

# Public Matter

**FILED**

3/21/2019

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

*MK*

1 STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
2 OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL  
3 MELANIE J. LAWRENCE, No. 230102  
4 INTERIM CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL  
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STATE BAR COURT

HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

12 In the Matter of:

13 LEE ARDELL WOOD,  
14 No. 58676,

15 A Member of the State Bar.

) Case No. **SBC-19-O-30132**

) NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

) (OCTC Case No. 18-O-13196)

16 **NOTICE - FAILURE TO RESPOND!**

17 **IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO THIS NOTICE**  
18 **WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER SERVICE, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT**  
19 **THE STATE BAR COURT TRIAL:**

- 20 (1) **YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;**  
21 (2) **YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU**  
22 **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;**  
23 (3) **YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN**  
24 **THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION**  
25 **AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE, AND;**  
26 (4) **YOU SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE.**  
27 **SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE**  
28 **OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN**  
**ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT WITHOUT**  
**FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. SEE RULE 5.80 ET SEQ.,**  
**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA.**

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1 The State Bar of California alleges:

2 JURISDICTION

3 1. Lee Ardell Wood (“respondent”) was admitted to the practice of law in the State of  
4 California on December 20, 1973, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges, and is  
5 currently a member of the State Bar of California.

6 COUNT ONE

7 Case No. 18-O-13196  
8 Former Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(A)  
9 [Commingling Personal Funds in Client Trust Account]

10 2. Between February 2018 and May 2018, respondent deposited or commingled funds  
11 belonging to respondent and/or respondent’s business partnerships into respondent’s client trust  
12 account at Bank of America, Account No. XXXXXX8950, as follows in willful violation of  
13 former Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(A):

<u>DATE OF DEPOSIT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FORM OF DEPOSIT</u>
02/06/18	\$5,000.00	Check No. 1866
03/02/18	\$750.00	Check No. 1869
03/05/18	\$2,875.00	Check No. 1871
03/12/18	\$1,500.00	Check No. 1874
04/05/18	\$6,000.00	Check No. 1880
04/20/18	\$3,000.00	Check No. 817
05/02/18	\$3,250.00	Check No. 819

22 COUNT TWO

23 Case No. 18-O-13196  
24 Former Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(A)  
25 [Commingling – Payment of Personal Expenses from Client Trust Account]

26 3. Between February 2018 and May 2018, respondent issued the following checks  
27 and/or electronic withdrawals from funds in respondent’s client trust account at Bank of  
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1 America, account no. XXXXXX8950, for the payment of personal and/or business expenses, in  
2 willful violation of former Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(A):

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DATE OF CHECK	CHECK NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT
02/07/18	1290	Brandon Wood	\$4,265.00
03/02/18	1291	Gelson's Market	\$350.00
03/06/18	1121208274	The Residences on Jamboree	\$3,051.04
03/06/18	1292	Greg Kruger	\$750.00
04/06/18	1588420341	The Residences on Jamboree	\$3,046.28
04/23/18	1294	Brandon Wood	\$490.00
05/02/18	1295	The Residences on Jamboree	\$2,948.82
05/17/18	1284	Gelson's Market	\$250.00

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14 **NOTICE - INACTIVE ENROLLMENT!**

15 **YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT IF THE STATE BAR**  
16 **COURT FINDS, PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE**  
17 **SECTION 6007(c), THAT YOUR CONDUCT POSES A SUBSTANTIAL**  
18 **THREAT OF HARM TO THE INTERESTS OF YOUR CLIENTS OR TO**  
19 **THE PUBLIC, YOU MAY BE INVOLUNTARILY ENROLLED AS AN**  
20 **INACTIVE MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR. YOUR INACTIVE**  
21 **ENROLLMENT WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO ANY DISCIPLINE**  
22 **RECOMMENDED BY THE COURT.**

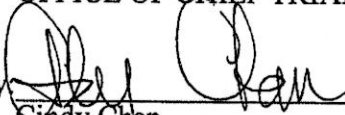
23 **NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!**

24 **IN THE EVENT THESE PROCEDURES RESULT IN PUBLIC**  
25 **DISCIPLINE, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF COSTS**  
26 **INCURRED BY THE STATE BAR IN THE INVESTIGATION, HEARING**  
27 **AND REVIEW OF THIS MATTER PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND**  
28 **PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6086.10.**

Respectfully submitted,

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

DATED: March 21, 2019

By   
Cindy Chan  
Deputy Trial Counsel

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

by
U.S. FIRST-CLASS MAIL / U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL / OVERNIGHT DELIVERY / FACSIMILE-ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

CASE NUMBER(s): 18-O-13196

I, the undersigned, am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action, whose business address and place of employment is the State Bar of California, 845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90017, declare that:

- on the date shown below, I caused to be served a true copy of the within document described as follows:

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

- By U.S. First-Class Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a))
By U.S. Certified Mail: (CCP §§ 1013 and 1013(a))
By Overnight Delivery: (CCP §§ 1013(c) and 1013(d))
By Fax Transmission: (CCP §§ 1013(e) and 1013(f))
By Electronic Service: (CCP § 1010.6)

- (for U.S. First-Class Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)
(for Certified Mail) in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing as certified mail, return receipt requested, Article No.: 9414 7266 9904 2111 0170 40 at Los Angeles, addressed to: (see below)
(for Overnight Delivery) together with a copy of this declaration, in an envelope, or package designated by UPS, Tracking No.: addressed to: (see below)

Table with 4 columns: Person Served, Business-Residential Address, Fax Number, Courtesy Copy to. Row 1: LEE ARDELL WOOD, Lee A Wood Attorney at Law, Inc., PO Box 8101, Newport Beach, CA 92658, Electronic Address.

via inter-office mail regularly processed and maintained by the State Bar of California addressed to:

N/A

I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service, and overnight delivery by the United Parcel Service (UPS).

I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope or package is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing contained in the affidavit.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on the date shown below.

DATED: March 21, 2019

SIGNED: Laura Jett
LAURA JETT
Declarant