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<b>State Bar Court of California</b> <b>Hearing Department</b> <b>Los Angeles</b> <b>REPROVAL</b>		
Counsel For The State Bar  Charles A. Murray Deputy Trial Counsel 1149 South Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012-1236 (213) 765-1236  Bar # 146069	Case Number(s): 11-C-13342  <b>PUBLIC MATTER</b>	For Court use only  <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>FILED</b>  <b>NOV - 8 2011</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">           STATE BAR COURT            CLERK'S OFFICE            LOS ANGELES         </div>
Counsel For Respondent  Jeffrey D. Kent 418 E. La Habra Boulevard LaHabra, CA 90631 (562) 694-3827  Bar # 162237	Submitted to: <b>Settlement Judge</b>  STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING  <b>PUBLIC REPROVAL</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED	
In the Matter of: <b>GEORGE V. VARGAS</b>  Bar # 234005  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, 2004.
- (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."

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Reproval



- (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 are added to membership fee for calendar year following effective date of discipline (public reproof).
  - Case ineligible for costs (private reproof).
  - Costs are to be paid in equal amounts prior to February 1 for the following membership years: (Hardship, special circumstances or other good cause per rule 5.132, Rules of Procedure.) If Respondent 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.
  - Costs are waived in part as set forth in a separate attachment entitled "Partial Waiver of Costs".
  - Costs are 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 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

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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:**

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**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.
- (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

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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. Respondent was involved in a family dispute with the mother of their children regarding custody.
- (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:**

Respondent has no prior record of discipline in over 5 years of practice.

**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 must comply with the conditions attached to the reproof for a period of 2 years.
- (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 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.
- (4)  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.
- (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,

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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 30 (thirty) 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 the quarterly reports required to be submitted to the Office of Probation. Respondent must cooperate fully with the monitor.
- (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 reproof.
- (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 at a session of the Ethics School, and passage of the test given at the end of that session.
- No Ethics School recommended. 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 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 reproof.

No MPRE recommended. Reason: the protection of the public and the interests of the Respondent do not require passage of the MPRE in this case where the misconduct did not directly involve a client or the practice of law. (See In the Matter of Respondent G (Review Dept. 1992) 2 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 181).

- (11)  The following conditions are attached hereto and incorporated:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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:**

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### Substance Abuse Conditions

- a.  Respondent must abstain from use of any alcoholic beverages, and shall not use or possess any narcotics, dangerous or restricted drugs, controlled substances, marijuana, or associated paraphernalia, except with a valid prescription.
- b.  Respondent must attend at least 2 meetings per ~~month of~~ *week of* any of the following meeting options:
- Alcoholics Anonymous
  - Narcotics Anonymous
  - The Other Bar
  - Other program Any 12-step or secular based self-help program designed to maintain abstinence from the use of alcohol and drugs.

As a separate reporting requirement, Respondent must provide to the Office of Probation satisfactory proof of attendance during each month, on or before the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day of the following month, during the condition or probation period.

- c.  Respondent must select a license medical laboratory approved by the Office of Probation. Respondent must furnish to the laboratory blood and/or urine samples as may be required to show that Respondent has abstained from alcohol and/or drugs. The samples must be furnished to the laboratory in such a manner as may be specified by the laboratory to ensure specimen integrity. Respondent must cause the laboratory to provide to the Office of Probation, at the Respondent's expense, a screening report on or before the tenth day of each month of the condition or probation period, containing an analysis of Respondent's blood and/or urine obtained not more than ten (10) days previously.
- d.  Respondent must maintain with the Office of Probation a current address and a current telephone number at which Respondent can be reached. Respondent must return any call from the Office of Probation concerning testing of Respondent's blood or urine within twelve (12) hours. For good cause, the Office of Probation may require Respondent to deliver Respondent's urine and/or blood sample(s) for additional reports to the laboratory described above no later than six hours after actual notice to Respondent that the Office of Probation requires an additional screening report.
- e.  Upon the request of the Office of Probation, Respondent must provide the Office of Probation with medical waivers and access to all of Respondent's medical records. Revocation of any medical waiver is a violation of this condition. Any medical records obtained by the Office of Probation are confidential and no information concerning them or their contents will be given to anyone except members of the Office of Probation, Office of the Chief Trial Counsel, and the State Bar Court who are directly involved with maintaining, enforcing or adjudicating this condition.

Other:

Respondent must obtain substance abuse help/treatment from medical provider qualified in the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse and dependency at Respondent's own expense a minimum of one (1)

(Effective January 1, 2011)

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time per month and must furnish evidence to the Office of Probation that Respondent is so complying with each quarterly report required by this reproof. Treatment should commence immediately, and in any event, no later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of this reproof. Treatment shall continue for the period of this reproof or until a motion to modify this condition is granted and that ruling becomes final.

If the treating medical provider determines that there has been substantial change in Respondent's condition, respondent of the Office fo the Chief Trial Counsel may file a motion for modificatin of this condition with the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court, pursuant to rule 5.300 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. The motion must be supported by a written statement from a psychiatrist or psychologist, by affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury, in suport of the proposed modification.

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**ATTACHMENT TO**  
**STIPULATION RE FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

IN THE MATTER OF:      **GEORGE VINCENT VARGAS**      MEMBER: **234005**  
CASE NUMBER(s):      11-C-13342

**PARTIES ARE BOUND BY THE STIPULATED FACTS:**

The parties intend to be and are hereby bound by the stipulated facts contained in this stipulation. This stipulation as to facts and the facts so stipulated shall independently survive even if the conclusions of law and/or stipulated disposition set forth herein are rejected or changed in any manner whatsoever by the Hearing Department or the Review Department of the State Bar Court, or by the California Supreme Court.

**WAIVER OF FINALITY OF CONVICTION (rule 607):**

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California, rule 607 the parties stipulate that the Court may decide the issues as to the discipline to be imposed even if the criminal convictions discussed herein are not final.

Respondent waives finality of his conviction and consents to the State Bar Court's acceptance of this Stipulation as to facts, conclusions of law and discipline in all respects as if the conviction was final, including the entry of findings consistent with this Stipulation, imposition of discipline, or entry of a recommendation as to the degree of the discipline to be imposed.

Respondent waives any right to challenge on the basis of a lack of finality of his conviction the State Bar Court's recommendation of discipline, if any, and the actual imposition of discipline, if any, by the State Bar Court or the California Supreme Court.

Respondent further waives any right he may have to seek review or reconsideration on the basis of any relief he may receive as a result of any appeal of, or petition regarding, the criminal conviction underlying any recommendation of and/or actual imposition of discipline by the State Bar Court or the California Supreme Court.

**STIPULATION AS TO 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, or has otherwise committed acts of misconduct warranting discipline, as follows:

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RESPONDENT: MURPHY, KEVIN C.

(Printed: 10/19/11)

(PROGRAM)

Attachment Page 4



### FACTS

1. On October 29, 2004, Respondent was arrested for drunk driving, resulting in a September 29, 2005 conviction for violating Vehicle Code section 23152(b), driving a vehicle with a blood/alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or greater.
2. On May 2, 2010, on the Pacific Coast Highway in the area of Dana Point, California, Respondent was the driver of a vehicle traveling northbound. An Orange County Sheriff Officer traveling southbound observed the headlights on Respondent's vehicle to be on high beam. The Officer flashed the high beam of his headlights for on and off to signal Respondent to dim his headlights. The headlights of Respondent's vehicle remained on high beam. The Officer his flashed his headlights several more times but Respondent did not dim his high beam and passed by the Officer's vehicle. The Officer made a U-turn, activated his overhead lights, pursued Respondent's vehicle. Respondent did not respond to the overhead lights. The Officer activated his siren. Respondent continued on before finally turning right onto an intersecting road and stopping just on the other side of a railroad crossing.
3. Upon approaching Respondent, the Officer observed objective signs that Respondent was intoxicated, including bloodshot/watery eyes, slurred speech, and a strong odor of alcohol coming from his person. Respondent did not have his driver's license with him and instead gave the Officer information to identify him. The Officer ran a check and discovered Respondent's 2005 DUI conviction. Based on this information and the Officer's observations of Respondent, the Officer conducted a DUI investigation.
4. Respondent's gait was unsteady when he walked. Respondent declined to perform field sobriety tests or to answer questions. Based on the totality of circumstances the Officer took Respondent into custody for DUI. Respondent's blood alcohol content tested at .16%.
5. On November 4, 2010, the Orange County District Attorney filed a misdemeanor criminal complaint against Respondent charging him, among other things, with separate counts of driving under the influence of intoxicants (Vehicle Code section 23152(a)) and driving with a blood alcohol content of .08% or greater (vehicle Code section 23152(b)), both enhanced by his 2005 DUI as a prior conviction.
6. On May 9, 2011 Respondent entered a guilty plea to driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of .16% and admitted the prior DUI. The Court accepted the plea and found him guilty and convicted him on that count with the prior enhancement. The other charges were dismissed. Imposition of sentence for his DUI conviction was suspended and Respondent was placed on summary probation for 3 years with conditions including but not limited to 60 days in jail; various fees, fines and assessments; participation in treatment or counseling, as directed; enrollment in the court's 18 month DUI multiple offender program; he not drive without proof of valid liability insurance in his possession; he not drive with any measurable level of alcohol in his system; and obey all laws.

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### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW


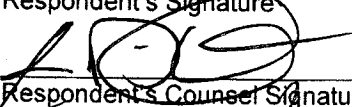

6. The facts and circumstances surrounding Respondent's misdemeanor violation of Vehicle Code Section 23152(a) (driving under the influence of intoxicants, with a prior) do not involve moral turpitude, but do involve other misconduct warranting discipline pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 6101 and 6102.

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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.

10/25/11		George V. Vargas
Date	Respondent's Signature	Print Name
10/26/11		Jeffrey D. Kent
Date	Respondent's Counsel Signature	Print Name
10/31/2011		Charles A. Murray
Date	Deputy Trial Counsel's Signature	Print Name

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In the Matter of: GEORGE V. VARGAS	Case Number(s): 11-C-13342
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### REPROVAL 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 court dates in the Hearing Department 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 5.58(E) & (F), 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.**

11/3/11  
Date



Judge of the State Bar Court

RONALD F. MILES

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 8, 2011, 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:

JEFFREY D. KENT  
MCDONNELL & KENT  
418 E LA HABRA BLVD  
LA HABRA, CA 90631

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:

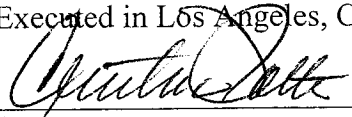
by fax transmission, at fax number . No error was reported by the fax machine that I used.

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:

Michael John Glass, Enforcement, Los Angeles

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on November 8, 2011.

  
Cristina Potter  
Case Administrator  
State Bar Court