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State Bar Court of California Hearing Department Los Angeles REPROVAL		
Counsel For The State Bar Hugh G. Radigan Deputy Trial Counsel 845 South Figueroa Street Los Angeles, California 90017-2515 (213) 765-1206 Bar # 94251	Case Number(s): 15-O-11756 15-O-14501-DFM	For Court use only NOT FOR PUBLICATION PUBLIC MATTER FILED DEC 02 2016 STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES
Counsel For Respondent Arthur L. Margolis Margolis & Margolis LLP 2000 Riverside Drive Los Angeles, California 90039 (323) 953-8996 Bar # 57703	Submitted to: Settlement Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING	
In the Matter of: CRAIG ALLEN RENETZKY Bar # 155383 A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)	PRIVATE REPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED	

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 16, 1991**.
- (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 **14** 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):
- ☐ Costs are added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline (public reproof).
 - ☒ Case ineligible for costs (private reproof).
 - ☐ 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.
- (9) The parties understand that:
- (a) ☐ A private reproof imposed on a respondent as a result of a stipulation approved by the Court prior to initiation of a State Bar Court proceeding is part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, but is not disclosed in response to public inquiries and is not reported on the State Bar's web page. The record of the proceeding in which such a private reproof was imposed is not available to the public except as part of the record of any subsequent proceeding in which it is introduced as evidence of a prior record of discipline under the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar.
 - (b) ☒ A private reproof imposed on a respondent after initiation of a State Bar Court proceeding is part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page.
 - (c) ☐ A public reproof imposed on a respondent is publicly available as part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page.

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

(Do not write above this line.)

- (e) ☐ If Respondent has two or more incidents of prior discipline, use space provided below or a separate attachment entitled "Prior Discipline."
- (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.
- (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. **See page 11 of the attachment.**
- (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 page 11 of the attachment.
- (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. **See page 10 of the attachment.**
- (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 investigation and proceedings.

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- (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. **See page 10 of the attachment.**
- (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 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.
- (13) ☐ **No mitigating circumstances** are involved.

Additional mitigating circumstances:

See page 10 of the attachment

D. Discipline:

- (1) ☒ **Private reproof (check applicable conditions, if any, below)**
- (a) ☐ Approved by the Court prior to initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (no public disclosure).
- (b) ☒ Approved by the Court after initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (public disclosure).

or

- (2) ☐ **Public reproof (Check applicable conditions, if any, below)**

E. Conditions Attached to Reproval:

- (1) ☒ Respondent must comply with the conditions attached to the reproof for a period of **one year**.
- (2) ☒ During the condition period attached to the reproof, 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 reprobation. Upon the direction of the Office of Probation, Respondent must meet with the probation deputy either in-person or by telephone. During the reprobation conditions period, 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 condition period attached to the reprobation. 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 the reprobation during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state in each report 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 (thirty) days, that report must be submitted on the next following 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 condition period and no later than the last day of the condition period.

- (6) ☐ Respondent must be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent must promptly review the terms and conditions of reprobation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. During the reprobation conditions period, Respondent must furnish 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 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 conditions attached to the reprobation.
- (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) ☒ 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 of the effective date of the reprobation.

☐ No MPRE recommended. Reason: .

- (11) ☐ The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:

☐ Substance Abuse Conditions

☐ Law Office Management Conditions

(Do not write above this line.)

☐ Medical Conditions

☐ Financial Conditions

F. Other Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:

ATTACHMENT TO
STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: CRAIG ALLEN RENETZKY

CASE NUMBERS: 15-O-11756 and 15-O-14501

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-11756 (Complainant: Emely Gonzalez)

FACTS:

1. On March 7, 2012, clients Rene Ornelas, ("husband") and his wife, Emely Gonzalez, retained respondent to file immigration applications I-130, I-601A and I-485, for a green card on the husband's behalf.
2. The clients paid a total of \$2,200 in advanced fees and costs.
3. Respondent's paralegal, Marisol Lira, ("Marisol") met with the husband and wife to prepare an I-601A waiver, which required a showing of extreme hardship. Marisol presented the waiver to respondent on April 24, 2012, for his review and approval.
4. Respondent found the hardship showing was insufficient and instructed Marisol to secure the necessary documentation to perfect the hardship showing.
5. In April 2014, Ms. Gonzalez requested a status update as to the application process. She expressed to Marisol that she needed something to show to her husband's employer as evidence that the immigration application process was underway.
6. In response Marisol gave Ms. Gonzalez a letter dated March 21, 2012, addressed to the USCIS indicating enclosures were transmitted consisting of the wife's signed form I-130, and G-28 and G-325 forms signed by both the wife and husband, copies of the wife's passport card, the husband's birth certificate and their marriage certificate, together with photos of each of them. The letter to USCIS also noted that the filing fees of \$420 were enclosed via money order.
7. The letter and its enclosures were never transmitted to USCIS on March 21, 2012, or at any other time. Ms. Gonzalez was not advised that the letter was not authentic.
8. Mr. Ornelas presented these documents to his employer and he was terminated without explanation shortly thereafter once they determined the documents were not authentic.

9. Ms. Gonzalez advised Marisol that her husband was traveling to Florida for a job opportunity in May 2014. Ms. Gonzalez wanted her husband to have documentation to support his pending immigration application status should the authorities question him during his cross country flight.

10. Marisol prepared and gave to Ms. Gonzalez a letter dated October 21, 2013, from the United States Department of State, National Visa Center to respondent reflecting receipt of documents supporting the client's application for an immigrant visa. The letter contained a case number which was false and fabricated. The entire letter was a fabrication.

11. On March 21, 2014, Ms. Gonzalez prepared and transmitted to respondent's office a three page hardship letter.

12. On March 31, 2014, Marisol acknowledged receipt of the letter and advised Ms. Gonzalez that respondent would review it that day and get back to her. Respondent did not contact Ms. Gonzalez with respect to the letter. Marisol never advised respondent of the receipt of the hardship letter.

13. Marisol prepared another letter dated July 21, 2014, directed to the National Visa Center, bearing a forged signature above respondent's name reflecting that copies of the client's passport, police certificate, tax returns and birth certificates for his children were enclosed. The letter also noted that the wife's hardship letter was enclosed as well. This letter and its enclosures were fabricated and given to Ms. Gonzalez by Marisol to evidence the progress of her case. They were never sent to the National Visa Center.

14. Displeased with the progress of this matter, Ms. Gonzalez consulted with another attorney, to determine the status of the application reflected by the case number from the July 21, 2014, letter provided to her from Marisol.

15. The other attorney called Marisol to determine the receipt number for the submitted visa application. Marisol advised him that no I-130 application had been submitted. Ms. Gonzalez retained another attorney to represent her and her husband in the immigration matter (replacement counsel).

16. On October 2, 2014, replacement counsel filed a form G-28 entering his appearance on behalf of Emily Cruz Gonzalez or her husband. Replacement counsel called Marisol to advise that he was taking over the client's case and faxed a courtesy copy of the G-28 form to Marisol.

17. On October 6, 2014, respondent filed the I-130 application. Marisol failed to advise respondent he had been replaced prior to filing the I-130 form.

18. Throughout the course of this matter, respondent failed to properly supervise Marisol and failed to confirm that his directives were being properly implemented.

19. On October 6, 2014, Ms. Gonzalez terminated respondent and retrieved her file from respondent.

20. Throughout the course of respondent's retention by the clients, Marisol continuously misrepresented to them the status of their case and failed to keep respondent fully informed of the accurate status of the file and concealed from him her misrepresentations to the client. Respondent terminated Marisol effective April 29, 2016.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

24. By failing to properly supervise his paralegal, Marisol Lira, throughout the pendency of the immigration matter, verify her representations as to the status of the matter, and assure that his directives were being implemented towards accomplishing the retained objective, respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

Case No. 15-O-14501 (Complainant: Sadegh Rashidi)

FACTS:

25. Sadegh Rashidi ("Rashidi") retained Errol Horwitz, on July 31, 2009, to prosecute relief from removal through an application for asylum. Horwitz stipulated to disbarment effective August 12, 2012.

26. During the disbarment stipulation process, there was pending on May 23, 2012, a hearing in the Immigration Court concerning Rashidi's removal proceeding.

27. As a favor to both Rashidi and Horwitz, respondent specially appeared on May 23, 2012. Respondent and Rashidi appeared.

28. The court instructed Rashidi that he should definitively decide on who would be his replacement counsel before the next hearing date of June 21, 2012.

30. Thereafter the court vacated the return date of June 21, 2012, and advanced it to June 12, 2012, without giving notice to either respondent, since he was not attorney of record, or Horwitz.

31. Rashidi never received notice of the new date and neither he nor respondent appeared on June 12, 2012. The court ordered Rashidi removed, construing his failure to appear as an abandonment of the pending application. The court served Rashidi with notice of the decision.

32. On June 19, 2012, respondent's paralegal, Marisol Lira, ("Marisol") prepared a memo to respondent reflecting that upon calling the court to confirm the June 21, 2012, hearing, she was advised the date was vacated and advanced and that only Rashidi received notice.

33. Upon receipt of the decision for removal, Rashidi went to respondent's office for clarification. Marisol instructed him to leave the decision and that respondent would get back to him. Marisol gave respondent the decision.

34. After having a copy of the decision translated, Rashidi returned to respondent's office where Marisol reassured him that respondent was attempting to reopen the case.

35. Respondent instructed Marisol to prepare a motion to reopen Rashidi's case. Marisol prepared it. Respondent reviewed it and signed it on June 25, 2012. However Marisol did not serve or file it.

37. On April 16, 2013, Rashidi wrote respondent requesting a progress report. No response from respondent was forthcoming. Marisol received the letter but failed to share the letter with respondent.

38. Thereafter, Rashidi repeatedly returned to respondent's office and was regularly reassured by Marisol that the motion to reopen hearing was either pending, had been continued, or some other excuse for delay in resolution.

39. Throughout the course of this matter, respondent failed to properly supervise Marisol and failed to confirm that his directives were being properly implemented.

40. Throughout the course of respondent's retention by Rashidi, Marisol continuously misrepresented to him the status of his case and failed to keep respondent fully informed of the accurate status of the file and concealed from him her misrepresentations to the client. Respondent terminated Marisol effective April 29, 2016.

41. Sometime after November 2014, Rashidi went to the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and with the help of their staff attorneys, reopened the matter, rescinded the removal order and stayed the removal by court order dated September 8, 2015.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

42. By failing to properly supervise his paralegal, Marisol Lira, throughout the pendency of this immigration matter, verify her representations as to the status of the matter and assure that his directives were being implemented towards accomplishing the retained objective, respondent intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

ADDITIONAL FACTS RE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Discipline, Standard 1.6(a): Respondent has no prior record of discipline over many years of practice coupled with present misconduct which is not likely to recur. Respondent was admitted to the California State Bar on December 16, 1991, and had over twenty-two years of discipline-free practice prior to committing the misconduct in this case. (*Friedman v. State Bar* (1990) 51 Cal. 3rd 235, 245 (over twenty years is given highly significant weight in mitigation).)

Remorse, Standard 1.6(g): By terminating the involved paralegal once the extent of her conduct was exposed, respondent took constructive steps to assure that the misconduct is not likely to recur.

Pretrial Stipulation: By entering into this stipulation, respondent has acknowledged misconduct and is entitled to mitigation for recognition of wrongdoing and saving the State Bar significant resources and time. (*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]; *In the Matter of Spaith* (Review Dept. 1996) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 511, 521 [where the attorney's stipulation to facts and culpability was held to be a mitigating circumstance].)

Community Service: Respondent has actively participated in community service functions including his participation as a temporary judge within the Los Angeles County Superior Court, participation within the Community Oriented Multi-Agency Narcotics Enforcement Team while employed by the District attorney's office, receipt of recognition certificates from the Baldwin Park

Police Department and the City of Redondo Beach for his services with respect to at risk youth, and his active participation at the Eastlake Juvenile Office of the Red Cross as a volunteer assisting during multiple natural disasters. (See *Schneider v. State Bar* (1987) 43 Cal. 3rd 784, 799.)

ADDITIONAL FACTS RE AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Harm, Standard 1.5(j): Respondent's failure to timely file the immigration applications and failure to supervise his paralegal who prepared fabricated letters evidencing that the application had been submitted and received which were given to the client as reassurance and offered to the client's employer as proof of his application status, resulted in the client being terminated from his employment. This conduct severely prejudiced the clients best interests, resulting in significant harm and delay to the client in securing his immigration status change. In the second matter, the unsupervised paralegal was allowed to mislead the client and delay the reopening of the client's matter. (*In the Matter of Bach* (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 631, where attorney's loss of client's cause of action constituted significant harm.)

Multiple Acts of Misconduct, Standard 1.5(b): Respondent committed multiple failures to supervise his paralegal in two client matters which resulted in two violations of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A) [failure to perform/supervise].

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. (Std. 1.7(b) and (c).)

In these consolidated two matters, Respondent is charged with committing two 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." Standard 1.7(b) provides where aggravating circumstances are found and the net effect demonstrates a greater sanction is needed to fulfill the primary purposes of discipline, it is appropriate to recommend greater discipline than otherwise specified in a given standard.

The most severe sanction applicable to respondent's misconduct is found in standard 2.7(c), which applies to respondent's failure to properly supervise his paralegal. Standard 2.7(c) provides that suspension or reproof is the presumed sanction for performance, communication, or withdrawal violations, which are limited in scope or time. The degree of sanction depends on the extent of the misconduct and the degree of harm to the client or clients. The presumed sanction set forth in the controlling standard will not be disturbed unless there is ample reason to depart from that presumption.

In analyzing the factors of Standard 2.7(c), in both of these consolidated matters, the paralegal's behavior was allowed to take place over a significant time period to each client's detriment. In this first matter respondent was unaware his paralegal was continuously misleading the clients as to the status of the application. The delay in processing the applications was facilitated by respondent's paralegal, who did little to competently explain the process to the clients and did not communicate clearly what was necessary from the clients to perfect the application. The paralegal also failed to accurately communicate the true status of the file to respondent. This resulting confusion led to delay and was compounded by the offering of fabricated documentation that the clients interpreted as authentic. Respondent's conduct in allowing his paralegal the autonomy to create fabricated letters and provide them to the client as authentic constitutes a failure to properly supervise. The fabricated letters provided by the paralegal to the clients bore respondent's simulated signature and were signed by the paralegal unbeknownst to respondent.

Similarly, in the second matter, the paralegal continued to misrepresent to the client the correct status of his matter and appears to have neglected to have filed the motion to reopen the client's matter with the court, while misrepresenting to respondent, the client and his friends making inquiry that the matter was either pending or had been continued.

Good cause exists to impose discipline at the low end of standard 2.7(c). Respondent's twenty-two years of discipline free practice preceding these matters coupled with his termination of the involved paralegal are significant mitigating factors. Additionally, respondent has provided significant good character and community service evidence including his participation as a temporary judge within the Los Angeles County Superior Court, participation within the Community Oriented Multi-Agency Narcotics Enforcement Team while employed by the District attorney's office, receipt of recognition certificates from the Baldwin Park Police Department and the City of Redondo Beach, and his active participation at the Eastlake Juvenile Office of the Red Cross as a volunteer assisting during multiple natural disasters. He has also agreed to a pre-trial stipulation saving both the court and State Bar resources and time. As such, discipline at the low end the applicable standard is appropriate where respondent delegated primary responsibility for the handling of these matters to his paralegal who failed to properly keep both the respondent and the clients competently apprised of the status of their matters. Importantly, respondent has terminated the involved paralegal, acknowledging the harm she had generated and thereby assuring that the misconduct is not likely to recur.

Therefore, these consolidated two matters warrant a private reproof. Measuring the mitigation and aggravation in this matter, a reproof is consistent with the standards and an appropriate disposition which will serve the purpose of imposing discipline pursuant to standard 1.1: to protect the public, courts and the legal profession, maintain the highest professional standards, and preserve the public confidence in the legal profession.

EXCLUSION FROM MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION ("MCLE") CREDIT

Respondent may not receive MCLE credit for completion of State Bar Ethics School, State Bar Client Trust Accounting School, and/or any other educational course(s) to be ordered as a condition of reproof or suspension. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

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In the Matter of: CRAIG ALLEN RENETZKY	Case number(s): 15-O-11756 15-O-14501-DFM
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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.

12/1/2016
Date


Respondent's Signature

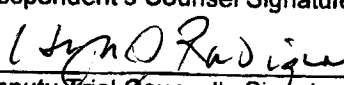
Craig Allen Renetzky
Print Name

12/1/16
Date


Respondent's Counsel Signature

Arthur L. Margolis
Print Name

December 1 '16
Date


Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature

Hugh G. Radigan
Print Name

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter of: CRAIG ALLEN RENETZKY	Case Number(s): 15-O-11756, 15-O-14501- DFM
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REPROVAL ORDER

Finding that the stipulation protects the public and that the interests of Respondent will be served by any conditions attached to the reproof, 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 REPROVAL IMPOSED.
- ☐ The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the REPROVAL IMPOSED.
- ☐ All court dates in the Hearing Department 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.) **Otherwise the stipulation shall be effective 15 days after service of this order.**

Failure to comply with any conditions attached to this reproof may constitute cause for a separate proceeding for willful breach of rule 1-110, Rules of Professional Conduct.

December 2, 2016
Date

Rebecca Meyer Rosenberg
REBECCA MEYER ROSENBERG, JUDGE PRO TEM
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 December 2, 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:

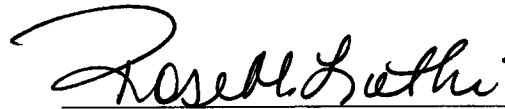
- ☒ by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

ARTHUR LEWIS MARGOLIS
MARGOLIS & MARGOLIS LLP
2000 RIVERSIDE DR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90039

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

HUGH RADIGAN, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on December 2, 2016.



Rose M. Luthi
Case Administrator
State Bar Court