on Ken Zhiyi Liang's felony convictions in the United States Districted Court, Central District of California. Liang did not respond. We grant the request and recommend that Liang be summarily disbarred.

On September 18, 2015, Liang was found guilty of violating title 18 United States Code section 1512(k) (conspiracy to knowingly and intentionally obstruct justice in violation of title 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2)); section (c)(2) (obstruction of justice by corruptly obstructing an official proceeding); and section (b)(3) (obstruction of justice by acting with intent to hinder, delay, and prevent communication to a law enforcement officer and judge of the United States). On November 20, 2015, we ordered that Liang be placed on interim suspension, effective December 14, 2015, pending disposition of this proceeding.

Thereafter, on February 8, 2016, Liang appealed his conviction and sentence. On March 13, 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (Court of Appeals) affirmed his sentence and conviction, holding that evidence in the record supports a finding that Liang acted with a corrupt state of mind. On April 9, 2018, the Court of Appeals issued its



Mandate indicating that the judgement, entered March 13, 2018, is final. On January 16, 2019, OCTC transmitted its final evidence of finality by providing a document stating that on October 1, 2018, the Supreme Court of the United States denied Liang's petition for writ of certiorari. Therefore, Liang's convictions are now final. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.10(a).)

After a judgment of conviction becomes final, "the Supreme Court shall summarily disbar the attorney if the offense is a felony . . . and an element of the offense is the specific intent to deceive, defraud, steal, or make or suborn a false statement, or involved moral turpitude." (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6102, subd. (c).) The record of conviction establishes both criteria for summary disbarment.

First, Liang's offenses are felonies because they are designated as such by statute. Each calls for imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 20 years. Thus, Liang's convictions are class C felonies pursuant to title 18 United States Codes section 3559(a)(3).

Second, Liang's felony convictions involve moral turpitude because they stem from corruption and the intent to obstruct the judicial system. (*In re Craig* (1938) 12 Cal.2d 93, 97 ["We entertain no doubt that the offense of conspiring to corruptly influence, obstruct, impede, hinder and embarrass the due administration of justice. . . falls easily within the definition of 'moral turpitude' ".]) The convictions also reveal moral turpitude because their obstruction, corruption, and deceit involve "such a flagrant disrespect for the law or for societal norms, that knowledge of the attorney's conduct would be likely to undermine public confidence in and respect for the legal profession." (*In re Lesansky* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 11, 16.) Accordingly, Liang's felony convictions qualify him for summary disbarment.

When an attorney's conviction meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c), "the attorney is not entitled to a State Bar Court hearing to

determine whether lesser discipline is called for.” (*In re Paguirigan* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 1, 7.)

Disbarment is mandatory. (*Id.* at p. 9.)

We therefore recommend that Ken Zhiyi Liang , State Bar number 237027, be disbarred from the practice of law in this state. We also recommend that he be ordered to comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20 and to perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court’s order. Finally, we recommend that costs be awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10, and that such costs be enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment.

PURCELL

Presiding Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

[Rules Proc. of State Bar; Rule 5.27(B); Code Civ. Proc., § 1013a(4)]

I am a Court Specialist 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 Los Angeles, on March 8, 2019, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

RECOMMENDATION OF SUMMARY DISBARMENT FILED MARCH 8, 2019

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 Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

KEN ZHIYI LIANG
P.O. BOX 2136
SUN CITY, CA. 92586-1136

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

Kevin B. Taylor, Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on March 8, 2019.



Mel Zavala
Court Specialist
State Bar Court