

**SUPREME COURT MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

S173784**PEOPLE v. OYLER
(RAYMOND LEE)**

Extension of time granted

Upon application of counsel Michael Clough, an extension of time in which to serve and file appellant's supplemental opening brief is granted to March 8, 2024. Within 30 days after any supplemental opening brief has been filed pursuant to this order, the People may serve and file a supplemental answering brief, not to exceed 50 pages in length. Appellant may thereafter serve and file a reply, not to exceed 25 pages in length, within 20 days after the People have filed their supplemental answering brief.

S280763**ALLEN (CEDRIC RAY) ON
H.C.**

Extension of time granted

On application of petitioner and good cause appearing, it is ordered that the time to serve and file the reply to informal response is extended to February 28, 2024.

S282884**BOWDEN ON DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed: disbarred

The court orders that DAVID EVERETTE BOWDEN (Respondent), State Bar Number 190932, is summarily disbarred from the practice of law and that Respondent's name is stricken from the roll of attorneys.

Respondent must comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the date this order is filed. (*Athearn v. State Bar* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 38, 45 [the operative date for identification of clients being represented in pending matters and others to be notified is the filing date of this order].)

Respondent must pay monetary sanctions to the State Bar of California Client Security Fund in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Monetary sanctions are enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by

law.

S282885**BRIFMAN ON DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed: disbarred

The court orders that MARK ALAN BRIFMAN (Respondent), State Bar Number 75923, is disbarred from the practice of law in California and that Respondent's name is stricken from the roll of attorneys.

Respondent must comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the date this order is filed. (*Athearn v. State Bar* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 38, 45 [the operative date for identification of clients being represented in pending matters and others to be notified is the filing date of this order].)

Respondent must pay monetary sanctions to the State Bar of California Client Security Fund in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Monetary sanctions are enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

S282887**KUCERA ON DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed: disbarred

The court orders that FRANK LADA KUCERA (Respondent), State Bar Number 124617, is disbarred from the practice of law and that Respondent's name is stricken from the roll of attorneys.

Respondent must make restitution to the following payees or such other recipient as may be designated by the Office of Probation or the State Bar Court (or reimburse the Client Security Fund, to the extent of any payment from the Fund to such payees, in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6140.5). Reimbursement to the Fund is enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law:

- (1) Shelly West and Glen West in the amount of \$5,823.50 plus 10 percent interest per year from July 28, 2020;
- (2) Kristen Weinstein in the amount of \$18,012.75 plus 10 percent interest per year from July 17, 2020; and
- (3) Nancy McLane in the amount of \$38,435.60 plus 10 percent interest per year from July 28, 2020.

Respondent must comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the date this order is filed. (*Athearn v. State Bar* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 38, 45 [the operative date for identification of

clients being represented in pending matters and others to be notified is the filing date of this order].)

Respondent must pay monetary sanctions to the State Bar of California Client Security Fund in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Monetary sanctions are enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

S282888**LaCAVA ON DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed: disbarred

The court orders that RICHARD ANTHONY LaCAVA (Respondent), State Bar Number 135653, is disbarred from the practice of law in California and that Respondent's name is stricken from the roll of attorneys.

Respondent must comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the date this order is filed. (*Athearn v. State Bar* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 38, 45 [the operative date for identification of clients being represented in pending matters and others to be notified is the filing date of this order].)

Respondent must pay monetary sanctions to the State Bar of California Client Security Fund in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Monetary sanctions are enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

S282890**VELASQUEZ ON
DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed: disbarred

The court orders that DIEGO JOHN VELASQUEZ (Respondent), State Bar Number 176961, is disbarred from the practice of law in California and that Respondent's name is stricken from the roll of attorneys.

Respondent must comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the date this order is filed. (*Athearn v. State Bar* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 38, 45 [the operative date for identification of clients being represented in pending matters and others to be notified is the filing date of this

order].)

Respondent must pay monetary sanctions to the State Bar of California Client Security Fund in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Monetary sanctions are enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

S283039

**BENNINGHOFF ON
DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed

The court orders that MELINA SHALYSSE BENNINGHOFF (Respondent), State Bar Number 167711, is suspended from the practice of law in California for one year, execution of that period of suspension is stayed, and Respondent is placed on probation for one year subject to the following conditions:

1. Respondent must comply with the other conditions of probation recommended by the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court in its Order Approving Stipulation filed on November 8, 2023; and
2. At the expiration of the period of probation, if Respondent has complied with the terms of probation, the period of stayed suspension will be satisfied and that suspension will be terminated.

Respondent must provide to the State Bar's Office of Probation proof of taking and passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination as recommended by the Hearing Department in its Order Approving Stipulation filed on November 8, 2023. Failure to do so may result in suspension. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.10(b).)

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law. One-third of the costs must be paid with Respondent's annual fees for each of the years 2025, 2026, and 2027. If Respondent fails to pay any installment as described above, or as may be modified in writing by the State Bar or the State Bar Court, the remaining balance is due and payable immediately.

S283040**CHAN ON DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed: disbarred

The court orders that CAROLYN CHAN (Respondent), State Bar Number 147978, is disbarred from the practice of law in California and that Respondent's name is stricken from the roll of attorneys.

Respondent must make restitution to Gabriel Koloszar, or such other recipient as may be designated by the Office of Probation or the State Bar Court, in the amount of \$3,500 plus 10 percent interest per year from February 11, 2022 (or reimburse the Client Security Fund, to the extent of any payment from the Fund to such payee, in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6140.5). Reimbursement to the Fund is enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

Respondent must comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the date this order is filed. (*Athearn v. State Bar* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 38, 45 [the operative date for identification of clients being represented in pending matters and others to be notified is the filing date of this order].)

Respondent must pay monetary sanctions to the State Bar of California Client Security Fund in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Monetary sanctions are enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

S283041**VARTANIAN ON
DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed

The court orders that MARTHA MICHIKO VARTANIAN (Respondent), State Bar Number 323979, is suspended from the practice of law in California for one year, execution of that period of suspension is stayed, and Respondent is placed on probation for two years subject to the following conditions:

1. Respondent must comply with the other conditions of probation recommended by the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court in its Order Approving Stipulation filed on October 30, 2023; and
2. At the expiration of the period of probation, if Respondent has complied with the terms of probation, the period of stayed suspension will be satisfied and that suspension will be terminated.

Respondent must provide to the State Bar's Office of Probation proof of taking and passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination as recommended by the Hearing Department in its Order Approving Stipulation filed on October 30, 2023. Failure to do so may result in

suspension. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.10(b).)

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

S283042

**VIJAYRAGHAVAN ON
DISCIPLINE**

Recommended discipline imposed

The court orders that Vasumathi Vijayraghavan (Respondent), State Bar Number 310372, is suspended from the practice of law in California for one year, execution of that period of suspension is stayed, and Respondent is placed on probation for one year subject to the following conditions:

1. Respondent is suspended from the practice of law for the first 30 days of probation;
2. Respondent must comply with the other conditions of probation recommended by the Hearing Department of the State Bar Court in its Order Approving Stipulation filed on November 1, 2023; and
3. At the expiration of the period of probation, if Respondent has complied with all conditions of probation, the period of stayed suspension will be satisfied and that suspension will be terminated.

Respondent must provide to the State Bar's Office of Probation proof of taking and passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination as recommended by the Hearing Department in its Order Approving Stipulation filed on November 1, 2023. Failure to do so may result in suspension. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.10(b).)

Respondent must comply with California Rules of Court, rule 9.20, and perform the acts specified in (a) and (c) of that rule within 30 and 40 calendar days, respectively, after the date this order is filed. (*Athearn v. State Bar* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 38, 45 [the operative date for identification of clients being represented in pending matters and others to be notified is the filing date of this order].) Failure to do so may result in disbarment or suspension. Respondent must also maintain the records of compliance as required by the conditions of probation.

Respondent must pay monetary sanctions to the State Bar of California Client Security Fund in the amount of \$2,500 in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Monetary sanctions are enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law.

Costs are awarded to the State Bar in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and are enforceable both as provided in Business and Professions Code section 6140.7 and as a money judgment, and may be collected by the State Bar through any means permitted by law

S282886**BULLOCH ON
RESIGNATION**

Resignation declined

This court, having considered the request, declines to accept the voluntary resignation with charges pending of KENT H BULLOCH (Attorney), State Bar Number 275515, as an attorney of the State Bar of California. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.21(d).) Attorney remains on inactive status. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 9.21(a).) Attorney may move the State Bar Court to be restored to active status, at which time the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may demonstrate any basis for Attorney's continued ineligibility to practice law. The State Bar Court will expedite the resolution of any request by Attorney to be restored to active status. Any return to active status will be conditioned on Attorney's payment of any fees, penalty payments, and restitution owed by Attorney. The underlying disciplinary matter should proceed promptly.