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PUBLIC MATTER STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL 2 MELANIE J. LAWRENCE, No. 230102 INTERIM CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL 3 DONALD R. STEEDMAN, No. 104927 ASSISTANT CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL KIM KASRELIOVICH, No. 261766 SENIOR TRIAL COUNSEL STATE BAR COURT 5 845 South Figueroa Street CLERK'S OFFICE Los Angeles, California 90017-2515 LOS ANGELES 6 Telephone: (213) 765-1378 7 8 9 STATE BAR COURT 10 **HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES** 11 12 In the Matter of: Case No. 17-O-03848, 17-O-05038 13 AMIR SAM DIBAEI, NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES No. 275798, 14 15 A Member of the State Bar. 16 **NOTICE - FAILURE TO RESPOND!** 17 IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO THIS NOTICE WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER SERVICE, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT THE STATE BAR COURT TRIAL: 18 19 (1) YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED: (2) YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW: 20 (3) YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION 21 AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE, AND: 22 (4) YOU SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE. SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE 23 OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT WITHOUT 24 FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. SEE RULE 5.80 ET SEO.. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA. 25

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The State Bar of California alleges:

<u>JURISDICTION</u>

 AMIR SAM DIBAEI ("respondent") was admitted to the practice of law in the State of California on April 26, 2011, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges, and is currently a member of the State Bar of California.

COUNT ONE

Case No. 17-O-03848
Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 5-100(A)
[Threatening Charges to Gain Advantage in Civil Suit]

- 2. Between on or about January 6, 2017 and on or about October 2, 2017, while representing plaintiffs in a civil lawsuit entitled *Siftly.com LLC*, et al. v. Thomas Pulliam, case no. BC614174, Los Angeles County Superior Court, respondent threatened to present disciplinary and criminal charges against the defendant, plaintiffs' former counsel and defendant's counsel in order to obtain an advantage in the Siftly.com case in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 5-100(A), by sending the following communications:
 - (a) a January 6, 2017 email to defendants' counsel and plaintiff's former counsel threatening them with attorney disciplinary charges;
 - (b) a second January 6, 2017 email to defendants' counsel and former plaintiff's counsel threatening them with attorney disciplinary charges;
 - (c) a June 7, 2017 email to the defendant, threatening the defendant's former attorney with attorney disciplinary charges and impliedly threatening to present criminal charges against the defendant;
 - (d) a second June 7, 2017 email to the defendant, impliedly threatening to present criminal charges against the defendant;
 - (e) an August 24, 2017 email to the defendant, defendant's former counsel, and the principle for Siftly.com, impliedly threatening to present criminal charges against each of them.
 - (f) a September 26, 2017 email to the defendant's former counsel threatening to

present attorney disciplinary charges against him; 1 2 (g) an October 2, 2017 email to defendant's former counsel impliedly threatening to 3 present attorney disciplinary charges against him. 4 **COUNT TWO** 5 Case No. 17-O-05038 Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 5-100(A) 6 [Threatening Charges to Gain Advantage in Civil Suit] 7 3. On or about July 31, 2017, respondent sent an email to Toni Kilicoglu, the 8 defendant and opposing party to respondent's client in Creative Asset Partners, Inc. v. Toni 9 Kilicoglu, case no. 17R00619, Los Angeles County Superior Court. In the email, respondent attempted to collect money from Kilicoglu by stating "Judgment recorded. You better show up to 10 11 court or they will issue your warrant." Respondent thereby threatened to present criminal charges against Kilicoglu in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 5-12 100(A). 13 14 COUNT THREE 15 Case No. 17-O-05038 Business and Professions Code, section 6106 16 [Moral Turpitude - Misrepresentation] 4. On or about July 31, 2017, respondent sent an email to Toni Kilicoglu, the 17 18 defendant and opposing party to his client in Creative Asset Partners, Inc. v. Toni Kilicoglu, 19 case no. 17R00619, Los Angeles County Superior Court, stating: "Judgment recorded. You 20 better show up to court or they will issue your warrant." Respondent's statements were false and 21 misleading because no judgment had been entered and no proceeding had been instituted for 22 Kilicoglu's arrest. Respondent thereby committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or 23 corruption in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6106. 24 A violation of section 6106 may result from intentional conduct or grossly 25 negligent conduct. Respondent is charged with committing intentional misrepresentation. 26 However, should the evidence at trial demonstrate that respondent committed misrepresentation

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as a result of gross negligence, respondent must still be found culpable of violating section 6106

because misrepresentation through gross negligence is a lesser included offense of intentional misrepresentation.

COUNT FOUR

Case No. 17-O-05038 Business and Professions Code, section 6106 [Moral Turpitude – Coercive Act]

- 6. Between on or about July 20, 2017 and on or about July 31, 2017, while representing plaintiffs in a civil lawsuit entitled *Creative Asset Partners, Inc. v. Toni Kilicoglu*, case no. 17R00619, Los Angeles County Superior Court, respondent engaged in abusive and coercive conduct in an attempt to collect a debt and to collect a sum greater than the judgement against Kilicoglu, and thereby committed conduct involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6106 by sending the following communications:
 - a) a July 20, 2017 email to Kilicoglu stating, "I will come after you, your business, your home and now that you're married—your wife until I get my money. You are going to see me a(t) least once a month for the next few years: and that amount will grow \$250 per hour you see me and 10% per year." Respondent stated that for \$38,000 he would cease collection efforts. The judgement against Kilicoglu was approximately \$25,686.60.
 - b) a second July 20, 2017 email to Kilicoglu stating, "I'll be forwarding a copy of the judgment to every bank; every officer; every employee; everyone that owes you a debt; everyone that you owe a debt; and everyone that will be liable for your judgment. That letter actually went out to about 20 minutes ago to 145 different addresses; names; locations; companies; institutes; reporting agencies; and persons liable for your judgment... This letter places them on notice that anyone who owes you or any of your 45 other names money—will be subject to a lawsuit if they pay you before they pay us."
 - c) a final July 20, 2017, email to Kilicoglu stating, "And so you know: both

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collections have started and collections will start Monday; all of your assets will be liened within a month and the record will always be there. If you want to put an end to all of this make sure you get the 35 [thousand dollars] by the end of today; you can deposit it straight into my account."

- d) a July 31, 2017, email to Kilicoglu stating, "Judgment recorded. You better show up to court or they will issue your warrant."
- 7. A violation of section 6106 may result from intentional conduct or grossly negligent conduct. Respondent is charged with committing intentional misrepresentation. However, should the evidence at trial demonstrate that respondent committed misrepresentation as a result of gross negligence, respondent must still be found culpable of violating section 6106 because misrepresentation through gross negligence is a lesser included offense of intentional misrepresentation.

NOTICE - INACTIVE ENROLLMENT!

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

NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!

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

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Respectfully submitted,

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

DATED: December 3, 2018

KIM KASRELIOVICH

Senior Trial Counsel

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

by

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

CASE NUMBER(s): 17-O-03848, 17-O-05038

DATED: December 3, 2018

I, the undersigned, am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action, whose business address and place of employment is the State Bar of California, 845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90017-2515, declare that: - on the date shown below, I caused to be served a true copy of the within document described as follows: NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES By U.S. First-Class Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a)) By U.S. Certified Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a)) 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 Los Angeles. 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 unsuccessful. [for U.S. First-Class Mail] in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below) (for Certified Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing as certified mail, return receipt requested, at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below) [If or overnight Delivery] together with a copy of this declaration, in an envelope, or package designated by UPS, addressed to: (see below) Tracking No.: **Business-Residential Address** Fax Number COURTESY COPY VIA REGULAR 1ST CLASS MAIL Person Served Pansky Markle Attorneys at Law **Electronic Address** Ellen Anne Pansky 1010 Sycamore Ave., Unit 308 So. Pasadena, CA 91030-6139 I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service, and overnight delivery by the United Parcel Service ('UPS'). In the ordinary course of the State Bar of California's practice, correspondence collected and processed by the State Bar of California would be deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day, and for overnight delivery, deposited with delivery fees paid or provided for, with UPS that same I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope or package is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing contained in the affidavit. I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on the date shown below.

State Bar of California
DECLARATION OF SERVICE

SIGNED:

Sandra Reynolds Declarant