

FILED

SEP 25 2018

**STATE BAR COURT
CLERK'S OFFICE
LOS ANGELES**

STATE BAR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

REVIEW DEPARTMENT

IN BANK

In the Matter of)	Case No. 17-C-07280
)	
SEAN JAMES BALLARD,)	RECOMMENDATION OF SUMMARY
)	DISBARMENT
A Member of the State Bar, No. 160070.)	
_____)	

On August 7, 2018, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar (OCTC) filed a request for summary disbarment based the felony conviction of Sean James Ballard. Ballard did not respond. We grant the request and recommend that Ballard be summarily disbarred.

On March 6, 2018, Ballard was convicted of violating 17 counts of Penal Code section 186.10, subdivision (a) (money laundering), and one count of Penal Code section 487, subdivision (a) (grand theft), felonies involving moral turpitude. OCTC transmitted evidence of Ballard's conviction on April 13, 2018. On May 10, 2018, we ordered that Ballard be placed on interim suspension, effective June 4, 2018, pending the final disposition of his proceeding.

On August 7, 2018, OCTC transmitted evidence of finality. The certified docket shows that no party has filed a timely notice of appeal within the statutory period following entry of the judgment. Therefore, the conviction is final. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.10(a).)

After the judgment of conviction becomes final, "the Supreme Court shall summarily disbar the attorney if the offense is a felony . . . and an element of the offense is the specific intent to deceive, defraud, steal, or make or suborn a false statement, or involved moral



turpitude.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6102, subd. (c).) The record of conviction in this case establishes both criteria for summary disbarment.

First, Ballard’s offenses are felonies. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6102, subd. (b) [a crime is a felony if declared as such by subdivision (a) of Section 17 of the Penal Code]; Pen. Code §§ 17, subd. (a) [a felony is a crime punishable with imprisonment in state prison or county jail]; 186.10, subd. (a) [money laundering is punishable with either a fine, imprisonment in county jail up to 1 year, or both]; 489, subd. (c) [grand theft is punishable with imprisonment in county jail up to 1 year].)

Second, the crimes of money laundering and grand theft of personal property involve moral turpitude. (*In re Paguirigan* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 1, 5 [crimes of robbery, embezzlement, and other forms of theft necessarily involve moral turpitude]; *In re Basinger* (1988) 45 Cal.3d 1348, 1358 [grand theft necessarily involves moral turpitude].) Ballard’s underlying offenses involve fraud, and crimes involving intent to deceive or defraud are unquestionably moral turpitude. (*Jordan v. De George* (1951) 341 U.S. 223, 232.) Accordingly, Ballard’s conviction qualifies him for summary disbarment.

When an attorney’s conviction meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c), “the attorney is not entitled to a State Bar Court hearing to determine whether lesser discipline is called for.” (*In re Paguirigan* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 1, 7.) Disbarment is mandatory. (*Id.* at p. 9.)

We therefore recommend that Sean James Ballard, State Bar number 160070, be disbarred from the practice of law in this state. We also recommend that he be ordered to comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20 and to perform the acts specified in subdivisions (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 days, respectively, after the effective date of the Supreme Court’s order. Finally, we recommend that the costs be awarded to the State Bar

in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10, and that such costs be enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment.

PURCELL

Presiding Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

[Rules Proc. of State Bar; Rule 5.27(B); Code Civ. Proc., § 1013a(4)]

I am a Court Specialist 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 September 25, 2018, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

RECOMMENDATION OF SUMMARY DISBARMENT FILED
SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

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

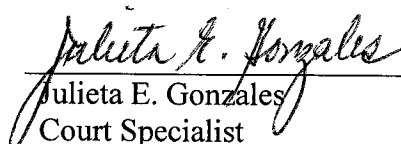
- by first-class mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, through the United States Postal Service at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

SEAN J. BALLARD
26461 OLD AGENCY RD
HEMET, CA 92544 - 6511

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

Kevin B. Taylor, Enforcement, San Francisco

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, on September 25, 2018.



Julieta E. Gonzales
Court Specialist
State Bar Court