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State Bar Court of California Hearing Department Los Angeles REPROVAL

PUBLIC MATTER For Court use only Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): 15-0-11913 Sherell N. McFarlane FILED **Deputy Trial Counsel** 845 South Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90017 NOV 1 3 2015 (213) 765-1288 STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE Bar # 217357 LOS ANGELES Counsel For Respondent Douglas L. Rappaport Law Office of Douglas L. Rappaport 260 California St #1002 San Francisco, CA 94111 (415) 989-7900 Submitted to: Settlement Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND Bar # 136194 DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING In the Matter of: PHILLIP R. SCHIPPMANN **PUBLIC REPROVAL**

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.

PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED

A. Parties' Acknowledgments:

A Member of the State Bar of California

- (1) Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted February 3, 2012.
- (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 11 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."

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Bar # 281950

(Respondent)

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(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):			
reproval). Case ineligible for costs (private reproval). Costs are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following men (Hardship, special circumstances or other good cause per rule 5.132, Rules of Respondent fails to pay any installment as described above, or as may be modern.		use ineligible for costs (private reproval). Instst are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: Instrumentary are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: Instrumentary are the following membership years: Instrumentary ar			
		Co	urt, the remaining balance is due and payable immediately. sts are waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs". sts are entirely waived.		
(9) The parties understand that:		e parti	es understand that:		
	(a)		A private reproval 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 reproval 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 reproval 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)	\boxtimes	A public reproval 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.		
Mis		duct	ing Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are		
(1)		Prio	r 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 or a separate attachment entitled "Prior Discipline".		

(Do no	ot write	e above this line.)	
(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.	
(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.	
(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)	\boxtimes	No aggravating circumstances are involved.	
Addi	tiona	al aggravating circumstances:	
		ating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating stances 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	

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(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.			
Addi	tiona	al mitigating circumstances:			
		No Prior Record of Discipline and Prefiling Stipulation. See Attachment to Stipulation at page 8.			
D. D	isci	ipline:			
(1)		Private reproval (check applicable conditions, if any, below)			
	(a)	Approved by the Court prior to initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (no public disclosure).			
<u>or</u>	(b)	Approved by the Court after initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (public disclosure).			
(2)	\boxtimes	Public reproval (Check applicable conditions, if any, below)			
E. C	ond	litions Attached to Reproval:			
(1)	\boxtimes	Respondent must comply with the conditions attached to the reproval for a period of one (1) year.			
(2)	\boxtimes	During the condition period attached to the reproval, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.			
(3)	\boxtimes	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			

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		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)	\boxtimes	Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of discipline, Respondent must contact the Office of Probatic 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 condition period attached to the reproval. 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 reproval 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 probation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. During the period of probation, 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 reproval.		
(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	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 reproval.		
		☐ No MPRE recommended. Reason:		
(11)		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:

In lieu of the Ethics School condition in section E. (8) above, because respondent lives out of state he may substitute the following, which shall satisfy said condition: complete six (6) hours of live, in-person Minimum Continuing Legal Education ("MCLE") approved courses in legal ethics offered through a certified MCLE provider in Illinois or California and provide proof of same satisfactory to the Office of Probation within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline.

ATTACHMENT TO

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

PHILLIP R. SCHIPPMANN

CASE NUMBER:

15-O-11902

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-11902 (State Bar Investigation)

FACTS:

- 1. As a member of the State Bar, respondent was required to complete 17 hours of Minimum Continuing Legal Education ("MCLE") during the period commencing on February 1, 2011, and ending on January 31, 2014 (the "compliance period").
- 2. On June 26, 2014, respondent reported under penalty of perjury to the State Bar that he complied with the MCLE requirements, and, in particular, that he had completed 17 MCLE hours during the compliance period.
- 3. In fact, respondent had completed only 9 hours of eligible MCLE courses within the compliance period.
- 4. On July 7, 2014, the Office of Member Records and Compliance of the State Bar of California ("Member Records") sent an MCLE Audit Notice to respondent ("audit") informing him that he was selected for an audit of his compliance with his MCLE requirements for the compliance period. The Audit directed respondent to submit proof of his compliance with his MCLE obligations by August 21, 2014.
- 5. In response to the audit, respondent provided Member Records with MCLE certificates demonstrating that he had only completed 7 hours of eligible MCLE courses within the compliance period, and 10 hours after the compliance period.
- 6. The State Bar's investigation into this matter revealed that respondent had actually completed 9 hours of eligible MCLE courses within the compliance period.
- 7. When respondent stated that he complied with his MCLE requirements for the compliance period, respondent believed that he was in compliance with his MCLE requirements. However, when respondent stated under penalty of perjury that he complied with his MCLE requirements, he did not take any steps to ascertain whether he was indeed in compliance with his MCLE obligations, but relied instead on his memory.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

8. By reporting under penalty of perjury to the State Bar that he was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, when he was grossly negligent in not knowing that he was not in compliance with the MCLE requirements, respondent committed an act involving dishonesty in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106.

ADDITIONAL FACTS RE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Record of Discipline: Respondent has no prior record of discipline. However, respondent was admitted to the State Bar on February 3, 2012, and had only been practicing for a very short time before his misconduct occurred in June 2014. Therefore, is absence of a prior record of discipline is entitled to little weight in mitigation. (*Cannon v. State Bar* (1990) 51 Cal.3d 1103, 1115 [6 years in practice is entitled to little weight in mitigation].)

Prefiling Stipulation: Respondent has stipulated to facts, conclusions of law, and disposition in order to resolve his disciplinary proceedings prior to the filing of formal disciplinary charges, thereby avoiding the necessity of a formal proceeding and resulting trial and saving State Bar and 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].) By entering into this stipulation, respondent has accepted responsibility for his misconduct.

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 is applicable to Respondent's misconduct and provides as follows:

Disbarment 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 related to the member's practice of law.

In this matter, respondent committed an act of moral turpitude by misrepresenting the status of his MCLE compliance to the State Bar. Misrepresentations are compounded when made in writing under penalty of perjury, which includes an imprimatur of veracity which should place a reasonable person on notice to take care that their statement is accurate, complete and true. (*In the Matter of Maloney and Virsik* (Review Dept. 2005) 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 774, 786.) When respondent stated under penalty of perjury on June 26, 2014, that he complied with his MCLE obligations of completing 17 hours of MCLE courses for the compliance period, respondent did not take any steps to ascertain whether he was indeed in compliance with his MCLE obligations. Although respondent completed the required MCLE courses after the audit, his misconduct pertaining to his MCLE requirements circumvented the continuing legal educational requirements established for the purpose of enhancing attorney competence and protecting the public. For these reasons, respondent's misconduct is serious, relates directly to the practice of law, and undermines public confidence in the profession.

Respondent's misconduct is only slightly mitigated by the absence of a prior record of discipline since he had been admitted to the bar for only a short period of time. Respondent's misconduct is also mitigated by the fact that respondent has, with this stipulation, acknowledged the wrongfulness of his misconduct. However, respondent's misconduct was directly related to respondent's practice of law in that compliance with the requirements of MCLE is an affirmative obligation of all licensed attorneys. Consequently, respondent committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty and corruption by gross negligence in willful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106.

On the other hand, respondent had completed over half of the required credits, and when he affirmed compliance, he believed he had enough credits to satisfy his proportional requirement given that he was an attorney for approximately two of the three years in the reporting period. Since the purpose of attorney discipline is not to punish the attorney, deviation from the level of discipline range set forth in Standard 2.11 is appropriate in the instant case. A discipline of consisting of a public reproval with conditions for one year as set forth herein will adequately serve to protect the public, the courts and the legal profession, maintain high standards by attorneys, and maintain public confidence in the legal profession.

Case law also supports this result. In *In the Matter of Yee* (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 330, the attorney was found culpable of moral turpitude based on gross negligence in violation of Business and Professions code section 6106 when she affirmed that she had fulfilled her 25 hours of required MCLE credits when, in fact, she had not taken any courses during the relevant compliance period. The attorney mistakenly recalled that she had completed the courses, and did not check or maintain any records to confirm if her recollection was accurate. When she was randomly audited by the State Bar, she corrected her error and submitted proper proof of compliance.

In recommending a public reproval without any conditions for the attorney in *Yee*, the Review Department found that:

[A] lesser discipline than called for in standard 2.7 is appropriate. As to Yee's wrongdoing, her failure to accurately report MCLE compliance was a one-time error, although it was related to the practice of law. As to other relevant considerations, we note that Yee maintained an active law practice for 10 and a half years without discipline, has an exemplary record of pro bono and community service, and her misconduct caused no harm to the public or the judicial system. But the most significant feature of this case is that Yee immediately accepted responsibility for her wrongdoing, rectified the situation, and implemented a corrective plan to avoid future problems.

Id. at 336. Like the attorney in *Yee*, respondent completed a portion of the required MCLE credit hours after he was audited. However, unlike the attorney in *Yee*, respondent does not have significant mitigation. Accordingly, a greater level of discipline than that imposed in *Yee* is appropriate.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of October 19, 2015, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$3,066. 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 the ethics courses ordered as a condition of her probation. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

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In the Matter of: Phillip R. Shcippm	Case number(s): 15-O-11913	
	SIGNATURE OF THE	PARTIES
	elow, the parties and their counsel, as applicat of the terms and conditions of this Stipulation l	ole, signify their agreement with each of the Re Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition.
10/23/15	Phillip lan	Phillip R. Schippmann
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
10/28/15	1 Ly hart	Douglas L. Rappaport
Date	Respondent's Coursel Signature	Print Name
Oct. 30, 2019	5 Cherilla V/ Jan	Sherell N. McFarlane
Date /	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name

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In the Matte Phillip R.	er of: Schippmann	Case Number(s): 15-O-11913	
	REPROV	AL ORDER	
Finding that attached to to prejudice, an	he reproval, IT IS ORDERED that the reques	interests of Respondent will be served by any conditions ted dismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTED withou	
	The stipulated facts and disposition are API	PROVED 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 a	re 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 reproval may constitute cause for a separate proceeding for willful breach of rule 1-110, Rules of Professional Conduct. WETTE D. ROLAND 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 November 13, 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 Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

DOUGLAS L. RAPPAPORT LAW OFC DOUGLAS L RAPPAPORT 260 CALIFORNIA ST #1002 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

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

SHERELL N. MCFARLANE, Enforcement, Los Angeles

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

November 13, 2015.

Johnnie Lee Smith

Case Administrator

State Bar Court