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State Bar Court of California Hearing Department <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco		
Counsel for the State Bar STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL RONALD E. MAGNUSON 1149 S. HILL STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90015 (213) 765-1253 Bar # 77265	Case number(s) 04-O-11614 04-O-12321 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">PUBLIC MATTER</p>	(for Court's use) <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">FILED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAR 30 2005 <i>ROC</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE LOS ANGELES</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Counsel for Respondent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Pro Per, Respondent SHIRLEE LYN BLISS 290 E. VERDUGO AVE. #100 BURBANK, CA 91502 (818) 842-0997 Bar # 101585	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	
In the Matter of SHIRLEE LYN BLISS Bar # 101585 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 December 1, 1981
(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 ___ 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) 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.



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- (8) Payment of Disciplinary Costs—Respondent acknowledges the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code §§6086.10 & 6140.7. (Check one option only):
- (a) costs added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline (public reproof)
 - (b) case ineligible for costs (private reproof)
 - (c) 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)
 - (d) costs waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs"
 - (e) costs entirely waived
- (9) 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 inquires 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 92-0-13558
 - (b) Date prior discipline effective June 16, 1994
 - (c) Rules of Professional Conduct/ State Bar Act violations: Rules of Professional Conduct, rules 3-110 (former Rule 6-101(A)(2)), and 3-700(A)(2) (former Rule 2-111(A)(2)); Business and Professions Code Section 6068(m)
 - (d) Degree of prior discipline Private Reproof

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- (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.
- (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 with 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.

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- (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:

(Do not write above this line.)

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 Reproof:

- (1) Respondent must comply with the conditions attached to the reproof for a period of one year
- (2) During the condition period attached to the reproof, Respondent must comply with the provisions of the State Bar Act and Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (3) Within ten (10) days of any change, Respondent must report to the Membership Records Office and to the Office of Probation of the State Bar of California ("Office of Probation"), all changes of information, including current office address and telephone number, or other address for State Bar purposes, as prescribed by section 6002.1 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (4) Within 30 days from the effective date of discipline, Respondent must contact the Office of Probation and schedule a meeting with Respondent's assigned probation deputy to discuss these terms and conditions of probation. Upon the direction of the Office of Probation, Respondent must meet with the probation deputy either in-person or by telephone. During the period of probation, Respondent must promptly meet with the probation deputy as directed and upon request.
- (5) Respondent must submit written quarterly reports to the Office of Probation on each January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of the condition period attached to the reproof. 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 the reproof during the preceding calendar quarter. Respondent must also state in each report 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 thirty (30) days, that report must 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.

- (6) Respondent must be assigned a probation monitor. Respondent must promptly review the terms and conditions of probation with the probation monitor to establish a manner and schedule of compliance. During the period of probation, Respondent must furnish such reports as may be requested, in addition to quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Office of Probation. Respondent must cooperate fully with the monitor.

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- (7) Subject to assertion of applicable privileges, Respondent must answer fully, promptly and truthfully any inquiries of the Office of Probation and any probation monitor assigned under these conditions which are directed to Respondent personally or in writing relating to whether Respondent is complying or has complied with the conditions attached to the reprobation.
- (8) Within one (1) year of the effective date of the discipline herein, Respondent must provide to the Office of Probation satisfactory proof of attendance of the Ethics School and passage of the test given at the end of that session.
- No Ethics School ordered. Reason: _____
- (9) Respondent must comply with all conditions of probation imposed in the underlying criminal matter and must so declare under penalty of perjury in conjunction with any quarterly report required to be filed with the Office of Probation.
- (10) 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 of the effective date of the reprobation.
- No MPRE ordered. Reason: _____
- (11) 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:

ATTACHMENT TO
STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION

IN THE MATTER OF: SHIRLEE LYN BLISS

CASE NUMBERS: 04-O-11614 and 04-O-12321

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Case Number 04-O-11614

On January 25, 1999, Otto Gruhn employed Respondent to represent him in a personal injury matter on a contingency fee basis. On January 20, 2000, Respondent filed a complaint on behalf of Gruhn.

On February 5, 2002, without Gruhn's permission, Respondent filed a request for dismissal of the entire action of all parties and all causes of action, without prejudice. Respondent never advised Gruhn that she filed a request for dismissal of the entire action. On October 9, 2002, Gruhn's matter was dismissed. Respondent received notice of the dismissal; however, she never informed Gruhn of the dismissal.

On or about March 4, 2004, the State Bar opened an investigation, case number 04-O-11614, pursuant to a complaint filed by Gruhn.

On May 3, 2004, the State Bar Investigator Susan Kim wrote to Respondent regarding the Gruhn matter. On May 20, 2004, Investigator Kim wrote to Respondent again regarding the Gruhn matter. Investigator Kim's letters requested that Respondent respond in writing to specified allegations of misconduct being investigated by the State Bar in the Gruhn matter. Respondent received both letters, but did not respond to the investigator's letters or otherwise communicate with the investigator.

By dismissing Gruhn's cause of action without his permission and by failing to notify Gruhn that his cause of action had been dismissed, Respondent recklessly failed to perform legal services for which he was hired with competence in wilful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A).

By failing to inform Gruhn that his case had been dismissed, Respondent failed to keep Gruhn reasonably informed of significant developments in his matter, in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(m).

By not providing a written response to the allegations in the Gruhn matter or otherwise cooperating in the investigation of the Gruhn matter, Respondent failed to cooperate in a disciplinary investigation in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(i).

Case Number 04-O-12321

On or about April 7, 2004, Sholeh Daher met with Respondent for a free consultation to discuss a family law matter. Respondent requested a \$5,000 retainer and Daher gave Respondent a check for \$2,000.

On April 8, 2004, Daher sent Respondent a letter by fax requesting a full refund. Although she received the fax, Respondent did not immediately respond in any manner.

On April 22, 2004, Daher sent Respondent a letter requesting a full refund. Although Respondent received the letter, Respondent did not immediately respond in any manner.

On June 15, 2004, Respondent mailed Daher a letter. That letter stated that Respondent had incurred a cost of \$100 in setting up Daher's file and that Respondent was charging Daher \$100 because only the first half hour of the consultation was free. The letter also enclosed another letter dated May 23, 2004, which stated that Respondent was only going to refund \$1,800. The June 15, 2004 letter went on to state that because the May 23, 2004 letter had not gone out in a timely matter, Respondent was refunding the entire \$2,000.

On or about May 3, 2004, the State Bar opened an investigation, case no. 04-O-12321, pursuant to a complaint filed by Sholeh Daher.

On June 9, 2004, State Bar Investigator Susan Kim wrote to Respondent again regarding the Daher matter.

Respondent received both May 3, 2004 and June 9, 2004 letters. The investigator's letters requested that Respondent respond in writing to specified allegations of misconduct being investigated by the State Bar in the Daher matter. Respondent did not respond to the investigator's letters or otherwise communicate with the investigator.

By failing to immediately refund Daher's money, Respondent wilfully failed to promptly refund unearned fees in violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-700(D)(2).

By not providing a written response to the allegations in the Daher matter or otherwise cooperating in the investigation of the Daher matter, Respondent failed to cooperate in a disciplinary investigation in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(i).

PENDING PROCEEDINGS.

The disclosure date referred to, on page one, paragraph A.(6), was March 2, 2005.

DISMISSALS.

The parties respectfully request the Court to dismiss the following alleged violations in

the interest of justice:

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Alleged Violation</u>
04-O-12321	Four	Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A), Failure to Perform with Competence

AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING DISCIPLINE.

In *In the Matter of Robert S. Hanson* (1994) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 703, the respondent was publicly reprovved for committing misconduct in a single client matter. The respondent's misconduct involved failing to promptly refund unearned fees to his clients and upon discharge by the clients, failing to take steps to avoid foreseeable prejudice to his clients. (See *id.* at p. 710.) Respondent had no mitigating circumstances and was privately reprovved in 1975. (See *id.* at p. 709.)

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In the Matter of SHIRLEE LYN BLISS	Case number(s): 04-0-11614 and 04-0-12321
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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 Facts, Conclusions of Law and Disposition.

3/18/05 *Shirlee Bliss* SHIRLEE LYN BLISS
Date Respondent's signature Print name

Date Respondent's Counsel's signature Print name

3/22/05 *R. E. Magnuson* RONALD E. MAGNUSON
Date ~~Deputy Trial~~ Counsel's signature Print name
Senior

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In the Matter of SHIRLEE LYN BLISS	Case number(s): 04-O-11614 and 04-O-12321
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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:

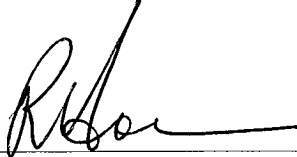
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AND THE REPROVAL IMPOSED.
- The stipulated facts and disposition are APPROVED AS MODIFIED as set forth below, and the REPROVAL IMPOSED.
- All Hearing dates are vacated.

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.) **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

3/28/05


RICHARD A. HONN
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 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 March 30, 2005, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

**STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION
AND ORDER APPROVING, filed March 30, 2005**

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:

**SHIRLEE LYN BLISS A/L
290 E VERDUGO AVENUE #100
BURBANK CA 91502**

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

RONALD MAGNUSON, ESQ, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on **March 30, 2005**.



Angela Owens-Carpenter
Case Administrator
State Bar Court