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State Bar Court of California
Hearing Department
Los Angeles

ORIGINAL

Counsel For The State Bar	Case Number (s) 07-O-10243-RAH	(for Court's use)
Larry DeSha Deputy Trial Counsel 1149 S. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 765-1336	PUBLIC MATTER	FILED JUL - 9 2009  STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES
Bar # 117910		
Counsel For Respondent		
CENTURY LAW GROUP Paul J. Virgo 5200 W. Century Blvd.; Ste. 345 Los Angeles, CA 90045 (310) 642-6900	Submitted to: Settlement Judge	STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING
Bar # 67900		
In the Matter Of:		
ANGELA D. ROBINSON	STAYED SUSPENSION; NO ACTUAL SUSPENSION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 **October 11, 1991**.
- (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".

- (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 §§6086.10 & 6140.7. (Check one option only):
- ☐ costs added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline.
 - ☒ costs to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: **2010, 2011, and 2012**
(hardship, special circumstances or other good cause per rule 284, Rules of Procedure)
 - ☐ costs waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs"
 - ☐ costs entirely waived

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 a separate attachment entitled "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

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. **See Stipulation Attachment, para. 14.**
- (2) ☒ **No Harm:** Respondent did not harm the client or person who was the object of the misconduct. **See Stipulation Attachment, paras. 6 & 7.**
- (3) ☒ **Candor/Cooperation:** Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation with the victims of his/her misconduct and to the State Bar during disciplinary investigation and proceedings. **See Stipulation Attachment, para. 8.**
- (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. **See Stipulation Attachment, paras. 9-13.**
- (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) ☒ **Stayed Suspension:**

(a) ☒ Respondent must be suspended from the practice of law for a period of **one (1) year**.

- i. ☐ and until Respondent shows proof satisfactory to the State Bar Court of rehabilitation and present fitness to practice and present learning and ability in the law pursuant to standard 1.4(c)(ii), 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:

The above-referenced suspension is stayed.

(2) ☒ **Probation:**

Respondent is placed on probation for a period of **two (2) years**, which will commence upon the effective date of the Supreme Court order in this matter. (See rule 9.18 California Rules of Court)

E. Additional Conditions of Probation:

- (1) ☒ During the probation period, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (2) ☒ 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.
- (3) ☒ 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.
- (4) ☒ 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.

- (5) ☐ 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.

- (6) ☒ 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.
- (7) ☒ 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 State Bar Ethics School, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.
- ☐ No Ethics School recommended. Reason: .
- (8) ☐ 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.
- (9) ☐ 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 |

F. Other Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:

- (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 within one year. **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 321(a)(1) & (c), Rules of Procedure.**
- ☐ No MPRE recommended. Reason: .
- (2) ☐ **Other Conditions:**

Attachment language (if any):

ATTACHMENT TO
STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: ANGELA D. ROBINSON

CASE NO.: 07-O-10243-RAH

FACTS

1. On September 8, 2005, Respondent was hired by client Curtis Erales to substitute into the paternity case of *County of Los Angeles v. Curtis Erales*, Los Angeles County Superior Court case no. BY111832. On May 18, 2005, Erales had filed an Order to Show Cause re Child Support ("OSC") in pro per, to modify a child support order which had been entered on July 2, 2003. Respondent substituted into the case on September 28, 2005.

2. Respondent learned that the mother of the child was not a party to the action, and determined that she should be joined as a party.

3. On or about November 4, 2005, Respondent prepared a Notice of Motion and Declaration for Joinder. She erroneously spelled Erales as "Earles" in all ten places using his last name, two of which were for the signature on the Notice, which should have been signed by Respondent and not her client.

4. On November 17, 2005, Respondent signed Erales's name to the Notice and Declaration, using the misspelled "Earles" as both the typed name and the handwritten signature on both lines. The signature on the declaration was preceded by "I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct."

5. On December 6, 2005, Respondent filed the Notice and Declaration with the court, and obtained a hearing date of January 11, 2006.

6. On December 9, 2005, Eroles terminated Respondent and hired new counsel. The new counsel substituted into the case on January 10, 2006, and had the hearing taken off calendar. The information in the Declaration for Joinder was factually accurate, and was not relied upon by the court.

7. Respondent's actions caused no harm to her client or the opposing party, and the court was not misled or otherwise influenced. There was no need for any corrective action on her part.

8. At all times during the State Bar's investigation of this matter, Respondent and her counsel have cooperated fully with the State Bar. They entered into a stipulation of all material facts, as requested by the State Bar, and the stipulation was filed with the State Bar Court in time to make a trial of the allegations unnecessary.

9. Four community leaders with varied backgrounds have provided written statements of their knowledge of Respondent's good character, their knowledge of the disciplinary charges filed against Respondent, and their willingness to testify on her behalf at trial, if necessary.

10. Attorney William Spiller, Jr. has a busy law practice limited to court appointments as minors counsel in family law matters. He is one of the attorneys who provide the annual training required by law for qualification of attorneys to be appointed minors counsel by courts in Los Angeles County. He knows Respondent as an adversary and from seeing her in court on other cases. He says that Respondent is highly effective in serving ethnic minors in south central Los Angeles, and that her actual suspension by the State Bar would likely harm minors who otherwise would have received her help. He says that Respondent is a "consummate professional" who puts her young clients first. He has great respect for her professional ability, and believes that the Los Angeles County Superior Court needs more attorneys like her. Mr. Spiller is aware of the exact nature of Respondent's misconduct. He believes that her misconduct herein was done by inadvertence rather than with any intent to mislead the court.

11. Rev. Ron Taylor is the pastor and founder of a small church near the Los Angeles Airport, where Respondent was a member for several years until 2008. He says she provided legal services to the church several times, and provided pro bono services to some members who could not afford counsel. On one occasion, she provided a free legal clinic on family law matters for the community, which was well attended. She brought two or more other attorneys to assist the attendees. On several occasions, even after she joined another church last year, he has sent her persons who needed pro bono help, which she provided. Rev. Taylor is aware of the exact nature of Respondent's misconduct. He says her misconduct is "totally out of character" for her, and was not likely done with any bad motive or intention.

12. Nathaniel Eddins is a civil servant for the California Board of Equalization in Sacramento. He is also an ordained minister who volunteers as a chaplain in the main jail in Sacramento County. He has known Respondent for more than 20 years from her visits to relatives in Sacramento, including Respondent's grandmother and uncle. On several occasions, he called Respondent for advice on family law matters of concern to jail inmates he knew, and Respondent provided that advice. On one occasion, he asked Respondent to speak to his teenage son, who was "in a period of rebellion" and "getting into trouble." Respondent spoke to his son, and whatever she told him worked, because his son cleaned up his act and is now a responsible adult. Mr. Eddins is aware of the exact nature of Respondent's misconduct. He considers Respondent to have strong ethical values, and considers the charged misconduct to be an anomaly.

13. Rev. Edward A. Smith is the pastor of the church which Respondent currently attends regularly. He says she is providing pro bono services for a school the church has established to assist minorities to become small business owners. Rev. Smith is aware of the exact nature of Respondent's misconduct. He regards her as having the utmost integrity and good reputation in the community, and he hopes that her reputation will not be damaged by this misconduct, which he attributes to a mistake.

14. This is the first imposition of discipline against Respondent since she began practicing law in California on October 11, 1991.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

By signing the Notice and Declaration and filing them with the court with the purported signatures of her client, when Respondent herself had signed the client's name, Respondent sought to mislead the judge by an artifice in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(d).

DISMISSALS:

The State Bar requests dismissal of Count Two, alleging an act of moral turpitude in violation of Business and Professions Code section 6106, on the grounds of furtherance of justice. [Rule 262(e)(1).]

WAIVER OF VARIANCE:

The parties waive any variance between the Notice of Disciplinary Charges filed on October 31, 2008 and the facts and/or conclusions of law contained in this stipulation. Additionally, the parties waive the issuance of an amended Notice of Disciplinary Charges. The parties further waive the right to the filing of a Notice of Disciplinary Charges and to a formal hearing on any charge not included in the pending Notice of Disciplinary Charges.

SUPPORTING AUTHORITY:

Standard 2.6(a) of the Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct requires "disbarment or suspension depending on the gravity of the offense or the harm, if any, to the victim" for a willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068.

In the Matter of Jeffers (Review Dept. 1994) 3 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 211 -- Jeffers received a one-year stayed suspension for a single count violation of section 6068(d). Jeffers attended a Mandatory Settlement Conference as attorney for the temporary conservator of an underinsured defendant in a major personal injury case, with the probate court's authority to settle the case. The defendant had died, ending the authority of Jeffers's client to settle, and the client conservator had been appointed executor of the defendant's estate. Jeffers did not disclose that the settlement would require joinder of the decedent's estate, but opposing counsel informed the settlement judge. After joinder, Jeffers and his client settled the case properly for \$600,000. The Review Department found no aggravating circumstances and found mitigating circumstances of 36 years of practice without discipline.

PENDING PROCEEDINGS:

The disclosure date referred to on page 2, paragraph A.(7), was June 9, 2009.

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COSTS:

Respondent acknowledges that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel has informed Respondent that as of June 9, 2009, the estimated prosecution costs in this matter are approximately \$4,920.00. Respondent acknowledges that this figure is an estimate only.

If Respondent fails to pay any installment within the time provided in paragraph A.(8) above or as modified by the State Bar Court pursuant to section 6068.10 (c), the remaining balance of costs will be due and payable immediately and enforceable as a money judgment unless relief is granted under rule 286 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California.

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In the Matter of ANGELA D. ROBINSON	Case number(s): 07-O-10243-RAH
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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 Fact, Conclusions of Law and Disposition.

June 9, 2009
Date

Angela D. Robinson
Respondent's Signature

Angela D. Robinson
Print Name

June 9, 2009
Date

Paul J. Virgo
Respondent's Counsel Signature

Paul J. Virgo
Print Name

June 12, 2009
Date

Larry DeSha
Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature

Larry DeSha
Print Name

(Do not write above this line.)

In the Matter Of ANGELA D. ROBINSON	Case Number(s): 07-O-10243-RAH
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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.

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.) **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.)**

Date

6/18/09

Judge of the State Bar Court



DONALD F. MILES

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

[Rule 62(b), Rules Proc.; 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 July 9, 2009, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

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

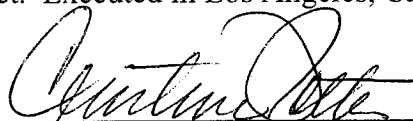
in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing on that date as follows:

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

PAUL JEAN VIRGO
PO BOX 67682
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067 - 0682
- ☐ by certified mail, No. , with return receipt requested, through the United States Postal Service at , California, addressed as follows:
- ☐ by overnight mail at , California, addressed as follows:
- ☐ by fax transmission, at fax number . No error was reported by the fax machine that I used.
- ☐ By personal service by leaving the documents in a sealed envelope or package clearly labeled to identify the attorney being served with a receptionist or a person having charge of the attorney's office, addressed as follows:
- ☒ by interoffice mail through a facility regularly maintained by the State Bar of California addressed as follows:

Ernest Larry DeSha, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on July 9, 2009.



Cristina Potter
Case Administrator
State Bar Court