State Bar Court of California **Hearing Department** San Francisco **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 17-0-01676 Jennifer Roque **Deputy Trial Counsel PUBLIC MATTER 180 Howard Street** San Francisco, CA 94105 FILED (415) 538-2452 JAN 08 2018 VV Bar # 282441 In Pro Per Respondent STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO **Navinder Virk** 1336 16th Ave Apt 1 San Francisco, CA 94122 Submitted to: Settlement Judge Bar # 224585 STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND In the Matter of: DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING **NAVINDER VIRK ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Bar # 224585 ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED A Member of the State Bar of California

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 April 7, 2003.
- (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".



(Respondent)

(6) 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) Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6096.10 & 6140.7. (Check one option only): □ Uniti 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: (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 walved in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Weiver of Costs". □ Costs are entirely waived. ■ Aggravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are required. (1) □ Prior record of discipline (a) □ State Bar Court case # of prior case 15-0-11180. See Exhibit 1; See Attachment at pg. 8 (b) □ Date prior discipline effective February 19, 2016 (c) □ Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Business and Professions Code section folio for falsely reporting compliance with the minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) during the period of February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2014. (d) □ Degree of prior discipline 30-day actual suspension (e) □ Intentional/Bad Faith/Dishonesty: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, misrepresentation. □ Concealment: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, concealment. □ Concealment: Respondent's mi	(Do 1	not writ	e above this line.)
pending investigation/proceeding not resolved by this stipulation, except for criminal investigations. Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 6140.7. (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: (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. B. Aggravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are required. (1) ☑ Prior record of discipline (a) ☑ State Bar Court case # of prior case 15-O-11190. See Exhibit 1; See Attachment at pg. 8 (b) ☑ Date prior discipline effective February 19, 2016 (c) ☑ Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Business and Professions Code section 8106 for falsely reporting compliance with the minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) during the period of February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2014. (d) ☑ Degree of prior discipline 30-day actual suspension (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, misrepresentation. Generalment: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, misrepresentation. Wisrepresentation: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, overreaching. Uncharged Violations: Respondent's conduct was surrounded by, or follow	(6)		
6140.7. (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: (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. B. Aggravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are required. The prior record of discipline are compared to the partial waiver of Costs" are entirely waived.	(7)		
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: (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. B. Aggravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are required. (1) Prior record of discipline (a) State Bar Court case # of prior case 15-0-11190. See Exhibit 1; See Attachment at pg. 8 (b) Date prior discipline effective February 19, 2016 (c) Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Business and Professions Code section 6106 for falsely reporting compliance with the minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) during the period of February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2014. (d) Degree of prior discipline 30-day actual suspension (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, concealment. (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. 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 towar	(8)		
Misconduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are required. (1) Prior record of discipline (a) State Bar Court case # of prior case 15-0-11190. See Exhibit 1; See Attachment at pg. 8 (b) Date prior discipline effective February 19, 2016 (c) Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Business and Professions Code section 6106 for falsely reporting compliance with the minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) during the period of February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2014. (d) Degree of prior discipline 30-day actual suspension (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) 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		_	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: (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".
 (a) State Bar Court case # of prior case 15-0-11190. See Exhibit 1; See Attachment at pg. 8 (b)	i	Misc	onduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are
(c) ⊠ Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Business and Professions Code section 6106 for falsely reporting compliance with the minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) during the period of February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2014. (d) ☑ Degree of prior discipline 30-day actual suspension (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) ☐ 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	(1)		
6106 for falsely reporting compliance with the minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) during the period of February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2014. (d) Degree of prior discipline 30-day actual suspension (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) 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		(b)	☐ Date prior discipline effective February 19, 2016
(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) 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		(c)	6106 for falsely reporting compliance with the minimum continuing legal education (MCLE)
 (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) 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 		(d)	☑ Degree of prior discipline 30-day actual suspension
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		(e)	☐ If Respondent has two or more incidents of prior discipline, use space provided below.
 (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 	(2)		
 (5)	(3)		Misrepresentation: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, misrepresentation.
 (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 	(4)		Concealment: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, concealment.
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	(5)		Overreaching: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by, or followed by, overreaching.
to the client or person who was the object of the misconduct for improper conduct toward said funds or	(6)		
	(7)		to the client or person who was the object of the misconduct for improper conduct toward said funds or

(Do no	t write	above this line.)
(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
(10)		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)	\boxtimes	Multiple Acts: Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing. See attachment at pg.8
(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.
Addi	tiona	al aggravating circumstances:
	_	ating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating mstances 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 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.

(Do no	ot write	e abov	this line.)			
(9)		whic	resulted from	tress: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered from severe financial stress circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and esponsible for the misconduct.		
(10)	\boxtimes		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. See attachment at pg. 8			
(11)				despondent's extraordinarily good character is attested to by a wide range of references eral communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct.		
(12)				nsiderable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurreding proof of subsequent rehabilitation.		
(13)		No r	itigating circu	mstances are involved.		
Addi	tiona	al mit	gating circums	stances:		
	P	refilir	g Stipulation.	See attachment at pg. 8		
D. D	isci	iplin	:			
(1)	\boxtimes	Stay	ed Suspension			
	(a)	\boxtimes	Respondent m	ust be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year.		
		i.	fitness to	Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and practice and present learning and ability in the general law pursuant to standard Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.		
		ii.	and until this stipu	Respondent pays restitution as set forth in the Financial Conditions form attached to lation.		
		iii.	☐ and until	Respondent does the following: .		
	(b)	\boxtimes	The above-refe	erenced suspension is stayed.		
(2)	\boxtimes	Probation:				
				eed on probation for a period of one (1) year , which will commence upon the effective rt order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)		
(3)	\boxtimes	Actu	al Suspension:	:		
	(a)	\boxtimes	Respondent moof 90 days.	ust be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period		
		i.	fitness to	Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and practice and present learning and ability in the general law pursuant to standard Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct		
		ii.	and until this stipu	Respondent pays restitution as set forth in the Financial Conditions form attached to lation.		
		iii.	and until	Respondent does the following: .		

	Additions	d Conditions	of Probation
_		u i .nnaimane	ot Fronation.

(1)		If Respondent is actually suspended for two years or more, he/she must remain actually suspended until he/she proves to the State Bar Court his/her rehabilitation, 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.				
(2)	\boxtimes	During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.				
(3)		Within ten (10) days of any change, Respondent must report to the Membership Records Office of the State Bar and to the Office of Probation of the State Bar of California ("Office of Probation"), all changes of information, including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar purposes, as prescribed by section 6002.1 of the Business and Professions Code.				
(4)	\boxtimes	Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of discipline, Respondent must contact the Office of Probation and schedule a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss these terms and conditions of probation. Upon the direction of the Office of Probation, Respondent must meet with the probation deputy either in-person or by telephone. During the period of probation, Respondent must promptly meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.				
(5)		Respondent must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the period of probation. Under penalty of perjury, Respondent must state whether Respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all conditions of probation during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state whether there are any proceedings pending against him or her in the State Bar Court and if so, the case number and current status of that proceeding. If the first report would cover less than 30 days, that report must be submitted on the next quarter date, and cover the extended period.				
		In addition to all quarterly reports, a final report, containing the same information, is due no earlier than twenty (20) days before the last day of the period of probation and no later than the last day of probation.				
(6)		Respondent must be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent must promptly review the terms and conditions of probation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. During the period of probation, Respondent must furnish to the monitor such reports as may be requested, in addition to the quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Office of Probation. Respondent must cooperate fully with the probation monitor.				
(7)	Ø	Subject to assertion of applicable privileges, Respondent must answer fully, promptly and truthfully any inquiries of the Office of Probation and any probation monitor assigned under these conditions which are directed to Respondent personally or in writing relating to whether Respondent is complying or has complied with the probation conditions.				
(8)	☒	Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must provide to the Office of Probation satisfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.				
		☐ No Ethics School recommended. Reason:				
(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)		The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:				
		☐ Substance Abuse Conditions ☐ Law Office Management Conditions				

(Do n	(Do not write above this line.)						
		☐ Medical Conditions			Financial Conditions		
F. C	F. Other Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:						
(1)		the Multistate Professional I Conference of Bar Examine one year, whichever period	Responsibility Exaners, to the Office of list longer. Failure to	ninatio Proba to pas	on: Respondent must provide proof of passage of on ("MPRE"), administered by the National tion during the period of actual suspension or within is the MPRE results in actual suspension without), California Rules of Court, and rule 5.162(A) &		
		☐ No MPRE recommended	d. Reason: .				
(2)	⊠	California Rules of Court, a	nd perform the acts	speci	must comply with the requirements of rule 9.20, fied in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 e date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.		
(3)		days or more, he/she must perform the acts specified in	comply with the req n subdivisions (a) a	luirem nd (c)	If Respondent remains actually suspended for 90 ents of rule 9.20 , California Rules of Court, and of that rule within 120 and 130 calendar days, Court's Order in this matter.		
(4)			pension toward the		I cases only]: Respondent will be credited for the lated period of actual suspension. Date of		
(5)		Other Conditions:					

ATTACHMENT TO

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

NAVINDER VIRK

CASE NUMBER:

17-0-01676

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. 17-O-01676

FACTS:

- 1. On August 28, 2015, respondent entered into a Stipulation Re Facts, Conclusions of Law and Disposition ("Stipulation"), with the State Bar of California in Case No. 15-O-11190 for a 30-day actual suspension, one year stayed suspension, and one year of probation.
- 2. Per the terms and conditions of her probation, respondent was required to
 - a. Submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 within the one year period of probation.
 - b. Submit proof of attendance of Ethics School and passage of the test given at the end of the session within the one year period of probation.
- 3. On September 15, 2015, the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court filed an Order Approving the Stipulation, recommending to the California Supreme Court the discipline set forth in the Stipulation.
- 4. On January 20, 2016, the California Supreme Court filed Order Number S230677 (State Bar Case Number 15-O-11190) ("Discipline Order").
- 5. The Discipline Order became effective on February 19, 2016.
- 6. On February 19, 2016, the Office of Probation mailed and emailed a letter to respondent outlining all of the probation conditions, including the corresponding deadlines. Respondent received the letter.
- 7. On March 20, 2016, respondent met with her probation deputy, and respondent was informed again of the conditions of her probation, including deadlines and consequences of non-compliance.
- 8. Prior to October 11, 2016, registered to attend Ethics School on October 20, 2016. However, she failed to attend the class.

- 9. Respondent failed to file a Quarterly Report by the due date of January 10, 2017.
- 10. Respondent failed to submit proof of attendance of the State Bar Ethics School and passage of the test given at the end of the session by February 19, 2017.
- 11. On February 22, 2017, respondent's probation deputy mailed and emailed a non-compliance letter to respondent advising her that she was not in compliance with the terms of her probation because she had failed to submit a quarterly report by the due date of January 10, 2017, and failed to submit proof of Ethics School attendance by February 19, 2017. Respondent received the letter.
- 12. On November 14, 2017, respondent submitted a Quarterly Report that was due on January 10, 2017.
- 13. On December 12, 2017, respondent registered to attend Ethics School scheduled on May 8, 2018.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

14. By failing to file a quarterly report by the due date January 10, 2017, and failing to provide proof of attendance of Ethics School by February 19, 2017, respondent failed to comply with the conditions attached to her disciplinary probation, in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(k).

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Prior Record of Discipline (Std. 1.5(a)): Respondent has one prior record of discipline. In Case No. 15-O-11190 (S230677), effective February 19, 2017. Respondent stipulated to a 30-day actual suspension for falsely reporting compliance with the minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) during the period of February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2014, in violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106. There were no aggravating factors. In mitigation, respondent had no prior record of discipline and received credit for entering into a pre-filing stipulation.

Multiple Acts of Wrongdoing (Std. 1.5(b)): Respondent's violation of two separate conditions of her probation demonstrate multiple acts of wrongdoing.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Prefiling Stipulation: Respondent is entitled to mitigation if she enters into a stipulation with the Office of Chief Trial Counsel prior to the filing of charges in the above referenced disciplinary matter, thereby saving State Bar Court time and resources. (*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].)

Family Problems: Respondent has provided evidence that she could not attend Ethics School on October 20, 2016 because had to fly home to take care of her mother who had fallen ill.

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.) The standards help fulfill the primary purpose 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 discipline 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 lesser 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).)

Standard 2.14 applies to violations of disciplinary probation and provides: "Actual suspension is the presumed sanction for failing to comply with a condition of discipline. The degree of sanctions depends on the nature of the condition violated and the member's unwillingness or inability to comply with disciplinary orders." Respondent has since filed her quarterly report, and has registered for Ethics School. She is current with her other probation conditions.

Standard 1.8(a) also applies because respondent has one prior record of discipline. Standard 1.8(a) provides: "If a member has a single prior record of discipline, the sanction must be greater than the previously imposed sanction unless the prior discipline was so remote in time and the previous misconduct was not serious enough that imposing a greater discipline would be manifestly unjust." Respondent's prior was serious and recent, therefore a higher level of discipline than 30-days of actual suspension is warranted under the standards.

To determine the appropriate level of discipline, consideration must also be given to the aggravating and mitigating circumstances. In aggravation, respondent has a prior record of discipline, and has committed multiple acts of misconduct. Respondent is entitled to mitigation for entering into a prefiling settlement, and family difficulties she was undergoing at the time the misconduct occurred. Specifically, respondent had registered to attend Ethics School on October 20, 2016, but was unable to attend as she had to leave town that week to tend to her sick mother. It is also noted that respondent is now in compliance with her probation conditions. Discipline at the mid-range of the standards is appropriate.

Case law is instructive. In *In the Matter of Howard* (Review Dept. 1993) 2 Cal. State Bar. Ct. Rptr. 445, the Court recommended a one-year actual suspension for an attorney who failed to timely deliver the appropriate financial records to the CPA to render an accounting of trust assets, and failed to submit two quarterly reports to the Office of Probation, per the terms and conditions of his disciplinary probation. In aggravation, the attorney had one prior record of discipline where he received a 30-day actual suspension, in which he was was appointed trustee of a testamentary trust and had agreed to provide an accounting and estate files upon his resignation at trustee, but failed to do so, and the attorney also failed to cooperate in the State Bar's investigation and defaulted in the matter. There were no mitigating factors.

Here, respondent has failed to comply with the conditions of her probation by failing to timely submit a quarterly report and to attend Ethics School, and has a prior record of discipline, which is similar to the facts in *Howard*. However, unlike *Howard*, respondent is entitled to mitigation credit for her family problems and accepting responsibility by entering into this stipulation. Therefore, absent the aggravating factor of a default and in consideration of the aforementioned mitigating circumstances, discipline should be lower than that imposed in *Howard*.

On balance, a 90-day actual suspension, a one year stayed suspension, and one year probationary period will serve the purposes of attorney discipline.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of December 1, 2017, the discipline costs in this matter are \$3,215. 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/or any other educational course(s) to be ordered as a condition of reproval or suspension. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

NATURE OF THE PARTIES
eir counsel, as applicable, signify their agreement with each of the ons of this Stipulation Re Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition
es Ree Navinder Virk
gnature Print Name
punsel Signature Print Name
Jennifer Roque Print Name
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \

(Do not write at	ove this line.))
In the Matte NAVIND		Case Number(s): 17-O-01676
	ACTUAL	SUSPENSION ORDER
	stipulation to be fair to the parties and t smissal of counts/charges, if any, is G	that it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the RANTED without prejudice, and:
Ø	The stipulated facts and disposition a Supreme Court.	are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the
	The stipulated facts and disposition a DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to	are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the the Supreme Court.
P	All Hearing dates are vacated.	
within 15 day stipulation. (3 of the Supre	/s after service of this order, is granted See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Proce	ed unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed d; or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved dure.) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date days after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of
Court.)	\$ 2018	Jun M
Date		LUCY ARNENDARIZ Judge of the State Bar Court

(Effective July 1, 2015)

SUPREME COURT FILED

JAN 20 2016

(State Bar Court No. 15-O-11190)

S230677

Frank A. McGuire Clerk

Deputy

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA

En Banc

In re NAVINDER VIRK on Discipline

The court orders that Navinder Virk, State Bar Number 224585, is suspended from the practice of law in California for one year, execution of that period of suspension is stayed, and she is placed on probation for one year subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Navinder Virk is suspended from the practice of law for the first 30 days of probation;
- 2. Navinder Virk must comply with the other conditions of probation recommended by the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court in its Order Approving Stipulation filed on September 15, 2015; and
- 3. At the expiration of the period of probation, if Navinder Virk has complied with all conditions of probation, the period of stayed suspension will be satisfied and that suspension will be terminated.

Navinder Virk must also take and pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination within one year after the effective date of this order and provide satisfactory proof of such passage to the State Bar's Office of Probation in Los Angeles within the same period. Failure to do so may result in suspension. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.10(b).)

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment. One-half of the costs must be paid with her membership fees for each of the years 2017 and 2018. If Navinder Virk 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.

I, Frank A. McGuire, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of California, do hereby certify that the preceding is a true copy of an order of this Court as shown by the records of my office.	CANTIL-SAKA	UYE
Witness my hand and the seal of the Court this	Chief Justice	
day of	EXHIBIT	
By: Deputy	1	

State Bar Court of California **Hearing Department** San Francisco **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Counsel For The State Bar For Court use only Case Number(s): 15-0-11190 **PUBLIC MATTER** Susan Chan Supervising Senior Trial Counsel 180 Howard Street **FILED** San Francisco, CA 94105 SFP 1 5 2015 Bar # 233229 In Pro Per Respondent STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE **Navinder Virk** SAN FRANCISCO 1336 16th Ave., Apt. 1 San Francisco, CA 94122 Submitted to: Assigned Judge Bar # 224585 STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND In the Matter of: DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING **NAVINDER VIRK ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Bar # 224585 □ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED 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:

- (1) Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted April 7, 2003.
- (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".

<u>(Dở r</u>	ot wri	e above this line.)
(6)		e parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading apporting Authority."
(7)	No per	more than 30 days prior to the filing of this stipulation, Respondent has been advised in writing of any nding investigation/proceeding not resolved by this stipulation, except for criminal investigations.
(8)		yment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 10.7. (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: two (2) billing cycles following the effective date of the Supreme Court order. (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".
1	Aggı Visc	ravating 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 Falth/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)		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.

(Dó n	ot writ	e above this line.)
(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
(10)		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)	×	No aggravating circumstances are involved.
Addi	tion	al aggravating circumstances:
	N	one.
	_	ating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating mstances 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 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.

)

(Do n	ot wri	te abo	ve this li	ne.)
(9)		WN	ich resi	inancial Stress: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered from severe financial stress ulted from circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and re directly responsible for the misconduct.
(10)		Fai per	mily Pr sonal l	roblems: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her ife which were other than emotional or physical in nature.
(11)		Go in t	od Ch a he lega	aracter: Respondent's extraordinarily good character is attested to by a wide range of references at and general communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct.
(12)		Rei folk	h abilit i owed b	ation: Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred y convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.
(13)		No	mitiga	ting circumstances are involved.
Addi	tion	al mi	itigatin	g circumstances:
	N P	io Pri re-fil	ior Dis ling St	cipline - See attachment at page 8. Ipulation - See attachment at page 8.
D. D	isci	plin	le:	
(1)	\boxtimes	Sta	yed Su	spension:
	(a)	\boxtimes	Resp	condent 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.
,		il.		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)	X	Prol	bation	
	Res of th	pond e Su	lent mu preme	ist be placed on probation for a period of one year, w hich will commence upon the effective date Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)
(3)	\boxtimes	Actu	ıal Sus	spension:
	(a)	☒	Respondent	ondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period rty (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.

	(Do not write above this line.)						
			iii. and until Respondent does the following:				
E. Additional Conditions of Probation:							
	(1)		If Respondent is actually suspended for two years or more, he/she must remain actually suspended until he/she proves to the State Bar Court his/her rehabilitation, 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.				
	(2)	×	During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules Professional Conduct.				
	(3)	×	Within ten (10) days of any change, Respondent must report to the Membership Records Office of the State Bar and to the Office of Probation of the State Bar of California ("Office of Probation"), all changes of information, including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar purposes, as prescribed by section 6002.1 of the Business and Professions Code.				
	(4)		Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of discipline, Respondent must contact the Office of Probation and schedule a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss these terms and conditions of probation. Upon the direction of the Office of Probation, Respondent must meet with the probation deputy either in-person or by telephone. During the period of probation, Respondent must promptly meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.				
	(5)		Respondent must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the period of probation. Under penalty of perjury, Respondent must state whether Respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all conditions of probation during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state whether there are any proceedings pending against him or her in the State Bar Court and if so, the case number and current status of that proceeding. If the first report would cover less than 30 days, that report must be submitted on the next quarter date, and cover the extended period.				
			In addition to all quarterly reports, a final report, containing the same information, is due no earlier than twenty (20) days before the last day of the period of probation and no later than the last day of probation.				
	(6)		Respondent must be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent must promptly review the terms and conditions of probation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. During the period of probation, Respondent must furnish to the monitor such reports as may be requested, in addition to the quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Office of Probation. Respondent must cooperate fully with the probation monitor.				
	(7)	×	Subject to assertion of applicable privileges, Respondent must answer fully, promptly and truthfully any inquiries of the Office of Probation and any probation monitor assigned under these conditions which are directed to Respondent personally or in writing relating to whether Respondent is complying or has complied with the probation conditions.				
	(8)	×	Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must provide to the Office of Probation satisfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.				
			☐ No Ethics School recommended. Reason:				
	(9 <u>)</u>		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.				

(Do n	ot write	above	this line.)			
(10)		The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:				
			Substance Abuse Conditions		Law Office Management Conditions	
			Medical Conditions		Financial Conditions	
F. C	the	r Cor	nditions Negotiated by the P	arties:		
(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)		Othe	er Conditions:			

ATTACHMENT TO

STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

NAVINDER VIRK

CASE NUMBER:

15-0-11190

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

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

Case No. 15-O-11190 (State Bar Investigation)

FACTS:

- 1. In order to remain as an active member of the State Bar, respondent was required to complete 25 hours of minimum continuing legal education ("MCLE") during the period of February 1, 2011, through January 31, 2014 (the "compliance period").
- 2. On June 3, 2014, respondent reported under penalty of perjury to the State Bar that she was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, and, in particular, that she had completed her MCLE during the compliance period.
- 3. In fact, respondent had completed zero hours of MCLE compliance within the compliance period.
- 4. When respondent reported to the State Bar under penalty of perjury that she was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, respondent knew that she had not completed the necessary MCLE units during the compliance period as required.
- 5. Respondent was placed on Administrative Inactive Status from November 1, 2014 January 1, 2015, for failure to comply with MCLE requirements.
- 6. Subsequently, respondent completed the required MCLE hours after the compliance period and MCLE audit and paid a \$75 penalty fee and \$200 reinstatement fee.
 - 7. On January 5, 2015, was reinstated to the practice of law.

CONCLUSION OF LAW:

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

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

None.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Discipline: Respondent had practiced law for 11 years without a prior record of discipline when the misconduct herein occurred. Respondent is entitled to mitigating credit for no prior discipline even where the underlying misconduct is found to be serious or significant. (In the Matter of Stamper (Review Dept. 1990) 1 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 96, 106, fn. 13; In the Matter of Riordan (Review Dept. 2007) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 41, 49).

Pre-filing Stipulation: Respondent has agreed to stipulate as to facts and discipline to fully resolve this matter without necessity of a trial, thereby saving the State Bar time and resources. (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 the 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 applicable standard is found in standard 2.11, which applies to respondent's misrepresentation and provides:

Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for an act of moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, corruption, intentional or grossly negligent misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact. The degree of sanction depends on the magnitude of the misconduct and the extent to which the misconduct harmed or misled the victim, which may include the adjudicator; the impact on the administration of justice, if any; and the extent to which the misconduct and related to the member's practice of law.

Here, actual suspension is appropriate because respondent's misrepresentation to the State Bar regarding respondent's MCLE compliance, made under penalty of perjury, constitutes an act of dishonesty directly related to the practice of law and places respondent's fitness to practice law in question. Additionally, misrepresentations are compounded when made in writing under penalty of perjury, which thereby includes an imprimatur of veracity which should place a reasonable person on notice to take care that his statement is accurate, complete and true. (In the Matter of Maloney and Virsik (Review Dept. 2005) 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 774, 786.) For these reasons, respondent's misconduct is serious and undermines public confidence in the profession.

However, the degree of discipline necessary to protect the public is mitigated by the fact that respondent has, with this stipulation, acknowledged the wrongfulness of the misconduct. Additionally, respondent had 11 years in practice with no prior discipline at the time the misconduct occurred. These facts indicate that respondent is amenable to rehabilitation and conforming to ethical standards in the future. A level of discipline at the low end of the range of discipline set forth in standard 2.11 is consistent with the purposes of imposing sanctions for attorney misconduct.

Guidance on the level of discipline to be imposed in this matter can be found in *In the Matter of Yee* (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 330. Yee affirmed compliance with 25 hours of MCLE based on her memory, but upon audit was unable to produce proof of any courses and did not check or maintain any records to confirm her recollection before affirmation. The Review Department affirmed Yee's inaccurate compliance report was grossly negligent and amounted to moral turpitude but was not an intentional misrepresentation. The Review Department imposed a public reproval. Yee had a 22-year discipline-free record and proved five factors in mitigation: [1) no prior record of discipline in 22 years; 2) candor and cooperation for admitting her misconduct to the investigator before trial and at the hearing below and for stipulating to facts and to admission of all exhibits; 3) extraordinary good character, as attested by 11 witnesses from varied backgrounds; 4) remorse/recognition of wrongdoing by acknowledging her wrongdoing and changing her recordkeeping practices; and 5) significant probono/ community service].

The instant respondent's matter is distinguishable from the attorney's in Yee. Yee proved "extraordinary good character" and four other factors in mitigation. This respondent has presented no character evidence. The only factors in mitigation this respondent shares with Yee is that she has practiced for many years with no prior record and is admitting her misconduct. This respondent has offered no evidence of pro bono or community service. In all other relevant respects, the cases are factually distinct. Respondent's misconduct is serious and warrants actual suspension.

In light of the totality of the facts and circumstances surrounding respondent's misconduct, the mitigation afforded respondent's discipline-free record and cooperation in resolving this matter, and in light of standard 2.11, discipline consisting of a one-year suspension, stayed, and a one-year period of probation with conditions, including a 30-day actual suspension from the practice of law, 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.

EXCLUSION FROM MCLE CREDIT

Pursuant to rule 3201, Respondent may <u>not</u> receive MCLE credit for completion of State Bar Ethics School, MPRE and/or any other educational course(s) to be ordered as a condition of reproval or suspension (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201).

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of August 24, 2015, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$3,066.00. Respondent further acknowledges that should this stipulation be rejected or should relief from the stipulation be granted, the costs in this matter may increase because of the cost of further proceedings.

(Do not write above this line.)					
In the Matter of: NAVINDER VIRK	Case number(s): 15-0-11190				
	SIGNATURE OF THE I	PARTIES			
By their signatures bek recitations and each of	ow, the parties and their counsel, as applicab the terms and conditions of this Stipulation F	ele, signify their agreement with each of the Re Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition.			
8/28/15	Dunder Gene	Navinder Virk			
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name			
Date /	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name			
8/31/15	Olober Lender for	Susan Chan			
Date /	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature 500	Print Name			
	,	The Way			

}

(Do not write a	above this line.)		
In the Mat NAVIND	ter of: ER VIRK	Case Number(s): 15-O-11190	
	ACTU	IAL SUSPENSION ORDER	
Finding the requested d	stipulation to be fair to the parties a lismissal of counts/charges, if any,	and that it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the is GRANTED without prejudice, and:	
P	The stipulated facts and disposit Supreme Court.	tion are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the	
The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.			
J	All Hearing dates are vacated.		
	*		
	•		
within 15 da ₎ stipulation. (ys after service of this order, is gra See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Pi	proved unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed inted; or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved rocedure.) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date y 30 days after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of	
5	est. 15 2015	Ly Al	
Date		Judge of the State Bar Court	
		LUCY ARMENDARIZ	

(Effective July 1, 2015)

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

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

CASE NUMBER(s): Case No. 15-O-11190

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, 180 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105, declare that:

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

	STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING ACTUAL SUSPENSION							
\boxtimes	By U.S. First-Class Mail: (CCP §§ 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 in the City and County - of San Francisco.							
	By Overnight Delivery: (CCP §§ 1013(c) and 1013(d)) - I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for overnight delivery by the United Parcel Service (UPS').							
	By Fax Transmission: (CCP §§ 1013(e) and 1013(f)) Based on agreement of the parties to accept service by fax transmission, I faxed the documents to the persons at the fax numbers listed herein below. No error was reported by the fax machine that I used. The original record of the fax transmission is retained on file and available upon request.							
	By Electronic Service: (CCP § 1010.6) Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept service by electronic transmission, I caused the documents to be sent to the person(s) at the electronic addresses listed herein below. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unauccessful.							
	(for U.S. Pirst-Class Mall)	in a sealed envelope placed for collection	n and mailing at San Francisco, add	iressed to each: (see below)				
The common map in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing as certified mail, return receipt requested, Article No.: at San Francisco, addressed to: (see below)								
Tracking No.: addressed to: (see below)								
Pe	rean Served	Business-Residential Address	Fax Number	COUNSEL COPY:				
_		1336 16 th Avenue, Apt. 1	Electronic Address					
Navinder Virk		San Francisco, CA 94122						

I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for meiling 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 malting 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 San Francisco,

California, on the date shown below.

DATED: August 31, 2015

SIGNED

Declarant

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 San Francisco, on September 15, 2015, 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 San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:

NAVINDER VIRK 1336 16TH AVE APT 1 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122

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

SUSAN CHAN, Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, on September 15, 2015.

Mazie Yip

Case Administrator State Bar Court



The document to which this certificate is affixed is a full, true and correct copy of the original on file and of record in the State Bar Court.

ATTEST July 20, 2017
State Bar Court, State Bar of California,

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 San Francisco, on January 8, 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 San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:

NAVINDER VIRK 1336 16TH AVE APT 1 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122

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

Jennifer E. Roque, Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, on January 8, 2018.

Vincent Au

Case Administrator

State Bar Court