

ORIGINAL

State Bar Court of California
Hearing Department
Los Angeles
ACTUAL SUSPENSION

LOS ACTUAL SUSPENSION

PUBLIC MATTER

	Los Angeles P	UBLIC MATTER		
Counsel For The State Bar	Case Number(s): 16-N-17061	For Court use only		
Ann J. Kim				
Deputy Trial Counsel				
845 S. Figueroa St.				
Los Angeles, CA 90017				
(213) 765-1230		FILED		
		N /		
Bar # 259222		JAN 1 8 2017		
		STATE BAR COURT		
In Pro Per Respondent		CLERK'S OFFICE		
Tara J. Arnold		LOS ANGELES		
466 Cortona Cv	!			
West Lake Hills, TX 78746				
(650) 996-4704				
D-11 # 470047	Submitted to: Assigned Judge			
Bar # 172917	STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND			
In the Matter of:	DISPOSITION AND ORDER			
TARA JANE ARNOLD				
	ACTUAL SUSPENSION			
Bar # 172917	☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED			
A Member of the State Bar of California	TREVIOUS STIFULATIO	THE ILLUSTED		
(Respondent)				
(1 toopondont)	<u></u>			

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 8, 1994**.
- (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."
- (5) Conclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of Law".

(Do	not writ	e abov	e this line.)			
(6)		he 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):				
		relief is obtained per rule 5.130, Rules of Procedure.				
į		ond	ing Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional uct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are			
(1)	(a)	Prio	r record of discipline State Bar Court case # of prior case 97-C-14742, 13-C-16243, and 13-C-16790. (See attachment, at page 8.)			
	(b)	\boxtimes	Date prior discipline effective June 25, 2015			
	(c)	\boxtimes	Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: criminal conviction matter pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 6101 and 6102, and California Rules of Court, rule 9.10.			
	(d)	\boxtimes	Degree of prior discipline Two-year suspension, stayed; three-year probation subject to conditions including a ninety-day actual suspension.			
	(e)	\boxtimes	If Respondent has two or more incidents of prior discipline, use space provided below. See attachment, at page 8.			
(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)		Con	cealment: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, concealment.			
(5)		Ove	rreaching: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, overreaching.			
(6)			harged Violations: Respondent's conduct involves uncharged violations of the Business and essions Code, or the Rules of Professional Conduct.			

<u>(Do n</u>	ot write	e above this line.)					
(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)		No aggravating circumstances are involved.					
C. N	Mitig	al aggravating circumstances: ating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating imstances 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.					
(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					

(Do no	ot writ	e abov	e this line	3.)			
				any illegal conduct by the member, such as illegal drug or substance abuse, and the difficulties es no longer pose a risk that Respondent will commit misconduct.			
(9)		whic	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)		Noı	mitigati	ing circumstances are involved.			
Addi	tiona	al mit	igating	circumstances:			
	P	refiliı	ng Stip	ulation: see attachment, at page 8.			
D. D	isci	plin	e:				
(1)	Stayed Suspension:			spension:			
	(a)	\boxtimes	Respo	ondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of three 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	bove-referenced suspension is stayed.			
(2)	□ Probation:						
				st be placed on probation for a period of four years , which will commence upon the effective eme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)			
(3)	🔀 Actual Suspension:			pension:			
	(a)	\boxtimes		ondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period 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.			

(Do no	ot write	above	this line.)				
			satisfactory to the Office of Probation discipline. If the Respondent elects to	within comp	Texas or California and provide proof of same one (1) year of the effective date of the elete six hours of MCLE approved courses in lieu required are in addition to any MCLE hours		
(9)		must	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)		The f	ollowing conditions are attached hereto ar	nd inco	rporated:		
			Substance Abuse Conditions		Law Office Management Conditions		
			Medical Conditions		Financial Conditions		
F. O	ther	r Cor	nditions Negotiated by the Parties	s:			
(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 withor further hearing until passage. But see rule 9.10(b), California Rules of Court, and rule 5.162(A) & (E), Rules of Procedure.					
		□ I	No MPRE recommended. Reason:				
(2)	\boxtimes	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)		Oth	er Conditions:				

ATTACHMENT TO

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

TARA JANE ARNOLD

CASE NUMBER:

16-N-17061

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. 16-N-17061 (State Bar Investigation)

FACTS:

- 1. On February 3, 2016, the Office of Probation of the State Bar of California filed a motion to revoke the probation of Respondent for Respondent's failure to comply with probation conditions in State Bar Court case number 16-PM-10615.
- 2. On March 18, 2016, the State Bar Court Hearing Department granted the motion to revoke probation.
- 3. On June 21, 2016, the Supreme Court of California issued an order in case number S225296 (State Bar Court case number 16-PM-10615). The Court ordered that Respondent be actually suspended from the practice of law for a minimum of two years and until she provides proof to the satisfaction of the State Bar Court of her rehabilitation, present fitness to practice, and present learning and ability in the general law pursuant to standard 1.2(c)(1). The Court further ordered that Respondent comply with the requirements of rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court, and perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days after the effective date of the order.
- 4. On June 21, 2016, the clerk of the Supreme Court served a copy of the Supreme Court Order on Respondent at her State Bar membership records address. Respondent received the Supreme Court order. The Supreme Court order became effective on July 20, 2016.
- 5. On July 25, 2016, the Office of Probation sent a letter reminding Respondent that her rule 9.20 compliance declaration must be timely filed with the State Bar Court by no later than August 30, 2016. Respondent received this letter.
 - 6. Respondent failed to file her 9.20 compliance declaration by August 30, 2016.
- 7. On October 18, 2016, the Office of Probation sent a letter and email reminding Respondent that her rule 9.20 compliance declaration was due by August 30, 2016.
 - 8. On October 28, 2016, Respondent filed her rule 9.20 compliance declaration.

CONCLUSION OF LAW:

9. By failing to file the rule 9.20 compliance affidavit in conformity with the requirements of rule 9.20 subdivision (c) within forty (40) days of the effective date of the Supreme Court Order as required by the Supreme Court Order, Respondent willfully violated California Rules of Court, rule 9.20.

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Prior Record of Discipline (Standard 1.5(a)): Respondent has two prior records of discipline.

Effective June 25, 2015, Respondent received a two (2) year stayed suspension and a three (3) year probation subject to conditions including a ninety (90) day actual suspension, and compliance with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court in case numbers 97-C-14742, 13-C-16243, and 13-C-16790. All three cases involved criminal convictions for driving under the influence between 1997 and 2014. In mitigation, Respondent had no prior record of discipline and entered into a pretrial stipulation with the State Bar.

Effective July 21, 2016, Respondent's probation was revoked in case numbers 97-C-14742, 13-C-16243, and 13-C-16790, for failure to comply with the terms of her disciplinary probation. Respondent failed to file two quarterly reports and two criminal compliance declarations to the Office of Probation and failed to provide proof that she had attended Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. In addition, Respondent filed one alcohol/drug screening report late, tested positive for alcohol in another, failed to submit five other screening reports altogether or submit two medical reports by their due dates. As a result, Respondent was actually suspended from the practice of law for two years and until she provides proof of her rehabilitation and was ordered to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Prefiling Stipulation: Respondent has entered into a full stipulation. Respondent is entitled to mitigation for cooperating with the Office of Chief Trial Counsel prior to trial, thereby saving the State Bar Court time and resources, and acknowledging and accepting responsibility for her misconduct. (*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).)

The generally imposed sanction for a willful violation of rule 9.20 is disbarment, particularly where an attorney violates the client notification requirements of rule 9.20(a). (Bercovich v. State Bar (1990) 50 Cal.3d 116, 131.) However, the California Supreme Court and Review Department recognize that disbarment is not necessarily appropriate when an attorney simply fails to timely file the required affidavit under rule 9.20(c), but otherwise met the notice requirements of rule 9.20(a). (Shapiro v. State Bar (1990) 51 Cal.3d 251 [one-year actual suspension imposed where attorney had 16 years of discipline-free practice, complied with rule 9.20(a), but filed the required affidavit five months late, which was viewed as a short period of misconduct]; In the Matter of Rose (Review Dept. 1994) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 192 [a nine month actual suspension recommended where attorney with two prior discipline matters filed 9.20(c) affidavit two weeks late, which caused no client harm].) In the current matter, Respondent satisfied the notice requirements of the rule, but failed to timely file the 9.20 compliance affidavit. As a result, a deviation from disbarment is warranted.

Pursuant to Standard 1.8(b), Respondent's two prior records of discipline, in which actual suspension was ordered, must also be addressed. However, Standard 1.7(c) provides that "a lesser sanction is appropriate in cases of minor misconduct, where there is little or no injury to a client, the public, the legal system, or the profession and where the record demonstrates that the member is willing and has the ability to conform to ethical responsibilities in the future." Respondent had no clients at the time of the rule 9.20 order and belatedly filed her rule 9.20 compliance declaration. Her eventual compliance diminishes the magnitude of the misconduct and demonstrates that she was willing and had the ability to conform to her ethical responsibilities. Also, according to Respondent's most recent discipline, Respondent is suspended until she provides proof to the satisfaction of the State Bar Court of her rehabilitation, present fitness to practice, and present learning and ability in the general law pursuant to standard 1.2(c)(1). Respondent must continue to demonstrate her willingness and ability to conform to her ethical responsibilities, which she began to do by belatedly filing her 9.20 compliance declaration. Therefore, a lesser sanction than disbarment is appropriate.

Standard 2.12(a) applies to Respondent's failure to comply with a court order and provides for a broad range of discipline, from actual suspension to disbarment. Although Respondent's willingness and ability to belatedly comply with the Court's order might ordinarily warrant actual suspension at the lower end of the range, progressive discipline and Respondent's disciplinary record call for significant actual suspension. A three-year stayed suspension and four-year probation with conditions including a two-year actual suspension and until Respondent provides proof of her rehabilitation, present fitness to practice, and present learning and ability are sufficient to protect the public under the circumstances. In addition, Standard 1.8(a), calling for progressive discipline, is upheld because in the most recent discipline, Respondent was suspended with no stayed time and no probation. The proposed discipline is

progressive as it will increase the length of the actual suspension and also includes a period of stayed suspension and probation.

In Shapiro v. State Bar (1990) 51 Cal. 3d 251, the attorney had a prior discipline in which he had been given a one-year actual suspension and ordered to comply with rule 9.20. The attorney belatedly filed his 9.20 compliance declaration and the Supreme Court determined that another one-year actual suspension was the appropriate level of discipline.

Here, Respondent filed her declaration only two months late, and no clients were harmed. Respondent recognized her wrongdoing and filed her compliance affidavit before disciplinary proceedings commenced. In light of Respondent's belated compliance and progressive discipline, a discipline consisting of a three-year stayed suspension and a four-year probation with conditions including a two-year actual suspension is appropriate to serve the purposes of Standard 1.1.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of December 29, 2016, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$2,610.00. 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 not receive MCLE credit for completion of Ethics School ordered as a condition of discipline. (Rules of Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

n the Matter of: ARNOLD, TARA JANE		Case number(s): 16-N-17061	
	SIGNA	TURE OF THE PAI	RTIES
their signatures below citations and each of th	, the parties and their co e terms and conditions	ounsel, as applicable, s of this Stipulation Re F	signify their agreement with each of the acts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition
12/30/2016 ate	Respondent's Signat	amad ure	Tara J. Arnold Print Name
ate	Respondent's Couns	el Signature	Print Name
1/10/2017	Deputy Trial Counsel		Ann J. Kim Print Name

(Do not write	above this line.)		
In the Ma	itter of: ANE ARNOLD	Case Number(s): 16-N-17061	
	ACTUAL SUSP	ENSION ORDER	
Finding the requested	e stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it ad dismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTEI	equately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the D without prejudice, and:	
	The stipulated facts and disposition are APP Supreme Court.	ROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the	
The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.			
	All Hearing dates are vacated.		
1.	requirement in this matter that Respondent re	k at paragraph E.(1) is deleted, as there is already a main suspended until she shows proof to the court of her learning and ability in the general law pursuant to	
2.	On page 7 of the Stipulation, at numbered par is inserted "July 21, 2016".	agraph 4, line 3, "July 20, 2016" is deleted, and in its place	
within 15 d stipulation.	ays after service of this order, is granted; or 2) the (See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure.) TI	s: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed is court modifies or further modifies the approved ne effective date of this disposition is the effective date ter file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of	
January Date		HIA VALENZUELA 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 January 18, 2017, 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:

TARA JANE ARNOLD 466 CORTONA CV WEST LAKE HILLS, TX 78746

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

Ann J. Kim, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on January 18, 2017.

Julieta E. Gonzales / Case Administrator

State Bar Court