(Do not write above this line.)

#### State Bar Court of California **Hearing Department** Los Angeles ACTUAL SUSPENSION Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 16-0-1238 Kimberly G. Anderson Senior Trial Counsel PUBLIC MATTER 845 S. Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90017 Phone: (213) 765-1083 Bar # 150359 Counsel For Respondent STATE BAR COURT Michael N. Hirota CLERK'S OFFICE Thompson Coe O'Meara, LLP LOS ANGELES 12100 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90025 Phone: (310) 954-2356 Submitted to: Settlement Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND Bar # 280466 DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING In the Matter of: **HUGH ALAN LIPTON ACTUAL SUSPENSION** ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED Bar # 45525 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:

- Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted January 15, 1970. (1)
- The parties agree to be bound by the factual stipulations contained herein even if conclusions of law or (2)disposition are rejected or changed by the Supreme Court.
- All investigations or proceedings listed by case number in the caption of this stipulation are entirely resolved by (3)this stipulation and are deemed consolidated. Dismissed charge(s)/count(s) are listed under "Dismissals." The stipulation consists of 12 pages, not including the order.
- A statement of acts or omissions acknowledged by Respondent as cause or causes for discipline is included (4)



(Effective July 1, 2015)

kwiktag\*



<u>(I</u>	Oo no	t write above this line.)
(	5)	Conclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of Law".
(6	5)	The 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)	) 1	Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 5140.7. (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.  Costs are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: for the three billing cycles following the effective date of the Supreme Court order. (Hardship, special installment as described above, or as may be modified by the State Bar Court, the remaining balance is costs are waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs".
		gravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional conduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are uired.
(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 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.

. 1	Do no	t writ	e above this line.)
(	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	3)		Harm: Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public, or the administration of justice.
(9	3)		Indifference: Respondent demonstrated indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the consequences of his or her misconduct.
(1	0)		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.
(1	1)	$\boxtimes$	Multiple Acts: Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing. See page 9.
(1	2) [		Pattern: Respondent's current misconduct demonstrates a pattern of misconduct.
(1:	3) [		Restitution: Respondent failed to make restitution.
(14	4) [	]	Vulnerable Victim: The victim(s) of Respondent's misconduct was/were highly vulnerable.
(15	5) [	]	No aggravating circumstances are involved.
			aggravating circumstances:
C.	Miti	iga :um	ting Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating istances are required.
(1)	$\boxtimes$	N D	lo Prior Discipline: Respondent has no prior record of discipline over many years of practice coupled rith present misconduct which is not likely to recur. See page 9.
(2)			o Harm: Respondent did not harm the client, the public, or the administration of justice.
(3)			andor/Cooperation: Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation with the victims of s/her misconduct or `to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations and proceedings.
(4)		Re of	emorse: Respondent promptly took objective steps demonstrating spontaneous remorse and recognition the wrongdoing, which steps were designed to timely atone for any consequences of his/her misconduct.
(5)		Re dis	estitution: Respondent paid \$ on in restitution to without the threat or force of sciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.
(6)		De Re	elay: These disciplinary proceedings were excessively delayed. The delay is not attributable to espondent and the delay prejudiced him/her.
(7)		Go	ood Faith: Respondent acted with a good faith belief that was honestly held and objectively reasonable.
(8)		En Re wo	notional/Physical Difficulties: At the time of the stipulated act or acts of professional misconduct spondent suffered extreme emotional difficulties or physical or mental disabilities which expert testimony uld establish was directly responsible for the misconduct. The difficulties or disabilities were not the

<u>(Do</u>	not w	rite al	ove this	s line.)			
		pi Oi	oduct disab	of any illegal conduct by the member, such as illegal drug or substance abuse, and the difficulties ilities no longer pose a risk that Respondent will commit misconduct.			
(9)			HOIT I O	Financial Stress: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered from severe financial stress is sulted from circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and ere directly responsible for the misconduct.			
(10	) [	] Fa	mily F rsonal	<b>Problems:</b> At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her life which were other than emotional or physical in nature.			
(11	) [	] Go in	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)	) [	Re	<b>habili</b> lowed	tation: Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred by convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.			
(13)		No	mitig	ating circumstances are involved.			
Ado	litior	nal m	itigati	ng circumstances:			
	F	re-F	iling S	Stipulation: See page 9.			
<b>.</b>	<b>~</b> !	1 1*					
U. I	JISC	iplir	ne:				
(1)	$\boxtimes$	Sta	yed S	uspension:			
	(a)	$\boxtimes$	Res	pondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one 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 a	above-referenced suspension is stayed.			
(2)	$\boxtimes$	Prol	ation	:			
Respondent must be placed on probation for a period of <b>two years</b> , which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)							
(3)	$\boxtimes$	Actu	al Su	spension:			
	(a)	$\boxtimes$	Resport of 90	ondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period 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			

(D	o not	write	abov	e this li	ne.)
			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.	. Ad	diti	ona	l Co	nditions of Probation:
(1)	) [	a	bilit		dent is actually suspended for two years or more, he/she must remain actually suspended until ves to the State Bar Court his/her rehabilitation, fitness to practice, and present learning and e general law, pursuant to standard 1.2(c)(1), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional f.
(2)		₫ [ F	urin rofe	g the ssion	probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of all Conduct.
(3)	Σ	in	form	nation	(10) days of any change, Respondent must report to the Membership Records Office of the nd to the Office of Probation of the State Bar of California ("Office of Probation"), all changes of including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar as prescribed by section 6002.1 of the Business and Professions Code.
(4)	Ø	N ar co pr	lithir nd so ondit obal	thirty chedu ions d	(30) days from the effective date of discipline, Respondent must contact the Office of Probation le a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss these terms and of probation. Upon the direction of the Office of Probation, Respondent must meet with the eputy either in-person or by telephone. During the period of probation, Respondent must seet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.
(5)		wh co are cu	nethe nditi e an	er Resons of process of the process	must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, 10 October 10 of the period of probation. Under penalty of perjury, Respondent must state spondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all for for from the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state whether there seedings pending against him or her in the State Bar Court and if so, the case number and its of that proceeding. If the first report would cover less than 30 days, that report must be in the next quarter date, and cover the extended period.
		In a	addi enty	tion to (20) o	all quarterly reports, a final report, containing the same information, is due no earlier than days before the last day of the period of probation and no later than the last day of probation.
(6)		Recor Dui	spor dition ring iddit	ndent ons of the pe ion to	must be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent must promptly review the terms and probation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. eriod of probation, Respondent must furnish to the monitor such reports as may be requested, the quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Office of Probation. Respondent must ly with the probation monitor.
(7)	$\boxtimes$	dire	cted	to Re	sertion of applicable privileges, Respondent must answer fully, promptly and truthfully any see Office of Probation and any probation monitor assigned under these conditions which are espondent personally or in writing relating to whether Respondent is complying or has the probation conditions.
(8)	$\boxtimes$				) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must provide to the Office of isfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School, and passage of the test given that session.
			No	Ethi	cs School recommended. Reason:
					*
Effectiv	e Jul	1, 20	)15)		

(Do	(Do not write above this line.)							
(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 Office of Probation.						
(10)	(10) The following		ollowing conditions are attached hereto a	wing conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:				
			Substance Abuse Conditions		Law Office Management Conditions			
			Medical Conditions		Financial Conditions			
F. (	Other	Con	ditions Negotiated by the Parties	s:				
(1) Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination: Respondent must provide the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE"), administered to Conference of Bar Examiners, to the Office of Probation during the period of action one year, whichever period is longer. Failure to pass the MPRE results in actifurther hearing until passage. But see rule 9.10(b), California Rules of Cour (E), Rules of Procedure.		in ("MPRE"), administered by the National ition during the period of actual suspension or within						
		$\square$ N	o MPRE recommended. Reason: .					
(2)	$\boxtimes$				must comply with the requirements of rule <b>9.20</b> , ied in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 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 to period of his/her interim suspension toward the stipulated period of actual suspension. Date of commencement of interim suspension:			cases only]: Respondent will be credited for the ted period of actual suspension. Date of			
(5)		Other	Conditions:					

## Nolo Contendere Plea Stipulations to Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition

The terms of pleading nolo contendere are set forth in the Business and Professions Code and the Rules of Procedures of the State Bar. The applicable provisions are set forth below:

## Business and Professions Code § 6085.5 Disciplinary Charges; Pleas to Allegations

There are three kinds of pleas to the allegations of a notice of disciplinary charges or other pleading which initiates a disciplinary proceeding against a member:

- (a) Admission of culpability.
- (b) Denial of culpability.
- (c) Nolo contendere, subject to the approval of the State Bar Court. The court shall ascertain whether the member completely understands that a plea of nolo contendere will be considered the same as an admission of culpability and that, upon a plea of nolo contendere, the court will find the member culpable. The legal effect of such a plea will be the same as that of an admission of culpability for all purposes, except that the plea and any admissions required by the court during any inquiry it makes as to the voluntariness of, or the factual basis for, the pleas, may not be used against the member as an admission in any civil suit based upon or growing out of the act upon which the disciplinary proceeding is based.

Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, rule 5.56. Stipulations to Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition

"(A) Contents. A proposed stipulation to facts, conclusions of law, and disposition must comprise: (T) . . . (T)

(5) a statement that the member either:

(a) admits the truth of the facts comprising the stipulation and admits culpability for misconduct; or

(b) pleads nolo contendere to those facts and misconduct;

(B) Plea of Noio Contendere. If the member pleads noio contendere, the stipulation must also show that the member understands that the plea is treated as an admission of the stipulated facts and an admission of culpability."

I, the Respondent in this matter, have read the applicable provisions of Business and Professions Code section 6085.5 and rule 5.56 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. I plead nolo contendere to the charges set forth in this stipulation and I completely understand that my plea will be considered the same as an admission of culpability except as stated in Business and Professions Code section 6085.5(c).

4/11/18 Date	Respondent's Signature	HUGH ALAN LIPTON
	respondent a digital diffe	Print Name

#### **ATTACHMENT TO**

## STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

**HUGH ALAN LIPTON** 

CASE NUMBER:

16-0-12381

#### FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Respondent pleads nolo contendere to the following facts and violations. Respondent completely understands that the plea for nolo contendere shall be considered the same as an admission of the stipulated facts and of his culpability of the statutes and/or Rules of Professional Conduct specified herein.

## Case No. 16-O-12381 (Complainant: Shawn Clement)

#### FACTS:

- 1. On April 7, 2013, attorney Robert Victor ("Victor") was disbarred in the case entitled *In the Matter of Robert Victor*, State Bar Court Case No. 11-O-13464.
- 2. In or about late 2014 or early 2015, Shawn Clement ("Clement") needed legal assistance in an ongoing marital dissolution case entitled *Waldman v. Clement*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. PD049268. An acquaintance of Clement's told him of Victor, and indicated Victor was someone who could "get things done."
- 3. Shortly thereafter, Clement met with Victor and Victor advised Clement that he could help him with his legal and financial problems. At some point during his conversations with Victor, Victor told Clement that he was not a licensed attorney, but that he was actively seeking to regain his law license.
- 4. In or about late 2014 or early 2015, Clement agreed to permit Victor to "represent" him, and Victor told Clement he would obtain a licensed attorney to assist with Clement's legal issues, but that Victor would do all the work. Victor then introduced Clement to an attorney. Between April 8, 2015 and December 16, 2015, Clement was represented by that attorney, who substituted out of the marital dissolution case on behalf of Clement. Thereafter, Victor advised Clement to hire another attorney, Respondent. Respondent knew that Victor had been disbarred.
- 5. During the time Respondent was the attorney of record, he professionally associated with Victor, and he aided Victor in the unauthorized practice of law in Clement's case by permitting Victor to negotiate with opposing counsel in the marital dissolution case, and by permitting Victor to sit at counsel table in court and argue and advocate on behalf of Clement at two separate court hearings.
- 6. On January 11, 2016, Victor appeared at a mandatory settlement conference with Respondent and Clement and was permitted to sit at counsel table and negotiate a settlement off the record with the opposing party and her attorney. During the settlement conference, Respondent referred to Victor as his "co-counsel," then corrected himself, thereafter addressing Victor as his "legal assistant." During the

settlement discussions Victor addressed the judge and handled nearly all of the discussions and Respondent did not say anything. Victor laid out the settlement terms on the record and discussed tax implications of the settlement.

7. On February 3, 2016, Victor appeared in court with Respondent and Clement at another hearing to finalize the terms of the settlement in court. Opposing counsel and his client were also present. Over opposing counsel's objections, the court permitted Victor to sit at counsel table with Respondent and to address the court on behalf of Clement. At one point during the hearing, the judge told Victor he could not participate. While Respondent did participate in the hearing, both before and after the judge told Victor he could not participate, Victor continued to handle the majority of the hearing on behalf of Clement.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- 8. By permitting Victor to negotiate with opposing counsel and to appear in court and argue on behalf of his client, Clement, on January 11, 2016 and on February 3, 2016 in a marital dissolution case entitled Waldman v. Clement, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. PD049268, Respondent associated professionally with, and aided a person, whom Respondent knew was a disbarred member, to render legal consultation or advice to the client, appear on behalf of a client in any hearing or proceeding or before any judicial officer, arbitrator, mediator, court, public agency, referee, magistrate, commissioner, or hearing officer, negotiate or transact for or on behalf of the client with third parties, and engage in activities that constitute the practice of law, in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 1-311(B).
- 9. By delegating to Victor the primary responsibility for handling the litigation in the case entitled *Waldman v. Clement*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. PD049268, permitting Victor to appear and argue in court on or about January 11, 2016 and on or about February 3, 2016 on behalf of Respondent's client, Clement, and failing to supervise Victor, Respondent aided Victor, a disbarred attorney who was not entitled to practice law in California, in the unauthorized practice of law, in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 1-300(A).

#### AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Multiple Acts of Wrongdoing (Std. 1.5(b)): Respondent's misconduct involves aiding Victor in two separate incidents of unauthorized practice of law, as well as associating professionally with Victor.

#### MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Discipline (Std. 1.6(a): Respondent was admitted to practice law in 1970 and has no prior record of discipline. Respondent has terminated his relationship with Victor, which indicates that his misconduct will not likely recur.

Pre-filing Stipulation: By entering into this stipulation, respondent has saved the State Bar resources and time. (In the Matter of Johnson (Review Dept. 2000) 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 179, 190.) However, Respondent's mitigation for entering into a pre-filing stipulation is not entitled to as significant weight as he would have been entitled to had he admitted the facts and circumstances. In this instance, Respondent has elected to plead nolo contendere as opposed to admitting the facts.

### 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 this matter, respondent admits to committing two acts of professional misconduct. Standard 1.7(a) requires that where a respondent "commits two or more acts of misconduct and the Standards specify different sanctions for each act, the most severe sanction must be imposed."

Standard 2.19 applies to Respondent's violations of both rules 1-311(B) and 1-300(A) of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Standard 2.19 provides, "[s]uspension not to exceed three years or reproval is the presumed sanction for a violation of a provision of the Rules of Professional Conduct not specified in these Standards."

Respondent's 45-years of practice without prior discipline is a substantial mitigating factor since Respondent has terminated his relationship with Victor, and since the misconduct is not likely to recur. Respondent is also entitled to some mitigation for entering into a pre-filing stipulation, which saves the State Bar time and resources, but such mitigation is only entitled to limited weight since Respondent had pled nolo contendere in this matter and has not admitted the facts. Even though Respondent has been an attorney for a long time, misconduct involving knowingly aiding a disbarred attorney in the unauthorized practice of law is serious misconduct, and the misconduct occurred on multiple (two separate) occasions. Therefore, there is a need for measured discipline involving more than just the minimal amount of actual suspension. In this instance, weighing the misconduct with the relevant aggravating and mitigating factors, discipline of 90-days' actual suspension, two years' probation and one year stayed suspension will serve to impress upon the Respondent the significance of this misconduct so as to prevent it in the future, to maintain the integrity of the attorney discipline system, protection of the public, and maintenance of public confidence in the legal profession.

The level of discipline is also consistent with case law. In the Matter of Huang (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 295, where an attorney lent his name and law license to non-attorneys offers some guidance. Huang operated a high-volume loan modification law practice run almost exclusively by non-attorneys. In that case, Huang was actually suspended for two years and until he demonstrates rehabilitation for aiding unauthorized practice of law, failure to supervise and charging illegal fees for loan modification in eight client matters. Given that Huang operated a large mill over a longer period of time, a much lower level of discipline is appropriate in the present case.

In the Matter of Nelson (Review Dept. 1990) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 178, provides further guidance on the appropriate level of discipline. In this case, Nelson entered a partnership to practice law with a non-lawyer, divided fees with the non-lawyer, and used the non-lawyer as a capper over a six-month time period. In addition, cases were transferred to another lawyer who settled cases without client authority and misappropriated a portion of their settlement proceeds. There, the respondent showed mitigation in the form of decisive withdrawal from the misconduct and thorough cooperation with the State Bar. In addition, five years had elapsed between the misconduct and the hearing. In Nelson. respondent received six months actual suspension. The Review Department reasoned that the attorney's strong mitigation lessened the need for the type of strict discipline imposed by the Supreme Court in such matters, but did not eliminate the need for measurable discipline to maintain the integrity of and public confidence in the legal profession.

While Nelson's misconduct is also more egregious than the present case, the conduct is analogous. Considering that Respondent knowingly engaged in two incidents of aiding unauthorized practice of law in a single client matter by a disbarred attorney, but without moral turpitude, discipline of 90-days' actual suspension, two-years' probation and one-year stayed suspension is in keeping with both the Standards and the case law.

### COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of May 30, 2018, the discipline costs in this matter are \$3,300. 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 MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION ("MCLE") CREDIT

Respondent may <u>not</u> receive MCLE credit for completion of State Bar Ethics School and State Bar Client Trust Accounting School, 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: HUGH ALAN LIPTON	Case number(s): 16-O-12381	

### 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.

	^	The Disposition.
6/19/18	Dough G. arplan	- Hugh Lipton
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
6/19/18	Militar	Michael Hirota
Date / / /	Respondent's Counse Signature	Print Name
6/19/18	- Main Ih. Man	KIMBERLY G. ANDERSON
Date /	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name
	11	

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

[Rules Proc. of State Bar; Rule 5.27(B); Code Civ. Proc., § 1013a(4)]

I am a Court Specialist 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 July 2, 2018, 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:

FRANCES M. O'MEARA THOMPSON COE & O'MEARA, LLP 12100 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 1200 LOS ANGELES, CA 90025

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

KIMBERLY G. ANDERSON, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on July 2, 2018.

Court Specialist
State Bar Court