

ORIGINAL

PUBLIC MATTER

FILED

JUL 07 2016

STATE BAR COURT
CLERK'S OFFICE
LOS ANGELES

1 STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
2 OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL
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STATE BAR COURT

HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

12 In the Matter of:) Case No. 15-O-14519
13 KEITH FRANKLIN ROUSE,)
14 No. 170559,) NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES
15 A Member of the State Bar)

NOTICE - FAILURE TO RESPOND!

17 IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO THIS NOTICE
18 WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER SERVICE, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT
19 THE STATE BAR COURT TRIAL:

- 20 (1) YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;
- 21 (2) YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU
22 WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;
- 23 (3) YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN
24 THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION
25 AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE, AND;
- 26 (4) YOU SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE.
27 SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE
28 OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN
ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT WITHOUT
FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. SEE RULE 5.80 ET SEQ.,
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA.



1 The State Bar of California alleges:

2 JURISDICTION

3 1. Keith Franklin Rouse (“Respondent”) was admitted to the practice of law in the
4 State of California on June 6, 1994, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges, and is
5 currently a member of the State Bar of California.

6 COUNT ONE

7 Case No. 15-O-14519
8 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(A)
9 [Commingling Personal Funds in Client Trust Account]

10 2. Between on or about January 27, 2014 and on or about June 5, 2015, Respondent
11 deposited or commingled funds belonging to Respondent into his client trust account at Chase
12 Bank, account number xxx-xxx7190,¹ as follows in wilful violation of Rules of Professional
13 Conduct, rule 4-100(A):

<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FORM OF DEPOSIT</u>
1/27/14	\$42,848.34	Personal funds from AFPC, Inc.
3/17/14	\$10,000	Personal funds from Beverly Jean Rouse
5/12/14	\$10,000	Personal funds from Paul Rouse
6/25/14	\$19,853	Personal funds from Conservatorship of Amos
8/20/14	\$224,263.77	Personal funds from the sale of Respondent’s home
6/5/15	\$148,549.73	Earned fee from the representation of a client

18 COUNT TWO

19 Case No.: 15 O 14109
20 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(A)
21 [Commingling – Payment of Personal Expenses from Client Trust Account]

22 Between January 9, 2014, and December 23, 2015, Respondent made the following
23 payments from his personal funds held in his client his trust account at Chase Bank, account
24 number xxx-xxx7190,² for the payment of personal expenses, in willful violation of Rules of
25 Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(A):

26 ///

27
28 ¹ The account number has been redacted to protect the account and account holder.
² The account number has been redacted to protect the account and account holder.

	CHECK				
	<u>NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>
1					
2	1.	1/9/14	1410	\$200	Kimberly Rouse
3	2.	1/10/14	1411	\$800	Kimberly Rouse
4	3.	1/16/14	1415	\$1,047.08	Kimberly Rouse
5	4.	1/24/14	1418	\$707.09	Kimberly Rouse
6	5.	1/29/14	1425	\$5,000	Andrew Rouse
7	6.	1/29/14	1421	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
8	7.	1/31/14	1424	\$2,000	Keith F. Rouse ³
9	8.	1/31/14	1427	\$1,850	Joe Velasco
10	9.	1/31/14	1428	\$1,850	Joe Velasco
11	10.	1/31/14	1429	\$3,500	Cash
12	11.	2/6/14	1433	\$1,000	Cash
13	12.	2/7/14	1434	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
14	13.	2/14/14	1436	\$5,663.39	Lake & California Financial Center
15	14.	2/15/14	1438	\$500	Cash
16	15.	2/15/14	1437	\$6,000	Paul E. Rouse
17	16.	2/20/14	1438	\$100	Kimberly Rouse
18	17.	2/26/14	1421	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
19	18.	3/3/14	1441	\$300	Cash
20	19.	3/7/14	1442	\$307	Kimberly Rouse
21	20.	3/10/14	1443	\$200	Cash
22	21.	3/20/14	1445	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
23	22.	3/24/14	1444	\$1,000	Cash
24	23.	3/26/14	1446	\$500	Kimberly Rouse
25	24.	3/28/14	1448	\$1,500	Cash
26	25.	4/1/14	1449	\$500	Keith F. Rouse
27	26.	4/14/14	n/a	\$300	Cash
28	27.	4/21/14	1451	\$200	Cash
29	28.	4/28/14	1452	\$2,950	Cash
30	29.	5/19/14	1393	\$1,850	Joe or Elsa Velasco
31	30.	5/21/14	1455	\$463	ACSC ⁴
32	31.	5/22/14	1457	\$1,901.81	Lake & California Financial Center
33	32.	6/14/14	1460	\$5,493.80	Lake & California Financial Center
34	33.	6/30/14	1471	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
35	34.	7/1/14	1475	\$500	Andrew Rouse
36	35.	7/14/14	1478	\$100	Andrew Rouse
37	36.	7/11/14	1480	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
38	37.	7/16/14	1479	\$1,850	Joe or Elsa Velasco
39	38.	7/18/14	1484	\$500	Andrew Rouse
40	39.	7/24/14	1486	\$1,946.79	Lake & California Financial Center
41	40.	7/24/14	1487	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
42	41.	7/25/14	1488	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
43	42.	7/29/14	1489	\$300	ACSC
44	43.	7/29/14	1470	\$334.84	America's Tire Co.

³ Payments to Respondent that appear to be attributed to personal funds are listed.

⁴ Automobile Club of Southern California.

1	44.	8/7/14	1491	\$1,850	Joe or Elsa Velasco
	45.	8/15/14	1494	\$1,300	Andrew Rouse
2	46.	8/22/14	1496	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
	47.	8/26/14	1498	\$1,054.56	Macy's
3	48.	8/26/14	1501	\$1,000	Keith F. Rouse
	49.	8/26/14	1505	\$1,000	Keith F. Rouse
4	50.	8/29/14	1504	\$1,000	Keith F. Rouse
	51.	9/4/14	1509	\$11,000	Paul Rouse
5	52.	9/5/14	1511	\$2,318.40	Plati German Car Service
	53.	9/5/14	1514	\$1,107.09	Kimberly Rouse
6	54.	9/16/14	1523	\$1,300	Andrew Rouse
	55.	9/18/14	1524	\$1,850	Joe or Elsa Velasco
7	56.	9/19/14	1527	\$821.64	Heather D. Bennett, Esq.
	57.	9/19/14	1526	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
8	58.	9/22/14	1508	\$20,000	John D. DuWors
	59.	9/24/14	1528	\$2,202.51	Lake & California Financial Center
9	60.	9/26/14	1533	\$2,100	Heather D. Bennett
10	61.	9/26/14	1529	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
	62.	10/6/14	1538	\$2,475	Heather D. Bennett
11	63.	10/7/14	1539	\$1,050	Heather D. Bennett
	64.	10/17/14	1543	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
12	65.	10/22/14	1544	\$2,557.22	Lake & California Financial Center
	66.	10/24/14	1547	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
13	67.	10/24/14	1548	\$2,325	Heather D. Bennett
	68.	11/3/14	1549	\$1,650	Heather D. Bennett
14	69.	11/3/14	1550	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
	70.	11/3/14	1554	\$3,825	Heather D. Bennett
15	71.	11/14/14	1555	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
	72.	11/21/14	1559	\$2,689	Lake & California Financial Center
16	73.	11/24/14	1558	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
	74.	11/24/14	1561	\$628.53	Bauer German Car Repair
17	75.	12/8/14 ⁵	1563	\$3,225	Heather D. Bennett
	76.	12/12/14	1565	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
18	77.	12/15/14	1566	\$1,850	Joe or Elsa Velasco
	78.	12/19/14	1570	\$2,000	Kimberly Rouse
19	79.	12/23/14	1573	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
	80.	12/23/14	1572	\$2,558.22	Lake & California Financial Center
20	81.	12/25/14	1547	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
	82.	12/23/14	1574	\$2,250	Heather D. Bennett
21	83.	1/7/15	1575	\$200	Kimberly Rouse
	84.	1/9/15	1577	\$1,507.09	Kimberly Rouse
22	85.	1/14/15	1578	\$500	Kimberly Rouse
	86.	1/22/15	1580	\$2,070	Heather D. Bennett
23	87.	1/22/15	1583	\$2,557.22	Lake & California Financial Center
	88.	1/23/15	1584	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian

⁵ On December 4, 2014, Respondent deposited \$33,981.37 into his CTA on behalf of Claude Coker. Respondent claims that he started writing checks out of his CTA after receiving funds on behalf of Coker so that he could account to the Court for the funds.

1	89.	1/23/15	1585	\$1,207.09	Kimberly Rouse
	90.	1/26/15	1586	\$975	Heather D. Bennett
2	91.	2/2/15	1587	\$2,325	Heather D. Bennett
	92.	2/4/15	1588	\$1,500	Andrew Rouse
3	93.	2/6/15	1589	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
	94.	2/9/15	1590	\$1,350	Heather D. Bennett
4	95.	2/18/15	1591	\$1,850	Joe or Elsa Velasco
	96.	2/19/15	1595	\$1,707.09	Kimberly Rouse
5	97.	2/23/15	1595	\$2,812.94	Lake & California Financial Center
	98.	2/23/15	1596	\$4,650	Heather D. Bennett
6	99.	2/26/15	1597	\$75	Norton Simon Museum
	100.	2/27/15	1598	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghogassian
	101.	2/27/15	1599	\$1,000	Kimberly Rouse
8	102.	3/6/15	1567	\$900	Heather Bennett, Esq.
	103.	3/13/15	0687	\$870	Heather Bennett, Esq.
9	104.	3/20/15	0689	\$1,207.09	Kimberley Rouse
	105.	3/31/15	1601	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
10	106.	4/10/15	1604	\$200	Kimberley Rouse
	107.	4/17/15	1606	\$2,557.22	Lake & California Center
	108.	4/17/15	1607	\$1,507.09	Kimberley Rouse
12	109.	4/23/15	1608	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
	110.	5/15/15	1609	\$1,707	Kimberley Rouse
13	111.	5/15/15	1611	\$1,850	Joe Velasco
	112.	5/15/15	1613	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
14	113.	5/20/15	1615	\$700	Andrew Rouse
	114.	5/22/15	1616	\$300	Andrew Rouse
15	115.	5/26/15	1617	\$300	Kimberley Rouse
16	116.	5/28/15	1618	\$707	Kimberley Rouse
	117.	5/29/15	1619	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
17	118.	6/4/15	1622	\$200	Andrew Rouse
	119.	6/12/15	1626	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
18	120.	6/15/15	1627	\$3,068.66	Lake & California Center
	121.	6/26/15	1629	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
19	122.	6/26/15	1630	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
20	123.	6/29/15	1631	\$500	Kimberley Rouse
	124.	7/01/15	1632	\$500	Kimberley Rouse
21	125.	7/23/15	1634	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
	126.	7/24/15	1635	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
22	127.	8/03/15	1640	\$300	Kimberley Rouse
23	128.	8/05/15	1641	\$300	Kimberley Rouse
	129.	8/07/15	0693	\$1,107	Kimberley Rouse
24	130.	8/14/15	1643	\$200	Kimberley Rouse
	131.	8/15/15	1644	\$2,557.22	Lake & California Center
25	132.	8/18/15	1646	\$500	Kimberley Rouse
26	133.	8/20/15	1648	\$200	Kimberley Rouse
	134.	8/21/15	1649	\$1,007.09	Kimberley Rouse
27	135.	8/28/15	1653	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
28	136.	8/29/15	0692	\$1,000	Andrew Rouse

1	137.	9/04/15	1656	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
	138.	9/04/15	1655	\$230	Andrew Rouse
2	139.	9/11/15	1659	\$200	Kimberley Rouse
	140.	9/14/15	1660	\$2,557.22	Lake & California Center
3	141.	9/18/15	1662	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
	142.	9/25/15	1663	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
4	143.	9/30/15	1664	\$800	Kimberley Rouse
	144.	10/02/15	1666	\$907.09	Kimberley Rouse
5	145.	10/15/15	1671	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
	146.	10/20/15	1674	\$2,755.40	Lake & California Center
6	147.	10/30/15	1675	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
	148.	10/30/15	1676	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
7	149.	11/12/15	1680	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
	150.	11/24/15	0694	\$500	Andrew Rouse
8	151.	11/25/15	1676	\$1,707.09	Kimberley Rouse
	152.	11/25/15	1682	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian
9	153.	12/1/15	1687	\$200	Andrew Rouse
10	154.	12/2/15	1684	\$2,755.40	Lake & California Center
11	155.	12/23/15	1692	\$5,000	Hasmik Der-Ghougassian

NOTICE - INACTIVE ENROLLMENT!

YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT IF THE STATE BAR COURT FINDS, PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6007(c), THAT YOUR CONDUCT POSES A SUBSTANTIAL THREAT OF HARM TO THE INTERESTS OF YOUR CLIENTS OR TO THE PUBLIC, YOU MAY BE INVOLUNTARILY ENROLLED AS AN INACTIVE MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR. YOUR INACTIVE ENROLLMENT WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO ANY DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED BY THE COURT.

NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!

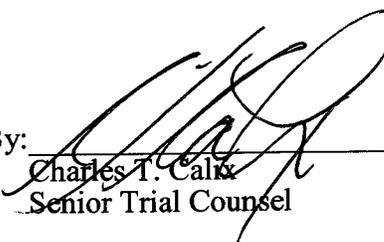
IN THE EVENT THESE PROCEDURES RESULT IN PUBLIC DISCIPLINE, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE STATE BAR IN THE INVESTIGATION, HEARING AND REVIEW OF THIS MATTER PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6086.10.

Respectfully submitted,

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

DATED: July 7, 2016

By:



Charles T. Calk
Senior Trial Counsel

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

by

U.S. FIRST-CLASS MAIL / U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL / OVERNIGHT DELIVERY / FACSIMILE-ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

CASE NUMBER(s): 15-O-14519

I, the undersigned, am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action, whose business address and place of employment is the State Bar of California, 845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90017-2515, declare that:

- on the date shown below, I caused to be served a true copy of the within document described as follows:

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

- By U.S. First-Class Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a))
By U.S. Certified Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a))
By Overnight Delivery: (CCP §§ 1013(c) and 1013(d))
By Fax Transmission: (CCP §§ 1013(e) and 1013(f))
By Electronic Service: (CCP § 1010.6)

- (for U.S. First-Class Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)
(for Certified Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing as certified mail, return receipt requested, Article No.: 9414-7266-9904-2010-0655-31 at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)
(for Overnight Delivery) together with a copy of this declaration, in an envelope, or package designated by UPS, Tracking No.: addressed to: (see below)

Table with 4 columns: Person Served, Business-Residential Address, Fax Number, Electronic Address. Row 1: Keith Franklin Rouse, Law Office of Keith F. Rouse, 600 S. Lake Ave., Ste. 507, Pasadena, CA 91106.

I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service, and overnight delivery by the United Parcel Service ('UPS'). In the ordinary course of the State Bar of California's practice, correspondence collected and processed by the State Bar of California would be deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day, and for overnight delivery, deposited with delivery fees paid or provided for, with UPS that same day.

I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope or package is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing contained in the affidavit.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on the date shown below.

DATED: July 7, 2016

SIGNED: Kathi Palacios
Kathi Palacios
Declarant