

STATE BAR COURT OF CALIFORNIA HEARING DEPARTMENT 845 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90017	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FILED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAY -2 2016</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE BAR COURT  CLERK'S OFFICE  LOS ANGELES</p>
In the Matter of:  ADAM J. LUETTO  <b>Member No. 264188</b>  A Member of the State Bar.	Case No(s):  <b>16-C-10566</b>

**RESPONDENT'S WRITTEN RESPONSE TO ORDER AND REQUEST FOR  
TRANSFER TO THE ALTERNATIVE DISCIPLINE PROGRAM (ADP)**

Pursuant to Rules of Proc. of State Bar, Rule 345(B), I, Respondent Adam J. Luetto, do hereby make the following written response to the State Bar Hearing Department's Order, filed on April 12, 2016, in the above-referenced matter:

I make no denial of the conviction referenced in the Department's Orders or that by the very nature of the offense, that it involved moral turpitude. Petty theft, like any act that involves the taking of another's property without permission, goes against the most fundamental moral sense of humankind. The notion that I might be guilty of committing such an offense, not once, but several times was not one that ever occurred to me until very near the time that I did so. The reason for this, as I will attempt to explain, is that I do not believe I would have ever engaged in such behavior were it not for the results of a terrible crisis in my life brought on by issues of untreated addiction and mental health issues an marital difficulties, which have led to the utter ruin of my life as I had known it up until that point.

In June of 2014, I was laid off from my position as an associate with a law firm in downtown Los Angeles, where I had been practicing employment law. Since my admission to the State Bar in 2009, I had practiced with relative success in the area of employment law and had been an active member of the Los Angeles County Bar Barristers and California Employment Lawyer's Association. Much of this success, I would attribute to long-term sobriety and active participation in 12-step programs going back to 2008.

Nevertheless, my sobriety was unprotected, inasmuch as I have also suffered from mental health disorders for much of my life that I have made the mistake of letting go for the most part untreated. So, when, early 2013, following my wife's layoff from the hospital where she worked as a registered nurse, financial tension and other matters brought about severe marital conflict into my life, the exacerbation of my untreated depression and generalized anxiety, and later-diagnosed bipolar type 2 and PTSD, left my defenses weakened and me susceptible to relapse. Alcohol had always been my substance of choice and that is to what I turned to manage my mental and emotional anguish. However, my wife had begun to increasingly self-medicate her own stress of unemployment, grief over her mother's death from cancer, and our increasing difficulties in getting along with drugs.

Thus, in June of 2014, when I was let go from my job as an associate attorney, I was already in the grips of debilitating mental health problems, stressful personal circumstances, and a rapidly progressing relapse, I also began using drugs to manage these circumstances—I was soon addicted to opiates. Following the loss of

my job, I would describe my overall state as, among other things, unemployable. As such, I never fully returned to practice after I was let go, and although my wife having regained employment remained so, in spite of her also progressing addiction, finances became tight. We moved in with my grandmother to save money and in October of 2014 my car was repossessed. The bills were mounting and the addiction now controlled our lives. We could not support the habit we both had acquired.

Circumstances now seemed hopeless and I was in a dark depression, often feeling on the verge of suicide. It was in this time period when I did resort to stealing for a period of a few months. I did it, in order to trade the stolen merchandise for drugs. Very simply, however, I was rank amateur and not a very good thief. I was caught and arrested, therefore, several times in a very short period of time. I recall thinking at this time that I felt that maybe going to jail might provide me a way out of the miserable life I had somehow acquired, when just a year before things seemed to be going reasonably well.

In some sense, I was correct. As the cases for my arrests moved toward adjudication, on the advice of my lawyer, my psychiatrist, and the Superior Court of California, I entered an inpatient treatment program in June of 2015. Since that time, difficulties did not completely subside and my wife remained resistant to treatment of her own issues. I received treatment at Covenant Hills Treatment Center for about 60 days, after which I left due to concern for my wife's health and the uncertainty regarding the same that occurred as a result of being in a locked-down treatment center, where outside communication and contact is tightly

controlled. After leaving, I relapsed for a single day and then reported to the Orange County Probation Department, where I was arrested for violating the terms of my probation for leaving the treatment program.

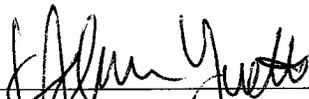
I spent about a week in jail and was then released to another treatment center, Reflections. I spent about 45 days there again working on my addiction and mental health issues, regularly consulting with a psychiatrist, therapist, and engaging in group therapy. However, again I left the program, in violation of my probation, and went to be at my wife's side, again out of concern for her health. Shortly thereafter, I was arrested at my wife's apartment in Los Angeles for my probation violation and extradited to Orange County. Brought before the court again, I decided to opt out of the probationary program I was in, called the Opportunity Court, and to simply serve the sentence for my crimes, which ended up being 60 days in jail.

Since my release from jail, I have completed a voluntary inpatient addiction treatment program, I am currently enrolled in an outpatient treatment program and reside in a sober living facility, I am being treated with medication and therapy for my mental health issues, and I am again actively working a 12-Step program and regularly attending meetings. My wife is currently in inpatient treatment for her addiction and mental health issues and we intend to seek couples therapy when it is possible to do so. In all, I am getting better, I have a sincere and vigorous desire to get better, and my life is starting to get better. Not very long ago, I was a very good lawyer at the beginning of his career. I have taken a brief, but extremely severe

tumble. I am nevertheless not one, who gives up easily, especially on a life I worked so hard to build and now seek to rebuild.

I have enjoyed and taken great pride in my work as an attorney and with my addiction and mental health issues properly treated, I believe my work stands with the best of my peers. I, thus, would love nothing more than to preserve the fine privilege of remaining licensed to practice in this distinguished profession, as well as enjoy the fruits of not living a life tormented by the anguish untreated addiction and mental health issues. As such, in light of the plain fact that my conviction is inextricably tied to matters concerning my own issues of substance abuse and mental health and that the disciplinary matters regarding my other similar convictions have been referred for evaluation for entry into the Alternative Discipline Program (ADP), I hereby request that this case also be referred to the ADP, through which it would be my pleasure to have even more resources to continue my recovery from these issues.

Date: 4/28/16

  
RESPONDENT, ADAM J. LUETTO  
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**PROOF OF SERVICE BY U.S. FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**CASE NO(S): 16-C-10566**

I, the undersigned, am over the age of eighteen (18) year and not a party to the within action, hereby declare that on the date shown below, I caused to be served a true copy of the within document described as follows:

**RESPONDENT'S RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES**

By U.S. First Class Mail: (CCP sections 1013 and 1013(a) in accordance with the practice of the State Bar of California for collection and processing of mail, I deposited or placed for collection and mailing the City of Boca Raton and County of West Palm Beach and State of Florida, in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing at Boca Raton, Florida addressed to:

Alex Hackert, Esq.  
DEPUTY TRIAL COUNSEL  
STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL  
845 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, California 90017-2515

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, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Boca Raton, Florida, on the date shown below.

DATED: April 28, 2016

SIGNED:   
DEVON LEPSCH  
Declarant