FILED
Aug 13, 2026
Disciplinary
Board
Docket # 007

DISCIPLINARY BOARD
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re **RONNIE A. SORIANO JR**, Lawyer (Bar No. 42564).	Proceeding No. 26#00034 ODC File No(s). 25-00191, 25-00317, 25-000740, 25-00809, 25-00817, and 26-00140 STIPULATION TO SUSPENSION

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 Kimberly Shely and Respondent lawyer Ronnie A. Soriano Jr.

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 proceeding now by entering into the following stipulation to facts, misconduct and sanction to

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avoid the risk, time, expense and publicity attendant to further proceedings.

I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

1. Respondent was admitted to practice law in the State of Washington on June 14, 2010.

II. STIPULATED FACTS

A. ODC File No. 25-00191

2. In July 2024, JB hired Respondent to represent JB in a child custody appeal in Chehalis Tribal Court.

3. Respondent charged JB an advanced fee of $12,000. Respondent deposited the $12,000 directly into Respondent's operating account.

4. Respondent had not earned the $12,000 when Respondent deposited it.

5. On more than one occasion, JB asked Respondent for a fee agreement and receipt showing JB paid Respondent $12,000.

6. JB's requests were reasonable.

7. Respondent never provided JB with a written fee agreement or receipt.

8. On one or more occasions, JB emailed Respondent asking for the status of the draft appeal. Respondent did not draft the appeal and did not explain the reason for the delay.

9. In fact, Respondent could not file the appeal because Respondent was not admitted to Chehalis Tribal Court. Respondent did not explain this to JB.

10. Eventually, JB drafted the appeal. Soriano provided minimal review of it before JB filed it.

11. On October 2, 2024, the court denied JB's appeal because it did not properly cite to the order that JB wanted to appeal and failed to identify an "obvious error" by the trial court as required by CTC § 3.35.070.

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12. On one or more occasions, JB emailed Respondent and/or texted staff at Soriano Law requesting a refund of the $12,000 and JB's client file. Respondent failed to respond for months.

13. On February 6, 2025, JB filed a grievance against Respondent.

14. In or around March 2025, Respondent offered to refund JB approximately $6,000. Respondent did not provide JB with a receipt, bill or invoice to show what work had been done.

15. On December 3, 2025, Soriano Law issued JB a check in the amount of $8,180 with an invoice showing the work that had been done.

B. ODC File No. 25-00317

16. In February 2023, JH hired Respondent to represent JH in a dissolution action.

17. Respondent charged JH an advanced fee of $5,000.

18. Respondent deposited the $5,000 directly into Soriano Law's operating account. Respondent had not earned the fee when Respondent deposited it.

19. On March 23, 2023, Respondent told JH the firm would prepare the petition for dissolution and proposed parenting plan.

20. On one or more occasions, JH emailed Respondent asking for an update on the status of the filings, but Respondent did not respond.

21. JH's requests for information were reasonable.

22. On August 8, 2023, the firm filed JH's Petition for Dissolution and Proposed Parenting Plan. On August 21, 2023, JH emailed Soriano's paralegal, a copy of the completed proof of service form. However, no one filed the proof of service.

23. Respondent directed Respondent's associate lawyer, Kelsey Demeter, to appear on behalf of JH.

24. On March 14, 2024, the Court dismissed the case because no proof of service was

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filed. No one at Soriano Law informed JH that the case was dismissed.

25. On March 25, 2024, Soriano's paralegal emailed JH requesting that JH and JH's spouse complete a parenting class and background check "[a]s quickly as possible" as required by the county. JH completed the parenting class and background check in April 2024 and notified Soriano's paralegal of the completion.

26. On April 18 and 29, 2024, JH emailed Soriano's paralegal asking for an update on the submission of the parenting class and background check. Soriano's paralegal responded that they were waiting for the court to reopen the case without refiling. No one at Soriano Law informed JH that the court dismissed the case for inactivity.

27. In July and August 2024, JH emailed Respondent and/or Respondent's firm on one or more occasions asking if there was anything else needed to finalize the dissolution and expressing concerns over the delays.

28. In or around August 2024, Soriano's paralegal emailed JH that they needed to refile the petition because they "timed out on the case and delays with the parenting class completion." Soriano's paralegal later emailed JH that once the parties signed the required documents, they would file the final orders after the 90-day waiting period.

29. These statements were misleading because the court dismissed JH's case before Soriano's paralegal requested JH complete the parenting plan and because the case had not been refiled there was no case in which to file final orders.

30. Respondent failed to supervise the paralegal by failing to correct misrepresentations made to JH by the paralegal.

31. That same month, Soriano's paralegal informed Respondent that the case had been dismissed. Nothing further happened in JH's case.

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32. Respondent failed to supervise Demeter to ensure JH's case was handled diligently.

33. In or around December 2024, Demeter notified Respondent that Demeter planned to leave Soriano Law, providing over two months' notice to assist in transitioning work. Demeter left Soriano Law at the end of February 2025.

34. On February 26, 2025, Soriano Law filed a new petition for dissolution on behalf of JH.

35. Between the end of February 2025 and April 2025, Respondent was the only lawyer working at Soriano Law. Respondent had sole responsibility for JH's case during that period.

36. In April 2025, Jonas Krave began working as an associate attorney at Soriano Law. On May 19, 2025, Krave filed a notice of substitution in JH's matter.

37. On September 23, 2025, the court signed an order dismissing JH's re-filed case for a lack of activity, which the court entered the next day.

38. On September 24, 2025, Krave filed a motion for entry of final orders and noted a hearing date for October 28, 2025. Krave's filing was ineffective as the case was closed.

39. On October 6, 2025, Respondent emailed JH regarding the October 28, 2025 hearing. Respondent did not tell JH that JH's dissolution petition had been dismissed again.

40. Krave subsequently struck the October 28 hearing.

41. On December 29, 2025, following filings from Krave, the court vacated the dismissal.

42. JH's dissolution was not finalized until May 22, 2026.

C. <u>ODC File No. 25-00740</u>

43. In September 2023, MW hired Respondent to file a modification of a parenting plan and a restraining order against MW's former spouse, NS.

44. On September 29, 2023, MW paid Respondent $5,000. Respondent deposited the

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funds directly into Soriano Law's operating account. Respondent had not earned the funds at the time Respondent deposited it.

45. On October 6, 2023, Respondent directed a paralegal to prepare a petition for an ex parte restraining order and hearing notice. Respondent reviewed and approved the petition and MW's declaration before filing.

46. In addition to requesting the court restrain NS from contacting MW's child, the petition requested that the court suspend NS's visits with the child.

47. On October 23, 2023, the court entered an order suspending NS's visitation and reappointing the guardian ad litem (GAL) who had previously been appointed to the case.

48. NS's lawyer subsequently filed a motion to dismiss, arguing that a petition for adequate cause to change the parenting plan had not been filed, and that NS had not been properly served.

49. On November 13, 2023, the court quashed and dismissed the temporary restraining orders and ordered MW to pay $2,500 for NS's attorney fees and costs in opposing it. The court also ordered the GAL to present a motion for their costs and fees before the court discharged the GAL.

50. MW paid the $2,500 directly to opposing counsel.

51. On one or more occasions, MW emailed Respondent and requested a billing statement.

52. Respondent did not respond to these requests.

53. On January 5, 2024, the court entered an order requiring MW and NS to pay their proportionate share of the GAL's fees and costs. MW's share was $252.00. Respondent did not inform MW that the court ordered MW to pay the GAL fee.

54. Respondent did no further work in MW's case.

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55. Respondent did not provide MW with an invoice or refund the unearned fee.

56. In or around March 2025, NS notified MW that the court ordered MW to pay the GAL fee, which had accrued interest from going unpaid.

57. On March 12, 2025, MW emailed Respondent asking for clarification on what fee MW owed the court. Respondent did not respond until April 15, 2025, when Respondent called MW to tell MW to pay the GAL fee.

58. On April 16, 2025, MW emailed Respondent again requesting a billing statement by April 30, 2025. Respondent did not provide one.

59. Respondent never filed a motion to modify the parenting plan.

60. On April 30, 2025, MW paid NS $285 for the GAL fee, which NS had paid on MW's behalf.

61. On May 2, 2025, MW filed a grievance against Respondent. On May 30, 2025, ODC notified Respondent that MW had filed the grievance.

62. In June 2025, Respondent contacted MW and asked to resolve this matter by Respondent refunding MW the balance of MW's advance fee, $2,695. That same month Respondent issued the refund along with an invoice to MW.

D. <u>ODC File No. 25-00809</u>

63. In April 2025, JM hired Respondent to represent JM in a dissolution and in responding to a Domestic Violence Protection Order.

64. On April 15, 2025, JM paid Respondent a $7,500 advance fee. Respondent deposited the funds directly into Soriano Law's operating account that day.

65. Respondent had not earned the fee when Respondent deposited it.

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E. ODC File No. 25-00817

66. In September 2024, JMH consulted with Respondent for representation in a dissolution proceeding. Although Respondent performed the initial consultation, JMH sought Demeter specifically.

67. On September 20, 2024, JMH paid Respondent a $7,500 advanced fee.

68. Respondent deposited the funds directly into Soriano Law's operating account. Respondent had not earned the fee when Respondent deposited it.

69. When Demeter left Soriano Law at the end of February 2025, JMH followed Demeter to Demeter's new firm.

70. JMH emailed Respondent on March 7, 2025, April 13, 2025, April 30, 2025, and May 28, 2025, requesting Respondent refund JMH's unearned fees, so that JMH could proceed with the dissolution.

71. Respondent did not refund the unearned fees until October 2025.

F. ODC File No. 26-00140

72. On March 6, 2024, RN paid Respondent a $6,000 advanced fee for representation in a parenting plan modification action.

73. Respondent deposited the funds directly into Soriano Law's operating account. Respondent had not earned the fee when Respondent deposited it.

74. Demeter appeared on behalf of RN at multiple hearings.

75. A paralegal at Soriano Law planned on leaving to work at Demeter's new firm. Before they left Soriano Law, they provided RN with an invoice showing a total of $3,977.50 charged, which would equal a $2,022.50 refund to RN.

76. This paralegal was not authorized to produce final invoices for clients and did not

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inform Respondent that they had provided RN with an invoice.

77. On July 22, 2025, RN terminated Soriano Law's services because RN intended to follow Demeter to Demeter's new firm. RN requested a refund of the unused portion of RN's advance fee.

78. On July 30, 2025, Respondent mailed RN a check in the amount of $240 and a final invoice which showed a total of $5,760 charged.

79. The invoice showed multiple additional entries that were not reflected on the invoice the paralegal sent RN.

80. Respondent had reconstructed the entries using Respondent's calendar, pleadings, and file materials, and added in time for Demeter and the paralegal.

81. Respondent did not speak with Demeter or the paralegal to confirm the accuracy of the time entries or to confirm they completed the tasks as Respondent described in the invoice.

82. In December 2025, after RN disputed the amount that Respondent charged, Respondent agreed to honor the refund amount on the invoice the paralegal had sent.

III. STIPULATION TO MISCONDUCT

83. By failing to diligently represent JB, JH, and MW, Respondent violated RPC 1.3 and RPC 3.2.

84. By failing to reasonably communicate with JB, JH, MW, and JMH about the status of their case and/or requests for an explanation of the fees charged, Respondent violated RPC 1.4(a) and RPC 1.4(b).

85. By attempting to charge RN an unreasonable fee, Respondent violated RPC 1.5(a).

86. By failing to deposit JB, JH, MW, JMH, JM, and RN's advance fees in Soriano Law's trust account, Respondent violated RPC 1.15A(c)(2).

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87. By failing to promptly refund JB, MW, and JMH the advance fees that Respondent had not earned, Respondent violated RPC 1.16(d).

88. By failing to supervise Demeter, Respondent violated RPC 5.1(a) and RPC 5.1(b).

89. By failing to supervise the paralegal in JH's matter, Respondent violated RPC 5.3(b).

IV. PRIOR DISCIPLINE

90. Respondent has no prior discipline.

V. APPLICATION OF ABA STANDARDS

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

4.1 ***Failure to Preserve the Client's Property***

4.11 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly converts client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client.

4.12 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knows or should know that he is dealing improperly with client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client.

4.13 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent in dealing with client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client.

4.14 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent in dealing with client property and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a client.

4.4 ***Lack of Diligence***

4.41 Disbarment is generally appropriate when:

(a) a lawyer abandons the practice and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client; or

(b) a lawyer knowingly fails to perform services for a client and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client; or

(c) a lawyer engages in a pattern of neglect with respect to client matters and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client.

4.42 Suspension is generally appropriate when:

(a) a lawyer knowingly fails to perform services for a client and causes injury or potential injury to a client, or

(b) a lawyer engages in a pattern of neglect and causes injury or potential injury to a client.

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

4.44 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent and does not act with reasonable diligence in representing a client, and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a client.

7.0 ***Violations of Duties Owed as a Professional***

7.1 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional with the intent to obtain a benefit for the lawyer or another, and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

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

7.3 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer negligently engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.4 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in an isolated instance of negligence that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional, and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

92. Respondent knowingly failed to diligently represent JB, JH, and MW, failed to expedite one or more client's litigation, and failed to reasonably communicate with JB, JH, MW, and JMH regarding the status of their case and the time spent and the fees earned.

93. The actual injury to JB, JH, and MW was the delay in their litigation, their lack of awareness for the delay, and depriving JB, JH, MW, and JMH of the information necessary to make an informed decision about their representation and opportunity to control costs.

94. The presumptive sanction for Respondent's violation of RPC 1.3, RPC 1.4, and RPC 3.2 is suspension.

95. Respondent acted knowingly in attempting to charge RN an unreasonable fee and in failing to promptly refund JB, MW, and JMH's unearned fees.

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96. The potential injury to RN was failing to provide a refund of the unearned fees RN was entitled to, and the actual injury to JB, MW, and JMH was the delay in returning funds the clients were entitled to receive.

97. The presumptive sanction for Respondent's violation of RPC 1.5(a) and RPC 1.16(d) is suspension.

98. Respondent acted knowingly in failing to JB, JH, MW, JMH, JM, and RN's advance fees in trust.

99. The potential injury to JB, JH, MW, JMH, JM, and RN was the fact the money was not safeguarded in trust and potentially contributed to the delay in providing a refund of unearned fees.

100. The presumptive sanction for Respondent's violation of RPC 1.15A(c)(2) is suspension.

101. Respondent acted knowingly in failing to properly supervise Demeter and/or the paralegal.

102. The lack of supervision caused actual injury to the court by wasting its time and resources and to one or more clients by depriving the client of information regarding the status of their case and the stress the clients felt given the delays or lack of response.

103. The presumptive sanction for Respondent's violation of RPC 5.1(a), RPC 5.1(b), and RPC 5.3(b) is suspension.

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

(c) pattern of misconduct;
(d) multiple offenses; and
(i) substantial experience in the practice of law (licensed in Washington since 2010).

105. The following mitigating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.32:

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(a) absence of a prior disciplinary record;
(c) personal or emotional problems; and
(l) remorse.

106. It is an additional mitigating factor that Respondent has agreed to resolve this matter at an early stage of the proceedings.

107. On balance the aggravating and mitigating factors do not require a departure from the presumptive sanction.

VI. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE

108. The parties stipulate that Respondent shall receive a 6-month suspension.

VII. CONDITIONS OF REINSTATEMENT

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

VIII. CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

110. Respondent will be subject to probation for a period of two years beginning when Respondent is reinstated to the practice of law.

111. The conditions of probation are set forth below. Respondent's compliance with these conditions shall be monitored by the Probation Administrator of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("Probation Administrator"). Failure to comply with a condition of probation listed herein may be grounds for further disciplinary action under ELC 13.8(b).

Practice Monitor

a) During the period of probation, Respondent's practice will be supervised by a practice monitor. The practice monitor must be a WSBA member with no record of public discipline and who is not the subject of a pending public disciplinary proceeding.

b) The role of the practice monitor is to consult with and provide guidance to Respondent regarding case management, office management, and avoiding violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, and to provide reports and information to the Probation

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Administrator regarding Respondent's compliance with the terms of probation and the RPC. The practice monitor does not represent the Respondent.

c) At the beginning of the probation period, the Probation Administrator will select a lawyer to serve as practice monitor for the period of Respondent's probation.

i) Initial Challenge: If, within 15 days of the written notice of the selection 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. If the Probation Administrator agrees, another practice monitor will be selected. If the Probation Administrator disagrees, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel will submit its proposed selection for practice monitor to the Chair of the Disciplinary Board for appointment pursuant to ELC 13.8(a)(2), and will also provide the Chair with the Respondent's written request that another practice monitor be selected.

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 promptly billed each client, whether Respondent's fee agreements are consistent with the RPC and are understandable to the client, and whether Respondent needs to consider

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ethics School

a) Respondent shall attend Ethics School by webinar (approximately 7.5 hours), or by obtaining the recorded product, and to pay registration costs of $150 plus applicable sales tax. Respondent will receive all applicable approved CLE credits for time in attendance at the Ethics School.

b) Respondent shall contact the Probation Administrator, odcprobation@wsba.org, within 30 days of the commencement of probation to confirm enrollment in Ethics School and related logistics.

c) Respondent shall complete the ethics school requirement within 90 days of the commencement of probation.

d) Respondent shall provide evidence of completion of ethics school to the Probation Administrator no later than 30 days after the conclusion of the course. Proof of

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attendance shall include evidence of payment and a written statement that includes the date and time of attendance.

e) The Ethics School administrator may respond to inquiries from the Probation Administrator regarding Respondent's compliance with these conditions.

Trust Account School

a. Respondent shall attend Trust Account School (approximately 3 hours) by viewing the recorded product and must pay registration costs of $69 plus applicable sales tax. Respondent will receive all applicable approved CLE credits for time in attendance at Trust Account School.

b. Respondent shall contact the Probation Administrator, odcprobation@wsba.org, within 30 days of the commencement of probation to confirm enrollment in Trust Account School and related logistics.

c. Respondent shall complete the Trust Account School requirement within 90 days of the commencement of probation.

d. Respondent shall provide evidence of completion of Trust Account School to the Probation Administrator no later than 30 days after the conclusion of the course. Proof of attendance shall include evidence of payment and a written statement that includes the date and time of attendance.

Trust Account Compliance

a) Respondent must carefully review the WSBA publication Managing Client Trust Accounts: Rules, Regulations, and Common Sense, and provide disciplinary counsel with a signed certification that Respondent has done so.

b) For all client matters, Respondent shall have a written fee agreement signed by the client, which agreements are to be maintained for least seven years (see RPC 1.15B(a)(3)).

c) On a monthly basis, using ODC's form report entitled "Monthly Reconciliation and Review Report," Respondent shall review the trust-account records detailed on the form report, review the completed report, and sign and date the completed report.

d) On a quarterly basis, Respondent shall provide ODC's audit staff with all trust-account records for the time period to be reviewed by ODC's audit staff and disciplinary counsel for compliance with the RPC:

i) Months 1 – 3. By no later than the 30th day of the fourth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account

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records from the date of commencement of probation to the end of the third full month.

ii) Months 4 – 6. By no later than the 30th day of the seventh month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month six.

iii) Months 7 – 9. By no later than the 30th day of the tenth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month nine.

iv) Months 10 – 12. By no later than the 30th day of the thirteenth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month twelve.

v) Months 13 – 15. By no later than the 30th day of the sixteenth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month fifteen.

vi) Months 16 – 18. By no later than the 30th day of the nineteenth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month eighteen.

vii) Months 19 – 21. By no later than the 30th day of the twenty-second month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month twenty-one.

The trust account records Respondent provides to ODC for each quarterly review of his trust account will include: (a) copies of each completed "Monthly Reconciliation and Review Report" referenced in sub-paragraph(c) above, (b) a complete checkbook register for Respondent's trust account covering the period being reviewed, (c) complete individual client ledger records for any client with funds in Respondent's trust account during all or part of the period being reviewed, as well as for Respondent's own funds in the account (if any), and (d) copies of all trust-account bank statements, deposit slips, and cancelled checks covering the period being

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reviewed. ODC's Audit Manager or designee will review Respondent's trust account records for each period.

e) On the same quarterly time schedule set forth in the preceding paragraph, Respondent will provide ODC's Audit Manager or designee with copies of any and all fee agreements entered into within the time period at issue.

f) ODC's Audit Manager or designee may request additional financial or client records if needed to verify Respondent's compliance with RPC 1.15A and/or 1.15B. Within twenty days of a request from ODC's Audit Manager or designee for additional records needed to verify Respondent's compliance with RPC 1.15A and/or RPC 1.15B, Respondent will provide ODC's Audit Manager or designee the additional records requested.

g) Respondent will reimburse the Association for time spent by ODC's Audit Manager or designee in reviewing and reporting on Respondent's records to determine Respondent's compliance with RPC 1.15A and RPC 1.15B, at the rate of $85 per hour. Respondent will make payment within thirty days of each written invoice setting forth the auditor's time and payment due.

IX. RESTITUTION

112. Respondent shall pay restitution to MW in the amount of $2,785. Respondent shall pay MW interest on those funds, at a rate of 12% per annum, calculated from the date on which this Stipulation is effective. If MW is the recipient of a gift from the Client Protection Fund, in lieu of paying restitution directly to MW, Respondent shall reimburse the Client Protection Fund for the restitution amount paid to MW, including interest at a rate of 12% per annum, calculated from the date on which the client fund makes the gift. To the extent any gift from the Client Protection Fund is less than the restitution amount agreed to in this Stipulation, Respondent shall pay the remaining restitution amount to MW. Reinstatement is conditioned on full repayment of restitution, with interest.

X. COSTS AND EXPENSES

113. In light of Respondent's willingness to resolve this matter by stipulation at an early stage of the proceedings, Respondent shall pay attorney fees and administrative costs of $750 in

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accordance with ELC 13.9(i). The Association will seek a money judgment under ELC 13.9(l) if these costs are not paid within 30 days of approval of this stipulation. Reinstatement from suspension or disbarment is conditioned on payment of costs.

XI. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT

114. Respondent states that prior to entering into this Stipulation Respondent has had an opportunity to consult independent legal counsel regarding this Stipulation, that Respondent is entering into this Stipulation voluntarily, and that no promises or threats have been made by ODC, the Association, nor by any representative thereof, to induce the Respondent to enter into this Stipulation except as provided herein.

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

XII. LIMITATIONS

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

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

118. This Stipulation results from the consideration of various factors by both parties, including the benefits to both by promptly resolving this matter without the time and expense of hearings, Disciplinary Board appeals, and Supreme Court appeals or petitions for review. As

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such, approval of this Stipulation will not constitute precedent in determining the appropriate sanction to be imposed in other cases; but, if approved, this Stipulation will be admissible in subsequent proceedings against Respondent to the same extent as any other approved Stipulation.

119. Under ELC 9.1(d)(4), the Disciplinary Board reviews a stipulation based solely on the record agreed to by the parties. Under ELC 3.1(b), all documents that form the record before the Board for its review become public information on approval of the Stipulation by the Board, unless disclosure is restricted by order or rule of law.

120. If this Stipulation is approved by the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court, it will be followed by the disciplinary action agreed to in this Stipulation. All notices required in the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct will be made.

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

WHEREFORE the undersigned being fully advised, adopt and agree to this Stipulation to 6-Month Suspension as set forth above.

Ronnie A. Soriano, Jr.
ID rmbiyNjvJtpe9QiZvtxtN8HkT

Ronnie A. Soriano Jr., Bar No. 42564
Respondent

Dated: 6/30/2026

Kimberly Shely, Bar No. 61269
Disciplinary Counsel

Dated: July 2, 2026

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eSignature Details

Signer ID:	**rnbfyNjvJbe9QiZvtxtN8HkT**
Signed by:	Ronnie A Soriano
Sent to email:	ron@sorianolawllc.com
IP Address:	185.228.19.242
Signed at:	Jun 30 2026, 8:42 pm PDT