

(Do not write above this line.)

State Bar Court of California Hearing Department

## Los Angeles PUBLIC MATTER **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 17-O-04101-DFM Scott D. Karpf **Deputy Trial Counsel** 845 S. Figueroa Street FILED Los Angeles, CA 90017 Tel. (213) 765-1161 NOV 1 6 2017 STATE BAR COURT Bar # 274682 CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES In Pro Per Respondent David James Quezada 1855 E Rose Ave 23c Orange, CA 92867 Tel. (949) 599-8355 Submitted to: Assigned Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND Bar # 197439 DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING In the Matter of: DAVID JAMES QUEZADA **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED Bar # 197439 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:

- Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted December 7, 1998.
- 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.
- 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 12 pages, not including the order.
- A statement of acts or omissions acknowledged by Respondent as cause or causes for discipline is included under "Facts."

(Effective July 1, 2015)

(Respondent)



O	o not w	rite above this line.)
(5	C	onclusions of law, drawn from and specifically referring to the facts are also included under "Conclusions of aw".
(6)	π "S	he parties must include supporting authority for the recommended level of discipline under the heading Supporting Authority."
(7)	No pe	o more than 30 days prior to the filing of this stipulation, Respondent has been advised in writing of any ending investigation/proceeding not resolved by this stipulation, except for criminal investigations.
(8)	Pa	ayment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 140.7. (Check one option only):
		relief is obtained per rule 5.130. Rules of Procedure
	IVIIS	ravating Circumstances [Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional conduct, standards 1.2(h) & 1.5]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are lired.
1)	(a)	Prior record of discipline  State Bar Court case # of prior case 15-0-11195
	(b)	☐ Date prior discipline effective June 17, 2016.
	(c)	Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Business and Professions Code, section 6106 [misrepresentation]. Attachment to Stipulation, see page 9.
	(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 Falth/Dishonesty: Respondent's misconduct was dishonest, intentional, or surrounded by, or followed by bad faith.
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(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.
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(10)		Candor/Lack of Cooperation: Respondent displayed a lack of candor and cooperation to victims of his/her misconduct, or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations or proceedings.
(11)	×	Multiple Acts: Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing. Attachment to Stipulation, see page 9.
(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.
		al aggravating circumstances:
C. N	nitig ircu	ating Circumstances [see standards 1.2(i) & 1.6]. Facts supporting mitigating imstances are required.
(1)		No Prior Discipline: Respondent has no prior record of discipline over many years of practice coupled with present misconduct which is not likely to recur.
(2)		No Harm: Respondent did not harm the client, the public, or the administration of justice.
(3)		Candor/Cooperation: Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation with the victims of his/her misconduct or 'to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations and proceedings.
(4)		<b>Remorse:</b> Respondent promptly took objective steps demonstrating spontaneous remorse and recognition of the wrongdoing, which steps were designed to timely atone for any consequences of his/her misconduct.
(5)		Restitution: Respondent paid \$ on in restitution to without the threat or force of disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.
(6)		Delay: These disciplinary proceedings were excessively delayed. The delay is not attributable to Respondent and the delay prejudiced him/her.
(7)		Good Faith: Respondent acted with a good faith belief that was honestly held and objectively reasonable.
(8)		Emotional/Physical Difficulties: At the time of the stipulated act or acts of professional misconduct Respondent suffered extreme emotional difficulties or physical or mental disabilities which expert testimony would establish was directly responsible for the misconduct. The difficulties or disabilities were not the

(Do	not wr	ite above this line.)					
		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.					
(9)		Severe Financial Stress: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered from severe financial stress which resulted from circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and which were directly responsible for the misconduct.					
(10)		Family Problems: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her personal life which were other than emotional or physical in nature.					
(11)		Good Character: Respondent's extraordinarily good character is attested to by a wide range of references in the legal and general communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct.					
(12)		Rehabilitation: Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred followed by convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.					
(13)		No mitigating circumstances are involved.					
Add	ition	al mitigating circumstances:					
	. IP	retrial Stipulation, see page 9.					
D F							
D. L	JISC	ipline:					
(1)	$\boxtimes$	Stayed Suspension:					
	(a)	Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two years.					
		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)	☐ The above-referenced suspension is stayed.					
(2)	×	Probation:					
	Res	pondent must be placed on probation for a period of three years, which will commence upon the effective of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)					
(3)	$\boxtimes$	Actual Suspension:					
	(a)	Respondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California 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.					

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(10)	The following conditions are attached hen	eto and inco	prporated;
	☐ Substance Abuse Conditions		Law Office Management Conditions
	☐ Medical Conditions		Financial Conditions
F. Other	Conditions Negotiated by the Pa	rties:	
(1)			
., _	Conference of Bar Examiners, to the Offi one year, whichever period is longer. Fa	y Examination of Probation of P	ion: Respondent must provide proof of passage of on ("MPRE"), administered by the National ation during the period of actual suspension or within ss the MPRE results in actual suspension without b), California Rules of Court, and rule 5.162(A) &
	No MPRE recommended. Reason:		
(2) 🛛	California Rules of Court, and perform the	e acts snac	must comply with the requirements of rule 9.20, ified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 e date of the Supreme Court's Order in this matter.
(3)	days of more, hersite must comply with the	ne requirem	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)	Credit for Interim Suspension [convict period of his/her interim suspension toward commencement of interim suspension:	ion referral rd the stipul	cases only]: Respondent will be credited for the ated period of actual suspension. Date of
(5)	Other Conditions:		

## ATTACHMENT TO

## STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

DAVID JAMES QUEZADA

CASE NUMBER:

17-O-04101-DFM

## 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. 17-O-04101 (Office of Probation)

## FACTS:

- On April 28, 2015, the California Supreme Court filed an order in State Bar Court Case Nos. 15-O-11195 (S232731), effective June 17, 2016, ("Supreme Court Order") imposing a one-year stayed suspension, one-year probation with conditions, including 30 days' actual suspension. Probation conditions included, but were not limited to:
  - a) Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of discipline, respondent must contact the Office of Probation ("OP") and schedule a meeting with respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss these terms and conditions of probation;
  - Bespondent must submit quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the probation period. Respondent must state whether respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all the 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 shall be submitted in the next quarter date, and cover that 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; and

- c) Within one (1) year of the effective date of discipline herein, respondent must provide to the OP satisfactory proof of attendance at a session of the Ethics School, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.
- 2. On June 7, 2016, the State Bar Probation Deputy mailed a courtesy reminder letter to respondent's membership records address notifying respondent of the terms of the Supreme Court Order. The letter detailed the terms of respondent's probation and the

- deadlines for completing each condition of probation. Respondent received the June 7, 2016 courtesy reminder letter.
- 3. Respondent failed to contact the Probation Deputy by July 17, 2017 to schedule his required probation meeting.
- 4. On September 16, 2016, the Probation Deputy e-mailed a non-compliance letter to respondent's membership records e-mail address informing him that he failed to contact the OP within 30 days of the effective date of the Supreme Court's order to set up his required probation meeting. Respondent received the September 16, 2016 e-mail.
- On September 22, 2016, the Probation Deputy and respondent telephonically participated in the required probation meeting.
- 6. On October 7, 2016, respondent timely submitted his first quarterly report to the OP.
- 7. On January 9, 2017, respondent timely submitted his second quarterly report to the OP.
- 8. On April 10, 2017, respondent timely submitted his third quarterly report to the OP.
- 9. On May 26, 2017, respondent e-mailed the Probation Deputy stating, "Given that there is zero percent that I'm going to be in compliance before the deadline I'd like to know how I might go about getting an extension." The Probation Deputy replied, suggesting respondent consider filing a motion for an extension prior to the deadline. Respondent replied, "Thanks for the info. To be clear. I will not be meeting the terms of my probation. I simply lack the time and resources to do so. I'll try to figure out where and how to file the motion you refer to once I figure out who I'm supposed to file the motion with."
- 10. Respondent failed to submit his final report to the OP by June 7, 2017.
- 11. Respondent failed to attend the State Bar's Ethics School by June 17, 2017.
- 12. As of the date of entering into this stipulation, respondent has neither submitted his final report to the OP, nor attended the State Bar's Ethics School.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

13. By failing to timely schedule his required probation meeting on or before July 17, 2016; by failing to submit his final report to the Office of Probation by June 17, 2017; and by failing to attend the State Bar's Ethics School by June 17, 2017, respondent failed to comply with conditions of his disciplinary probation in willful 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 State Bar Court Case No. 15-O-11195, effective June 17, 2016, discipline was imposed as to respondent consisting of a one-year stayed suspension, one-year probation with conditions, including 30 days' actual suspension. In that matter, respondent stipulated to violating Business and Professions Code, section 6106 [misrepresentation] when he reported to the State Bar under the penalty of perjury that he was in compliance with Minimum Continuing Legal Education ("MCLE") requirements when in fact respondent knew that he had not completed any hours of MCLE by his compliance reporting date. The misconduct occurred in June 2014. There were no factors in aggravation. In mitigation, respondent had no prior record of discipline and cooperated by entering into a pretrial stipulation. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the prior record of discipline.

Multiple Acts of Wrongdoing (Std. 1.5(b)). Violating multiple conditions of disciplinary probation constitutes multiple acts of misconduct. Respondent failed to timely contact the OP to schedule his required probation meeting; failed to file his final report with the OP; and failed to attend the State Bar Ethics School.

#### MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Pretrial Stipulation: By entering into this stipulation, respondent has acknowledged misconduct and is entitled to mitigation for recognition of wrongdoing and saving the State Bar significant resources and time. (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]; In the Matter of Spaith (Review Dept. 1996) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 511, 521 [where the attorney's stipulation to facts and culpability was held to be a mitigating circumstance].)

#### 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 the 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

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 indicates that actual suspension is the presumed sanction for failing to comply with a condition of discipline, with the degree of sanction depending on the nature of the condition violated and the member's unwillingness or inability to comply with disciplinary orders.

Periods of actual suspension can range from 30 days to three years. (Std. 1.2(c)(1).) Respondent's current misconduct shows a continuation of his unwillingness or inability to comply with his obligations as an attorney and officer of the court in a manner which bears on his fitness to practice law. Respondent failed to comply with the underlying disciplinary probation by violating three separate and distinct conditions of probation, thereby violating the Supreme Court Order. Accordingly, respondent's conduct warrants a substantial period of actual suspension.

Furthermore, Standard 1.8(a) applies to cases in which a member has a prior record of discipline. Standard 1.8(a) indicates that the sanction for the subsequent discipline 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 greater discipline would be manifestly unjust."

Respondent's prior misconduct of knowingly and falsely reporting to the State Bar, under penalty of perjury, that he complied with MCLE requirements was serious misconduct in that it is an act of moral turpitude and that it bears on respondent's character, his willingness to lie to the State Bar. In addition, respondent's prior misconduct, which occurred on June 23, 2014, was not remote in time. Accordingly, it would not be manifestly unjust to impose upon respondent a greater discipline than his previously imposed discipline.

When determining the level of discipline, consideration must be given to the aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Aggravating and mitigating circumstances must be established by clear and convincing evidence. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, tit. IV, Stds. for Attorney Sanctions for Prof. Misconduct, stds. 1.5 and 1.6). Here, there is clear and convincing evidence of aggravation. Respondent has a prior record of discipline involving moral turpitude upon which the current probation was imposed. In addition, respondent committed multiple acts of wrongdoing in his failure to comply with probation conditions. In mitigation, respondent has fully acknowledged his misconduct by entering into this detailed stipulation of facts and conclusions of law, thereby obviating the need for a trial. Overall, respondent's aggravation outweighs mitigation, supporting a significant imposition of actual suspension.

When respondent entered into the 2015 stipulation for his prior discipline, he was aware of the probation conditions he had to meet. Regardless of this knowledge, respondent failed to comply with three distinct conditions of his probation by failing to timely contact the OP to schedule his required probation meeting, failing to file his final report with the OP, and failing to complete his Ethics School requirement. Respondent's probation violations are serious and warrant progressive discipline. Accordingly, a two-year stayed suspension, three-year probation with conditions, including one year of actual suspension is appropriate to protect the public, the courts and the legal profession, maintain high professional standards, and preserve public confidence in the legal profession.

Case law supports one year of actual suspension as well. In the Matter of Gorman (Review Dept. 2003) 4 Cal. State Ct. Rptr. 567, 573, the Review Department acknowledged that there is a wide range of discipline for an attorney who has committed probation violations. The level of discipline can range

from "merely extending probation...to imposition of the full amount of stayed suspension in the underlying disciplinary matter as actual suspension." More serious sanctions should be imposed to those probation violations closely related to the reasons for imposing discipline, and the prior record of discipline should also be taken into consideration. In the instant case, respondent's failure to timely contact the Office of Probation to schedule his required probation meeting, failure to submit the final report, and failure to complete Ethics School raises great concerns that he has not rehabilitated from his prior misconduct and that public protection could be compromised by respondent's inability to conform his conduct to the ethical standards demanded of attorneys.

The courts have consistently held that failure to abide by terms and conditions of probation is a serious violation. (See Potack v. State Bar (1991) 54 Cal.3d 132, 139). In Potack, the Supreme Court determined that the attorney willfully failed to comply with the terms of his probation after he was given ample opportunity by the State Bar. The attorney's disciplinary order in the underlying matter stayed execution of a two-year suspension on the condition that he comply with specified terms and conditions of probation. The Supreme Court held that '[a]lthough petitioner attempts to minimize his probation violation and subsequent misconduct with respect to the default proceedings, his failure to abide by the terms and conditions of his probation is a serious violation, warranting the review department's recommendation that our 1986 order staying suspension be set aside." (Id.) Although Potack involved a probation revocation proceeding, rather than a disciplinary proceeding, it is instructive on the Court's view on probation violation matters resulting is new actual suspensions equal to the term of the previously-stayed suspension. In the instant matter, the term of the previously-stayed suspension was a one year actual, and this is an appropriate term of actual suspension to protect the public, the courts and the legal profession, maintain high professional standards, and preserve public confidence in the legal profession.

## COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of October 17, 2017, the discipline costs in this matter are \$3,758. 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. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

In the Matter of: DAVID JAMES QUEZADA	Case number(s): 17-O-04101-DFM
	SIGNATURE OF THE PARTIES
By their signatures below, the parties and correctations and each of the terms and co	nd their counsel, as applicable, signify their agreement with each of the onditions of this Stipulation Re Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition.
10/26/17	nd their counsel, as applicable, signify their agreement with each of the onditions of this Stipulation Re Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition.  David James Quezada  Print Name

## **ACTUAL SUSPENSION ORDER**

Finding the stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the requested dismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTED without prejudice, and:

- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
- All Hearing dates are vacated.
- On p. 2, B. (1)(d) Degree of prior discipline: Add "one year's stayed suspension and one year's probation" to "30-day actual suspension."
- On p. 7, paragraph 1, delete "April 28, 2015" and substitute in its stead "May 18, 2016."
- On p. 8, paragraph 3, delete "2017" and correct it to read "2016."
- On p. 8, paragraph 10, delete "June 7" and replace it with "June 17."

The parties are bound by the stipulation as approved unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed within 15 days after service of this order, is granted; or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved stipulation. (See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure.) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date of the Supreme Court order herein, normally 30 days after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of Court.)

11/15/17

Date

DONALD F. MILES

Judge of the State Bar Court



(State Bar Court No. 15-O-11195)

MAY 1 8 2016

S232731

Frank A. McGuire Clerk

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA Deputy

En Banc

## In re DAVID JAMES QUEZADA on Discipline

The court orders that David James Quezada, State Bar Number 197439, is suspended from the practice of law in California for one year, execution of that period of suspension is stayed, and he is placed on probation for one year subject to the following conditions:

- 1. David James Quezada is suspended from the practice of law for the first 30 days of probation;
- David James Quezada 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 December 30, 2015; and
- 3. At the expiration of the period of probation, if David James Quezada has complied with all conditions of probation, the period of stayed suspension will be satisfied and that suspension will be terminated.

David James Quezada 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-third of the costs must be paid with his membership fees for each of the years 2017, 2018, and 2019. If David James Quezada 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.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Court this

By:

MAY 1 8 2016

CANTIL-SAKAUYE

Chief Justice

### State Bar Court of California **Hearing Department** PUBLIC MATTER Los Angeles **ACTUAL SUSPENSION** Counsel For The State Bar Case Number(s): For Court use only 15-0-11195 Jamie Kim **Deputy Trial Counsel** 845 S. Figueroa St. FILED Los Angeles, CA 90017 (213) 765-1182 DEC 3 0 2015 P.B. STATE BAR COURT Bar # 281574 CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES In Pro Per Respondent David James Quezada Law Offices of David Quezada 1855 E. Rose Ave., 23C Orange, CA 92867 (949) 599-8355 Submitted to: Assigned Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND Bar # 197439 DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING In the Matter of: **DAVID JAMES QUEZADA ACTUAL SUSPENSION** ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED Bar # 197439 A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)

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(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)		<b>Delay:</b> These disciplinary proceedings were excessively delayed. The delay is not attributable to Respondent and the delay prejudiced him/her.
(7)		Good Faith: Respondent acted with a good faith belief that was honestly held and objectively reasonable.
8)		Emotional/Physical Difficulties: At the time of the stipulated act or acts of professional misconduct Respondent suffered extreme emotional difficulties or physical or mental disabilities which expert testimony would establish was directly responsible for the misconduct. The difficulties or disabilities were not the

(Do not	write	e above this li	16.)
		product of or disabilit	any illegal conduct by the member, such as illegal drug or substance abuse, and the difficulties les no longer pose a risk that Respondent will commit misconduct.
(9)		which resu	nancial Stress: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered from severe financial stress litted from circumstances not reasonably foreseeable or which were beyond his/her control and e directly responsible for the misconduct.
(10) [	7		oblems: At the time of the misconduct, Respondent suffered extreme difficulties in his/her fe which were other than emotional or physical in nature.
(11)		Good Cha in the legal	racter: Respondent's extraordinarily good character is attested to by a wide range of references and general communities who are aware of the full extent of his/her misconduct.
(12)			tion: Considerable time has passed since the acts of professional misconduct occurred convincing proof of subsequent rehabilitation.
(13)	כ	No mitigat	ting circumstances are involved.
Additio	na	l mitigating	g circumstances:
	Pr	e-trial Stip	ulation, see attachment, page 8.
D. Dis	cij	pline:	
(1)	3	Stayed Su	spension:
(8	a)	⊠ Resp	ondent 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.
	i	iii. 🔲	and until Respondent does the following:
(b	)	☑ The a	bove-referenced suspension is stayed.
(2)	]	Probation:	
Re	esp the	ondent mu e Supreme	st be placed on probation for a period of <b>one year</b> , which will commence upon the effective date Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18, California Rules of Court)
(3)	3 /	Actual Sus	pension:
(a	)	Respo	ondent must be actually suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period days.
			and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the general law pursuant to standard 1.2(c)(1), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct
		ii. 🗆	and until Respondent pays restitution as set forth in the Financial Conditions form attached to this stipulation.

(Do no	ot write	e above this line.)	<del>_</del>		-	
(10)		The following conditions are attached	ed hereto and	incorporated:		
		☐ Substance Abuse Conditions		] Law Off	fice Managem	ent Conditions
		☐ Medical Conditions		] Financia	al Conditions	
F. O	the	Conditions Negotiated by ti	ne Parties:			
(1)		Multistate Professional Responsible Multistate Professional Responsional Responsion	nsibility Examinate of Property Failure to	nation ("MPR obation durin pass the Mi	E"), administe og the period o PRE results i	ered by the National of actual suspension or within n actual suspension witho
		☐ No MPRE recommended. Rea	son: .			
(2)		Rule 9.20, California Rules of Co California Rules of Court, and perficand 40 calendar days, respectively	orm the acts si	pecified in sui	bdivisions (a)	and (c) of that rule within 30
(3)		Conditional Rule 9.20, California days or more, he/she must comply perform the acts specified in subdirespectively, after the effective date	with the requi	ements of ru (c) of that ru	ile <b>9.20</b> , Califo le within 120 a	omia Rules of Court, and and 130 calendar days,
(4)		Credit for Interim Suspension [comperiod of his/her interim suspension commencement of interim suspension	n toward the st	rral cases on ipulated period	nty]: Respon od of actual su	dent will be credited for the uspension. Date of
(5)		Other Conditions:				

## ATTACHMENT TO

## STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF:

DAVID JAMES QUEZADA

CASE NUMBER:

15-0-11195

#### 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-11195 (State Bar Investigation)

### FACTS:

- 1. As a member of the State Bar, respondent was required to complete 25 hours of minimum continuing legal education ("MCLE") during the period commencing on February 1, 2011, through January 31, 2014 (the "compliance period").
- 2. On June 23, 2014, respondent reported to the State Bar under penalty of perjury that he was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, and, in particular, that he had completed all of his MCLE during the compliance period.
- 3. In fact, respondent had not completed any hours of MCLE courses before reporting compliance on June 23, 2014.
- 4. When respondent reported to the State Bar that he was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, respondent knew that he had not completed all of the MCLE during the compliance period as required.
- 5. Respondent took additional MCLE courses necessary to come into compliance after being contacted by Member Records and Compliance regarding an MCLE audit.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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

#### ADDITIONAL FACTS RE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Discipline (Std. 1.6(a)): Respondent was admitted to practice on December 7, 1998. At the time of the misconduct, respondent had practiced law for more than 15 years without a record of discipline. While respondent's misconduct is serious, his 15 years in practice without discipline indicates that the underlying conduct was aberrational and is not likely to recur. (Hawes v. State Bar

(1990) 51 Cal.3d 587, 596 [gave attorney significant weight in mitigation for practicing law for over ten years without misconduct]; In the Matter of Riordan (Review Dept. 2007) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 41 [discipline-free practice considered to be a significant mitigating factor even when misconduct is serious].)

Pre-trial Stipulation: Respondent admitted to the misconduct and entered into this stipulation fully resolving this matter without the necessity of a trial. Respondent's cooperation will save State Bar resources. Respondent's cooperation is a mitigating factor in this resolution. (Silva-Vidor v. State Bar (1989) 49 Cal.3d 1071, 1079 [where mitigative credit was given for entering into a stipulation as to facts and culpability].)

## **AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING DISCIPLINE.**

The Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct "set forth a means for determining the appropriate disciplinary sanction in a particular case and to ensure consistency across cases dealing with similar misconduct and surrounding circumstances." (Rules Proc. of State Bar, tit. IV, Stds. for Atty. Sanctions for Prof. Misconduct, std. 1.1. All further references to Standards are to this source.) The Standards help fulfill the primary purposes of discipline, which include: protection of the public, the courts and the legal profession; maintenance of the highest professional standards; and preservation of public confidence in the legal profession. (See std. 1.1; In re Morse (1995) 11 Cal.4th 184, 205.)

Although not binding, the standards are entitled to "great weight" and should be followed "whenever possible" in determining level of discipline. (In re Silverton (2005) 36 Cal.4th 81, 92, quoting In re Brown (1995) 12 Cal.4th 205, 220 and In re Young (1989) 49 Cal.3d 257, 267, fn. 11.) Adherence to the standards in the great majority of cases serves the valuable purpose of eliminating disparity and assuring consistency, that is, the imposition of similar attorney discipline for instances of similar attorney misconduct. (In re Naney (1990) 51 Cal.3d 186, 190.) If a recommendation is at the high end or low end of a Standard, an explanation must be given as to how the recommendation was reached. (Std. 1.1.) "Any disciplinary recommendation that deviates from the Standards must include clear reasons for the departure." (Std. 1.1; Blair v. State Bar (1989) 49 Cal.3d 762, 776, fn. 5.)

In determining whether to impose a sanction greater or less than that specified in a given Standard, in addition to the factors set forth in the specific Standard, consideration is to be given to the primary purposes of discipline; the balancing of all aggravating and mitigating circumstances; the type of misconduct at issue; whether the client, public, legal system or profession was harmed; and the member's willingness and ability to conform to ethical responsibilities in the future. (Stds. 1.7(b) and (c).)

Pursuant to Standard 2.11, "disbarment or actual suspension" is the presumed sanction for an act of moral turpitude. The mere failure to review a member's records before the member affirms compliance with the MCLE requirements is gross negligence amounting to moral turpitude. (In the Matter of Yee (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 330.)

Here, respondent's knowing misrepresentation made under penalty of perjury was a dishonest act involving moral turpitude. Misrepresentations are compounded when made in writing under penalty of perjury, which includes an imprimatur of veracity which should place a reasonable person on notice to take care that their statement is accurate, complete, and true. (In the Matter of Maloney and Virsik (Review Dept. 2005) 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 774, 786.) Respondent's misconduct pertaining to his MCLE requirement circumvented the continuing legal educational requirements established for the

purpose of enhancing attorney competence and protecting the public. Furthermore, at the time of the misconduct, respondent was aware of the fact that he had not taken any MCLE hours for the compliance period prior to reporting.

Respondent's misconduct is significantly mitigated by his 15 years as a member without a record of discipline. His discipline free practice indicates that the misconduct here was an aberration and not likely to recur. Respondent has cooperated with the State Bar by acknowledging his misconduct and entering into this stipulation to fully resolve the matter. In light of the significant mitigation, respondent's misconduct warrants discipline on the low end of the range provided for in the Standard. Discipline consisting of a one year stayed suspension and a one year period of probation with standard 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.

The Review Department decision in In the Matter of Yee (Review Dept. 2014) 5 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 330, is a relevant decision to consider. Attorney Yee falsely stated under penalty of perjury that she had fulfilled her MCLE requirements, but was unable to produce any record of compliance. The Review Department found that a public reproval was adequate to "serve the goals of attorney discipline" in light of Yee's gross negligence in not reviewing her records before affirming MCLE compliance and her reasonable, but mistaken, belief of compliance. (Id. at 11.) The Review Department found strong mitigating factors, including Yee's ten and a half years of practice without discipline, exemplary record of pro bono and community service, the absence of harm to the public or judicial system as Yee was not practicing law, immediate acknowledgement of wrongdoing, decision to rectify the situation and implementation of a corrective plan to avoid future problems. (Id.)

This discipline is consistent with case law. Unlike Yee, respondent knowingly engaged in misconduct as he did not hold a mistaken belief regarding compliance with the MCLE requirement. Therefore, respondent's misconduct is more severe than in Yee and warrants a more severe level of discipline. Respondent's misconduct, like in Yee, is mitigated by the absence of a prior record of discipline. Respondent had 15 years of discipline-free practice prior to the misconduct, which is significant. In light of the greater severity of respondent's misconduct and less significant mitigation, discipline consisting of a one year stayed suspension, one year probation with conditions, including a 30-day actual suspension for respondent's intentional act of moral turpitude is appropriate.

#### COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has informed Respondent that as of October 14, 2015, the prosecution costs in this matter are \$3,584. Respondent further acknowledges that should this stipulation be rejected or should relief from the stipulation be granted, the costs in this matter may increase due to the cost of further proceedings.

#### **EXCLUSION FROM MCLE CREDIT**

Pursuant to rule 3201, Respondent may <u>not</u> receive MCLE credit for completion of State Bar Ethics School. (Rules Proc. of State Bar, rule 3201.)

(Do not write above this line.)	
In the Matter of: DAVID JAMES QUEZADA	Case number(s): 15-0-11195

## 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.

12/1/15	DAVID QUEZADA	David James Quezada
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
12/2/15 Date	a in	Jamie Kim
Date	Defuty Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name

n the Matter of: DAVID JAMES QUEZADA	Case Number(s): 15-O-11195	

### **ACTUAL SUSPENSION ORDER**

Finding the stipulation to be fair to the parties and that it adequately protects the public, IT IS ORDERED that the	B
requested dismissal of counts/charges, if any, is GRANTED without prejudice, and:	

- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED and the DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the DISCIPLINE IS RECOMMENDED to the Supreme Court.
- $\boxtimes$ All Hearing dates are vacated.

On page 7 of the stipulation, paragraph numbers 4 and 5 are MODIFIED to read as follows:

- 4. When respondent reported to the State Bar that he was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, respondent knew that he had not completed any of the required 25 hours of MCLE.
- 5. Respondent did not take any of the required 25 hours of MCLE until after he was contacted by Member Records and Compliance regarding a MCLE audit.

On page 7 of the stipulation, in paragraph number 6, in the third line, the phrase "moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption" is MODIFIED to read "moral turpitude and dishonesty."

The parties are bound by the stipulation as approved unless: 1) a motion to withdraw or modify the stipulation, filed within 15 days after service of this order, is granted; or 2) this court modifies or further modifies the approved stipulation. (See rule 5.58(E) & (F), Rules of Procedure.) The effective date of this disposition is the effective date of the Supreme Court order herein, normally 30 days after file date. (See rule 9.18(a), California Rules of Court.)

cember 30, 2015

Judge of the State Bar Court

(Effective July 1, 2015)

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

I am a Case Administrator of the State Bar Court of California. I am over the age of eighteen and not a party to the within proceeding. Pursuant to standard court practice, in the City and County of Los Angeles, on December 30, 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 Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

DAVID J. QUEZADA LAW OFFICE OF DAVID QUEZADA 1855 E ROSE AVE 23C ORANGE, CA 92867

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

## JAMIE J. KIM, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on December 30, 2015.

Paul Barona

Case Administrator

State Bar Court

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

I am a Case Administrator of the State Bar Court of California. I am over the age of eighteen and not a party to the within proceeding. Pursuant to standard court practice, in the City and County of Los Angeles, on November 16, 2017, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

# STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING

in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing on that date as follows:

by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

DAVID J. QUEZADA 1855 E ROSE AVE 23C ORANGE, CA 92867

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

SCOTT D. KARPF, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on November 16, 2017.

Louisa Ayrapetyan Case Administrator State Bar Court