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State Bar Court of California Hearing Department Los Angeles ACTUAL SUSPENSION				
Counsel For The State Bar	Case Number(s): 15-0-14308	For Court use only		
Jamie Kim Deputy Trial Counsel 845 S. Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90017		FILED V		
(213) 765-1182		APR 18 2016 70		
Bar # 281574		STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES		
In Pro Per Respondent				
Tara Lyn Grabarczyk 902 Hillside Dr. Monticello, IL 61856 (217) 480-7644	P	UBLIC MATTER		
Bar # 216635	Submitted to: Settlement Ju	dge		
In the Matter of: TARA LYN GRABARCZYK	STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING ACTUAL SUSPENSION			
Bar # 216635				
A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)	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 4, 2001**.
- (2) The parties agree to be bound by the factual stipulations contained herein even if conclusions of law or disposition are rejected or changed by the Supreme Court.
- (3) All investigations or proceedings listed by case number in the caption of this stipulation are entirely resolved by this stipulation and are deemed consolidated. Dismissed charge(s)/count(s) are listed under "Dismissals." The stipulation consists of **10** 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".

<u>(Do</u>	not writ	e above this line.)					
(6)		e parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading upporting 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)	(8) Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 6140.7. (Check one option only):						
D		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. Costs are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: three billing cycles following the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (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.					
	Aggr Misc requ	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					
	(b)	☐ Date prior discipline effective					
	(c)	Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations:					
	(d)	☐ Degree of prior discipline					
	(e)	If Respondent has two or more incidents of prior discipline, use space provided below.					
(2)		Intentional/Bad Faith/Dishonesty: Respondent's misconduct was dishonest, intentional, or surrounde 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.					

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(8)		Harm: Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public, or the administration of justice.					
(9) (10)		Indifference: Respondent demonstrated indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the consequences of his or her misconduct. Candor/Lack of Cooperation: Respondent displayed a lack of candor and cooperation to victims of his/her misconduct, or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations or proceedings.					
(11)		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.					
Additional aggravating circumstances:							
C. Mitigating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating circumstances are required.							
(1)	\boxtimes	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 attachment, page 8.					
(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.					
(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.					

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(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 convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.					
(13)		No r	nitigating circumstances are involved.				
Addi	tiona	al mit	gating circumstances:				
	P	re-fili	ng Stipulation, see attachment, page 8.				
D. D	isci	iplin):				
(1)	\boxtimes	Stay	ed Suspension:				
	(a)	\boxtimes	Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year.				
		i.	and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general law pursuant to standard 1.2(c)(1) Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.				
		ii.	and until Respondent pays restitution as set forth in the Financial Conditions form attached to this stipulation.				
		iii.	and until Respondent does the following: .				
	(b)	\boxtimes	The above-referenced suspension is stayed.				
(2) Probation:		ation:					
Respondent must be placed on probation for a period of one (1) year , which will commence upon date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)							
(3)	\boxtimes	Actual Suspension:					
	(a)	\boxtimes	Respondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period of thirty (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:				

of Probation.

(10) The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:

must so declare under penalty of perjury in conjunction with any quarterly report to be filed with the Office

(Do not write above this line.)						
			Substance Abuse Conditions			Law Office Management Conditions
			Medical Conditions			Financial Conditions
F. C	Other	Cor	nditions Negotiated by the I	Parties	:	
(1)		Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination: 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 during the period of actual suspension or within one year, whichever period is longer. Failure to pass the MPRE results in actual suspension without further hearing until passage. But see rule 9.10(b), California Rules of Court, and rule 5.162(A) & (E), Rules of Procedure.				
			No MPRE recommended. Reason	: .		
(2)		Rule 9.20, California Rules of Court: Respondent must comply with the requirements of rule 9.20, California Rules of Court, and perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.				
(3)		Conditional Rule 9.20, California Rules of Court: If Respondent remains actually suspended for 90 days or more, he/she must comply with the requirements of rule 9.20, California Rules of Court, and perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 120 and 130 calendar days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.				
(4)		Credit for Interim Suspension [conviction referral cases only]: Respondent will be credited for the period of his/her interim suspension toward the stipulated period of actual suspension. Date of commencement of interim suspension:				
(5)	\boxtimes	Oth	er Conditions: Other Probation	Conditio	on.	
		eith sess the onli offe	er: 1) attend a session of State E sion, and provide proof of same effective date of the discipline h ne-webinar Minimum Continuing red through a certified MCLE pro	Bar Ethic satisfac erein; o g Legal I ovider ir	es Sch story to r 2) co Educa n Illino	ondent resides out of state, respondent must ool, pass the test given at the end of that the office of Probation within one (1) year of mplete six (6) hours of live, in-person, or live tion ("MCLE") approved courses in legal ethics is or California and provide proof of same (1) year of the effective date of the discipline.

ATTACHMENT TO

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

TARA LYN GRABARCZYK

CASE NUMBER:

15-O-14308

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Respondent admits that the following facts are true and that she is culpable of violations of the specified statutes and/or Rules of Professional Conduct.

Case No. 15-O-14308 (State Bar Investigation)

FACTS:

- 1. As a member of the State Bar, respondent was required to complete 25 hours of minimum continuing legal education ("MCLE") during the period commencing on February 1, 2011, through January 31, 2014 (the "compliance period").
- 2. On May 21, 2014, respondent reported to the State Bar under penalty of perjury that she was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, and, in particular, that she had completed all of her MCLE during the compliance period.
- 3. In fact, respondent had completed 7.5 hours of MCLE courses before reporting compliance on May 21, 2014.
- 4. When respondent reported to the State Bar under penalty of perjury that she was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, respondent failed to review her records to determine whether she was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, which rendered respondent grossly negligent in not knowing that she had not completed the MCLE requirement during the compliance period as required.
- 5. On January 14, 2016, respondent submitted a written response to the State Bar regarding this matter, in which she represented that she was no longer in possession of MCLE records that she had acquired during the compliance period.
- 6. Respondent took additional MCLE courses necessary to come into compliance after being contacted by Member Records and Compliance on July 7, 2014, regarding an MCLE audit.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

7. By reporting under penalty of perjury to the State Bar that she was in compliance with the MCLE requirements when she was grossly negligent in not knowing that she was not in compliance with the MCLE requirements, respondent committed an act of moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption in willful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106.

ADDITIONAL FACTS RE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Discipline (Std. 1.6(a)): Respondent was admitted to practice on December 4, 2001. At the time of the misconduct, respondent had practiced law for 12 years without a prior record of discipline, which would indicate that the underlying misconduct was aberrational and not likely to recur. While respondent's conduct is serious, she is entitled to significant mitigation for practicing for a significant period of time without a record of discipline. Respondent has not been entitled to practice law since July 1, 2014, due to her failure to pay State Bar dues. (Hawes v. State Bar (1990) 51 Cal.3d 587, 596 [gave attorney significant weight in mitigation for practicing law for over ten years without misconduct]; In the Matter of Riordan (Review Dept. 2007) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 41 [discipline-free practice considered to be a significant mitigating factor even when misconduct is serious].)

Pre-filing Stipulation: Respondent admitted to the misconduct and entered into this stipulation fully resolving this matter prior to the filing of a notice of disciplinary charges. Respondent's cooperation will save State Bar resources. Respondent's cooperation is a mitigating factor in this resolution. (*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, supra*, 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 mitigation 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 the most severe Standard applicable to respondent's misconduct. Standard 2.11 provides, in pertinent part, that, "[d]isbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for an act of moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, corruption, intentional or grossly negligent mispresentation, or concealment of a material fact."

Here, respondent's grossly negligent misrepresentation made under penalty of perjury was a dishonest act involving moral turpitude. (In the Matter of Yee (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 330.) 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.) Respondent's misconduct pertaining to MCLE requirements circumvented the continuing legal educational requirements established for the purpose of enhancing attorney competence and protecting the public. She did not complete all 25 hours of the MCLE requirement during the compliance period. Respondent did however, complete 7.5 hours of MCLE during the compliance period. Respondent's misconduct warrants actual suspension.

Respondent's misconduct is significantly mitigated by her 12 years in practice without a record of discipline. Respondent is also entitled to mitigation for entering into this pre-filing stipulation in which respondent has acknowledged her misconduct and saved State Bar time and resources. In light of the mitigation, a one-year suspension, stayed, with a one-year probation including a 30-day actual suspension is appropriate to protect the public, the courts and the legal profession, to maintain high professional standards by attorneys, and to preserve public confidence in the legal profession.

Case law supports this level of discipline. In *In the Matter of Yee* (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 330, Yee falsely stated under penalty of perjury that she had fulfilled her MCLE requirements. During a State Bar investigation, Yee was unable to produce any record of compliance. The Review Department found that a public reproval was adequate to "serve the goals of attorney discipline." (*Id.* at 11.) The Review Department held that Yee was grossly negligent in not reviewing her records before affirming MCLE compliance. The Review Department found strong mitigating factors, including Yee's ten and a half years of practice without discipline, exemplary record of pro bono and community service, and the absence of harm to the public or judicial system as Yee was not practicing law. (*Id.*) The Review Department found that the most significant mitigating factors were Yee's immediate acknowledgement of wrongdoing, decision to rectify the situation and implementation of a corrective plan to avoid future problems. (*Id.*)

Here, respondent earned 7.5 hours of MCLE during the compliance period, whereas *Yee* had proof of no credits. Respondent acknowledged that at the time she reported compliance, like *Yee*, respondent had not reviewed her records to determine whether she was in compliance. Further, although respondent has received mitigation for her 12 years of discipline free practice and entering into this pre-filing stipulation, respondent's mitigation is not as substantial as Yee's mitigation. Therefore, the level of discipline here should be greater than in *Yee*.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of March 24, 2016, 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 State Bar Ethics School. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

In the Matter of: TARA LYN GRABARCZYK	Case number(s): 15-O-14308	

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.

4-1-2016	Jarah Habinczary	TARA L. GRABARCZY
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
4/7/2016 (Ani n.	Jamie Kim
Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name

(Do not write a	bove this line.)					
In the Matt	er of: YNN GRABARCZYK	Case Number(s): 15-O-14308				
	ACTUAL SUSP	ENSION ORDER				
Finding the s	stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it ad ismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTEI	lequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the Dividing without prejudice, and:				
	The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.					
×	The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.					
	All Hearing dates are vacated.					
of:," delet	ge 1 of the Stipulation, under the headings te the name "Lyn" and in its place insert the third line on page 7 of the Stipulation, next name "Lyn" and in its place insert the name	t to the words "IN THE MATTER OF:"				
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.)						

Date

4/18/16

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 18, 2016, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING ACTUAL SUSPENSION

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:

TARA L. GRABARCZYK 902 HILLSIDE DR MONTICELLO, IL 61856

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

JAMIE KIM, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on April 18, 2016.

Tammy Cleaver Case Administrator State Bar Court