

FILED

Feb 8, 2024

**Disciplinary
Board**

Docket # 058

**DISCIPLINARY BOARD
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

In re

MATTHEW W. BUTLER,

Lawyer (Bar No. 27993)

Proceeding Nos. 14#00044, 20#00021

ODC File Nos. 13-02033, 19-00250

**STIPULATION TO SUSPENSION AND
PROBATION**

Under Rule 9.1 of the Washington Supreme Court's Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC), the following Stipulation to Suspension is entered into by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) of the Washington State Bar Association (Association) through disciplinary counsel Francisco Rodriguez, Respondent's Counsel Leland G. Ripley, and Respondent lawyer Matthew W. Butler.

Respondent understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELC to a hearing, to present exhibits and witnesses on Respondent's behalf, and to have a hearing officer determine the facts, misconduct, and sanction in this case. Respondent further understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELC to appeal the outcome of a hearing to the Disciplinary Board, and, in certain cases, the Supreme Court. Respondent further understands that a hearing and appeal could result in an outcome more favorable or less favorable to Respondent. Respondent chooses to resolve this

1 proceeding now by entering into the following stipulation to facts, misconduct and sanction to
2 avoid the risk, time, and expense attendant to further proceedings.

3 I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

4 1. Respondent was admitted to practice law in the State of Washington on June 22,
5 1998. Respondent states that Respondent has not practiced law for approximately the last ten
6 years. While these disciplinary proceedings were pending, Respondent was administratively
7 suspended effective May 5, 2022, for nonpayment of fees, failure to comply with MCLE
8 requirements, and failure to file required forms.

9 II. STIPULATED FACTS

10 *Criminal conviction*

11 2. On October 3, 2013, in Clark County Superior Court No. 13-3-02104-5, the court
12 entered a restraining order prohibiting Respondent from among other things, harassing N. C. or
13 contacting N.C. via email.

14 3. On the evening of October 3, 2013, after the restraining order had been served on
15 Respondent, Respondent sent N.C. a lengthy profanity-laced email.
16 In connection with this incident, Respondent was convicted on January 21, 2016, of violation of
17 a domestic violence court order (RCW 10.99.020/26.50.110(1) and resisting arrest (RCW
18 9A.76.040) in State v. Butler, Clark County District Court No. 213075D.

19 4. Respondent successfully completed the terms of Respondent's sentence, and on
20 September 14, 2022, the convictions were vacated.

21 *Representation of Susan Leach*

22 5. In the late 1990s, Respondent and Susan Leach became chat friends in an AOL
23 chat room.

1 6. Their relationship was almost exclusively online, but Respondent and Leach met
2 in person at least once between 1998 and 2001.

3 7. On May 5, 2007, Leach and Leach's child were in a car accident with D.G.

4 8. D.G. hit them from behind and was cited for speeding.

5 9. A few days later, during an online chat, Respondent agreed to represent Leach
6 with respect to claims arising from the car accident.

7 10. There was no discussion of fees and no signed fee agreement.

8 11. Leach gave information to Respondent including D.G.'s name, the name of the
9 deputy who responded to the accident, the name of D.G.'s insurance company (State Farm), and
10 pictures of Leach's car.

11 12. On June 13, 2007, Respondent sent a notice of representation for the Leach family
12 to State Farm Insurance Company.

13 13. Respondent subsequently negotiated a property loss settlement with State Farm
14 for Leach's vehicle.

15 14. Respondent had periodic telephone contact with State Farm regarding Leach's
16 personal injury claim from June 13, 2007, through January 18, 2010.

17 15. State Farm was unable to contact Respondent after January 18, 2010. Respondent
18 did not return telephone messages left by the State Farm claims representative, and mail to
19 Respondent was returned as undeliverable with no forwarding address.

20 16. On May 4, 2010, Respondent called Leach and asked if Leach had \$300.
21 Respondent explained that Leach needed to file the case at the courthouse by May 5, 2010, which
22 was the day the statute of limitations expired.

23 17. Later on May 4, 2010, Respondent emailed Leach a Summons and Complaint.

1 18. The Summons and Complaint named Susan Leach and Leach's child as plaintiffs
2 and M.P. as defendant.

3 19. M.P. was D.G.'s mother and the owner of the vehicle.

4 20. Leach printed the Summons and Complaint, signed them with Leach's name, paid
5 the \$230 filing fee, and filed the Summons and Complaint at the Whatcom County Superior Court
6 on May 5, 2010.

7 21. Leach called Respondent and provided Respondent with the case number, Leach
8 v. Pearson, Whatcom County Superior Court No. 10-2-01085-4, and the name of the assigned
9 judge.

10 22. This was Leach's last contact with Respondent.

11 23. Respondent failed to keep Leach reasonably informed about the status of Leach's
12 legal matter.

13 24. Lawyer Brett Simmons represented the sole named defendant, M.P.

14 25. In October 2010, Simmons filed a motion to dismiss on grounds that plaintiffs had
15 sued the wrong person.

16 26. Simmons mailed a notice of appearance and the motion papers to Respondent.

17 27. Respondent did not notify Leach of the motion, respond to the motion, or appear
18 at the hearing.

19 28. The court dismissed the lawsuit against M.P. with prejudice.

20 29. Respondent did not advise Leach that the lawsuit had been dismissed with
21 prejudice.

22 *Failure to appear for supplemental examination in malpractice action*

23 30. In approximately 2011, Leach hired lawyer Carrie Coppinger-Carter.

1 31. Coppinger-Carter discovered that Leach's lawsuit had been dismissed because
2 Respondent had sued the wrong person.

3 32. Because the statute of limitations had passed, Coppinger-Carter was unable to
4 obtain any relief for Leach based on the car accident but was able to re-file the claim for Leach's
5 child due to the child being a minor at the time.

6 33. On June 18, 2012, Coppinger-Carter filed a malpractice lawsuit against
7 Respondent on behalf of Leach in Whatcom County Superior Court: Leach v. Butler, Whatcom
8 County Superior Court No. 12-2-01586-1.

9 34. Coppinger-Carter obtained an order allowing service on Respondent by mail based
10 on numerous unsuccessful efforts to serve Respondent at all known addresses.

11 35. On December 10, 2012, the court entered an order of default.

12 36. On June 5, 2015, the court entered a default judgment against Respondent totaling
13 \$192,511.90.

14 37. Coppinger-Carter subsequently began efforts to collect on the judgment.

15 38. On May 29, 2018, Coppinger-Carter filed an Ex Parte Motion and Declaration for
16 Order Requiring Attendance of Defendant for Supplemental Examination.

17 39. On May 30, 2018, Coppinger-Carter obtained an Ex-Parte Order Requiring
18 Attendance of Defendant in Court for Supplemental Examination, which required Respondent to
19 appear in Whatcom County Superior Court on June 22, 2018, for a supplemental examination
20 under RCW 6.32.010.

21 40. On May 30, 2018, Coppinger-Carter personally served Respondent at
22 Respondent's place of business in Seattle with a copy of the ex parte motion, the ex parte order
23 to appear, and the judgment summary and judgment.

1 41. At the time of service, Respondent told Coppinger-Carter that it was Respondent's
2 brother who represented Leach.

3 42. Respondent's brother was disbarred in 2011.

4 43. Respondent's statement to Coppinger-Carter that Respondent's brother
5 represented Leach was false.

6 44. Respondent did not comply with the order to appear for supplemental examination
7 on June 22, 2018.

8 45. Based on Respondent's failure to appear, the court entered a bench warrant for
9 contempt of court with bail set at \$250, to expire in a year.

10 46. The bench warrant was reissued on February 25, 2019, to expire in one year.

11 47. In early 2019, Coppinger-Carter began garnishing Respondent's wages to obtain
12 some payments for Leach.

13 *Failure to cooperate with disciplinary investigation*

14 48. On February 19, 2019, Coppinger-Carter filed a grievance with the Office of
15 Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) on behalf of Leach.

16 49. On February 27, 2019, ODC requested Respondent's response to the grievance.

17 50. The February 27, 2019 letter was sent to Respondent's address on file with the Bar
18 Association and was not returned as undeliverable.

19 51. Respondent did not provide a response to the grievance by the date requested.

20 52. On April 19, 2019, ODC sent Respondent a letter requiring a response to the
21 grievance within 10 days and advising Respondent that failure to respond within 10 days would
22 result in Respondent being subpoenaed for a deposition.

1 53. The April 19, 2019 letter was sent to Respondent's address on file with the Bar
2 Association and was not returned as undeliverable

3 54. Respondent did not provide a response to the grievance by the date requested.

4 55. On May 3, 2019, ODC issued a subpoena duces tecum for a deposition to be held
5 on May 24, 2019. The subpoena duces tecum required Respondent to bring Respondent's client
6 file for Susan Leach and all documents in Respondent's possession or control relating to Leach
7 v. Butler, Whatcom County Superior Court No. 12-2-01586-1.

8 56. Respondent was personally served with the subpoena duces tecum on May 6,
9 2019, at Respondent's address on file with the Bar Association.

10 57. On May 22, 2019, Respondent emailed disciplinary counsel asking to reschedule
11 the May 24, 2019 deposition.

12 58. On May 23, 2019, disciplinary counsel sent Respondent an email agreeing to an
13 extension of time to June 6, 2019 for Respondent to respond to Leach's grievance, provide the
14 documents required by the subpoena duces tecum, and explain why Respondent's failure to
15 respond to the grievance was inadvertent. The email further advised Respondent that the
16 deposition would be re-set if Respondent did not provide that information by June 6, 2019.

17 59. Respondent agreed to comply with the requests in the May 23, 2019 email.

18 60. Respondent did not submit a response by June 6, 2019.

19 61. On June 7, 2019, disciplinary counsel re-set the deposition for July 19, 2019, a
20 date that Respondent had requested.

21 62. At Respondent's request, the deposition was again continued to August 1, 2019.

22 63. Respondent appeared at the deposition on August 1, 2019, and testified under oath.
23

1 75. By testifying falsely under oath at the disciplinary depositions, Respondent
2 violated RPC 8.1(a), RPC 8.4(b) and RPC 8.4(c).

3 76. By committing the crimes of violation of a domestic violence court order and
4 resisting arrest, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(b), RPC 8.4(d), RPC 8.4(i) and RPC 8.4(j).

5 IV. PRIOR DISCIPLINE

6 77. In July 2013, Respondent was suspended for six months for mishandling a client's
7 dissolution case, failing to communicate, improperly handling trust account funds, and failing to
8 cooperate with the disciplinary investigation in violation of RPC 1.1, RPC 1.2(a), RPC 1.3, RPC
9 1.4, RPC 1.15A(e), (c), and (h), RPC 8.4(l), and ELC 5.3(e).

10 78. In March 2017, Respondent was suspended for six months for practicing while
11 suspended and charging an unreasonable fee in violation of RPC 1.5(a), 5.5(a), 5.8(a), 8.4(d), and
12 8.4(l). Respondent had continued to practice law after being suspended in July 2013, performing
13 approximately 10 hours of work on outstanding indigent defense cases and billing for the work
14 performed while suspended.

15 V. APPLICATION OF ABA STANDARDS

16 79. The following American Bar Association Standards for Imposing Lawyer
17 Sanctions (1991 ed. & Feb. 1992 Supp.) apply to this case:

18 80. ABA Standard 4.4 is most applicable to lack of diligence and communication.

19 81. ABA Standard 4.41 provides:

20 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent and does not
21 act with reasonable diligence in representing a client, and causes injury or
potential injury to a client.

22 82. ABA Standard 4.5 is most applicable to lack of competent representation.

23 83. ABA Standard 4.53 provides:

1 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer:

- 2 (a) demonstrates failure to understand relevant legal doctrines or
3 procedures and causes injury or potential injury to a client; or
4 (b) is negligent in determining whether he or she is competent to handle
5 a legal matter and causes injury or potential injury to a client.

6 84. Respondent acted negligently in failing to act with reasonable diligence in
7 representing Leach, drafting a complaint that named the wrong defendant, and failing to keep
8 Leach reasonably informed about the status of Leach's legal matter.

9 85. Leach was injured in that Leach's case was dismissed.

10 86. The presumptive sanction for the violations of RPC 1.1, RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.4 is
11 reprimand.

12 87. ABA Standard 6.2 is most applicable to failure to comply with a court order.

13 88. ABA Standard 6.22 provides:

14 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knows that he or she is
15 violating a court order or rule, and causes injury or potential injury to a
16 client or a party, or causes interference or potential interference with a legal
17 proceeding.

18 89. Respondent acted knowingly in failing to comply with the order to appear for
19 supplemental examination.

20 90. Respondent caused injury to Leach, whose ability to recover on the malpractice
21 judgment was harmed when Respondent failed to appear for supplemental examination.

22 91. The legal system was also injured when Respondent violated the court's order to
23 appear for supplemental examination.

24 92. The presumptive sanction for the violations of RPC 3.4(c), RPC 8.4(d), and RPC
8.4(j) is suspension.

93. No ABA Standard applies directly to the failure to cooperate with disciplinary
investigations, but ABA Standard 7.0 applies by analogy.

1 94. ABA Standard 7.2 provides:

2 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in
3 conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional and causes injury
4 or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

5 95. Respondent acted knowingly in failing to cooperate with the disciplinary
6 investigation of two grievances, thereby causing injury to the disciplinary system.

7 96. The presumptive sanction for the violations of RPC 8.1(b) and RPC 8.4(l) is
8 suspension.

9 97. ABA Standard 5.1 is most applicable to making a false statement to another
10 lawyer, to providing false testimony, and to the commission of criminal acts that reflect adversely
11 on a lawyer's honesty.

12 98. ABA Standard 5.1 provides:

13 5.11 Disbarment is generally appropriate when:

14 (a) a lawyer engages in serious criminal conduct, a necessary element
15 of which includes intentional interference with the administration of
16 justice, false swearing, misrepresentation, fraud, extortion,
17 misappropriation, or theft; or the sale, distribution or importation of
18 controlled substances; or the intentional killing of another; or an
19 attempt or conspiracy or solicitation of another to commit any of
20 these offenses; or

21 (b) a lawyer engages in any other intentional conduct involving
22 dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation that seriously
23 adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to practice.

24 5.12 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in
criminal conduct which does not contain the elements listed in Standard
5.11 and that seriously adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to practice.

99. Respondent acted intentionally in making a false statement to another lawyer and
providing false deposition testimony.

100. Respondent's dishonesty and misrepresentation seriously adversely reflects on
Respondent's fitness to practice law.

1 101. The presumptive sanction for the violations of RPC 8.4(c), RPC 8.1(a), and RPC
2 8.4(d) (relating to Respondent's false statements to ODC and another lawyer) is disbarment.

3 102. Respondent's 2013 criminal conduct seriously adversely reflects on Respondent's
4 fitness to practice law.

5 103. The presumptive sanction for the violations of RPC 8.4(b), RPC 8.4(d), RPC 8.4(i)
6 and RPC 8.4(j) (relating to Respondent's 2013 criminal conduct) is suspension.

7 104. The following aggravating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.22:

- 8 (a) prior disciplinary offenses;
- 9 (b) dishonest or selfish motive;
- 10 (d) multiple offenses; and
- 11 (i) substantial experience in the practice of law.

12 105. The following mitigating factor applies under ABA Standard 9.32:

- 13 (c) personal or emotional problems; and
- 14 (l) remorse.

15 106. Respondent suffers from a medical condition which, among other symptoms,
16 results in a pattern of anxiety-based avoidance when interacting with authorities. See Exhibit A.

17 107. Respondent's medical condition appears to have played a significant role in
18 Respondent's misconduct.

19 108. A significant additional mitigating factor is the contribution this stipulation makes
20 to the efficient and effective operation of the lawyer discipline system considering the effect the
21 COVID-19 public health emergency has had on disciplinary resources and the orderly processing
22 of disciplinary matters.

23 109. Based on the factors set forth above, the presumptive sanction of disbarment
24 should be mitigated to a three-year suspension with conditions of reinstatement as described
below.

1 **VI. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE**

2 110. The parties stipulate that Respondent shall receive a three-year suspension from
3 the practice of law.

4 **VII. CONDITIONS OF REINSTATEMENT**

5 111. Reinstatement from suspension is conditioned on payment of restitution, costs and
6 expenses, as provided below.

7 112. Reinstatement is conditioned on Respondent submitting to the supplemental
8 examination in Leach v. Butler, Whatcom County Superior Court No. 12-2-01586-1, unless
9 waived by the plaintiff in that matter.

10 113. As an additional condition of reinstatement, Respondent shall, at least 30 days
11 before a request for reinstatement, undergo an independent examination by a licensed clinical
12 psychologist or psychiatrist approved by ODC to evaluate Respondent's fitness to practice law.

13 114. Respondent shall pay all expenses associated with the examination.

14 115. Respondent shall execute all necessary releases and authorizations to permit the
15 evaluator and disciplinary counsel to obtain full access to all pertinent health care and treatment
16 records for the applicable time period, and to permit the evaluator to release information regarding
17 the evaluation to disciplinary counsel, including a written report of the evaluator's findings,
18 diagnosis, and recommended treatment plan, if any. Respondent shall provide disciplinary
19 counsel with a copy of the releases and authorizations.

20 116. If the evaluator concludes there is reasonable cause to believe that Respondent
21 does not have the mental or physical capacity to practice law, then disciplinary counsel may report
22 to a review committee as provided in ELC 8.2.

1 117. If the evaluator recommends treatment, then Respondent shall undergo treatment
2 with a treatment provider and such treatment will be a condition of probation as set forth below.

3 118. If the evaluator does not recommend treatment, then Respondent will not be
4 required to undergo treatment.

5 VIII. CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

6 119. Respondent will be subject to probation for a period of two years beginning when
7 Respondent is reinstated to the practice of law and shall comply with the specific probation terms
8 set forth below:

9 120. Practice Monitor:

- 10 a) During the period of probation, Respondent's practice will be supervised by a
11 practice monitor. The practice monitor must be a WSBA member with no
12 record of public discipline and who is not the subject of a pending public
13 disciplinary proceeding.
- 14 b) The role of the practice monitor is to consult with and provide guidance to
15 Respondent regarding case management, office management, and avoiding
16 violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, and to provide reports and
17 information to the Probation Administrator regarding Respondent's
18 compliance with the terms of probation and the RPC. The practice monitor
19 does not represent the Respondent.
- 20 c) At the beginning of the probation period, the Probation Administrator will
21 select a lawyer to serve as practice monitor for the period of Respondent's
22 probation.
- 23 i) Initial Challenge: If, within 15 days of the written notice of the selection
24 of a practice monitor, Respondent sends a written request to the Probation
Administrator that another practice monitor be selected, the Probation
Administrator will select another practice monitor. Respondent need not
identify any basis for this initial request.
- ii) Subsequent Challenges: If, after selection of a second (or subsequent)
practice monitor, Respondent believes there is good cause why that
individual should not serve as practice monitor, Respondent may, within
15 days of notice of the selected practice monitor, send a written request
to the Probation Administrator asking that another practice monitor be
selected. That request must articulate good cause to support the request.

1 If the Probation Administrator agrees, another practice monitor will be
2 selected. If the Probation Administrator disagrees, the Office of
3 Disciplinary Counsel will submit its proposed selection for practice
4 monitor to the Chair of the Disciplinary Board for appointment pursuant
5 to ELC 13.8(a)(2), and will also provide the Chair with the Respondent's
6 written request that another practice monitor be selected.

- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- d) In the event the practice monitor is no longer able to perform the practice monitor's duties, the Probation Administrator will select a new practice monitor at the Probation Administrator's discretion.
 - e) During the period of probation, Respondent must cooperate with the named practice monitor. Respondent must meet with the practice monitor at least once per month. Respondent must communicate with the practice monitor to schedule all required meetings.
 - f) The Respondent must bring to each meeting a current, complete written list of all pending client legal matters being handled by the Respondent. The list must identify the current status of each client matter and any problematic issues regarding each client matter. The list may identify clients by using the client's initials rather than the client's name.
 - g) At each meeting, the practice monitor will discuss with Respondent practice issues that have arisen or are anticipated. In light of the conduct giving rise to the imposition of probation, ODC recommends that the practice monitor and Respondent discuss whether Respondent is diligently making progress on each client matter, whether Respondent is in communication with each client, whether Respondent has the requisite knowledge and experience in the relevant practice area for each client matter, and whether Respondent needs to consider withdrawing from any client matters. Meetings may be in person or by telephone at the practice monitor's discretion. The practice monitor uses discretion in determining the length of each meeting.
 - h) The practice monitor will provide the Probation Administrator with quarterly written reports regarding Respondent's compliance with probation terms and the RPC. Each report must include the date of each meeting with Respondent, a brief synopsis of the discussion topics, and a brief description of any concerns the practice monitor has regarding the Respondent's compliance with the RPC. The report must be signed by the practice monitor. Each report is due within 30 days of the completion of the quarter.
 - i) If the practice monitor believes that Respondent is not complying with any of Respondent's ethical duties under the RPC or if Respondent fails to schedule or attend a monthly meeting, the practice monitor will promptly communicate that to the Probation Administrator.

1 j) Respondent must make payments totaling \$1,000 to the Washington State Bar
2 Association to defray the costs and expenses of administering the probation,
as follows:

3 i) \$250 due within 30 days of the start of the probation;

4 ii) \$250 due within 6 months of the start of the probation period;

5 iii) \$250 due within 12 months of the start of the probation period; and

6 iv) \$250 due within 18 months of the start of the probation period.

7 All payments should be provided to the Probation Administrator for
processing.

8 121. Respondent's compliance with these conditions shall be monitored by the
9 Probation Administrator of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("Probation Administrator").
10 Failure to comply with a condition of probation listed herein may be grounds for further
11 disciplinary action under ELC 13.8(b).

12 IX. RESTITUTION

13 122. Respondent shall pay restitution in the amount of \$230 to Susan Leach.
14 Reinstatement from suspension is conditioned on payment of restitution.

15 X. COSTS AND EXPENSES

16 123. Respondent shall pay attorney fees and administrative costs of \$2,314.44 in
17 accordance with ELC 13.9(i). The Association will seek a money judgment under ELC 13.9(l) if
18 these costs are not paid within 30 days of approval of this stipulation. Reinstatement from
19 suspension is conditioned on payment of costs including any accumulated interest, pursuant to
20 ELC 13.9(i).

21 XI. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT

22 124. Respondent states that prior to entering into this Stipulation Respondent has
23 consulted independent legal counsel regarding this Stipulation, that Respondent is entering into

1 this Stipulation voluntarily, and that no promises or threats have been made by ODC, the
2 Association, nor by any representative thereof, to induce the Respondent to enter into this
3 Stipulation except as provided herein.

4 125. Once fully executed, this stipulation is a contract governed by the legal principles
5 applicable to contracts, and may not be unilaterally revoked or modified by either party.

6 XII. LIMITATIONS

7 126. This Stipulation is a compromise agreement intended to resolve this matter in
8 accordance with the purposes of lawyer discipline while avoiding further proceedings and the
9 expenditure of additional resources by the Respondent and ODC. Both the Respondent and ODC
10 acknowledge that the result after further proceedings in this matter might differ from the result
11 agreed to herein.

12 127. This Stipulation is not binding upon ODC or the respondent as a statement of all
13 existing facts relating to the professional conduct of the Respondent, and any additional existing
14 facts may be proven in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

15 128. This Stipulation results from the consideration of various factors by both parties,
16 including the benefits to both by promptly resolving this matter without the time and expense of
17 hearings, Disciplinary Board appeals, and Supreme Court appeals or petitions for review. As such,
18 approval of this Stipulation will not constitute precedent in determining the appropriate sanction
19 to be imposed in other cases; but, if approved, this Stipulation will be admissible in subsequent
20 proceedings against Respondent to the same extent as any other approved Stipulation.

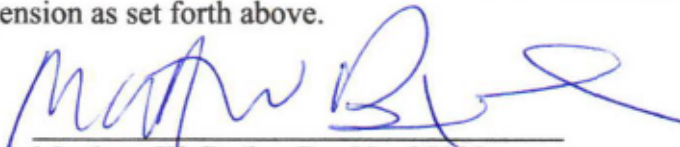
21 129. Under ELC 9.1(d)(4), the Disciplinary Board reviews a stipulation based solely on
22 the record agreed to by the parties. Under ELC 3.1(b), all documents that form the record before
23


1 the Board for its review become public information on approval of the Stipulation by the Board,
2 unless disclosure is restricted by order or rule of law.

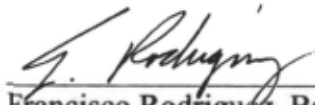
3 130. If this Stipulation is approved by the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court, it
4 will be followed by the disciplinary action agreed to in this Stipulation. All notices required in
5 the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct will be made. Respondent represents that, in
6 addition to Washington, Respondent also is admitted to practice law in the following jurisdictions,
7 whether current status is active, inactive, or suspended: None.

8 131. If this Stipulation is not approved by the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court,
9 this Stipulation will have no force or effect, and neither it nor the fact of its execution will be
10 admissible as evidence in the pending disciplinary proceeding, in any subsequent disciplinary
11 proceeding, or in any civil or criminal action.

12 WHEREFORE the undersigned being fully advised, adopt and agree to this Stipulation to
13 Suspension as set forth above.

14  Dated: 12/26/2023
15 Matthew W. Butler, Bar No. 27993
Respondent

16  Dated: 1/02/2024
17 Leland G. Ripley, Bar No. 6266
18 Counsel for Respondent

19  Dated: 01/02/2024
20 Francisco Rodriguez, Bar No. 22881
21 Disciplinary Counsel