

# State Bar Court of California **Hearing Department**

PUBLIC MATTER	Los Angeles ACTUAL SUSPENSION		
Counsel For The State Bar	Case Number(s): 15-O-12479 YDR	For Court use only	
Hugh G. Radigan	16-O-10936 (INV)		
Deputy Trial Counsel			
845 South Figueroa Street Los Angeles, California 90017-2515		FILED	
213-765-1206		FILED	
		APR 1 1 2016	
Bar # <b>94251</b>		STATE BAR COURT	
In Pro Per Respondent		CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES	
Steven Joseph Renshaw Renshaw & Associates APLC 5700 Ralston Street, Suite 301 Ventura, California 93003 805-289-9447			
200 200	Submitted to: Settlement Judge		
Bar # <b>132640</b>	STIPULATION RE FACTS, DISPOSITION AND ORDER	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND R APPROVING	
In the Matter of: STEVEN JOSEPH RENSHAW	ACTUAL SUSPENSION		
Bar # <b>132640</b>	☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION	ON REJECTED	
A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)			

Note: All information required by this form and any additional information which cannot be provided in the space provided, must be set forth in an attachment to this stipulation under specific headings, e.g., "Facts," "Dismissals," "Conclusions of Law," "Supporting Authority," etc.

## A. Parties' Acknowledgments:

- (1) Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted December 14, 1987.
- (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.
- (4) A statement of acts or omissions acknowledged by Respondent as cause or causes for discipline is included under "Facts."

(Do r	not write	e above this line.)				
(5)		nclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of				
(6)		The parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading "Supporting Authority."				
(7)	No pen	more than 30 days prior to the filing of this stipulation, Respondent has been advised in writing of any ding investigation/proceeding not resolved by this stipulation, except for criminal investigations.				
(8)		ment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 0.7. (Check one option only):				
		Until costs are paid in full, Respondent will remain actually suspended from the practice of law unless				
		relief is obtained per rule 5.130, Rules of Procedure.				
ļ	Aggr Misc requi	avating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional onduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are ired.				
(1)	⊠ (a)	Prior record of discipline  ⊠ State Bar Court case # of prior case 14-O-02907 and 14-O-04212				
	(b)	□ Date prior discipline effective October 11, 2015				
	(c)	Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Rules of Professional Conduc, rules 3-110(A) and 3-700(D)(1) and Business and Professions Code section 6068(m)				
	(d)	□ Degree of prior discipline one (1) year stayed suspension and two (2) years probation				
	(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.				

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(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.
(8)		Harm: Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public, or the administration of justice. See page 9 of the attachment.
(9)		Indifference: Respondent demonstrated indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the
(10)		consequences of his or her misconduct. <b>Candor/Lack of Cooperation:</b> 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)	$\boxtimes$	<b>Multiple Acts:</b> Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing. See page 9 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.
C. N	litig	ating Circumstances: 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

(Do n	ot writ	te abov	e this li	ne.)
				f any illegal conduct by the member, such as illegal drug or substance abuse, and the difficulties ties no longer pose a risk that Respondent will commit misconduct.
(9)		whi	ch res	inancial Stress: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered from severe financial stress ulted from circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and re directly responsible for the misconduct.
(10)				<b>roblems:</b> At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her ife which were other than emotional or physical in nature.
(11)				aracter: Respondent's extraordinarily good character is attested to by a wide range of references at and general communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct.
(12)				ation: Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred y convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.
(13)		No	mitiga	ting circumstances are involved.
Addi	tion	al mit	tigatin	g circumstances:
	s	ee pa	ages 9	and 10 of the attachment.
D. D	isci	iplin	e:	
(1)	$\boxtimes$	Stay	∕ed Sι	uspension:
	(a)	$\boxtimes$	Resp	condent 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 a	above-referenced suspension is stayed.
(2)	$\boxtimes$	Prot	ation	:
				ust be placed on probation for a period of <b>two (2) years</b> , which will commence upon the effective reme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)
(3)	$\boxtimes$	Actu	ıal Su	spension:
	(a)	$\boxtimes$		ondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period irty (30) days.
		i.		and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general law pursuant to standard 1.2(c)(1), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct
		ii.		and until Respondent pays restitution as set forth in the Financial Conditions form attached to this stipulation.

iii. and until Respondent does the following:  E. Additional Conditions of Probation:  (1) Respondent is actually suspended for two years or more, he/she must remain actually suspended unhe/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 Profession Misconduct.  (2) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rule
<ul> <li>(1) If Respondent is actually suspended for two years or more, he/she must remain actually suspended unhe/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 Profession Misconduct.</li> <li>(2) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rule</li> </ul>
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 Profession Misconduct.  (2) During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rule
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 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 Proba 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 1 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 their are any proceedings pending against him or her in the State Bar Court and if so, the case number and current status of that proceeding. If the first report would cover less than 30 days, that report must be submitted on the next quarter date, and cover the extended period.
In addition to all quarterly reports, a final report, containing the same information, is due no earlier than twenty (20) days before the last day of the period of probation and no later than the last day of probation
(6) Respondent must be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent must promptly review the terms and conditions of probation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. During the period of probation, Respondent must furnish to the monitor such reports as may be requested in addition to the quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Office of Probation. Respondent must cooperate fully with the probation monitor.
(7) Subject to assertion of applicable privileges, Respondent must answer fully, promptly and truthfully any inquiries of the Office of Probation and any probation monitor assigned under these conditions which are directed to Respondent personally or in writing relating to whether Respondent is complying or has complied with the probation conditions.
(8) Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must provide to the Office of Probation satisfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School, and passage of the test give 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 Offic of Probation.

(Do not write above this line.)							
(10)		The	following conditio	ns are attached h	nereto and inco	orporated:	
			Substance Abu	se Conditions		Law Office Management Conditions	
			Medical Condit	ions		Financial Conditions	
F. C	Othe	r Cor	nditions Nego	tiated by the	Parties:		
(1)	$\boxtimes$	the Cor one <b>fur</b> t	Multistate Profes nference of Bar E vear, whichever	sional Responsik xaminers, to the period is longer. il passage. But s	oility Examinati Office of Proba Failure to pa	tion: Respondent must provide proof of passagion ("MPRE"), administered by the National ation during the period of actual suspension or vass the MPRE results in actual suspension wash, California Rules of Court, and rule 5.162(a)	within v <b>ithout</b>
			No MPRE recom	mended. Reasor	n: .		
(2)		Cal	ifornia Rules of C	ourt, and perforn	n the acts spec	It must comply with the requirements of rule <b>9.20</b> cified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule with ve date of the Supreme Court's Order in this ma	in 30
(3)		day per	s or more, he/she form the acts spe	e must comply wi cified in subdivisi	th the requirer ions (a) and (c	If Respondent remains actually suspended for ments of rule <b>9.20</b> , California Rules of Court, and b) of that rule within 120 and 130 calendar days, b) Court's Order in this matter.	d
(4)		per	iod of his/her inte	uspension [con rim suspension to nterim suspension	oward the stipu	al cases only]: Respondent will be credited for ulated period of actual suspension. Date of	the
(5)		Oth	er Conditions:				
					•		

#### **ATTACHMENT TO**

### STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

STEVEN JOSEPH RENSHAW

CASE NUMBERS:

15-O-12479-YDR and 16-O-10936 (INV)

#### 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-12479 (Complainant: Roberta Carreon)

#### FACTS:

- 1. Respondent was retained on a contingency basis on January 20, 2012, by Roberta Carreon ("Carreon"), to pursue a medical malpractice claim on her behalf.
- 2. On March 29, 2012, respondent filed a complaint for professional negligence against Dr. Perng, Carreon's pulmonologist, in the Ventura County Superior Court, Case No. 56-2012-00414898-CU-MM-VTA, captioned *Carreon v. Perng.*
- 3. On May 3, 2013, the attorneys for defendant Dr. Perng filed a motion for summary judgment, setting the hearing for July 22, 2013. As such, Carreon's opposition was due for filing no later than July 8, 2013.
- 4. On March 21, 2013, defendant's attorney served a statutory offer to compromise pursuant to CCP section 998. The offer contemplated a waiver of defendant's costs in exchange for the filing of a dismissal with prejudice.
- 5. On June 10, 2013, respondent wrote to Carreon memorializing a conversation they had that same day. In the letter, respondent told Carreon that her current treating physician was reticent to opine that the defendant's care fell beneath the standard of care, making her case difficult to prove. As such, they would have to retain another expert at significant cost and expense to overcome the pending summary judgment motion.
- 6. Respondent further memorialized the parties' agreement that Carreon authorized respondent to explore securing the dismissal of the suit in exchange for a waiver of costs in light of these developments. The letter closed with a request that Carreon sign the attached acknowledgement contained in the letter authorizing the dismissal.
- 7. Upon receipt of the letter, Carreon refused to sign the authorization to dismiss the matter and wrote to respondent on June 22, 2013, stating the need for her treating physician to review everything available before she would consider a dismissal.

- 8. On June 25, 2013, Carreon again wrote respondent advising that her treating physician had agreed to a further record review and was looking forward to receipt of the documents from respondent. Respondent failed to acknowledge this correspondence.
- 9. On June 26, 2013, respondent, without Carreon's written authorization, had dismissed the action with prejudice. The dismissal instrument contained respondent's declaration stating that Carreon was recovering nothing of value by this action, which was executed on June 12, 2013. The proof of service appended to the dismissal indicates it was served on opposing counsel on June 20, 2013, prior to receipt of Carreon's June 22, 2013, letter.
- 10. Frustrated with respondent's lack of responsiveness to her status request, Carreon looked for and found a prospective replacement attorney who then advised her in October 2013 that his review of the court file indicated respondent had dismissed the matter with prejudice.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- 11. By constructively terminating respondent's employment on June 26, 2013, by filing the unauthorized dismissal with prejudice of Carreon's action, and by failing to take any action on the client's behalf after June 26, 2013, and thereafter failing to inform the client that respondent was withdrawing from employment, respondent failed, upon termination of employment, to take reasonable steps to avoid reasonably foreseeable prejudice to respondent's client, Roberta Carreon, in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(A)(2).
- 12. By failing to inform the client of the filing of the unauthorized dismissal with prejudice on June 26, 2013, respondent failed to keep respondent's client, Roberta Carreon, reasonably informed of significant developments in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

### Case No. 16-O-10936 (INV) (Complainant: Gina Saucedo)

#### **FACTS:**

- 13. Respondent was retained on September 7, 2015, by Gina Saucedo ("Saucedo"), to represent her interests in a custody matter.
- 14. The custody hearing was set to take place on December 30, 2015. Respondent was to appear and produce proof of service evidencing proper notice of the custody hearing to the opposing party.
- 15. On December 30, 2015, respondent suffered a flat tire on his way to court and called the court to ask to be placed on second call. He neglected to call and advise his client.
- 16. When respondent failed to appear at the second call, the matter went off calendar and was continued to January 6, 2016.
- 17. Respondent failed to appear on January 6, 2016, at the continued custody hearing and on January 15, 2016, Saucedo contacted replacement counsel and terminated respondent. Respondent never produced proof of service evidencing proper notice of the custody hearing to the opposing party.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- 18. By failing to inform the client of his inability to appear at the hearing conducted December 30, 2015, respondent failed to keep respondent's client, Gina Saucedo, reasonably informed of significant developments in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).
- 19. By failing to file the proof of service on behalf of the client or appear and participate at the scheduled custody hearing on December 30, 2015 and January 6, 2016, or take any action to pursue the client's custody claim by January 15, 2016, when Respondent's employment was terminated, respondent intentionally, recklessly or repeatedly failed to perform with competence in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

#### AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Prior Record of Discipline, Standard 1.5(a): Respondent has one prior record of discipline. In State Bar Court Case Nos. 14-O-02907 and 14-O-04212, the Court imposed a stayed suspension of one year and two years probationary period, effective October 11, 2015. Respondent admitted culpability for two violations of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A) (failure to perform), and one violation of rule 3-700(D)(1) (failure to return file), and two violations of Business and Professions Code section 6068(m) (failure to respond to reasonable inquiries). The misconduct in one matter occurred between March 2014 and March 2015. In the other matter, the misconduct occurred between May 2013 and July 2014. In the two prior matters, respondent had been retained on June 28, 2013 and April 13, 2013, respectively. In aggravation there were multiple acts of misconduct, a trust violation and lack of cooperation. Mitigation was given to respondent for a lack of harm to one of the involved clients, respondent's family problems, lack of a prior discipline record, remorse and agreement to enter a pretrial stipulation.

Harm, Standard 1.5(j): Respondent's dismissal of the client's action without authority, precluded any prospect of recovery and caused significant harm to the client. (*In the Matter of Bach* (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 631, [attorney's loss of client's cause of action constituted significant harm].)

Multiple Acts of Misconduct, Standard 1.5(b): Respondent committed multiple acts of misconduct, specifically violations of Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 3-110(A) [failure to perform], rule 3-700(A) [unauthorized withdrawal] and Business and Professions Code sections 6104 [unauthorized act], and 6068(m) [failure to communicate significant development].

#### MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

**Prefiling Stipulation:** Respondent has stipulated to facts and culpability prior to the filing of charges in the Saucedo matter, and thereby saved State Bar 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].)

**Pretrial Stipulation:** Respondent has stipulated to facts and culpability prior to trial in the Carreon matter, and thereby saved State Bar 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].)

#### **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).)

In these two matters, respondent admits to committing four acts of professional misconduct. Standard 1.7(a) requires that where a respondent acknowledges two or more acts of misconduct, and different sanctions are prescribed by the standards that apply to those acts, the sanction imposed shall be the more or most severe prescribed in the applicable standards. 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. Standard 1.8(a) provides that where a member has a single prior record of discipline, the sanction must be greater than the previously imposed sanction unless the prior was remote in time and the previous misconduct not serious enough that imposing greater discipline would be manifestly unjust. Here, the prior misconduct occurred during May 2013- March 2015, the same period of time as the misconduct in the Carreon matter. The misconduct in the Saucedo matter occurred more recently, between December 2015 through January 2016.

"The aggravating factor of a prior discipline is generally diminished if the misconduct underlying it occurred during the same period. [Citations omitted.] Since part of the rationale for considering a prior record of discipline as having an aggravating impact is that it is indicative of a recidivist attorney's inability to conform his or her conduct to ethical norms [citation omitted], it is therefore appropriate to consider the fact that the misconduct involved was contemporaneous with the misconduct in the present case." (In the Matter of Sklar (Review Dept. 1993) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 602, 629; see also In the Matter of Bach (Review Dept. 1991) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 631, 646 ["the aggravating force" of prior discipline "is somewhat diluted" when the misconduct in a case occurs before the notice of disciplinary charges in the prior case was served, because the imposition of prior discipline does not

carry with it as "full a need for severity" as if the misconduct in the prior matter had occurred after an attorney had been disciplined and had failed to heed the import of that discipline.])

In order to determine what the appropriate discipline should be, the totality of the misconduct in these matters and respondent's prior discipline matter, should be cumulatively addressed as if all of the charged misconduct had been charged in one case. (In the Matter of Sklar, supra, 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. at p. 619.) The combined misconduct consists of multiple counts of respondent's failure to properly advise his clients of significant developments, three counts of failure to perform, in addition to failing to return a file, and an unauthorized withdrawal. The gravity of the misconduct consists of respondent's cumulative disregard for his client's best interests, aggravated by the multiplicity of the acts of misconduct. In the Carreon matter, the filing of the dismissal with prejudice forever barred the client from achieving any recovery for her alleged injuries.

The most severe sanction applicable to respondent's misconduct in the present matter is found in standard 2.7(b), applicable to respondent's multiple violations of rule 3-110(A), which provides for actual suspension for withdrawal or performance violations in multiple client matters, not demonstrating habitual disregard of client interests.

The gravamen of the respondent's cumulative misconduct in both these matters and the prior discipline consists of multiple instances of failure to perform and failure to respond to reasonable status inquiries. Mitigation is to be extended to respondent for his agreement to stipulate to discipline prior to trial in the Carreon matter and prior to the notice of charges being filed in the Saucedo matter, saving the State Bar resources and time. Balancing the mitigation against the aggravating factors cited above, had the Carreon and Saucedo matters been consolidated with the prior discipline matters, a discipline level of 30 days would have been appropriate to protect the public and to preserve public confidence in the profession. Therefore, a 30 day actual suspension is appropriate for the instant misconduct and warranted under the circumstances.

The proposed discipline is also consistent with case law. (*Layton v. State Bar* (1991) 50 Cal. 3<sup>rd</sup> 889 [The attorney received a 30 day actual suspension for failure to use reasonable diligence to accomplish the employed objectives, resulting in a failure to perform competently; in mitigation the attorney had no prior record in 30 years of practice and the current misconduct did not evidence a pattern; there were no aggravating factors]; (*Bach v. State Bar* (1991) 52 Cal. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1201 [In a single client matter with a failure to perform competently, improper withdrawal, failure to refund unearned fees and a failure to cooperate, the attorney received a 30 day actual suspension; in aggravation the attorney refused to participate in mandatory fee arbitration and denied responsibility for the anxiety and inconvenience visited upon the client; mitigation consisted of 20 years discipline free practice]).

#### DISMISSALS.

The parties respectfully request the Court to dismiss the following alleged violations in the interest of justice:

Case No.	<b>Count</b>	Alleged Violation
15-O-12479	One	Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A)

#### COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed Respondent that as of March 28, 2016, the prosecution costs in this matter are approximately \$7,059. 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, State Bar Client Trust Accounting School, and/or any other educational course(s) to be ordered as a condition of reproval or suspension. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

(Do not write above this line.)	
In the Matter of: STEVEN JOSEPH RENSHAW	Case number(s): 15-O-12479-YDR, 16-O-10936 (INV)

# SIGNATURE OF THE PARTIES

By their signatures below.	the parties and their couns	sel, as applicable, si	gnify their agreeme	ent with each of the
recitations and each of the	e terms and conditions of the	nis Stipulation Re Fa	cts, Conclusions of	f Law, and Disposition.

3/21/16	Le Old	Steven Joseph Renshaw
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
agril + 14	1 Am Rusiger	Hugh G. Radigan
Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name

(Effective July 1, 2015)

#### **ACTUAL SUSPENSION ORDER**

Finding the requested of	stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the lismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTED without prejudice, and:
	The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
$\boxtimes$	The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
$\boxtimes$	All Hearing dates are vacated.

- 1. On page 4 of the Stipulation, under "Additional mitigating circumstances," "See pages 9 and 10 of the attachment" is deleted, and in its place is inserted, "See page 9 of the attachment."
- 2. On page 9 of the Stipulation, regarding "Multiple Acts of Misconduct, Standard 1.5(b):", all the language is deleted, and in its place is inserted "Respondent committed multiple acts of misconduct, specifically violations of Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 3-110(A) [failure to perform], rule 3-700(A)(2) [unauthorized withdrawal] and Business and Professions Code section 6068(m) [failure to communicate significant development]."

The parties are bound by the stipulation as approved unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed within 15 days after service of this order, is granted; or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved stipulation. (See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure.) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date of the Supreme Court order herein, normally 30 days after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of Court.)

Olpie 8, 2016

EBECCA MEYER ROSENBERG JUDGE PRO TEM

#### **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 April 11, 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:

STEVEN J. RENSHAW 5700 RALSTON ST STE 301 VENTURA, CA 93003

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 Argeles, California, on

April 11, 2016.

ohnnie Lee Smit

State Bar Court