

ORIGINAL

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State Bar Court of California Hearing Department San Francisco REPROVAL		
Counsel For The State Bar Rebecca Thompson Deputy Trial Counsel 180 Howard Street San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 538-2346 Bar # 173202	Case Number(s): 11-C-14997	For Court use only PUBLIC MATTER FILED <i>[Signature]</i> MAY 10 2012 STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO
In Pro Per Respondent Keith R. Lee 150 Gardenside Drive, No. 103 San Francisco, CA 94131 (415) 609-0450 Bar # 160985	Submitted to: Settlement Judge STIPULATION RE FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DISPOSITION AND ORDER APPROVING PRIVATE REPROVAL ☐ PREVIOUS STIPULATION REJECTED	
In the Matter of: Keith R. Lee Bar # 160985 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 14, 1992.
- (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 10 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 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

- (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. See page 7.

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 page 7.
- (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. See page 7.
- (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. See page 7.
- (5) ☐ **Restitution:** Respondent paid \$ _____ on _____ in restitution to I 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:

Respondent has no prior record of discipline in over nineteen (19) years of practice. See page 7.

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 two (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, 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 reproval.
- (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 reproval.

☒ No MPRE recommended. Reason: The protection of the public and the interests of Respondent do not require passage of the MPRE in this case. 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:

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|--|---|
| ☐ Substance Abuse Conditions | ☐ Law Office Management Conditions |
| ☒ Medical Conditions | ☐ Financial Conditions |

F. Other Conditions Negotiated by the Parties:

Attachment language (if any):

FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Case No. 11-C-14997

Facts

1. On December 12, 2010, Respondent was driving on the freeway in Sonoma County, California, when a driver made a lane change into Respondent's lane in front of Respondent. Respondent alleges the driver caused him to brake hard to avoid a collision. Respondent followed the driver off the freeway, where both parties exited their cars. Respondent and the driver had a verbal altercation, in which Respondent yelled an obscenity at the driver and kicked her Jeep twice. Respondent left the scene before the police officer arrived.
2. On March 28, 2011, criminal charges were filed in Sonoma County Superior Court, Case No. SCR599913.
3. On July 20, 2011, Respondent pled no contest to violating Penal Code section 594(a) (vandalism), a misdemeanor.
4. Respondent was sentenced to a twenty-four (24) month conditional sentence, ordered to have no contact with the driver, assessed fines, ordered to pay \$2,018.00 in restitution, and sentenced to two (2) days in jail, credit for time served.
5. Prior to Respondent's plea of no contest, he paid the driver the full restitution in the amount of \$2,018.00.

Conclusions of Law

Respondent violated Penal Code section 594(a), in violation of Business and Professions Code section 6068(a). For purposes of settlement, the parties stipulate that Respondent did not commit an act of moral turpitude; however, Respondent committed other misconduct warranting discipline.

PENDING PROCEEDINGS

The disclosure date referred to, on Page 2, paragraph A(7), was May 7, 2012.

STATE BAR ETHICS SCHOOL

Based on Respondent's agreement to attend State Bar Ethics School as part of this stipulation, Respondent may receive Minimum Continuing Education credit upon satisfactory completion of State Bar Ethics School.

FACTS SUPPORTING AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

There are no aggravating circumstances.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Standard 1.2(e)(i). Respondent was admitted to the State Bar of California on December 14, 1992. He has no prior record of discipline in over nineteen (19) years of practice.

Standard 1.2(e)(v). Respondent displayed spontaneous candor and cooperation to the State Bar during the disciplinary proceedings.

Standard 1.2(e)(vii). Respondent displayed remorse for his conduct.

SUPPORTING AUTHORITY

Standard 3.4 states, as follows: "Final conviction of a member of a crime which does not involve moral turpitude inherently or in the facts and circumstances surrounding the crime's commission but which does involve other misconduct warranting discipline shall result in a sanction as prescribed under part B of these standards appropriate to the nature and extent of the misconduct found to have been committed by the member."

Part B, Standard 2.10, requires that a violation of any provision of the Business and Professions Code not specified in these standards (e.g., Business and Professions Code section 6068(a)) shall result in reproof or suspension according to the gravity of the offense or harm, if any, to the victim, with due regard to the purposes of imposing discipline set forth in standard 1.3.

Based on the mitigation in this matter and the lack of aggravation, a private reproof is the appropriate level of discipline in this matter.

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Medical Conditions

- a. ☐ Unless Respondent has been terminated from the Lawyer Assistance Program ("LAP") prior to respondent's successful completion of the LAP, respondent must comply with all provisions and conditions of respondent's Participation Agreement with the LAP and must provide an appropriate waiver authorizing the LAP to provide the Office of Probation and this court with information regarding the terms and conditions of respondent's participation in the LAP and respondent's compliance or non-compliance with LAP requirements. Revocation of the written waiver for release of LAP information is a violation of this condition. However, if respondent has successfully completed the LAP, respondent need not comply with this condition.
- b. ☒ Respondent must obtain psychiatric or psychological help/treatment from a duly licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker at respondent's own expense a minimum of two (2) times per month and must furnish evidence to the Office of Probation that respondent is so complying with each quarterly report. Help/treatment should commence immediately, and in any event, no later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of the discipline in this matter. Treatment must continue for ~~xxxxxx days or xxxxxx months or~~ ~~years or~~ the period of probation or until a motion to modify this condition is granted and that ruling becomes final.

If the treating psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker determines that there has been a substantial change in respondent's condition, respondent or Office of the Chief Trial Counsel may file a motion for modification 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 the psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker, by affidavit or under penalty of perjury, in support of the proposed modification.

- c. ☒ 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:

Pursuant to paragraph (b), above, Respondent shall obtain psychological treatment from Louis Morello, Ph.D. ("Dr. Morello"). Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of discipline in this matter, Respondent must provide Dr. Morello with a copy of this stipulation. Respondent must ensure that Dr. Morello provides a written acknowledgment of receipt of the stipulation, indicating the date of receipt, in conjunction with Dr. Morello's submission of his first report due to the Office of Probation. Respondent's treatment with Dr. Morello shall include treatment in the area of anger management. Consistent with paragraph (b), above, Respondent shall furnish evidence from Dr. Morello to the Office of Probation stating that Respondent is complying with the required treatment in anger management. In the event that Respondent elects to terminate treatment with Dr. Morello, Respondent must first obtain prior approval from the Office of Probation regarding treatment with another duly licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker. Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of discipline in this matter, Respondent must provide a copy of this stipulation to the new duly licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker. Respondent must ensure that the new duly licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or

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clinical social worker provides a written acknowledgment of receipt of the stipulation, indicating the date of receipt, in conjunction with his or her submission of his or her first report due to the Office of Probation

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In the Matter of:
KEITH R. LEE

Case Number(s):
11-C-14997

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.

Date

May 10, 2012

Judge of the State Bar Court

LUCY ARMENDARIZ

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 San Francisco, On May 10, 2012, 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 San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:

KEITH R. LEE
150 GARDENSIDE DR APT 103
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94131

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

REBECCA M. THOMPSON, Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California, on May 10, 2012.


Laurretta Cramer
Case Administrator
State Bar Court