### State Bar Court of California Hearing Departmen PUBLIC MATTER **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 15-O-10266-WKM **Drew Massey Deputy Trial Counsel** 845 South Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90017-2525 FILED Tel: (213) 765-1204 FEB 1 0 2016 Bar # 244350 STATE BAR COUL CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES In Pro Per Respondent Florito Carunungan 17300 Norwalk Blvd. Cerritos, CA 90703 Tel: (562) 924-7733 Submitted to: Assigned Judge Bar # 216117 STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING In the Matter of: FLORITO LONTOC CARUNUNGAN **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Bar # 216117 PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED A Member of the State Bar of California

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 13 pages, not including the order.
- A statement of acts or omissions acknowledged by Respondent as cause or causes for discipline is included under "Facts."
- Conclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of Law".

kwiktag \*

(Respondent)

<u>(Do</u>	not w	ite above this line.)				
(6)	Tr "S	ne parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading upporting Authority."				
(7)	No pe	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 § 6140.7. (Check one option only):						
		relief is obtained per rule 5.130. Rules of Procedure.				
	Misc	ravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional conduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are lired.				
(1)	□ (a)	Prior record of discipline  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)		<b>Uncharged Violations:</b> Respondent's conduct involves uncharged violations of the Business and Professions Code, or the Rules of Professional Conduct.				
(7)		<b>Trust Violation:</b> 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.				

(Do r	ot wri	te above this line.)	
(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	
(10)		consequences of his or her misconduct.  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)	$\boxtimes$	Multiple Acts: Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing. See 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.	
Addi	tion	al aggravating circumstances:	
C. N	litig ircu	ating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating mstances are required.	
(1)		<b>No Prior Discipline:</b> 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)		<b>Candor/Cooperation:</b> Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation with the victims of his/her misconduct or `to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations and proceedings.	
(4)		<b>Remorse:</b> 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)		<b>Restitution:</b> Respondent paid \$ on in restitution to without the threat or force of disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.	
(6)		<b>Delay:</b> 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)		<b>Emotional/Physical Difficulties:</b> 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.	

<u>(Do n</u>	(Do not write above this line.)					
(9)		whi	<b>Severe Financial Stress:</b> 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)		Far per	<b>Family Problems:</b> 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)		God in th	<b>Good Character:</b> 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)		<b>Rehabilitation:</b> Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred followed by convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.				
(13)		No mitigating circumstances are involved.				
Addi	tion	al mi	tigating circumstances:			
page	P 10.	retria	al stipulation, absence of prior discipline, lack of harm, and recognition of wrongdoing. See			
D. D	isci	iplin	e:			
(1)	$\boxtimes$	Stay	yed Suspension:			
	(a)	$\boxtimes$	Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two (2) 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)	$\boxtimes$	The above-referenced suspension is stayed.			
2)	$\boxtimes$	Probation:				
	Res date	espondent must be placed on probation for a period of <b>two (2) years</b> , which will commence upon the effective ate of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)				
3)	$\boxtimes$	Actu	al Suspension:			
	(a)	$\boxtimes$	Respondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period of <b>sixty (60) days</b> .			
		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:			

	A alal:4:	1.00004141000	of Probation:
ᇀ.	Additiona	li 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)	$\boxtimes$	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)	$\boxtimes$	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)	$\boxtimes$	The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:

<u>(Do n</u>	ot write	above	this line.)		
			Substance Abuse Conditions		Law Office Management Conditions
			Medical Conditions	$\boxtimes$	Financial Conditions
F. C	Other	Con	nditions Negotiated by the Part	ties:	
(1)		the Con one furt	Multistate Professional Responsibility Enference of Bar Examiners, to the Office year, whichever period is longer. Fails	Examination  of Proba  ore to pas	on: Respondent must provide proof of passage of on ("MPRE"), administered by the National tion during the period of actual suspension or within ss the MPRE results in actual suspension without on, California Rules of Court, and rule 5.162(A) &
		□ r	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)		perio			cases only]: Respondent will be credited for the ated period of actual suspension. Date of
(5)		Othe	er Conditions:		

In the Matter of: FLORITO LONTOC CARUNUNGAN			Case Number(s): 15-O-10266		
nancial Conditio	ns				
Restitution					
payee(s) listed I or any portion o	pelow. If the CI f the principal a	lient Security Fund ("C	CSF") has reimb	s interest of 10% per a ursed one or more of t nust also pay restitution	the payee(s) for a
Payee		Principal Amount	Inte	rest Accrues From	]
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Installment Restitu	tion Payments				
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- b. Respondent has kept and maintained the following:
  - i. A written ledger for each client on whose behalf funds are held that sets forth:
    - 1. the name of such client:
    - 2. the date, amount and source of all funds received on behalf of such client;
    - 3. the date, amount, payee and purpose of each disbursement made on behalf of such client; and,
    - 4. the current balance for such client.
  - ii. a written journal for each client trust fund account that sets forth:
    - 1. the name of such account:
    - 2. the date, amount and client affected by each debit and credit; and,
    - 3. the current balance in such account.
  - iii. all bank statements and cancelled checks for each client trust account; and,
- iv. each monthly reconciliation (balancing) of (i), (ii), and (iii), above, and if there are any differences between the monthly total balances reflected in (i), (ii), and (iii), above, the reasons for the differences.
- c. Respondent has maintained a written journal of securities or other properties held for clients that specifies:
  - i. each item of security and property held;
  - ii. the person on whose behalf the security or property is held;
  - iii. the date of receipt of the security or property;
  - iv. the date of distribution of the security or property; and,
  - v. the person to whom the security or property was distributed.
- 2. If Respondent does not possess any client funds, property or securities during the entire period covered by a report, Respondent must so state under penalty of perjury in the report filed with the Office of Probation for that reporting period. In this circumstance, Respondent need not file the accountant's certificate described above.
- 3. The requirements of this condition are in addition to those set forth in rule 4-100, Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### d. Client Trust Accounting School

Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must supply to the Office of Probation satisfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School Client Trust Accounting School, within the same period of time, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.

### **ATTACHMENT TO**

# STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

FLORITO LONTOC CARUNUNGAN

CASE NUMBER:

15-O-10266

#### 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. 15-O-10266 (State Bar Investigation)

#### **FACTS:**

- 1. Respondent maintains a Client Trust Account ("CTA") at Bank of America. Respondent's practice was to collect fund from his clients for the payment of application and filing fees. His practice was further to pay such fees with money from his CTA before checks from his client had cleared.
  - 2. On September 8, 2014, the total balance in the CTA was \$1,097.85.
- 3. On September 9, 2014, Respondent initiated an electronic transfer to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the amount of \$1,490.00. At the time this transfer was made, there were insufficient funds in the CTA to cover the transfer. Nevertheless, Bank of America honored the transfer, but reported the deficiency of \$392.15 to the State Bar.
- 4. At the time that Respondent initiated the transfer on September 9, 2015, he was grossly negligent in not knowing that there were insufficient funds in his CTA to cover the transfer.
- 5. Based on the report from Bank of America, on November 7, 2014, the State Bar sent a letter to Respondent asking that he explain the overdraft. When no response was received, the State Bar sent an additional letter on December 3, 2014 and requesting a response by December 10, 2014.
- 6. When no response was received, the State Bar then initiated a disciplinary investigation. The investigation began as a result of the report from Bank of America and the failure of respondent to reply. No client initiated a complaint to the State Bar.
- 7. On January 22, 2015, the State Bar sent a letter to Respondent requesting an explanation of the insufficiency. Respondent did not reply and an additional letter dated April 7, 2015 was sent to Respondent. Respondent received the letters. When Respondent did not provide any response to either letter, the State Bar sent additional letters on May 5, 2015 and June 19, 2015. Respondent received the letters. Respondent did not reply to the State Bar until after the filing of the Notice of Disciplinary Charges on September 16, 2015.

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#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

- 8. By initiating a transfer on insufficient funds when he was grossly negligent in not knowing that there were insufficient funds to cover the transfer, Respondent committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, or corruption in violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106.
- 9. By failing to respond to the State Bar or otherwise participate in the disciplinary investigation, Respondent wilfully violated Business and Professions Code section 6068(i).

#### AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Multiple Acts of Wrongdoing (Std. 1.5(b)). Respondent has engaged in multiple acts of misconduct. In addition to initiating an electronic transfer from his CTA on insufficient funds, Respondent thereafter failed to participate in the disciplinary investigation in violation of the oath and duties of an attorney. These represent separate and distinct acts of misconduct. Multiple acts of wrongdoing are an aggravating factor. (In the Matter of Elkins (Review Dept. 2009) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 160, 168.)

#### MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

**Pretrial Stipulation:** Respondent admitted to the misconduct and entered into this stipulation fully resolving this matter. Respondent's cooperation at this stage will save the State Bar resources and time. Respondent's cooperation in this regard is a mitigating factor in this resolution (*Silva-Vidor v. State Bar* (1989) 49 Cal.3d 1071, 1079 (where mitigation credit was given for entering into a stipulation as to facts and culpability).) Nevertheless, the weight is reduced due to Respondent's failure to participate in the disciplinary investigation.

Absence of Prior Record of Discipline. Respondent was admitted to practice law in December 2001. Respondent had been discipline-free for approximately 12 years of practice from admission to the misconduct in September 2014. Therefore, Respondent is entitled to significant mitigation. (Hawes v. State Bar (1990) 51 Cal.3d 587, 596 (over ten years of discipline free practice prior to the misconduct is entitled to significant weight in mitigation).)

**Recognition of Wrongdoing**. Respondent has recognized that the electronic transfer on insufficient funds as well as his practices related to his client trust account have been improper. Specifically, he has made payment on client matters without first obtaining funds from the client. However, on November 12, 2015, Respondent changed his law office policy and now requires his clients to pay their application fee directly. Changes in law office procedure designed to avoid repetition of the misconduct have been found mitigating. (*In the Matter of Yee* (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 330.)

Lack of Harm to Client. Even though Respondent issued the transfer on behalf of his client on insufficient funds, that transfer was ultimately honored by the bank. His client's immigration application was successfully processed and the client was not harmed. Lack of harm, in this instance, is due to the bank's decision to honor the instrument. Nevertheless, lack of harm is relevant in mitigation. (In the Matter of Sklar (Review Dept. 1993) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 602, 617 (lack of harm found where a loan was made to the client which did not comport with former rule 5-104, now Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-210).)

## **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 Silverton (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).)

Standard 2.11 states that "Disbarment or actual suspension" is the presumed sanction for an act of moral turpitude. 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. The issuance of checks on insufficient funds is an act of moral turpitude. (See, In the Matter of Hagen (Review Dept. 1992) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 153, 169.)

Standard 2.12 states that reproval is the presumed sanction for a violation of the Oath and Duties of an attorney embodied in Business and Professions Code section 6068(i).

Standard 1.7(a) states that where an attorney commits two or more acts of misconduct and different standards apply, the most severe standard should be imposed. Here, that is Standard 2.11 which calls for disbarment or actual suspension.

Here, the misconduct involves the mismanagement of a CTA. All three of the payments made in September 2014 were made to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. While all three payments were made on behalf of clients, the insufficiency of the funds indicates that the CTA had been mismanaged.

Moreover, Respondent has compounded his misconduct by refusing to participate in the State Bar disciplinary investigation. Respondent was given multiple opportunities beginning in November 2014 to participate and explain the overdraft. Respondent at all times failed to do so. Therefore, his misconduct is aggravated by multiple acts.

The misconduct and aggravation must be balanced against the factors in mitigation. Respondent is entitled to significant mitigation due to his 12 years of discipline-free practice prior to the misconduct. Further, Respondent has taken action to ensure that the particular mismanagement that occurred here would not be repeated. Also noteworthy is the fact that this matter arose due to a report from a banking institution and not as a result of a client complaint. Nevertheless, the mismanagement of the CTA raises serious concerns.

Consistent with Standard 2.11, Respondent should be suspended for a period of two years with the execution of that suspension stayed. Respondent should be put on a two-year period of probation with conditions including an actual suspension of one 60 days. Conditions should also include attendance at State Bar Client Trust Accounting School as well as the filing of a Client Funds Certificate each quarter.

Case law supports this recommendation. In Segal v. State Bar (1988) 44 Cal.3d 1077, the attorney was found culpable for failing to competently perform, failing to communicate, and issuing three checks on insufficient funds. In aggravation, the Supreme Court found that there were multiple acts and further noted that the attorney had a prior record of discipline which included a ninety-day period of actual suspension. The Court imposed discipline including a one-year period of actual suspension.

The misconduct present here does not include a failure to perform or a failure to communicate – though it does include failure to cooperate in a State Bar investigation. On the whole, however, the misconduct is less serious than in *Segal*. Further, Respondent lacks a record of prior discipline, which was a significant aggravating factor in *Segal*. Because the misconduct is less serious and the mitigation is more favorable to Respondent, a lesser sanction than that imposed in *Segal* is warranted.

Kelly v. State Bar (1991) 53 Cal.3d 509, is also instructive. There, the attorney wrote checks on insufficient funds in two different client matters. The attorney also misappropriated \$1500 from one client, although the Court held that he did so without an intent to permanently deprive his client of the funds. In mitigation, the attorney had 13 years of practice without prior discipline, no wrongful intent, and no harm to clients. The Court imposed, *inter alia*, an actual suspension of 120 days.

The misconduct in this instance is similar to *Kelly*, however it involves fewer checks written on insufficient funds in fewer matters. Therefore, the misconduct less serious. The mitigating factors are similarly weighty. Further, Respondent has recognized and taken steps to avoid the misconduct in the future. Therefore, Respondent should receive a lesser sanction.

### COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed Respondent that as of November 24, 2015, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$3,584. 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 <u>not</u> receive MCLE credit for completion of **State Bar Ethics School or State Bar Client Trust Accounting School.** (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

the Matter of:	Case number(s):	
LORITO LONTOC CARUNUNGAN	15-0-10266	
	100 10200	

# 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.

1/27   16 Date	- flarmgan	Florito Carunungan	
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name	
*	$\mathcal{O}$		
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name	
1-29-16	1/1/Mey	Drew Massey	
Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name	

(Do not write at	bove this line.)	
In the Matter FLORITO	er of: ) LONTOC CARUNUNGAN	Case Number(s): 15-O-10266
	ACTUAL S	USPENSION ORDER
Finding the s requested di	stipulation to be fair to the parties and that smissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRA	at it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the ANTED without prejudice, and:
X	The stipulated facts and disposition are Supreme Court.	APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the
	The stipulated facts and disposition are DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the	e APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the ne Supreme Court.
	All Hearing dates are vacated.	
within 15 day stipulation. (S	rs after service of this order, is granted; on the service of this order, is granted; on the service of Procedus of Procedus of Court order herein, normally 30 days.	unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved re.) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date ays after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of

Fefruary 8, 2016 Date

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 Los Angeles, on February 10, 2016, 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 Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

FLORITO L. CARUNUNGAN LAW OFFICE OF FLORITO CARUNUNGAN 17300 NORWALK BLVD CERRITOS, CA 90703

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

Drew D. Massey, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on February 10, 2016.

Julieta E. Gonzales

State Bar Court