

State Bar Court of the State Bar of California
Hearing Department Los Angeles San Francisco

<p>Counsel for the State Bar Sherrie B. McLetchie Bar # 85447 180 Howard, 7th floor San Francisco CA 94105 (415) 538-2297</p>	<p>Case number(s) 01-0-04739; 03-0-03535 (Cons.) PEM</p>	<p>(for Court's use) PUBLIC MATTER FILED FEB 06 2004 STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO</p>
<p>Counsel for Respondent Steven R. Davis Bar # 182231 301 N. Forbes St., #1 Lakeport CA 95453 (707) 321-9925 In Pro Per</p>	<p>Submitted to <input type="checkbox"/> assigned judge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> settlement judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING REPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC <input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED</p>	
<p>In the Matter of Steven R. Davis Bar # 182231 A Member of the State Bar of California (Respondent)</p>		

A. Parties' Acknowledgments:

- (1) Respondent is a member of the State Bar of California, admitted June 4, 1996 (date)
- (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 and order consist of 8 pages.
- (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."
- (6) 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.
- (7) Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 6140.7. (Check one option only):
 - costs added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline (public reproval)
 - case ineligible for costs (private reproval)
 - costs to be paid in equal amounts for the following membership years:
(hardship, special circumstances or other good cause per rule 284, Rules of Procedure)
 - costs waived in part as set forth under "Partial Waiver of Costs"
 - costs entirely waived

Note: All information required by this form and any additional information which cannot be provided in the space provided, shall be set forth in the text component of this stipulation under specific headings, i.e. "Facts," "Dismissals," "Conclusions of Law."

(8) The parties understand that

- (a) A private reproof imposed on a respondent as a result of a stipulation approved by the Court prior to initiation of a State Bar Court proceeding is part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, but is not disclosed in response to public inquiries and is not reported on the State Bar's web page. The record of the proceeding in which such a private reproof was imposed is not available to the public except as part of the record of any subsequent proceeding in which it is introduced as evidence of a prior record of discipline under the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar.
- (b) A private reproof imposed on a respondent after initiation of a State Bar Court proceeding is part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page.
- (c) A public reproof imposed on a respondent is publicly available as part of the respondent's official State Bar membership records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page.

B. Aggravating Circumstances [for definition, see Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, standard 1.2(b)]. Facts supporting aggravating circumstances are required.

(1) Prior record of discipline [see standard 1.2(f)]

(a) 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 or under "Prior Discipline".

(2) Dishonesty: Respondent's misconduct was surrounded by or followed by bad faith, dishonesty, concealment, overreaching or other violations of the State Bar Act or Rules of Professional Conduct.

(3) 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.

(4) Harm: Respondent's misconduct harmed significantly a client, the public or the administration of justice.

- (5) Indifference: Respondent demonstrated indifference toward rectification of or atonement for the consequences of his or her misconduct.
- (6) Lack of Cooperation: Respondent displayed a lack of candor and cooperation to victims of his/her misconduct or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation or proceedings.
- (7) Multiple/Pattern of Misconduct: Respondent's current misconduct evidences multiple acts of wrongdoing or demonstrates a pattern of misconduct.
- (8) No aggravating circumstances are involved.

Additional aggravating circumstances:

Respondent ^{did} not maintain a current address to be used for State Bar purposes after entering into the ALD in 01-0-04739.

C. Mitigating Circumstances [see standard 1.2(e)]. Facts supporting mitigating circumstances 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 deemed serious.~~
- (2) No Harm: Respondent did not harm the client or person who was the object of the misconduct.
- (3) Candor/Cooperation: Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation to the victims of his/her misconduct and to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation and proceedings.
- (4) Remorse: Respondent promptly took objective steps spontaneously demonstrating 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 in good faith.
- (8) Emotional/Physical Difficulties: At the time of the stipulated act or acts of professional misconduct Respondent suffered extreme emotional difficulties or physical 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 Respondent no longer suffers from such difficulties or disabilities.
- (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 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.

Additional mitigating circumstances:

D. Discipline:

(1) Private reproof (check applicable conditions, if any, below)

(a) Approved by the Court prior to initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (no public disclosure).

(b) Approved by the Court after initiation of the State Bar Court proceedings (public disclosure).

or

(2) Public reproof (check applicable conditions, if any, below)

E. Conditions Attached to Reproval:

(1) Respondent shall comply with the conditions attached to the reproof for a period of one year.

(2) During the condition period attached to the reproof, Respondent shall comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.

(3) Within ten (10) days of any change, Respondent shall report to the Membership Records Office and to the Probation Unit, 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) Respondent shall submit written quarterly reports to the Probation Unit on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the condition period attached to the reproof. Under penalty of perjury, respondent shall state whether respondent has complied with the State Bar Act, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and all conditions of the reproof during the preceding calendar quarter. If the first report would cover less than thirty (30) days, that report shall be submitted on the next following 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 condition period and no later than the last day of the condition period.

- (5) Respondent shall be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent shall 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 shall furnish such reports as may be requested, in addition to quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Probation Unit. Respondent shall cooperate fully with the monitor.
- (6) Subject to assertion of applicable privileges, Respondent shall answer fully, promptly and truthfully any inquiries of the Probation Unit of the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel 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 conditions attached to the reprobation.
- (7) Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, respondent shall provide to the Probation Unit satisfactory proof of attendance of the Ethics School and passage of the test given at the end of that session.
- No Ethics School ordered.
- (8) Respondent shall comply with all conditions of probation imposed in the underlying criminal matter and shall so declare under penalty of perjury in conjunction with any quarterly report required to be filed with the Probation Unit.
- (9) Respondent shall provide proof of passage of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE"), administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, to the Probation Unit of the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel within one year of the effective date of the reprobation.
- No MPRE ordered.
- (10) The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Law Office Management Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Conditions |
- (11) Other conditions negotiated by the parties:

ATTACHMENT TO
STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: Steven R. Davis

CASE NUMBER(S): 01-O-4739; 03-O-3535 (Cons.)-PEM

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Facts

01-O-4739

In October 1997 Judith Bunt hired respondent to review estate planning documents. In March 2001 Ms. Bunt requested, during a telephone conversation with respondent, that he return the estate planning documents to her. Respondent told Ms. Bunt that he could not recall keeping the documents, that he would search for them, and that he would inform her of the results of his search. Thereafter discovered that an accident had destroyed Ms. Bunt's file, including all her documents. Respondent did not report the results of his search to Ms. Bunt.

On or about July 29, 2001, Ms. Bunt filed a complaint against respondent with the State Bar. By letters dated August 16, 2001, and November 27, 2001, the State Bar requesting information regarding the basis for Ms. Bunt's complaint. Respondent received the letters from the State Bar, but did not respond to them.

03-O-3535

On July 5, 2002, respondent and the State Bar entered into an Agreement in Lieu of Discipline ("ALD") regarding case number 01-O-4739. Respondent stipulated to the facts set forth above. The ALD required in pertinent part that respondent provide to the State Bar Probation Unit quarterly reports with the Probation Unit not later than January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of each year of the one-year term of the ALD (July 8, 2002 through July 7, 2003), plus a final report (covering the period July 8, 2003 through July 10, 2003); and attend State Bar Ethics School within one year of the date of execution of the ALD. Based on the ALD, on July 8, 2002, the Court granted the State Bar's motion to dismiss without prejudice case number 01-O-4739.

Respondent did not file the quarterly report due October 10, 2002, until November 26, 2002, did not file the quarterly report due January 10, 2003, until January 11, 2003, did not file the quarterly report due on April 10, 2003, until April 15, 2003, and did not file a final report,

although he did file a quarterly report on July 11, 2003. Respondent never attended Ethics School. On October 24, 2003, the State Bar filed its Notice of Motion and Motion to Reopen the case number 01-O-4739. The State Bar's unopposed motion was granted by order filed November 18, 2003.

On November 24, 2003, the State Bar filed the Notice of Disciplinary Charges ("NDC") in case number 03-O-3535, alleging the violations of the ALD against respondent. Respondent did not file a response to the NDC in case 03-O-3535. On December 10, 2003, the State Bar filed its Motion to Consolidate 01-O-4739 with 03-O-3535. On January 12, 2004, the State Bar's unopposed Motion to Consolidate was granted.

Conclusions of Law

By not advising Ms. Bunt that her documents had been destroyed after he had told her that he would conduct a search for them and let her know the results, respondent failed to keep her reasonably informed of a significant development in her case in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(m).

By not responding the State Bar's letters asking him about Ms. Bunt's complaint, respondent failed to cooperate and participate in a disciplinary investigation against him in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(i).

By not timely filing quarterly reports, not filing a final report, and not attending Ethics School, respondent failed to comply with an ALD in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(l).

PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page one, paragraph A.(6), was January 16, 2004.

COSTS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed respondent that as of January 16, 2004, the estimated prosecution costs in this matter are approximately \$2,915. Respondent acknowledges that this figure is an estimate only and that it does not include State Bar Court costs which will be included in any final cost assessment. 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.

FACTS SUPPORTING MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

No Prior Discipline

Respondent was admitted to the practice of law on June 4, 1996, and has no record of prior discipline.

Date Jan 25, 04

[Signature]
Respondent's signature

Steven A. Davis
print name

Date _____

Respondent's Counsel's signature _____

print name _____

Date 1-29-04

Sherrie B. McLetchie
Deputy Trial Counsel's signature

Sherrie B. McLetchie
print name

ORDER

Finding that the stipulation protects the public and that the interests of Respondent will be served by any conditions attached to the reproof, 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 REPROVAL IMPOSED.
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the REPROVAL IMPOSED.

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 135(b), Rules of Procedure.) Otherwise the stipulation shall be effective 15 days after service of this order.

Failure to comply with any conditions attached to this reproof may constitute cause for a separate proceeding for willful breach of rule 1-110, Rules of Professional Conduct.

Date Jan 5, 2004

[Signature]
Judge of the State Bar Court

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
[Rule 62(b), Rules Proc.; Code Civ. Proc., § 1013a(4)]

I am a Case Administrator of the State Bar Court. 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 February 6, 2004, 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:

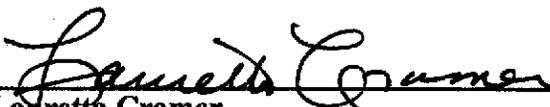
[X] by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:

**STEVEN R. DAVIS
301 N FORBES ST #1
LAKEPORT CA 95453**

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

SHERRIE MCLETCHEE , Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, on February 6, 2004.


Laurretta Cramer
Case Administrator
State Bar Court