Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California

November 1, 2026

Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California

With Amendments Adopted by the Board of Trustees (formerly Board of Governors)
Effective January 1, 2011, with Subsequent Revisions

Title 5: Discipline

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PREFACE

The Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California are adopted by the Board of Trustees (formerly Board of Governors) of the State Bar in order to facilitate and govern proceedings conducted through the State Bar Court and otherwise. On September 22, 2010, the Board approved amendments to the rules that govern procedures in the State Bar Court. The amendments involve some substantive changes, as well as reordering and renumbering of the rules to make them clearer, better organized and easier to read.

Effective January 1, 2011, the amended rules will apply to all pending and future matters filed in the State Bar Court, except as to:

1. Hearing Department proceedings in which the taking of testimony or the offering of evidence at trial has commenced;
2. Review Department matters in which a request for review is filed prior to January 1, 2011; and
3. Any other particular proceeding pending as of the effective date in which the Court orders the application of former rules based on a determination that injustice would otherwise result.

The amended rules (rules 5.1 to 5.466) are found in Title 5 and conform to the new organizational structure for all the Rules of the State Bar. The revised rules begin with the number 5 (for Title 5), which is followed by a period and then a sequential number.

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TITLE 5. DISCIPLINE

Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California
Adopted effective January 1, 2011 and amended as indicated below.

DIVISION 1. GENERAL RULES

Rule 5.1 Title and Authority

These rules are the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California.

Rule 5.2 Authority to Adopt

These rules are adopted by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar under Business and Professions Code § 6086 to facilitate and govern proceedings in the State Bar Court, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel and the Office of Probation.

Rule 5.3 Ordinary Meanings

All terms used in these rules have their ordinary meanings unless specifically defined otherwise. Some definitions may be limited to the rules in which they appear.

Rule 5.4 Definitions

These definitions apply to all rules, unless otherwise stated. Defined terms are not capitalized unless they are proper names.

(1) "Appellant" means a party who makes a request for review or summary review by the Review Department.

(2) "Appellee" means a party opposing an appellant in a State Bar Court proceeding.

(3) "Applicant" means a party seeking admission to the State Bar in a moral character proceeding under these rules.

(4) "Assigned judge" means the hearing judge assigned to adjudicate a State Bar Court proceeding.

(5) "Attorney" means an attorney subject to the disciplinary or regulatory jurisdiction of the State Bar.

(6) "Board of Trustees" means the Board of Trustees of the State Bar or its designee.

(7) "Board of Trustees Discipline Oversight Committee" means the committee designated by the Board of Trustees to address attorney discipline matters.

(8) "California State Bar Court Reporter" means the publication of the State Bar of California containing the opinions of the State Bar Court, Review Department.

(9) "Chief Trial Counsel" means the chief trial counsel of the State Bar appointed in accordance with Business and Professions Code § 6079.5, or the counsel's designee.

(10) "Clerk" means the Clerk of the State Bar Court or the clerk's designee.

(11) "Client Security Fund" means the Client Security Fund established by the State Bar under Business and Professions Code § 6140.5 to compensate victims of attorney dishonesty.

(12) "Committee of Bar Examiners" means the committee appointed by the Board of Trustees under Business and Professions Code §§ 6046–6046.5 to address admissions matters.

(13) "Consumer" means a consumer within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1985.3(a)(2).

(14) "Complaint" means a communication alleging misconduct by a State Bar attorney sufficient to warrant an investigation that may result in discipline of the attorney if the allegations are proved.

(15) "Complainant" means a person who alleges misconduct by a State Bar attorney.

(16) "Confidential Information" means (a) sensitive personally identifiable information of any individual, including but not limited to social security numbers, dates of birth, home addresses, driver's license numbers, names of minor children, and medical information (including information regarding mental health and substance abuse); and (b) personally identifiable financial information such as bank or other financial account numbers, including routing numbers. Such information should be redacted in any document, including but not limited to pleadings and exhibits, meant to become part of the court record, unless accompanied by a motion to seal or filed in a confidential proceeding. Social security numbers and account numbers can be redacted to show the last four digits.

(17) "Confidential Proceeding" means any proceeding so defined by rule or statute as being confidential. Confidential proceedings will not appear on the State Bar Court's publicly accessible portal or docket.

(18) "Counsel" means an active attorney of the State Bar, or an attorney admitted pro hac vice, who is counsel of record for a party in a State Bar Court proceeding.

(19) "Court" means the State Bar Court, Hearing Department, Review Department, or any associated judge.

(20) "Court days" are the days that the State Bar Court is open for business, published in an annual calendar that indicates holidays and is available from the Clerk.

(21) "Customer" means a customer within the meaning of Government Code § 7465.

(22) "Days" are all calendar days, including days on which the State Bar Court is not open for business.

(23) "Declaration" means an affidavit or writing that complies with the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure § 2015.5.

(24) "Deputy Trial Counsel" means the attorney from the Office of Chief Trial Counsel who represents the State Bar in a State Bar Court proceeding – other than the Chief Trial Counsel.

(25) "Disciplinary proceeding" means a proceeding initiated for the purpose of seeking the imposition of discipline against a State Bar attorney.

(26) "Document" means any submission in paper format or any electronic submission that is capable of being read using software in the public domain or generally available at a reasonable cost and is text searchable when technologically feasible without impairment of the document's image.

(27) "Electronic notification" means the notification of the party or other person that a document is served by sending an electronic message to the electronic address at or through which the party or other person has authorized electronic service, specifying the exact name of the document served, and providing a hyperlink at which the served document may be viewed and downloaded. A party or other person that serves a document by means of electronic notification must maintain the availability of the original document served, without any change or alteration, at the hyperlink until final disposition of the matter.

(28) "Electronic service," or "serve electronically," means service of a document, on a party or other person, by either electronic transmission or electronic notification. Electronic service may be performed directly by a party or other person, by an agent of a party or other person, including the party or other person's attorney, or through an electronic filing service provider. Prior consent of the party or other person to be served electronically is not required to serve documents as provided in these rules.

(29) "Electronic service address" means an email address at or through which the party or other person is deemed to have authorized electronic service. The initial electronic service address, as set forth below, is deemed valid for a party or other person if the party or other person has not filed and served notice of a change of electronic service address pursuant to subdivision (E) of rule 5.26.1:

(a) For employees of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, the State Bar email address,

(b) For State Bar licensees, the email address provided to the State Bar to facilitate communications by the State Bar with its licensees pursuant to rule 9.9(a)(2) of the California Rules of Court, and

(c) For other parties and persons, including Special Deputy Trial Counsel handling matters pursuant to rule 2201, petitioners for reinstatement, and applicants for admission requesting a moral character proceeding, the email address that they must provide to the court and all parties for service of documents with their initial pleading.

(30) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign a document or record created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means. Electronic signature includes a copy of an original signature placed into the document by electronic means and includes a typographic signature that includes "/s/" followed by the signer's name, e.g., "/s/ John Doe." For purposes of these rules, a "digital signature" as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 16.5 of the Government Code is a type of electronic signature. A typewritten name created in a word processing program, regardless of the use of a cursive font, that is not preceded by "/s/" is not an electronic signature unless it otherwise complies with Government Code section 16.5.

(31) "Electronic transmission" means the transmission of a document by electronic means to an electronic service address.

(32) "Executive Committee" means the committee of the State Bar Court appointed by the Presiding Judge under Business and Professions Code § 6086.65(b).

(33) "Executive Director" means the Chief Executive Officer of the State Bar or the officer's designee.

(34) "Financial institution" has the meaning provided in Government Code § 7465(a).

(35) "Formal proceeding" means a proceeding in the State Bar Court, including any disciplinary proceeding.

(36) "General Counsel" means the General Counsel of the State Bar or the counsel's designee.

(37) "Hearing" means a proceeding on the record before a judge of the Hearing Department, including:

(a) a conference – but not a settlement conference;

(b) a hearing on a motion;

(c) evidentiary hearing;

(d) a trial; or

(e) any other proceeding before a judge of the Hearing Department.

(38) "Hearing Department" means the trial department of the State Bar Court established by Business and Professions Code §§ 6079.1 and 6086.5.

(39) "Hearing judge" means a judge of the Hearing Department.

(40) "Initial pleading" means the notice of disciplinary charges, notice of hearing, petition, or other pleading that begins a State Bar Court proceeding.

(41) "Inquiry" means an evaluation to decide whether any action is warranted by the State Bar based on information relating to the conduct of a State Bar attorney and received by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

(42) "Investigation" means the process of obtaining, evaluating, and reviewing evidence and information.

(43) "Judge" means a judge or judge pro tempore of the State Bar Court appointed in accordance with Business and Professions Code § 6079.1 or § 6086.65.

(44) "Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission" means the State Bar agency that evaluates candidates for state judicial office under Government Code § 12011.5.

(45) "Notice of Disciplinary Charges" means the initial pleading that provides notice of the rules, statutes, or orders the attorney is alleged to have violated.

(46) "Office of Chief Trial Counsel" or "Office of Trials" means the State Bar office that investigates and prosecutes attorney discipline and regulatory matters under the direction of the Chief Trial Counsel.

(47) "Overnight mail" means any method of overnight delivery service authorized by Code of Civil Procedure § 1013.

(48) "Party" means the State Bar or a respondent, petitioner, applicant, or attorney who is the subject of a State Bar Court proceeding.

(49) "Petitioner" means a party who has filed a petition permitted in State Bar Court proceedings, such as a petition for reinstatement or a petition for transfer to active enrollment.

(50) "Pleading" means any paper filed by a party as part of the record in a State Bar Court proceeding – except a transcript or an exhibit.

(51) "Presiding Judge" means the judge who presides over the State Bar Court and is appointed in accordance with Business and Professions Code §§ 6079.1 and 6086.65, or the judge's designee.

(52) "Reasonable cause" means a situation that would lead a person of ordinary care and prudence to believe, or entertain a strong suspicion, that something is true.

(53) "Respondent" means an attorney who is the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in the State Bar Court.

(54) "Response" means a responsive pleading or answer.

(55) "Review Department" means the appellate department of the State Bar Court established in accordance with Business and Professions Code § 6086.65.

(56) "Settlement Conference" means a meeting between parties conducted to reach a compromise without trial.

(57) "State Bar" means the State Bar of California.

(58) "State Bar Court" means the adjudicative tribunal established in accordance with Business and Professions Code §§ 6079.1, 6086.5, and 6086.65.

(59) "State Bar Court proceeding" means a proceeding in the State Bar Court, including a formal proceeding.

(60) "Supervising Judge" means the supervising judge of the Hearing Department.

(61) "Supreme Court" means the Supreme Court of California.

(62) "Trial" means an evidentiary hearing on the merits of a State Bar Court proceeding before a hearing judge – not including a hearing on a motion or probable cause hearing under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b).

(63) "Trust Account Financial Record" means a financial record that an attorney must maintain in accordance with the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; July 1, 2019; November 1, 2020; April 1, 2024.

Rule 5.5 References to Statutes and Rules

All references in these rules to statutes and rules are to the statutes and rules as amended.

Rule 5.6 Scope

The rules in Divisions 1 through 7 govern the procedures in all State Bar Court proceedings.

Rule 5.7 Assignment of Judges Pro Tempore

When a State Bar Court proceeding might be delayed because a hearing judge is unavailable, the Presiding Judge may assign a judge pro tempore to preside over the proceeding.

Rule 5.8 Disposition of Pending Matters After a Judge's Term Expires

Unless the Supreme Court directs otherwise, when a judge's term expires, the Board of Trustees may appoint the judge to serve as a judge pro tempore so that the judge can complete pending matters.

Rule 5.9 Public Nature of State Bar Court Proceedings

Except as otherwise provided by law or by these rules, all State Bar Court proceedings must be public except settlement conferences and portions of the record sealed by court order under rule 5.12 or determined by the court to be confidential.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised: July 1, 2019.

Rule 5.10 Confidential Proceedings

(A) Unless the applicant or attorney waives confidentiality, proceedings under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3) and moral character proceedings are confidential.

(B) Proceedings under rule 2605 (vexatious complainants) are confidential. The confidentiality of proceedings under rule 2605 may not be waived.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised: January 25, 2019; July 1, 2019; September 19, 2019.

Rule 5.11 Public Records Concerning Resignations

If an attorney resigns while disciplinary charges are pending under California Rules of Court, rule 9.21, a copy of the attorney's written resignation, the record of any perpetuated evidence, any stipulation as to facts and conclusions of law, and the attorney's inactive status must be public and available for public inspection.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised: January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.12 Order Sealing Portions of the Record

(A) **Protected Material.** Protected material means any part of a public proceeding's record, including a hearing, testimony, exhibit, pleading, or other document, that the Court orders to be sealed under this rule.

(B) **Filing a Motion to Seal.** The motion must be supported by specific facts showing that a statutory privilege or constitutionally protected interest exists that outweighs the public interest in the proceeding. The motion may be filed under seal; in that event, it will be treated as protected material until the Court orders otherwise. Unless the movant shows good cause for the delay, the motion may not be made for the first time on review.

(C) **Care of Protected Material.** The Clerk must keep protected material under seal. Other custodians must mark and maintain the material in a manner calculated to prevent improper disclosure.

(D) **Recipients of Disclosure.** Unless otherwise ordered, protected material may be disclosed only to:

(1) parties to the proceeding and counsel;

(2) Supreme Court personnel, State Bar Court personnel, and independent audiotape transcribers; and

(3) Office of Probation personnel, when necessary for their official duties.

(E) **Disclosure of Protected Material.** A person who discloses protected material must give a copy of the applicable order sealing a portion of the record to the other person.

(F) **Review Department.** Under rule 5.150, the Review Department may review orders of the Hearing Department. The hearing judge or Presiding Judge may order the materials sealed pending any further order of the Review Department or the Supreme Court.

(G) **Other Requests and Motions.** Nothing in this rule prohibits a request to redact portions of evidence or a motion in limine.

Rule 5.13 Deliberations Are Not Public

The deliberations of State Bar Court judges are confidential.

Rule 5.14 Recorded or Reported Proceedings

The Court must record or report all hearings, trials, and Review Department oral arguments in State Bar Court proceedings and make copies of the recordings available for purchase from the Clerk.

Rule 5.15 Preparation of Transcripts

The official transcript is prepared under the direction of the State Bar Court. Upon request and advance payment of the cost, the Clerk will cause to be prepared an original and one copy of an official transcript. A party ordering an official transcript of a pending proceeding must serve a copy of the transcript order on all opposing parties. The original transcript will be filed with the Clerk and the copy will be furnished to the requesting party. Additional copies may be obtained from the Clerk upon payment of the cost. Payment may be waived under rule 5.192(B), or pursuant to the procedures for waiver of transcript costs in the Rules of Practice of the State Bar Court.

Revised January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.16 Photographs, Recordings, and Broadcasts of State Bar Court Proceedings

(A) **Request and Permission.** A public State Bar Court proceeding may be photographed, recorded, or broadcast only on written order of the hearing judge or, if pending in the Review Department, the Presiding Judge. A request must be in the form approved by the Executive Committee and submitted to the hearing judge or Review Department at least five days before the proceeding.

(B) **Notice.** The Clerk must notify all parties that a request has been received.

(C) **Disposition of Request.** To decide whether to grant the request, the hearing judge or the Presiding Judge will consider the factors for nonjury proceedings set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(e)(3). The hearing judge or Presiding Judge may:

(1) deny the request;

(2) limit the requested photographing, recording, or broadcasting; or

(3) require the requesting person to pay any increased court-incurred costs.

(D) **Use of Audio-Only Recordings.** When permission to audiotape is granted, the recordings must be used only as personal notes.

Rule 5.17 Appearances for Non-Trial Events in the Hearing Department

(A) **General Provision Authorizing Parties to Appear Remotely.** Prefiling Settlement Conferences, Settlement Conferences, and all hearings as defined in rule 5.4(37) except evidentiary hearings and trials will take place remotely by video or telephone. The court will publish information for remote appearances for proceedings open to the public on the State Bar Court website.

(B) **Notice by Party to Appear In Person.** Notwithstanding paragraph (A), a party may appear in-person upon notice to the court that is served on the opposing party.

(1) Notice to the Court. The notice must be in writing and filed with the court as far in advance as possible but no fewer than 10 days before the appearance. The notice must be in writing and may be submitted using the court-approved form located on the court's website.

(2) Notice to the Opposing Party. The party must serve the notice on the opposing party pursuant to rule 5.26 or 5.26.1.

(3) Notice by the Opposing Party. On receipt of notice under paragraph (B)(2), should the opposing party elect to also appear in-person, that party must notify the court and all other parties no fewer than two court days before the appearance. The notice must be in writing, may be submitted using the court-approved form located on the court's website, and must be served on all parties pursuant to rule 5.26 or 5.26.1.

(4) Court Discretion to Order Remote Appearance or to Reschedule Proceeding. If a party has provided notice of the party's intent to appear in-person under this paragraph, the court may, in its discretion and in the interests of justice, order that the proceeding be conducted remotely or rescheduled.

(C) **Court Discretion to Require In-Person Appearance.** Notwithstanding paragraph (A), the court has discretion to require an in-person appearance, to conduct a proceeding partially remotely by video or telephone, or to continue the matter if, at any time during the proceeding being conducted remotely, the court determines that:

(1) An in-person appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceeding or the effective management or resolution of the case;

(2) The quality of the technology or audibility at a proceeding prevents effective management, resolution or ability to accurately prepare a recording; or

(3) The court otherwise determines that an in-person appearance is necessary.

(D) The Hearing Department ruling to require a remote appearance under subparagraph (B)(4) or to require an in-person appearance under paragraph (C) is the final ruling in the State Bar Court and is not reviewable.

Eff. April 4, 2022; Revised July 29, 2024; November 25, 2024.

Rule 5.18 Appearances for Evidentiary Hearings and Trials in the Hearing Department

(A) **General Provision Requiring Parties to Appear In Person.** Except as permitted by this rule, parties must appear in person at evidentiary hearings and at trial as defined in rule 5.4(62).

(B) **Stipulation by Parties to Appear Remotely.** Notwithstanding paragraph (A), parties may provide notice to the court through a stipulation that either party or both parties intend to appear remotely at an evidentiary hearing or trial. The parties may stipulate orally at the initial status conference or in writing within 10 days after the court serves notice of the evidentiary hearing or trial pursuant to rule 5.102.

(C) **Oral Notice by Party to Appear Remotely.** Notwithstanding paragraph (A), a party may provide oral notice at the initial status conference of an intent to appear remotely at an evidentiary hearing or trial. The court's order following the status conference must state whether any party gave notice of an intent to appear remotely and whether there was opposition. In response to an oral notice of an intent to appear remotely, a party may make an oral showing to the court as to why a remote appearance should not be allowed. A party may also file a written opposition as set forth in paragraph (D)(3).

(D) **Written Notice by Party to Appear Remotely.** Notwithstanding paragraph (A), a party may provide notice of an intent to appear remotely at an evidentiary hearing or trial in writing within 10 days after the court serves notice of the hearing or trial date pursuant to rule 5.102. The notice may be submitted using the court-approved form located on the court's website.

(1) **Notice to the Opposing Party**. The party must serve the notice on the opposing party pursuant to rule 5.26 or 5.26.1.

(2) **Notice by the Opposing Party.** On receipt of notice under subparagraph (1), should the opposing party elect to also appear remotely, that party must notify the court and all other parties within five calendar days after the notice is served. The notice must be in writing, may be submitted using the court-approved form located on the court's website, and must be served on all parties pursuant to rule 5.26 or 5.26.1.

(3) **Opposition to Remote Proceedings**. In response to a notice of an intent to appear remotely provided under this paragraph or paragraph (C), a party may make a written showing to the court as to why a remote appearance should not be allowed. The opposition may be submitted using the court-approved form located on the court's website. The opposition must be filed with the court and served on the parties within five calendar days after the notice of the party's

intent to appear remotely is served, or, when notice is given orally under paragraph (C), within five calendar days after the court's status conference order stating that such notice was given is served. The party must serve the opposition on the opposing party pursuant to rule 5.26 or 5.26.1.

(E) Court Determination on Opposition. In determining whether to allow a remote appearance over opposition, the court must consider the following:

(1) Whether an in-person appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceeding or the effective management or resolution of the case;

(2) Whether the quality of the technology or audibility at a proceeding prevents effective management, resolution, or ability to accurately prepare a recording;

(3) Whether limited access to technology or transportation asserted by a party affects the ability to appear remotely; and

(4) Whether the interests of justice are best served by permitting a party to appear remotely in whole or in part over another party's opposition.

(F) Court Discretion to Require In-Person Appearance. If an evidentiary hearing or trial is conducted remotely in full or in part, the court has discretion at any time during the proceeding to require an in-person appearance if the court determines that:

(1) An in-person appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceeding or the effective management or resolution of the case;

(2) The quality of the technology or audibility at a proceeding prevents effective management, resolution, or ability to accurately prepare a recording; or

(3) The court otherwise determines that an in-person appearance is necessary.

(G) Review. Hearing Department rulings regarding paragraph (E) are reviewable under rule 5.150.

Eff. April 4, 2022; Revised July 29, 2024; November 25, 2024.

Rule 5.19 Vexatious Litigants

(A) Definitions. For purposes of this rule, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Vexatious litigant" means:

(a) A party who, in proceedings before the State Bar Court, repeatedly relitigates or attempts to relitigate an issue of law or fact that has been finally determined by the State Bar Court or by the Supreme Court; or

(b) A party who, in proceedings before the State Bar Court, repeatedly files unmeritorious motions, pleadings, or other papers, or repeatedly engages in other tactics that are in bad faith, frivolous or solely intended to cause harassment or unnecessary delay; or

(c) A party who has previously been declared to be a vexatious litigant by any state or federal court in any action or proceeding.

(2) "Finally determined" means that all avenues for review or appeal have been exhausted or the time for seeking review or appealing has expired.

(B) **Order.** On the motion of a party or on its own motion after giving notice to the parties and giving the party who is the subject of the motion the opportunity to respond, the court may issue an order declaring a party to be a vexatious litigant and imposing appropriate requirements to control the conduct of the vexatious litigant. The order shall be based on a finding that the vexatious litigant has abused the court's process or has previously been declared to be vexatious litigant by any state or federal court, and is likely to abuse the court's processes unless protective measures are taken. The order must state with specificity the grounds for making the finding and the grounds for any requirements imposed other than a prefiling order described in paragraph E.

(C) **Notice and Hearing.** No party shall be declared a vexatious litigant without being given notice and an opportunity to be heard. The party who is the subject of a motion pursuant to this rule may file a written response to the motion within 10 days after it is served and must serve the response on the opposing party in the case. In its discretion, the court may set a hearing for presentation of oral evidence or may rule on the motion solely on the basis of the documentary evidence submitted with the motion and response, including any declarations of fact made under penalty of perjury.

(D) **Review.** A ruling under this rule is reviewable under rule 5.150. The party must file the petition for review within 10 days after service of the ruling.

(E) **Pre-filing Orders.** An order declaring a party to be a vexatious litigant may prohibit the vexatious litigant from filing a motion, supplement, or amendment to any pleading in any matter before the State Bar Court without first obtaining leave of the court. The court shall grant leave to file a motion, supplement, or amendment only if it appears that the motion, supplement, or amendment has merit and has not been filed for purposes of harassment or delay. The clerk shall not file any motion, supplement, or amendment submitted by a vexatious litigant unless the vexatious litigant first obtains an order permitting the filing. A pre-filing order shall not require leave of court for a litigant to file or submit, as applicable, a request for disability accommodations, a request for a Prefiling Settlement Conference, a settlement conference statement, a response to a Notice of Disciplinary Charges, a post-trial brief allowed by the court, or any pleading filed as permitted under these rules in response to a pleading or motion filed by the opposing party.

(F) **Record of Vexatious Litigants.** A copy of any order declaring a party to be a vexatious litigant shall be submitted to the Clerk, who shall maintain a record of vexatious litigants subject to pre-filing orders to be used to determine whether a pleading has been submitted in violation of such an order.

(G) **Application to Vacate.** A party who has been declared a vexatious litigant may file an application to vacate the order declaring them to be a vexatious litigant. The application shall be made before the judge who entered the order, if that judge is available, or to the presiding judge or their designee. A vexatious litigant whose application to vacate the order is denied shall not be permitted to file another application before 12 months have lapsed after the date of the denial of the previous

application. The court may vacate an order declaring a party to be a vexatious litigant upon a showing of a material change in the facts upon which the order was granted and that the interests of justice would be served by vacating the order.

Eff. January 1, 2025.

DIVISION 2. CASE PROCEEDINGS

Chapter 1. Commencement of Proceedings

Rule 5.20 Beginning Proceeding

A State Bar Court proceeding begins when a party files the initial pleading.

Rule 5.21 Limitations Period

(A) **Time Limit for Complaint**. If a disciplinary proceeding is based solely on a complainant's allegations of a violation of the State Bar Act or Rules of Professional Conduct, the initial pleading must be filed within the later of (1) five years from the date the violation occurred or (2) two years from the date the first complaint regarding the violation is submitted to the State Bar, so long as that complaint is submitted to the State Bar within five years from the date the violation occurred.

(B) **When Violation Occurs**. A violation of the State Bar Act or a Rule of Professional Conduct occurs when every element of a violation has occurred. But if the violation is a continuing offense, the violation occurs when the offensive conduct ends.

(C) **Tolling.** The time limit for the filing of an initial pleading under section (A) above is tolled:

(1) while the attorney represents or otherwise owes a fiduciary duty to the complainant, or the complainant's family member, business, or employer;

(2) while the complainant is a minor, insane, or physically or mentally incapacitated;

(3) while civil, criminal, or administrative investigations or proceedings based on the same acts or circumstances as the violation, including but not limited to proceedings seeking to determine whether a violation has occurred, the scope of the violation, the harm resulting from the violation, or any actions to be taken to remediate the violation, including efforts to collect funds owed as the result of the violation, are pending with any governmental agency, court, or tribunal;

(4) from the time the attorney conceals facts about the violation until the State Bar or the victim of the violation discovers the true facts;

(5) from the time the attorney fails to cooperate with the State Bar's investigation of the violation until the attorney provides substantial cooperation with the State Bar's investigation;

(6) from the time the attorney makes false or misleading statements to the State Bar concerning the violation until the State Bar discovers the true facts;

(7) while the disciplinary investigation or proceeding is abated under rule 5.50;

(8) while the attorney is participating in an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mediation Discipline program, Agreement in Lieu of Discipline Prosecution program, or other authorized diversion program concerning the violation;

(9) while the investigation of the violation is ended by admonition given pursuant to rule 5.126 or 2602;

(10) while the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's decision to close the complaint without the filing of an initial pleading is under review by the Office of General Counsel Complaint Review Unit or an equivalent review unit within the State Bar, or the State Bar's decision to close the complaint without the filing of an initial pleading is under review by the California Supreme Court and for any additional period necessary to provide the State Bar with two years to file an initial pleading following the later of the conclusion of review by the Office of General Counsel Complaint Review Unit or equivalent review unit within the State Bar or the conclusion of review by the California Supreme Court; or

(11) while the attorney is on inactive status pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6007, subdivision (a) or (b).

(D) **Authorized Diversion Program**. If the attorney successfully completes an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mediation Discipline program, Agreement in Lieu of Discipline Prosecution program, or other authorized diversion program concerning the violation, the State Bar will be barred from filing an initial pleading alleging the violation.

(E) **Initial Pleading After Review**. The State Bar must file an initial pleading within two years after the later of (1) the Office of General Counsel Complaint Review Unit or an equivalent review unit within the State Bar concluding its review of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's decision to close the complaint without the filing of an initial pleading; or (2) the California Supreme Court concluding its review of the State Bar's decision to close the complaint without the filing of an initial pleading.

(F) **Death of Complainant**. If a prospective complainant dies before the time to begin a disciplinary procedure expires, a surviving family member of the complainant, or the complainant's estate's executor or administrator, may file a complaint with the State Bar within two years after the complainant's death and if such a complaint is filed an initial pleading initiating a disciplinary proceeding based on that complaint must be filed within two years after the filing of the complaint with the State Bar.

(G) **Independent Source**. Independent Source. The five-year limit does not apply to disciplinary proceedings that were investigated and initiated by the State Bar based on information received from an independent source other than a complainant.

(H) **Waiver**. The attorney and State Bar may agree in writing to waive or extend the limitations in this rule.

(I) **Reinstatement Proceedings**. This rule does not apply to reinstatement proceedings.

(J) **Retroactive Application.** The amendments to this rule adopted March 24, 2022, shall apply retroactively to any initial pleading the filing of which would, as of March 24, 2022, have been within the time limit imposed by this rule prior to the March 24, 2022 amendments.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised: July 20, 2018; January 25, 2019; April 4, 2022.

Rule 5.22 Venue

(A) **Place.** If the party who is the subject of the proceeding maintains a principal office or residence or committed the violation in Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura County, then the State Bar Court proceeding must begin in Los Angeles County. For all other California counties, the proceeding must begin in the city of San Francisco.

(B) **Choice.** If no county or more than one county applies, then the State Bar Court proceeding may begin in either Los Angeles County or the city of San Francisco.

Rule 5.23 Transfer of Venue

(A) **Filing Motion.** A party must file a motion for transfer of venue as soon as practical in the Court where the proceeding is pending, but not later than the last day of the discovery period.

(B) **Grounds.** Grounds for transfer are:

(1) improper venue, or

(2) justice and the convenience of witnesses would be better served in a different venue.

(C) **Review.** Rulings on motions for transfer of venue are reviewable under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.24 Where to File Pleadings

A party must file pleadings with the Clerk in the venue where the proceeding is located, except when ordered otherwise or in case of emergency. But a party may file pleadings with the Review Department in either location of the State Bar Court.

Rule 5.25 Service of Initial Pleading

(A) **By Whom.** The initiating party must serve the initial pleading on all other parties, except in matters where the Clerk serves the initial pleading.

(B) **Service on an Attorney.** When serving an attorney who is the subject of a proceeding, the initiating party or Clerk must address the service to the attorney's address in the State Bar's attorney records. If it is in the United States, service must be made by certified mail, return receipt requested. If it is outside the United States, service must be made by certified mail or other conforming method that confirms delivery.

(C) **Service on a Nonattorney.** When serving a non-attorney, the initiating party or Clerk may use any method for service of process permitted under the Code of Civil Procedure.

(D) **Service on Counsel.** When a party files and serves a signed, written notice to serve counsel for the party, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel and the Clerk may serve only counsel for that party.

(E) **Service on the State Bar.** To serve the State Bar, the initiating party must serve the Office of Chief Trial Counsel in the appropriate venue by certified mail, return receipt requested – unless another method of service is specified in the rules governing a particular type of proceeding.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.26 Service of Later Pleadings

(A) **Proof.** Proof of service on all other parties must accompany any pleading, except joint pleadings, filed after the initial pleading.

(B) **Service on the State Bar.** To serve the State Bar, a party must serve the designated deputy trial counsel of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

(C) **Service on an Attorney.** A party must serve an attorney at the attorney's address in the State Bar's attorney records —unless the attorney has expressly requested that service be made to a different address or has asked for service to his or her counsel.

(D) **Service on a Nonattorney.** When serving a nonattorney, a party must serve the person at the address given in the most recent pleading the person has filed. But if the person has not provided an address, the party may accomplish service by any method permitted under the Code of Civil Procedure.

(E) **Change of Address.** When a person's address changes while a proceeding is pending, or the person wants to be served with pleadings and notices at a different address, the person must file and serve all other parties with a written notice of change of address and a specific request that future service be made to the new address.

(F) **Method of Service.** A party must serve later pleadings by United States mail, overnight mail, personal delivery, State Bar interoffice mail, electronic service as set forth in rule 5.26.1, or, if the receiving party consents, by fax.

(G) **Service by Fax.** Service by fax is equal to service by overnight mail. The proof of service must state:

(1) that the receiving party consented;

(2) the date and time of the fax;

(3) the telephone numbers of the transmitting and receiving machines; and

(4) that the transmitting machine reported a complete transmission without error.

(H) **Notice Period; Time for Response.** Rule 5.28 applies to notices and responses.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; November 1, 2020.

Rule 5.26.1 Electronic Service by Parties or Court

(A) **Electronic Service by the Court.** The Clerk may electronically serve any document issued by the court to a party's or other person's electronic service address as defined in rule 5.4(29) and as provided in this rule.

(B) **Electronic Service By a Party**. A document that is not an initial pleading may be served electronically to a party's or other person's electronic service address as defined in rule 5.4(29) and as provided in this rule.

(C) **When Authorized**. When a document may be served by United States mail, overnight mail, State Bar interoffice mail, or, by fax, the document may be served electronically. If a document is required to be served by personal delivery or by certified mail, electronic service of the document is not authorized unless the court has ordered electronic service on the party or other person. Prior consent of the party or other person to be served electronically is not required to serve documents as provided in this rule.

(D) **Initial Electronic Service Address**. The initial electronic service address, as defined in rule 5.4(29), is deemed valid for a party or other person if the party or other person has not filed and served notice of a change of electronic service address pursuant to subdivision (E).

(E) **Change of Electronic Service Address**. A party or other person whose electronic service address changes while the action or proceeding is pending must promptly file a notice of change of electronic service address electronically with the court and must serve this notice electronically on all other parties and all other persons required to be served.

(F) **Timing of Service.** Any document that is served electronically between 12:00 a.m. and 4:59:59 p.m. on a court day shall be deemed served on that court day. Any document that is served electronically between 5:00 p.m. and 11:59:59 p.m. on a court day or at any time on a noncourt day shall be deemed served on the next court day.

(G) **Perfection of Service**. Electronic service of a document is deemed complete at the time of the electronic transmission of the document or at the time that the electronic notification of service of the document is sent.

(H) **Sealed Materials or Documents or Other Materials Containing Unredacted Confidential Information.** A party seeking to submit sealed materials or documents or other materials containing unredacted confidential information must comply with rule 5.4(16) and rule 5.12. Sealed materials and documents or other materials containing unredacted confidential information must be encrypted prior to being served electronically to ensure that they are not improperly disclosed. If the sealed materials or documents or other materials containing unredacted confidential information cannot be encrypted, they must not be served electronically.

(I) **Legal Effect**. A document that is served electronically shall have the same legal effect as an original paper document.

(J) **Signature**. A document that is served electronically may be signed as set forth in rule 5.26.2.

(K) **Other Methods of Service Permitted.** Any document in electronic format that is not an initial pleading can also be served by United States mail, overnight mail, personal delivery, or State Bar interoffice mail, as set forth in rule 5.26.

Eff. November 1, 2020.

Rule 5.26.2 Electronic Signature

(A) **Deemed to Be Original.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, including Evidence Code sections 255 and 260, an electronic signature is deemed to be an original signature if either subdivision (B) or subdivision (C) applies.

(B) **Not Under Penalty of Perjury.**

(1) When a document to be filed or served requires the signature of any person, not under penalty of perjury, the document is deemed to have been signed by the person whose electronic signature is attached or logically associated with the document provided the document was served by the signer or a person acting at the signer's direction.

(2) When a document, such as a stipulation, requires the signatures of opposing parties or persons other than the party serving the document not under penalty of perjury, the following procedures apply:

(a) If the opposing party signed the document using an ink signature, the person serving the document represents, by the act of serving electronically, that, prior to serving the document on the court, all parties have signed the document and that the serving party has the original, including any ink signatures, in their possession. The party serving the document electronically on the court must maintain the printed form of the document bearing the original ink signature(s) until final disposition of the case, and make it available for review and copying upon the request of the court or any party to the proceeding in which it is filed; or

(b) The opposing party or other person has signed the document using an electronic signature and that electronic signature is unique to the person using it, capable of verification, under the sole control of the person using it, and linked to data in such a manner that if the data are changed, the electronic signature is invalidated.

(C) **Under Penalty of Perjury**. When a document to be filed or served electronically provides for a signature under penalty of perjury of any person, the document is deemed to have been signed by the person whose electronic signature is attached or logically associated with the document if the document was served by the person or an agent of the person and either of the following conditions is satisfied:

(1) The declarant has signed the document using an electronic signature and declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the information submitted is true and correct. If the person serving the document is

not declarant or declarant's counsel, the electronic signature must be unique to the declarant, capable of verification, under the sole control of the declarant, and linked to data in such a manner that if the data are changed, the electronic signature is invalidated; or

(2) The declarant, before serving the document, has physically signed a printed form of the document. The person serving the document represents, by the act of serving electronically, that the declarant has complied with this subdivision. The person serving the document electronically on the court must maintain the printed form of the document bearing the original signature until final disposition of the case, and make it available for review and copying upon the request of the court or any party to the proceeding in which it is filed.

Eff. November 1, 2020.

Rule 5.27 Proof of Service

(A) **By a Party or Other Person.** A party or other person serving a document by United States mail, overnight mail, fax, or State Bar interoffice mail must make proof of service pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1013a. A party or other person serving a document electronically must make a proof of service pursuant to rule 5.27.1.

(B) **By the Clerk.** The Clerk must make proof of service pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1013a(4) for documents served by United States mail, overnight mail, fax, or State Bar interoffice mail and pursuant to rule 5.27.1 for documents served electronically.

(C) **Filing Proof of Service.** The proof of service must be attached to all pleadings at the time of filing with the court.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; November 1, 2020.

Rule 5.27.1 Proof of Electronic Service

(A) **Methods.** Proof of electronic service may be made by any of the following methods:

(1) An affidavit setting forth the exact title of the document served and filed in the cause, showing the name and residence or business address of the person making the service, and that he or she is over the age of 18 years.

(2) A certificate setting forth the exact title of the document served and filed in the cause, showing the name and business address of the person making the service, and showing that he or she is an active licensee of the State Bar of California.

(3) In case of service by the Clerk, a certificate by that Clerk setting forth the exact title of the document served and filed in the cause, showing the name of the Clerk.

(B) **Required Elements**. Proof of electronic service shall include all of the following:

(1) The electronic service address and the residence or business address of the person making the electronic service.

(2) The date of electronic service.

(3) The name and electronic service address of the person served.

(4) A statement that the document was served electronically.

(C) Signature. Proof of electronic service must be signed as provided in rule 5.26.2(C).

(D) Electronic Format. Proof of electronic service may be in electronic form and may be submitted electronically to the court.

Eff. November 1, 2020.

Rule 5.28 Computing Time

(A) Method. In State Bar Court proceedings, time is computed under Code of Civil Procedure §§ 12, 12a, 12b, 13, 13a, or 13b. Code of Civil Procedure § 1013(a) applies to service by United States mail or State Bar interoffice mail. When service is made electronically, by overnight mail, or by fax, the prescribed period to act or respond is extended by two calendar days. When the end of the prescribed period to act or respond, including any extension based on the manner of service, falls on a non-court day, it is extended to the next court day.

(B) Calendar Days and Court Days. "Days" means calendar days when referring to the period within which an act must be performed or a specified period of notice. But "days" means court days when the period is five days or fewer and not extended by the manner of service.

Revised April 1, 2025.

Rule 5.29 Orders Shortening or Extending Time; Late Filing

(A) Time Limits and Notice Periods. On its own motion or a party's motion, and for good cause, the Court may order time limits and notice periods shortened or extended.

(B) Shortened Time Limit. If a party seeks an order shortening a time limit, the party must provide a declaration stating the reasons. A motion to shorten time must be served by personal delivery or overnight mail. The Court may direct the Clerk to notify the parties by telephone that they must file and serve any opposition by a date set by the Court. On motion and for good cause, the Court may extend the time to file a pleading or permit late filing of a pleading.

(C) Consent. When a party moves to extend time or to file late, the party must declare whether the party has requested or secured consent from the other parties.

Rule 5.30 Prefiling Settlement Conference

(A) Scheduling Conference. Prior to the filing of disciplinary charges, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will notify the attorney in writing of the right to request a Prefiling Settlement Conference. The written notice must state that the attorney may be ordered to pay costs pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.10, and monetary sanctions pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Within 10 days from the date of the notice, either party may request a Prefiling Settlement Conference using the court-approved form located on the court's website and following the directions

provided. Failure to request a conference within that time is deemed a waiver of the right to a conference. If proper notice is provided, failure to hold a conference will not be a basis for dismissal of a proceeding. A State Bar Court hearing judge will conduct the conference within 15 days of the request unless upon agreement by both parties to a specific later date.

(B) **Meet and Confer; Settlement Conference Statements; Confidentiality.** Pursuant to Rule 5.52.4, the parties shall meet and confer prior to the Prefiling Settlement Conference. Pursuant to rule 1206 of the Rules of Practice of the State Bar Court, each party shall lodge with the court, but not file, a settlement conference statement. The statement must be clearly marked as such, may be in letter form, must indicate in the heading the date and time of the scheduled settlement conference, and must be addressed to the settlement conference judge. Settlement conference statements may, but are not required to, be served on the opposing party. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel must submit a copy of the draft notice of disciplinary charges, or other written summary of the proposed charges to the judge with the settlement conference statement. The documentation submitted by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must include the rules and statutes alleged to have been violated by the attorney, a summary of the facts supporting each violation, and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's settlement position, including the amount of monetary sanctions being sought and the reasons. Each party may submit documents and information to support its position with the settlement conference statement. The failure of either party to submit the settlement conference statement and other required documentation within the specified time may result in the conference being rescheduled for a later date. The content of discussions and written statements made in connection with the Prefiling Settlement Conference and the meet and confer process are confidential and subject to Rule 5.52.6.

(C) **Stipulation for Approval; Assignment of Trial Judge.** If the parties resolve the matter in a way that requires court approval, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must document the resolution and submit it to the prefiling settlement judge for approval or rejection. If the matter does not settle prefiling, unless otherwise stipulated by the parties, the prefiling settlement judge cannot be the trial judge in a later proceeding involving the same facts.

Eff. January 1, 2011. Revised: December 21, 2011; January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021; July 1, 2024.

Rule 5.31 Change of Counsel of Record

Counsel of record in any proceeding before the court may be changed by any party in the same manner as provided in Code of Civil Procedure § 284, provided that any change of the individual counsel assigned to represent the State Bar in a particular proceeding need not be made by motion but may be made by notice of the name, telephone number, and email address of the new deputy trial counsel, filed with the Clerk and served upon the parties.

Eff. January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1120.

Rule 5.32 Waiver of Filing Fees

(A) A party who would meet the criteria for a reduction of license fees pursuant to State Bar Rules, Title 2, Division 2, rule 2.15 may request a waiver of any State Bar Court filing fee by submitting an application for waiver on the court-approved form. The application must be submitted at the same time as the underlying pleading, as a separate submission.

(B) Except as otherwise required by law, no person may have access to an application for fee waiver except the court and authorized court personnel, any persons authorized by the applicant, and any persons authorized by order of the court. No person may reveal any information contained in the application except as authorized by law or order of the court. However, the fact that an application for waiver of fees has been submitted and the determination to grant or deny the application will not be confidential.

(C) If the court finds that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for a reduction of license fees under the State Bar Rules, Title 2, Division 2, rule 2.15, the court will grant the application for waiver. The court's determination regarding eligibility is the final ruling in the State Bar Court.

(D) If the court denies the application for a waiver of the filing fee, payment is due within ten days of service of the court's order denying the application. If payment is not received within the ten days, the filing for which the fee is due will be stricken and the case dismissed without prejudice.

Eff. January 1, 2026.

Chapter 2. Pleadings, Motions, and Stipulations

Rule 5.40 General Rules of Pleading

(A) Each assertion in a pleading must be simple, concise, and direct.

(B) Documents filed with the court should not include confidential information unless that information is relevant and necessary.

(C) If confidential information is included in any document filed with the court, then the confidential information must be redacted or the document must be accompanied with a motion to seal pursuant to rule 5.12.

(D) If a party files a document with confidential information redacted, it must provide unredacted copies of the document to all other parties and the court in sealed envelopes marked "UNREDACTED DOCUMENT(S) CONTAINING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." Each unredacted document shall be clearly marked "UNREDACTED DOCUMENT CONTAINING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION."

(E) The responsibility for excluding or redacting confidential information from all documents filed with the court rests solely with the party filing the document. The

court will not review each pleading or perform any redactions for compliance with these rules.

Eff. January 1, 2011. Revised: July 1, 2019

Rule 5.41 Notice of Disciplinary Charges

(A) **Initial Pleading.** A notice of disciplinary charges is the initial pleading in a disciplinary proceeding, unless specified otherwise in the rules.

(B) **Contents.** The notice of disciplinary charges must:

(1) cite the statutes, rules, or Court orders that the attorney allegedly violated or that warrant the proposed action;

(2) contain facts, in concise and ordinary language, comprising the violations in sufficient detail to permit the preparation of a defense; no technical averments or any allegations of matters not essential to be proved are required;

(3) relate the stated facts to the statutes, rules, or Court orders that the attorney allegedly violated or that warrant the proposed action;

(4) contain a notice that the attorney may be ordered to pay costs, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.10, and monetary sanctions pursuant to section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar; and

(5) contain the following language in capital letters at or near the beginning of the notice:

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

(1) YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;

(2) YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;

(3) YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE; AND

(4) YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE. SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT AND MAY RECOMMEND THE IMPOSITION OF MONETARY SANCTIONS WITHOUT FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. (SEE RULES PROC. OF STATE BAR, RULES 5.80 ET SEQ. & 5.137.)"

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised: January 1, 2014; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.42 Motions that Extend Time to File Response

(A) **Motion for Dismissal.** Only a timely motion for dismissal under rule 5.124(B), (C), (D), will automatically extend the time to respond.

(B) **Time to Respond After Motion.** The party's obligation to file a response to the notice or pleading begins 10 days after:

(1) notice or service of the Court's denial of the motion;

(2) proper service of the initial pleading, if the motion was granted under rule 5.124(B); or

(3) service of an amended pleading if the motion was granted with leave to file an amended initial pleading under rule 5.124(C).

Rule 5.43 Response to Notice of Disciplinary Charges

(A) Time to File Response. Unless the time is extended by Court order or stipulation, the attorney must file and serve a written response to the notice of disciplinary charges within 20 days after it is served. Except for motions authorized by rule 5.124(C), demurrers and motions for further particulars are not allowed.

(B) Stipulated Extension. The parties may agree once to extend the time for filing a response by up to 15 days without a Court order. They must file a signed, written stipulation with the Clerk before the original expiration date.

(C) Content of Response. The response must contain an address for service on the attorney in the proceeding and either:

(1) a specific admission or specific denial of the allegations in the notice and other facts relevant to a defense; or

(2) a plea of nolo contendere, signed by the attorney and the attorney's counsel, stating that the attorney understands that he or she effectively admits that the facts alleged in the notice are true, and he or she is culpable of the misconduct. The State Bar Court must approve this plea.

(D) Default. If the attorney fails to file a timely response or move to extend the time to respond, the deputy trial counsel may proceed by default.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.44 Amended Pleadings

(A) Amending the Initial Pleading Before Response or Default. The party that began the proceeding may amend its initial pleading once without Court approval before the attorney files a response or the entry of default. The amended initial pleading must be served under rule 5.25. The time to respond begins when it is served.

(B) Amending the Initial Pleading Before Trial Begins. For good cause, the Court may permit further amendments to the initial pleading. Unless an amendment merely corrects insubstantial errors in the pleading, the party must serve the amended pleading on the opposing party, who must have a reasonable time to file a response and prepare a defense.

(C) Amending the Initial Pleading During or After a Contested Trial. The Court may permit an amendment to the initial pleading. If the pleading is amended to conform to proof of issues raised by the pleadings or to include matters proven by evidence introduced without objection, the opposing parties need not respond. Otherwise, they must have reasonable time to respond to the amendment and prepare a defense.

(D) **Amending the Initial Pleading After a Default.** The Court will allow substantial amendments to the initial pleading only if it vacates the default. The amended pleading must be served on the opposing parties under rule 5.25.

(E) **Amending Other Pleadings.** Pleadings other than initial pleadings may be amended once without Court approval if:

(1) the party amends the pleading before a response is due or served, whichever comes first;

(2) a response to the pleading is not allowed, the Court has not set a trial date, and the party amends the pleading within 20 days after service;

(3) the party obtains a Court order to amend the pleading for good cause; or

(4) the parties stipulate to the amendment.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.44.1 Status Conferences

(A) **Initial Status Conference**. Following the filing of the initial pleading in a proceeding, the assigned judge shall order that a status conference be held in all proceedings. The conference may be held in court or by telephone or by other appropriate means.

(B) **Subjects Covered by Initial Status Conference**. Parties participating shall be prepared to respond on the subjects specified in any order noticing the conference and, in addition, on the following items:

(1) Jurisdiction and venue;

(2) The substance of the parties' claims and defenses and the definition of genuinely controverted issues;

(3) Whether monetary sanctions are being sought pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar and the reasons;

(4) Anticipated motions;

(5) Further proceedings, including setting of dates for discovery cut-off, further status conferences, settlement conferences, pretrial and trial, and compliance with rules;

(6) Modification of the standard pretrial procedures specified by this rule on account of the relative simplicity or complexity of the proceeding;

(7) Prospects for settlement; and

(8) Any other matters which may be conducive to the just, efficient, and economical determination of the proceeding.

(C) **Additional status conferences**. Upon request of any party, or upon the assigned judge's own motion, additional status conferences may be held at any time.

Eff. January 1, 2019; Revised January 1, 2021. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1210.

Rule 5.45 Motions

(A) **Written Motions.** Unless the Court orders otherwise, all motions must be written.

(B) **Time for Response.** Unless these rules provide otherwise, an opposing party must file and serve a written response within 10 days after a motion is served.

(C) **Factual Support.** Except for facts already in the record or subject to judicial notice and exhibits already admitted in evidence, facts relied on or exhibits submitted to support or oppose a motion must be supported or authenticated by a declaration.

(D) **Hearing.** Unless otherwise ordered, written motions are submitted without hearing.

Rule 5.46 Disqualifying a Judge

(A) **Disqualification under CCP § 170.1.** When Code of Civil Procedure § 170.1 applies, the judge must be disqualified.

(B) **Judge Pro Tempore.** A judge pro tempore must be disqualified if the judge pro tempore or the judge pro tempore's office is affiliated with or represents:

(1) a party to pending litigation that involves any party, counsel, or law office affiliated with any party or counsel; or

(2) a party represented by any party, counsel, or law office affiliated with any party or counsel.

(C) **Applicable Provisions; Recusal.** Only the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure §§ 170.1, 170.2, 170.3(b), 170.4, and 170.5(b)–(g) apply to judicial disqualification in State Bar Court proceedings.

(D) **Notice of Recusal.** Judges who recuse themselves must promptly give notice of the recusal to the judge who has authority to assign the matter to another judge.

(E) **Review of Stipulation.** An assigned judge's consideration or rejection of a stipulation in a proceeding is not a basis to disqualify the judge from the proceeding.

(F) **Settlement Judge.** Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, a settlement judge is disqualified from presiding over the trial of the matter.

(G) **Proceeding Involving Relief from Default.** When a party seeks relief from default, the judge may not be disqualified on the basis that the judge heard evidence or filed a decision before the party filed the motion for relief.

(H) **Motion to Disqualify.** If a judge refuses or fails to disqualify himself or herself, any party may file a motion to disqualify. The motion must contain a verified statement setting forth the facts constituting the grounds for disqualification. Copies of the motion must be served on the opposing party and must be personally served upon the judge the party seeks to disqualify or on his or her court specialist if the judge is present in the State Bar's office or in chambers.

(I) **When to File Motion.** If the party seeking disqualification did not know the matter was assigned to the judge or of the ground for disqualification in time to file the motion under the other provisions of this rule, the party must file the motion promptly and make an oral motion when the next hearing, trial, conference, or argument begins. Otherwise, a party must move to disqualify within the earliest of:

(1) 10 days after the party or the party's counsel learns of the ground for disqualification;

(2) before the trial begins; or

(3) 20 days before oral argument is held before the Review Department.

(J) Consent or Answer to Motion. After a motion to disqualify is filed, the judge may:

(1) consent to disqualification within 10 days after the motion is served and promptly notify the judge who has authority to assign the matter to another judge;

(2) file a verified answer within 10 days after the motion is served, admitting or denying any or all of the allegations in the motion and setting forth any additional facts material or relevant to the question of disqualification, and the Clerk must transmit a copy of the judge's answer to each party; or

(3) fail to expressly consent or timely answer, in which case the judge's consent to disqualification is presumed, and the Clerk must promptly notify the judge who has authority to assign the matter to another judge.

(K) Ruling on Disqualification. A judge who refuses to recuse himself or herself may not rule on his or her own disqualification. The presiding or supervising judge must assign a judge other than the challenged judge to decide the motion. If the judge hearing the motion decides that the judge is disqualified, the judge must promptly notify the judge who has authority to assign the matter to another judge.

(L) Petition for Review. A ruling on a motion for disqualification is reviewable under rule 5.150. The party must file the petition within 10 days of service of the ruling. The Review Department must expedite action on the petition.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.47 Consolidation

(A) Motion to Consolidate. The Court may order consolidation on any party's motion, the parties' stipulation, or the Court's own motion with notice to the parties and an opportunity to be heard.

(B) When to File a Motion to Consolidate. A party must file the motion within 30 days after the notice of disciplinary charges or other initial pleading is filed in the most recent of the proceedings the party seeks to consolidate.

(C) Consolidation Generally. The judge may order proceedings consolidated if consolidation will not prejudice any substantial rights of any party or cause undue delay of any matter. The judge may order proceedings involving different attorneys but common questions of fact consolidated for all purposes, including the purposes of joint hearing or joint trial.

(D) Consolidation Not Allowed. Proceedings in the Hearing Department may not be consolidated with proceedings in the Review Department. But the Presiding Judge may order a proceeding in the Review Department remanded to the Hearing Department for a ruling on whether consolidation is appropriate.

(E) **Consolidation Across Venues.** The Court must grant a motion for transfer of venue before the party may seek to consolidate proceedings pending in different venues.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.48 Severance

(A) **Motion for Severance.** The Court may order severance on any party's motion, the parties' stipulation, or the Court's own motion. The Court must provide notice to the parties and allow them an opportunity to be heard.

(B) **Time to File Motion for Severance.** A party must file a motion to sever as soon as practical.

(C) **Grounds for Severance.** The Court may order a proceeding severed for the convenience of the parties, to avoid substantial prejudice to any party, or when conducive to expedition and economy.

Rule 5.49 Continuances

(A) **General Policy.** Continuances are disfavored. Dates set for all settlement conferences, hearings, and oral arguments shall be firm and must be regarded by counsel as required court appointments. Stipulations for continuance require court approval.

(B) **Ruling on Motion for Continuance.**

(1) **Hearing Department.** Any motion for, or stipulation to a continuance filed in the Hearing Department shall be ruled on by the assigned judge. In unusual or urgent circumstances, the Supervising Judge may grant a continuance if the assigned judge is unavailable.

(2) **Review Department.** Any motion for continuance of oral argument in the Review Department shall be ruled on by the Presiding Judge.

(C) **Showing Required; Factors Considered.** A continuance will be granted only upon an affirmative showing of good cause requiring the continuance. In general, the necessity for the continuance should have resulted from an emergency occurring after the setting of the settlement conference, hearing, or oral argument date that could not have been anticipated or avoided with reasonable diligence and cannot now be properly provided for other than by the granting of a continuance. In ruling on a motion for a continuance, the court will consider all matters relevant to a proper determination of the motion, including:

(1) The court's file in the case and any supporting declarations concerning the motion;

(2) The diligence of counsel, particularly in bringing the emergency to the court's attention and to the attention of opposing counsel at the first available opportunity and in attempting to otherwise meet the emergency;

(3) The nature of any previous continuances, extensions of time, or other delay attributable to any party;

(4) The proximity of the settlement conference, hearing, or oral argument date;

(5) The condition of the court's calendar and the availability of an earlier settlement conference, hearing, or oral argument date if the matter is ready;

(6) Whether the continuance may properly be avoided by substitution of attorneys or witnesses, use of depositions in lieu of oral testimony, or trailing the matter for settlement conference, hearing, or oral argument;

(7) Whether the interests of justice are best served by granting a continuance, by holding the settlement conference, hearing, or oral argument of the matter, or by imposing conditions on a continuance;

(8) The court's time pendency guidelines;

(9) Whether the party requesting the continuance failed to appear at any hearing or settlement conference; and

(10) Any other fact or circumstance relevant to a fair determination of the motion.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1131.

Rule 5.50 Abatement

(A) Motion for Abatement. On any party's motion or on its own motion after notice to the parties, the Court may abate any proceeding in whole or in part. Abatement stays the proceeding in the State Bar Court and tolls all time limitations in the proceeding, but the Court may grant a motion for perpetuation of evidence.

(B) Relevant Factors. The Court may consider any relevant factor to determine a motion under this rule, including the need to dispose of the proceeding at the earliest time and the extent to which:

(1) the issues in the proceeding are substantially the same as in a related proceeding;

(2) the proceeding would probably be delayed by waiting for the trial or an appeal in a related proceeding;

(3) the proceeding would probably be expedited by waiting for the disposition in a related proceeding;

(4) evidence to be adduced in a related proceeding would aid in determining the proceeding;

(5) evidence may become unavailable because of any delay;

(6) parties, witnesses, or documents are currently unavailable for reasons beyond the parties' control;

(7) a party or witness may be prejudiced in a related proceeding by delaying or proceeding with further action; and

(8) a Client Security Fund claim would be unnecessarily delayed.

(C) Related Proceeding. "Related proceedings" means a civil, criminal, administrative, or State Bar Court proceeding that involves the same subject matter or in which a party, real party in interest, or witness in one proceeding is also a party or witness in another proceeding.

(D) **Requests for Information.** The court may at any time require any party to furnish information concerning an abated proceeding. The court may also order the parties to appear at a conference concerning the abated proceeding.

(E) **Termination of Abatement.**

(1) Any party may, by motion, seek an order terminating an abatement; and the court on its own motion may terminate an abatement after affording the parties prior notice of its intent to do so and an opportunity to respond to the notice of intent to terminate abatement.

(2) The abatement of all proceedings involving the same attorney shall be terminated automatically upon the attorney's

(a) withdrawal of a resignation with charges pending, or

(b) transfer to active enrollment following prior transfer to inactive enrollment pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6007.

(F) **Review.** A court's ruling on a motion for abatement is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.51 Mental Incapacity

(A) **Generally.** When a Court of record has judicially declared an attorney to be mentally incompetent, no disciplinary proceeding may be initiated against the attorney until judicially determined competent.

(B) **Abatement.** The Court may order any pending disciplinary proceeding abated for any time and on terms it finds proper if the attorney is unable – or there is probable cause to believe that the attorney is unable – to assist in or conduct a defense because of mental illness or infirmity.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.52 Military Service

The Court must abate a proceeding when the attorney who is the proceeding's subject is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and unable to participate in the proceeding.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.52.1 Settlement Conference

At any time after a proceeding has been initiated, any party may request a settlement conference or the court may order one on its own motion. The respondent, applicant, or petitioner, whether or not represented by counsel, shall attend the conference unless excused by the court. Counsel appearing at the conference shall be the counsel who will try the case and shall have full authority to settle the matter at the settlement conference, or have access to a person with full authority to settle the matter at that settlement conference, who must be identified at the outset of the conference.

Eff. January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1230.

Rule 5.52.2 Settlement Conference Judge

Settlement conferences will be held before a judge other than the assigned judge. If all parties so stipulate, the assigned judge may conduct the settlement conference. A party's request for a settlement conference may request a specific settlement conference judge. If the parties have agreed to request a specific settlement conference judge, the request for a settlement conference shall so state.

Eff. January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1231.

Rule 5.52.3 Notice of Designation of Settlement Judge

Unless otherwise ordered by the court, if the settlement conference is not conducted by the assigned judge, the Clerk shall notify all parties in writing of the name of the judge designated to conduct the settlement conference no later than 10 days prior to the date of the settlement conference.

Eff. January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1232.

Rule 5.52.4 Meet and Confer

The parties shall meet and confer in person or by telephone prior to the settlement conference. If the parties have developed positions concerning settlement offers, they shall be communicated orally or in writing at this time.

Eff. January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1233.

Rule 5.52.5 Settlement Conference Statements

Each party shall lodge with the court, but not file, a settlement conference statement at least five days before a scheduled settlement conference. The statement must be clearly marked as such, may be in letter form, must indicate in the heading the date and time of the scheduled settlement conference, and must be addressed to the settlement conference judge. Settlement conference statements may, but are not required to, be served on the opposing party. Failure to submit a timely settlement conference statement may result in the rescheduling or cancellation of the settlement conference.

Eff. January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1234.

Rule 5.52.6 Confidentiality of Settlement Conferences

If a settlement conference does not result in a settlement, no reference shall be made nor consideration given in any subsequent aspect of any proceeding to the content of settlement discussions or written statements made in connection with the settlement conference or the parties' meeting and conferring process leading up to the settlement conference.

Eff. Revised January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1235.

Rule 5.53 Stipulations Generally

If practical, all parties must try to make pretrial stipulations about some or all the issues. Each party and each party's counsel must sign all stipulations.

Rule 5.54 Stipulations to Facts Only

(A) **Required Elements.** Stipulations to facts only must comprise:

(1) an acknowledgement that the stipulations to facts are binding on all parties, and

(2) a statement that the attorney either admits the truth of the facts in the stipulation or pleads nolo contendere to those facts. If the attorney pleads nolo contendere, the stipulation must show that the attorney understands that the Court will use the stipulated facts to determine whether the attorney is culpable of professional misconduct and treat the plea as an admission that the stipulated facts are true.

(B) **Effect at Trial.** Evidence to prove or disprove a stipulated fact is inadmissible.

(C) **Relief from Stipulation.** The Court must approve a motion or stipulation for relief from stipulations of facts. The motion or stipulation must show that the relief is necessary for extraordinary reasons but cannot include evidence to prove or disprove a stipulated fact.

Rule 5.55 Stipulations to Facts and Conclusions of Law

(A) **Generally.** The parties in a disciplinary matter may stipulate to facts and conclusions of law regarding culpability but reserve the question of disposition.

(B) **Required Elements.** A proposed stipulation to facts and conclusions of law must comprise:

(1) a statement of the investigations or proceedings included;

(2) the attorney's acknowledgement of acts or omissions that are cause for discipline;

(3) conclusions of law drawn from, and specifically referring to, the admitted facts regarding the attorney's culpability;

(4) a statement that the attorney either:

(a) admits the truth of the facts comprising the stipulation and admits culpability for misconduct; or

(b) pleads nolo contendere to those facts and misconduct;

(5) an enumeration of any charges to be dismissed;

(6) a statement of the extent to which the stipulation resolves the proceeding;

(7) the attorney's acknowledgement of Business and Professions Code sections 6086.10, 6086.13, and 6140.7, and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar;

(8) a statement that the parties will or will not be bound by the stipulated facts even if the conclusions of law are rejected and regardless of the degree of discipline recommended or imposed; and

(9) a statement that the attorney has been advised in writing of any pending investigations (except for any law enforcement agencies' criminal investigations) or proceedings not resolved by the stipulation.

(C) **Plea of Nolo Contendere.** If the attorney pleads nolo contendere, the stipulation must show that the attorney understands that the plea is treated as an admission of the stipulated facts and an admission of culpability.

(D) **Unresolved Pending Investigations and Proceedings.** These must be identified by investigation case number or proceeding case number and any complaining witness's name. The stipulation cannot contain the information but must show that all the information was provided to the attorney in a separate document within 30 days before the stipulation was filed.

(E) **Partial Stipulation.** Partial stipulations to facts concerning aggravation and mitigation are allowed. The parties may waive an evidentiary hearing on these issues by submitting a stipulation containing a complete statement of aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.56 Stipulations to Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Disposition

(A) **Contents.** A proposed stipulation to facts, conclusions of law, and disposition must comprise:

(1) an acknowledgement that proposed stipulations for disposition do not bind the Supreme Court;

(2) a statement of the investigations or proceedings included;

(3) the attorney's acknowledgement of acts or omissions that are cause for discipline;

(4) conclusions of law drawn from, and specifically referring to, the admitted facts regarding the attorney's culpability;

(5) a statement that the attorney either:

(a) admits the truth of the facts comprising the stipulation and admits culpability for misconduct; or

(b) pleads nolo contendere to those facts and misconduct;

(6) the deputy trial counsel's statement, if requested by the Court, that the factual stipulations are supported by evidence obtained in the State Bar investigation of the matter;

(7) an enumeration of any charges to be dismissed;

(8) a statement of the extent to which the stipulation resolves the proceeding;

(9) a statement of aggravating and mitigating circumstances;

(10) the stipulated disposition and, if the stipulated disposition is actual suspension or disbarment, an agreement to the amount of monetary sanctions pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, whether a payment plan or extension of time will be allowed and the specifics of such plan or extension, or whether a waiver of the monetary sanction is agreed to, and the reasons for the above;

(11) the attorney's acknowledgement of Business and Professions Code sections 6086.10 and 6140.7;

(12) a statement that the parties will or will not be bound by the stipulated facts even if the conclusions of law and/or stipulated disposition are rejected; and

(13) a statement that the attorney has been advised in writing of any pending investigations (except for any law enforcement agencies' criminal investigations) or proceedings not resolved by the stipulation.

(B) Plea of Nolo Contendere. If the attorney pleads nolo contendere, the stipulation must also show that the attorney understands that the plea is treated as an admission of the stipulated facts and an admission of culpability.

(C) Unresolved Pending Investigations or Proceedings. These must be identified by investigation case number or proceeding case number and any complaining witness's name. The stipulation cannot contain the information but must show that all the information was provided to the attorney in a separate document within 30 days before the stipulation was filed.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.57 Stipulations to Disposition

(A) Generally. The parties may stipulate to disposition after the Court decides – or the parties stipulate to – facts establishing culpability and conclusions of law.

(B) Attachments. If the stipulation to disposition is supported by any factual findings or legal conclusions that are not in a written decision filed by the Court or a previously filed stipulation, those findings and conclusions must be included in, or attached to, the stipulation to disposition.

(C) Required Elements. Stipulations to dispositions must comprise:

(1) an acknowledgement that proposed stipulations for disposition do not bind the Supreme Court;

(2) a statement of the investigations or proceedings included;

(3) a statement of the extent to which the stipulation resolves the proceeding;

(4) all factual stipulations regarding aggravation or mitigation that the parties wish to rely on;

(5) the stipulated disposition and, if the stipulated disposition is actual suspension or disbarment, an agreement to the amount of monetary sanctions pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, whether a payment plan or extension of time will be allowed and the specifics of such plan or extension, or whether a waiver of the monetary sanction is agreed to, and the reasons for the above;

(6) the attorney's acknowledgement of Business and Professions Code sections 6086.10 and 6140.7;

(7) a statement that the parties will or will not be bound by the stipulated facts even if the conclusions of law and/or stipulated disposition are rejected; and

(8) a statement that the attorney has been advised in writing of any pending investigations (except for any law enforcement agencies' criminal investigations) or proceedings not resolved by the stipulation.

(D) **Unresolved Pending Investigations or Proceedings**. These must be identified by investigation case number or proceeding case number and any complaining witness's name. The stipulation cannot contain the information but must show that all the information was provided to the attorney in a separate document within 30 days before the stipulation was filed.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.58 Approval of Stipulations by a Hearing Judge

(A) **When Approval Is Required.** Court approval is not required for stipulations to facts under rule 5.54, unless the attorney has pleaded nolo contendere to those facts. Court approval is required for stipulations under rules 5.55, 5.56, and 5.57. The assigned judge must determine whether the stipulation is fair to the parties and adequately protects the public.

(B) **Adequate Factual Basis.** If a stipulation is supported by the deputy trial counsel's statement under rule 5.56(A)(6), it is supported by an adequate factual basis, and no further evidence of the underlying facts will be required.

(C) **Voluntary Stipulations.** A stipulation that satisfies the requirements of rules 5.54, 5.55, 5.56, or 5.57 is considered voluntary.

(D) **Approval.** The Court may approve the stipulation as written or on condition that the parties accept specified modifications, or the Court may reject the stipulation.

(E) **When Binding.** After Court approval, a stipulation binds the parties in the related proceedings unless the stipulation is withdrawn or modified.

(F) **Withdrawal and Modification.** Any party may make a motion to withdraw or modify a stipulation. The motion must show good cause and be filed within 15 days after the order approving the stipulation is served. The Court may give notice to the parties and withdraw or modify a stipulation on its own motion.

(G) **Effects of Rejection.** When the Court rejects a stipulation, the parties are relieved of the effects of the stipulation, except the factual stipulations they agreed to be bound by. The parties may submit a later stipulation in the same case but must inform the Court that an earlier stipulation was rejected.

(H) **Review.** Only orders on motions to modify or withdraw from a stipulation are reviewable and only under rule 5.150.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Chapter 3. Subpoenas and Discovery

Rule 5.60 Investigation Subpoenas

(A) **Issuing a Subpoena.** In the conduct of investigations, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may compel, by subpoena, the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and documents pertaining to the investigation under Business and Professions Code §§ 6049(b) and 6069. For purposes of this rule, "witness" means any person or entity, including an attorney whose conduct is being investigated.

(B) **Motion to Quash.** Any person or entity who is served with an investigation subpoena may move to quash the subpoena under Business and Professions Code § 6051.1 and this rule.

(C) **Service of a Motion to Quash.** The motion must be filed with the State Bar Court and must be served on the designated State Bar investigator, deputy trial counsel, or other authorized agent requesting the records. If the subpoena does not designate a party for service, the motion must be served on the Chief Trial Counsel.

(D) **Permissible Grounds for a Motion to Quash.** The motion must be supported by one or more declarations based on personal knowledge and filed with the motion.

(E) **Trust Account Financial Records.** The sole basis for a motion to quash a trust account financial records subpoena is that the records sought are not trust account financial records that the attorney must maintain under the Rules of Professional Conduct.

(F) **Other Financial Records.** If the challenged subpoena seeks financial records other than trust account financial records, and if a party makes a motion to quash the subpoena under this rule, the records sought cannot be examined by any party until the Court rules on the motion. Grounds for a motion to quash are:

(1) the subpoena does not comply with applicable statutes or State Bar rules governing the issuance or scope of financial record subpoenas;

(2) the subpoena does not describe the records sought with particularity;

(3) the subpoena was not properly served under Business and Professions Code§ 6069(b); or

(4) the scope of the records the subpoena seeks is not consistent with the scope and requirements of the investigation.

(G) **Non-Financial Records.** For a subpoena that seeks documents other than financial records, grounds for a motion to quash are:

(1) the subpoena does not comply with applicable statutes or State Bar rules governing the issuance or scope of subpoenas;

(2) the subpoena does not describe the records sought with particularity;

(3) the subpoena was not properly served under Code of Civil Procedure § 1987; or

(4) the scope of the records the subpoena seeks is not consistent with the scope and requirements of the investigation.

(H) **Court Records.** If a subpoena is issued to obtain public records from any court, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel need not serve the subpoena on the target of an investigation or on other parties to a State Bar Court proceeding.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; November 1, 2026.

Rule 5.61 Discovery Subpoenas and Depositions

(A) **No Discovery Subpoenas.** Except as otherwise provided by these rules, no party may issue subpoenas in the course of discovery, or to compel another party to testify at a deposition, without prior Court order.

(B) **Issuing a Subpoena.** Upon a motion and showing of good cause, the Court may order the issuance of a subpoena during discovery and limit the nature and scope of the subpoena.

(C) **Depositions to Perpetuate Testimony**. The Court may order the taking of the deposition of any person upon a showing by the party requesting the deposition that the proposed deponent is a material witness who is unable or cannot be compelled to attend the hearing. If a deposition is ordered, the procedures stated in Government Code § 68753 shall be followed. Depositions to perpetuate testimony may be videotaped.

(D) **Limitations.** Code of Civil Procedure § 2017.220 applies to complaining witnesses and alleged victims of misconduct in any proceeding arising from an attorney's criminal conviction for sexual misconduct or to hear a charge of violating Business and Professions Code § 6106.9 or rule 3-120 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.62 Trial Subpoenas

(A) **Who May Issue a Subpoena.** Any party may issue trial subpoenas under Business and Professions Code §§ 6049(c) and 6085 and Code of Civil Procedure § 1985. And any party may compel another party to testify or produce documents at trial by serving a notice to appear under Code of Civil Procedure § 1987.

(B) **Service.** Subject to possible reimbursement of costs under rules 5.129–5.132, the party issuing a trial subpoena must:

(1) serve a copy of the subpoena on the persons or entities required;

(2) obtain proper proof of service; and

(3) pay witness fees or expenses.

(C) **Additional Copy of Records.** The party serving a trial subpoena duces tecum may ask the subpoenaed party to provide an additional unsealed copy of the requested records if the requesting party gives notice to all other parties. If the subpoenaed party files a timely motion to quash the subpoena, the requesting party may not inspect, copy, or use the records except as permitted by Court order. Within five days after receiving the additional unsealed copy or the Court's permission, the requesting party must also

provide all other parties with accurate copies of the records or with a reasonable opportunity to inspect and copy them.

Rule 5.63 Proceedings on Motion to Quash Subpoena

(A) **Generally.** A motion to quash a subpoena must be filed and served under the Code of Civil Procedure.

(B) **Jurisdiction.** The judge assigned to the proceeding may decide a motion to quash a discovery or trial subpoena.

(C) **Hearing.** The Court may hold a hearing on the motion. A hearing must be expedited.

(D) **Order.** An order on the motion must include findings on any factual issues the motion presents and state the reasons for the order.

(E) **Stay of Compliance.** If the motion to quash seeks a stay of compliance with the subpoena pending the Court's ruling on the motion, and good cause is shown, the Court may grant a stay before a response is filed.

(F) **Review of Motion to Quash.** A hearing judge's order is reviewable under rule 5.150. The order may be reversed only if the hearing judge's factual findings are not supported by substantial evidence, for error of law, or for abuse of discretion.

Rule 5.64 Approved Subpoena Forms

(A) **Generally.** Parties may use subpoena forms approved by the Judicial Council of California.

(B) **Issuance.** Parties may obtain subpoena forms from the Clerk. On request, the Clerk will issue subpoenas on behalf of parties appearing in propria persona who are not entitled to practice law in California.

(C) **Definitions of Terms.** Unless the context or subject matter shows differently, terms used in the Judicial Council Subpoena forms have these meanings:

(1) "The People of the State of California" includes the State Bar of California;

(2) "Superior Court of California" includes the State Bar of California for the limited purpose of issuing subpoenas; and

(3) "Requests for Accommodations" are requests for accommodations under the State Bar of California's Accommodations Request Procedure.

Rule 5.65 Discovery Procedures

(A) **Generally.** The procedures in this rule constitute the exclusive procedures for discovery. No other form of discovery is permitted without prior Court order under rules 5.66 or 5.68.

(B) **Timing of Discovery Requests**. All requests for discovery must be made in writing and served on the other party within 10 days after service of the answer to the notice of disciplinary charges, or within 10 days after service of any amendment to the notice.

(C) **Scope of Discovery**. Upon request, a party must provide to the other party:

(1) The name, address and telephone number of each individual likely to have discoverable information – along with the subjects of that information – that the disclosing party may use to support its allegations or defenses, including in mitigation and aggravation;

(2) The name (and, if not previously provided, the address and telephone number) of each individual the disclosing party then intends to call as a witness, including expert witnesses and those it may call if the need arises, including in mitigation and aggravation;

(3) A copy – or description by category and location – of all documents, electronically stored information, and tangible things that the disclosing party has in its possession, custody, or control and may use to support its allegations or defenses, including in mitigation and aggravation. This includes:

(a) all statements about the subject matter of the proceedings, including any impeaching evidence, made by any witness then intended to be called or may be called if the need arises by the disclosing party;

(b) all statements about the subject matter of the proceedings made by a person named or described in the notice, or amendment to the notice, other than the attorney when it is claimed that an act or omission of the attorney as to the person named or described is a basis for the discipline proceeding;

(c) all investigative reports made by or on behalf of the disclosing party about the subject matter of the proceeding;

(d) all reports of mental, physical, and blood examinations then intended to be offered in evidence by the disclosing party.

(4) Financial records and/or other proof of financial hardship, including a completed State Bar Court Financial Declaration, if the disclosing party intends to request that any monetary sanction be waived, in whole or in part, or be paid in installments, or the time to pay be extended.

(5) When a violation of Business and Professions Code section 6103 is alleged based on a failure to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court as ordered by the State Bar Court, discovery is permitted as provided by rule 5.337(B).

(D) Definition of Statement. For purposes of these procedures, statement means either:

(1) a written statement that the person has signed or otherwise adopted or approved; or

(2) a contemporaneous stenographic, mechanical, electrical, or other recording – or a transcription of it – that recites substantially verbatim the person's oral statement.

(E) Form and Time of Response. All responses under subdivision (C) must be in writing, signed and served within 20 days after service of the request. All documents and tangible things described but not served with the responses must be made available for inspection and copying by the requesting party within the same time period.

(F) Basis for Initial Disclosure; Unacceptable Excuses. A party must make its disclosures based on the information then reasonably available to it. A party is not excused from

making its disclosures because it has not fully investigated the case or because it challenges the sufficiency of another party's disclosures or because another party has not made its disclosures.

(G) **Continuing Duty.** If a party receives a written request for discovery, the party receiving the request has a continuing duty to provide discovery of items listed in the request until proceedings before the Court are concluded. When a written request for discovery is made in accordance with these rules, discovery must be provided within a reasonable time after any discoverable items become known to the party obligated to provide discovery.

(H) **Failure to Comply with Discovery Request.**

(1) Inadmissible. If any party fails to comply with a discovery request as authorized by these procedures, the items withheld are inadmissible or, if the items have been admitted into evidence, may be stricken from the record. If testimony is elicited during direct examination and the party eliciting the testimony withheld any statement of the testifying witness in violation of these discovery procedures, the testimony may be ordered stricken from the record.

(2) Reasonable Continuance. Upon a showing of good cause for failure to comply with a discovery request, the Court may admit the items withheld or direct examination testimony of a witness whose statement was withheld upon condition that the party against whom the evidence is sought to be admitted is granted a reasonable continuance to prepare against the evidence, or may order the items or testimony suppressed or stricken from the record.

(I) **Privileged or Protected Material.**

(1) Applicable. Nothing in these procedures authorizes the discovery of any writing or thing which is privileged from disclosure by law or is otherwise protected. Statements of any witness interviewed by the deputy trial counsel, by any investigators for either party, by the attorney, or by the attorney's counsel are not protected as work product.

(2) Information Withheld. When a party withholds information otherwise discoverable under these rules by claiming that it is privileged or otherwise protected, the party must make the claim expressly and must describe the nature of the documents, communications, or things not produced or disclosed in a manner that, without revealing information itself privileged or protected, will enable the other party to assess the applicability of the privilege or protection.

(J) **Protective Orders.** The Court may, upon application supported by a showing of good cause, issue protective orders to the extent necessary to maintain in effect such privileges and other protections as are otherwise provided by law.

(K) **Discovery requests.** Requests served upon an opposing party, as opposed to motions to compel discovery, must not be filed with the court unless attached as an exhibit to a motion.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019; January 20, 2022.

Rule 5.65.1 Expert Disclosure / Discovery

Unless otherwise ordered by the court, each case is to be treated as though each side has made a timely and valid demand for the exchange of information concerning expert witnesses pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) § 2034.210 et seq., including demands for production of documents and to take the deposition of all disclosed experts, and is subject to the following procedures and deadlines:

(A) The date for the exchange of expert information will be the last court day at least 50 days prior to the first scheduled trial date in the case. At the time of such exchange, any party wishing to call or question a witness as an expert witness for purposes of the trial of this matter must disclose in writing the name of each such witness. Such disclosure shall include for each such witness, all of the information specified in CCP § 2034.260 and copies of all of the documents described in CCP § 2034.270. If a party does not intend to offer expert testimony at trial at the time of this initial disclosure deadline, such party shall nonetheless comply with CCP § 2034.260(b)(2) by providing a written statement that such party does not presently intend to offer the testimony of any expert witness.

(B) On or before 30 days prior to the first scheduled trial date in the case, a party may disclose a rebuttal expert to an expert disclosed by the other side, as provided in CCP § 2034.280.

(C) All parties are authorized to take the deposition of any disclosed expert witness pursuant to the provisions of CCP §§ 2034.410–2034.470. However, any such deposition must be completed by the close of business 10 days prior to the scheduled trial date in the case.

(D) The expert disclosures made by any party pursuant to CCP §§ 2034.260 and/or 2034.280 (but not the materials produced pursuant to CCP § 2034.270) must be served on the opposing party and filed with this court on or before the respective deadlines for such disclosures, as set forth above.

(E) Failure to comply with the provisions of this rule, including the referenced sections, may result in the exclusion at trial of proffered expert testimony.

Eff. January 1, 2019; Revised March 15, 2019.

Rule 5.66 Motion to Request Other Discovery

(A) **Generally.** Upon a motion and showing of good cause, the Court may order additional discovery.

(B) **Timing and Support.** The motion must be filed no later than 45 days after service of the answer to the notice of disciplinary charges. The motion must be supported by one or more declarations describing the nature and scope of the requested discovery, its relevancy to the allegations or defenses, and the proposed completion date.

(C) **Time for Response.** An opposing party must file and serve a written response within five days after a motion is served.

(D) **Ruling.** The Court may deny the motion if it determines that:

(1) The discovery sought is irrelevant to the allegations or defenses at issue;

(2) The discovery sought is unreasonably cumulative or duplicative, or can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome or less expensive;

(3) The party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity by discovery in the action to obtain the information sought; or

(4) The burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit, taking into account the needs of the case, the importance of the issues at stake in the proceeding, and the importance of the proposed discovery in resolving the issues.

Rule 5.67 Prohibited Discovery

The deliberations of judges or others responsible for adjudicating attorney disciplinary or regulatory matters are exempt from discovery.

Rule 5.68 Physical and Mental Examinations

(A) **State Bar's Motion for Examination.** When an attorney's mental or physical condition is at issue, the State Bar may move for an order requiring the attorney to undergo a mental or physical examination under Business and Professions Code § 6053. The motion and supporting evidence must show good cause for the examination. The motion must specify the manner, conditions, scope, and nature of the requested examination.

(B) **Court's Order to Show Cause.** On its own motion, the Court may order the parties to show cause why it should not order the attorney's mental or physical examination under Business and Professions Code § 6053. The order must specify the manner, conditions, scope, and nature of the proposed examination, and give the parties at least 10 days after the order is served to file a response.

(C) **Filing Restriction.** When probable cause has been found to issue a notice to show cause regarding an attorney under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3), a motion for examination or an order to show cause may be filed only in an involuntary inactive enrollment proceeding.

(D) **Hearing.** The Court may hold a hearing to determine whether the need for the examination outweighs the attorney's right to privacy. If so, the Court's order must include appropriate limitations or conditions to minimize the intrusiveness of the examination.

(E) **Selecting a Physician or Psychiatrist.** An order must provide for selecting the physician or psychiatrist who will perform the examination, and must specify the examination's manner, conditions, scope, and nature. With Court approval, the parties may stipulate to have an examination conducted by a qualified expert other than a physician or psychiatrist.

(F) **Stipulation.** The parties may stipulate to an order for a physical or mental examination that specifies the examination's manner, conditions, scope, and nature, and the party

or parties who will pay for the examination. The parties may ask the Court to appoint a specified physician or psychiatrist or other qualified expert to conduct the examination or may ask the Court to select a physician or psychiatrist.

(G) **Costs.** Unless the Court orders or a stipulation specifies otherwise, the party seeking the examination must pay the cost.

(H) **Appointment of Counsel**. When a motion is filed or an order to show cause is issued, the Court may appoint counsel to represent the attorney regarding the motion or order. Rule 5.192 governs the appointment and compensation of counsel.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.69 Motions to Compel Discovery and Sanctions

(A) **Informal Resolution of Issues.** A party must make a reasonable and good faith attempt to informally resolve any issue before filing a motion to compel compliance with discovery requests. A declaration stating facts showing that the party made the attempt must accompany the motion.

(B) **Motion to Compel Compliance with Discovery Requests.** A party may move to compel compliance with discovery requests within 15 days after the date on which the discovery response was due or served.

(C) **Discovery Sanctions.** The Civil Discovery Act's provisions about misuse of the discovery process and permissible sanctions (except provisions for monetary sanctions and the arrest of a party) apply in State Bar Court proceedings. The Court may not order dismissal as a discovery sanction without considering the effect on the protection of the public.

(D) **Format of Discovery Motions**.

(1) **Motion to Compel**. A motion to compel further responses to interrogatories, inspection demands, or admission requests and a motion to compel answers to questions propounded at a deposition or to compel production of documents or tangible things at a deposition must be accompanied by a declaration which sets forth each interrogatory, item or category of items, request, question, or document or tangible thing to which further response, answer, or production is requested, the response given, and the factual and legal reasons for compelling it. Material must not be incorporated by reference, except that in the separate document the moving party may incorporate identical responses and factual and legal reasons previously stated in that document. No other statements or summaries shall be required as part of this motion.

(2) **Identification of Interrogatories, Demands, or Requests.** A motion for further responses concerning interrogatories, inspection demands, or admission requests must identify the interrogatories, demands, or requests by set and number.

(3) **Reference to Other Responses.** If the response to a particular interrogatory is dependent on the response given to another interrogatory, or if the reasons a further response to a particular interrogatory is deemed necessary are based on

the responses to some other interrogatory, the other interrogatory and its response must be set forth.

(4) **Reference to Other Documents.** If the pleadings, other documents in the file, or other items of discovery are relevant to the motion, the party relying on them must summarize each relevant document.

(5) **Failure to Respond to Discovery Requests.** Compliance with subparagraphs (A) through (D) of this rule is not necessary where the opposing party has failed to respond to the discovery request.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.70 Contempt Proceedings

(A) Motion to Report Contempt to the Superior Court. When a subpoena requires a witness to appear and give testimony or to produce books, papers, or documents, and the witness refuses to do so or refuses to answer pertinent and proper questions, the party by whom or upon whose behalf the subpoena was issued may ask the Court to report to the superior court that a subpoenaed witness is in contempt of the subpoena under Business and Professions Code § 6051.

(B) Party's Report of Contempt to Superior Court. A party may report contempt without making a motion if authorized under Business and Professions Code § 6051.

(C) Court's Report of Contempt to Superior Court on Motion. If it appears that the subpoena was properly issued and served and that there is no valid legal basis for the witness's noncompliance, then on a party's motion, the Court will report the witness's contempt to the appropriate superior court.

(D) Superior Court Proceeding. After the Court reports the contempt, the party by whom or upon whose behalf the subpoena was issued may bring a proceeding in the appropriate superior court under Business and Professions Code § 6051. The report of contempt, including its findings and conclusions, is not binding on the superior court.

Rule 5.71 Discovery Review

Within 10 days after notice of a discovery ruling by a hearing judge is served, a party may serve and file a petition for review of the ruling under rule 5.150.

Chapter 4. Defaults

Rule 5.80 Default Procedure for Failure to File Timely Response

(A) Motion for Entry of Default. When an attorney fails to timely file a response, the deputy trial counsel must file and serve on the attorney a motion for entry of default. The motion must be filed within 15 days after the response is due, absent an agreement or order extending the time for filing by the attorney of a response, and must contain:

(1) The filing date of notice and date of service of disciplinary charges;

(2) A statement that the attorney did not timely file a response under rule 5.43;

(3) The following language in prominent type:

"If you do not file a response with the State Bar Court within 10 days of service of this motion, the court will enter your default, deem the facts in the notice of disciplinary charges admitted by you, and may admit evidence against you that would otherwise be inadmissible. You will lose the opportunity to participate further in these proceedings, unless you timely make—and the court grants—a motion to set aside your default. If your default is entered, and you fail to timely move to set it aside, this court will enter an order recommending your disbarment and may recommend the imposition of monetary sanctions without further hearing or proceeding. (See Rules Proc. of State Bar, rules 5.80 et seq. & 5.137.)"

(4) An authenticated printout of the certified mail tracking report of the United States Postal Service, showing that the mailing of the initiating pleadings or notice was sent by certified mail and the status of its delivery and possible receipt.

(B) Declaration of Reasonable Diligence. The motion must be supported by a declaration establishing that the deputy trial counsel acted with reasonable diligence to notify the attorney of the proceedings. The declaration must:

(1) State whether a signed return receipt for the notice of disciplinary charges was received from the attorney;

(2) If a signed return receipt is not received from the attorney, show the deputy trial counsel or agent posted the notice of disciplinary charges to the attorney's "My State Bar Profile" page and sent notice to the attorney's electronic service address that a document was posted, and state whether the posted document was accessed by logging into the attorney's "My State Bar Profile" page.

(3) If a signed return receipt for the notice of disciplinary charges was not received from the attorney, the notice of disciplinary charges posted to the attorney's "My State Bar Profile" page was not accessed, and there is no other proof the attorney has actual notice of the proceedings, show the deputy trial counsel or agent attempted contact via email, first class mail, or telephone, at any contact information discovered by:

(a) Reviewing the respondent's file for any other recent and known address(es) where the Office of Chief Trial Counsel reasonably believes the respondent may be found;

(b) Reviewing the respondent's file for any known telephone numbers and electronic mail (email) addresses;

(c) If the respondent had been ordered to comply with probation or reproval conditions pursuant to orders issued by the California Supreme Court or the State Bar Court, checking with the Office of Probation for the respondent's latest contact information;

(d) Conducting at least one Internet search for any other known and available contact information for the respondent using a reasonably available, free search engine; and

(e) If conviction proceedings were involved, making reasonable efforts to contact the respondent's defense counsel, if known, for contact information.

(C) **Proof of Reasonable Diligence**. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may establish the proof necessary under subdivision (B) by submitting copies of State Bar records, supported by declarations of State Bar staff attesting to the authenticity and nature of the records.

(D) **Service of Default Motion.** The deputy trial counsel must serve the motion under rule 5.25.

(E) **Burden of Production**. Proof that a signed return receipt for the notice of disciplinary charges was received from the attorney or that the notice of disciplinary charges posted to an attorney's "My State Bar Profile" page was accessed by logging into the attorney's "My State Bar Profile" page on a given date creates a presumption affecting the burden of producing evidence that the licensee has actual notice of the proceeding. Proof that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel sent an email notification to the licensee coupled with proof that the e-mail was not returned as undeliverable creates a presumption affecting the burden of producing evidence that the licensee viewed the email on or about the date it was sent.

(F) **Order Entering Default**. If the attorney fails to file a written response within 10 days after the motion is served, the Court may order the entry of the attorney's default. Service of the default order must comply with rule 5.25. The order must include this language in prominent type:

"Because you did not timely file a response to the notice of disciplinary charges filed in this proceeding, the Court has entered your default and deemed the facts alleged in the notice of disciplinary charges admitted. Except as ordered by the Court, you may participate in these proceedings only if the Court sets aside your default. If you fail to timely move to set aside your default, this Court will enter an order recommending your disbarment and may recommend the imposition of monetary sanctions without further hearing or proceeding. (See Rules Proc. of State Bar, rules 5.80 et seq. & 5.137.)"

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021; April 4, 2022.

Rule 5.81 Default Procedure for Failure to Appear at Trial

(A) **Default for Failure to Appear at Trial.** If the attorney fails to appear in person or by counsel at the trial, the Court must order the entry of the attorney's default, if:

(1) the notice of disciplinary charges was served on the attorney under rule 5.25; and

(2) notice of trial was served by the Court by first class mail, postage paid, on:

(a) the attorney's counsel;

(b) the attorney at the address provided in the response or in a change- of-address notice filed by the attorney (if the attorney has no counsel);

(c) the attorney's address in the State Bar's attorney records (if the attorney has no counsel and has not provided any other address); or

(d) an address allowed by rule 5.26.

(B) Order Entering Default. The Court must order the Clerk to promptly file and serve the default order on all parties. Service must comply with rule 5.25. The order must include the following language in prominent type:

"Because you failed to appear at trial, the Court has entered your default and deemed the facts alleged in the notice of disciplinary charges admitted. Except as ordered by the Court, you may participate in these proceedings only if the Court sets aside your default. If you fail to timely move to set aside your default, this Court will enter an order recommending your disbarment and may recommend the imposition of monetary sanctions without further hearing or proceeding. (See Rules Proc. of State Bar, rules 5.80 et seq. & 5.137.)"

(C) Effects of Default on Trial. If the Court determines that the perpetuation of evidence is pertinent to any future inquiry into the attorney's conduct or qualification to practice law, or if other good cause is shown, the trial may proceed for such limited purpose.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.82 Effects of Default.

If the Court enters an attorney's default:

(1) the attorney will be enrolled as an inactive attorney of the State Bar and will not be permitted to practice law;

(2) the facts alleged in the notice of disciplinary charges will be deemed admitted;

(3) except as allowed by these rules or ordered by the Court, the attorney will not be permitted to participate further in the proceeding and will not receive any further notices or pleadings unless the default is set aside on timely motion or by stipulation; and

(4) the Court will recommend that the attorney be disbarred and may recommend the imposition of monetary sanctions.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019, January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.83 Vacating or Setting Aside Default

(A) Stipulation. A stipulation to vacate a default must be approved by the Court.

(B) Motion to Vacate Improperly Entered Default. By motion of any party or on the Court's own motion, an improperly entered default may be vacated at any time while the Court has jurisdiction over the matter. Any default entered while the attorney is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States is improperly entered.

(C) Motion to Set Aside Default. An attorney may move to set aside a default because of mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect. Those grounds will be

interpreted under Code of Civil Procedure § 473. The attorney must file the motion as soon as practical but no later than:

(1) 90 days after the default order is served under rule 5.80, or

(2) 45 days after the default order is served under rule 5.81.

(D) Late-Filed Motion. If the attorney files the motion beyond the time required in subdivision (C), the attorney must prove by clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) the attorney did not receive or learn of the notice of disciplinary charges until after the required period expired;

(2) the attorney filed the motion promptly after learning of the notice; and

(3) the attorney's failure to file a timely response and failure to file a timely motion are excused by compelling circumstances beyond the attorney's control.

(E) Response to Notice of Charges. Unless the attorney already filed a response, a copy of the proposed response to the notice of disciplinary charges must accompany the motion. The proposed response must be verified and comply with rule 5.43.

(F) Support for Motion to Set Aside Default. The attorney must support the motion with one or more declarations showing:

(1) the date that the attorney first learned of the disciplinary charges;

(2) the reason why the attorney did not file a response to the notice of disciplinary charges, or why the attorney failed to appear at trial;

(3) the date that the attorney first learned of the entry of default; and

(4) the grounds to set aside the default.

(G) Expedited Ruling on Motion. The Court will decide a motion to set aside or vacate a default on an expedited basis. It may stay the proceedings pending its ruling.

(H) Rulings on Motions. If an attorney files a motion to vacate or set aside a default the judge may:

(1) grant the motion upon a showing of good cause;

(2) vacate the default subject to appropriate conditions;

(3) set aside the default for limited purposes only; or

(4) deny the motion if the judge decides that the attorney has not made the required showing.

(I) Discovery. To the extent not previously requested or provided, the Court may order discovery pursuant to rule 5.65 as a condition of vacating or setting aside a default.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.84 Interlocutory Review of Orders Denying or Granting Relief from Default

An order on a motion to vacate or set aside default is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.85 Petition for Disbarment After Default

(A) **Petition.** If the attorney fails to have the default set aside or vacated, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must file a petition requesting the Court to recommend the attorney's disbarment to the Supreme Court. The petition must be supported by one or more declarations stating whether:

(1) any contact with the attorney has occurred since the default was entered;

(2) any other investigations or disciplinary charges are pending against the attorney;

(3) the attorney has a prior record of discipline; and

(4) the Client Security Fund has paid out claims as a result of the attorney's misconduct.

(B) **Support for Petition.** All documents referenced in a petition, including prior records of discipline, must be filed with the petition and supported by declaration.

(C) **Timing of Petition.** The earliest a petition may be filed is:

(1) 91 days after the default order is served under rule 5.80, or

(2) 46 days after the default order is served under rule 5.81.

(D) **Service.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel must serve the petition under rule 5.25, and must file a petition for disbarment within 15 days after it becomes entitled to do so pursuant to this rule.

(E) **Response.** Within 20 days of service of the petition, the attorney may file and serve a motion to set aside or vacate the default.

(F) **Ruling**.

(1) If the attorney fails to file a response or the Court denies a motion to set aside or vacate the default and all other relief from default, the Court must recommend the attorney's disbarment and may recommend the imposition of monetary sanctions if the evidence shows:

(a) The notice of disciplinary charges was served on the attorney properly;

(b) The attorney had actual notice or reasonable diligence was used to notify the attorney of the proceedings prior to the entry of default;

(c) The default was properly entered; and

(d) The factual allegations deemed admitted in the notice of disciplinary charges or pursuant to the notice of hearing on conviction support a finding that the attorney violated a statute, rule or court order that would warrant the imposition of discipline.

(2) If the Court determines that any of the factors set forth under subdivision (1) is not established, it must deny the petition, vacate the default, and take other appropriate action to ensure that the matter is promptly resolved.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.86 Review of Orders on Petitions for Disbarment

An order on a petition for disbarment is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Chapter 5. Trials

Rule 5.100 Obligation to Appear at Trial

An attorney has an obligation to appear at trial unless a default has been entered and has not been vacated. Unless properly served with a trial subpoena or notice to appear at trial, the attorney may appear through counsel rather than in person.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.101 Pretrial Statements and Pretrial Conferences

(A) **Preparation of Pretrial Statements.** Unless the court orders that a pretrial statement need not be prepared, all counsel must meet in person or by telephone prior to the date on which the pretrial statement is due to be filed and discuss:

(1) Preparation of a joint pretrial statement;

(2) Coordination of pretrial statements if no agreement is reached on the filing of a joint pretrial statement; and

(3) The factors set forth in paragraph (C).

(B) **Time for Pretrial Statements.** The parties must file and serve pretrial statements at least 10 days before the pretrial conference, or as the court orders.

(C) **Contents of Pretrial Statements and Exchange of Exhibits.** Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the pretrial statements shall include the following heading and information:

(1) **Party**. The names of the party or parties on whose behalf the statement is filed.

(2) **Attempts to comply:** If a joint pretrial statement is not submitted, the parties will summarize their efforts to comply with Rule 5.101(A)(1) and Rule 5.101 (A)(2).

(3) **Substance of the proceeding.** A description of the substance of the charges or claims and defenses presented and of the issues to be decided.

(4) **Undisputed facts.** A plain and concise statement of all material facts not reasonably disputable. Counsel are expected to make a good faith effort to stipulate to all facts not reasonably disputable for incorporation into the trial record without the necessity of supporting testimony or exhibits.

(5) **Disputed issues**. A plain and concise statement of all disputed factual issues, evidentiary issues, and claims of work product or privilege.

(6) **Disposition sought in disciplinary proceedings.** A statement as to the disposition sought if culpability is found and in other proceedings, a statement of the relief sought. If the disposition sought is actual suspension or disbarment, a statement as to each party's position regarding the amount of monetary sanctions pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of

Procedure of the State Bar, whether a payment plan or extension of time will be allowed and the specifics of such plan or extension, or whether a waiver of the monetary sanction is agreed to, and the reasons for the above. No party shall be bound by presentations as to disposition sought.

(7) **Points of law.** A concise statement of each disputed point of law with respect to the issues in the proceeding, with reference to statutes, rules, and decisions relied upon.

(8) **Witnesses to be called.** A list of all witnesses likely to be called at trial, together with a statement following each name describing the substance of the testimony to be given, any anticipated difficulty in scheduling the witness, and any special needs of the witness, such as a need for an interpreter.

(9) **Further discovery or motions.** A statement of all remaining discovery or motions.

(10) **Stipulations.** A statement of stipulations requested or proposed for pretrial or trial purposes.

(11) **Amendments; dismissals.** A statement of requested or proposed amendments to pleadings or dismissals of parties, charges, claims, or defenses.

(12) **Settlement discussion**. A statement summarizing the status, but not the substance settlement, of settlement negotiations and indicating whether further negotiations are likely to be productive.

(13) **Bifurcation; separate trial of issues.** A statement whether bifurcation or a separate trial of specific issues is feasible and desired.

(14) **Limitation of experts.** A statement whether limitation of the number of expert witnesses is feasible and desired.

(15) **Estimate of trial time.** An estimate of the number of court days expected to be required for the presentation of each party's case. Counsel are expected to make a good faith effort to reduce the time required for trial by all means reasonably feasible, including stipulations, expedited means of presenting testimony and exhibits, and the avoidance of cumulative proof.

(16) **Claim of privilege or work product**. A statement indicating whether any of the matters otherwise required to be stated by this rule is claimed to be covered by the work product or other privilege. Upon such indication, such matters may be omitted subject to further order at the pretrial conference.

(17) **Failure to cooperate.** A statement as to any failure of opposing counsel to cooperate in meeting and conferring on pretrial issues. If established, such failure may constitute grounds for such orders as the court deems proper, including, but not limited to, the exclusion of evidence and witnesses.

(18) **Miscellaneous.** Any other subjects relevant to the trial of the proceeding, or material to its just, efficient, and economical determination.

(D) Pretrial Conference Rulings. At the pretrial conference, the court may rule on any objections to the pretrial statements and may order the pretrial statements to be amended or supplemented.

(E) **Failure to File Pretrial Statements.** If a party fails to file a pretrial statement, the court may order sanctions it deems proper, including, but not limited to, excluding evidence or witnesses.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; January 1, 2021. Source: Rules Prac. of State Bar, rules 1221 & 1223.

Rule 5.101.1 Trial Exhibits

(A) **Marking of Exhibits.** Each proposed exhibit for trial must be pre-marked by the parties for identification using a system of letters or numbers as ordered by the court. Any exhibit consisting of more than a single page must be pre-marked on the initial page with the exhibit number or letter, with each individual page within the exhibit, commencing with the first page of the exhibit, being paginated in numerical sequence. Upon request, a party must make the original or underlying document of any proffered exhibit available for inspection and copying.

(B) **Exchange of Exhibits by Parties.** Unless otherwise ordered by the court, at least 10 days prior to the pretrial conference, the parties must exchange copies of all documents to be offered as exhibits or otherwise used at trial. Exhibits may be exchanged in electronic or paper form. If a party establishes to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel after a meet and confer that they do not have a computer or otherwise cannot reasonably access electronic exhibits, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will provide exhibits to the party in paper form.

(C) **Format of Electronic Exhibits:** Electronic exhibits must be pre-marked and paginated, as set forth in subdivision (A). Electronic exhibits must be capable of being read using software in the public domain or generally available at a reasonable cost, be text searchable when technologically feasible without impairment of the document's image, and include electronic bookmarks with links to the first page of each exhibit and with bookmark titles that identify the exhibit number or letter and briefly describe the exhibit.

(D) **Format of Paper and Oversized Exhibits:** Except for oversized exhibits (large exhibits which cannot be reasonably copied or presented in a binder), all paper exhibits exchanged by the parties must be pre-marked and paginated, as set forth in subdivision (A), and be in the same form as those lodged with the court pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (F). The parties may exchange an alternative form of any oversized paper exhibit by reasonably duplicating that exhibit.

(E) **Proposed Exhibit List.**

(1) **Contents; restriction on evidence of prior discipline.** Together with the pretrial statement, each party must submit, as a separate document, a proposed exhibit list of all documents and other items to be offered by such party as exhibits at trial, properly described and indexed. Records of prior discipline to be used solely as evidence in aggravation must not be included in the proposed exhibit list.

(2) **Format of exhibit list.** The proposed exhibit list must be in the format approved by the court for use as the master exhibit list at trial. No exhibits are to be attached to the pretrial statement or the proposed exhibit list.

(F) Lodging and Offering of Exhibits at Trial

(1) **Exhibits to be formally offered:** At the time trial commences, or as otherwise ordered by the court, each party must supply to the Clerk the original exhibits identified in such party's proposed exhibit list. Each exhibit must be top-hole-punched, pre-marked, and paginated as described above, and, if over 30 pages, top-bound with a clasp. These original exhibits are not to be presented to the Clerk in binders. A copy of such exhibits, pre-marked and paginated as described above, must have been previously provided to opposing counsel. Except as provided below, these exhibits will become part of the official court record.

(2) **Exhibits lodged for use of court:** In addition to the exhibits to be formally offered, at the time trial commences or by the date ordered by the court, each party must lodge one set of its proposed exhibits for the use of the court, in either paper or electronic format, as ordered by the court. Exhibits must be formatted pursuant to subdivision (C) or (D). Paper exhibits must be presented in a tabbed exhibit binder, which binder must bear on both its front and spine affixed labels identifying the case name and number and the identity of the proffering party.

(3) **Exhibits lodged for use of witnesses:** Unless otherwise ordered by the court, at the time trial commences or as soon as practicable, the parties must provide to each witness a copy of any exhibit(s) relevant to the witness. The exhibit(s) must be in paper or electronic format as ordered by the court.

(4) **Witnesses**: No exhibit may be shown to a witness during trial until opposing counsel has had an opportunity to examine it.

(G) Withdrawn Exhibits. A proposed exhibit which is withdrawn or not offered into evidence will not become part of the official record.

(H) Exhibits Judicially Noticed. Requests for judicial notice will be governed by California Evidence Code sections 450 et seq. Any document for which judicial notice is requested must be pre-marked, disclosed to the other parties, and lodged with the court in accordance with subdivision (F) of this rule.

(I) Failure to Comply. Failure to comply with this rule without good cause may constitute grounds for such orders as the court deems proper, including, but not limited to, exclusion of exhibits from evidence.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; November 1, 2020. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1224.

Rule 5.101.2 Objections to Proposed Exhibits

Promptly after the receipt of exhibits from the opposing party and prior to commencement of the trial, any party objecting to the receipt in evidence of any proposed exhibit shall advise the

opposing party of all such objections. All parties shall then meet and confer and attempt to resolve all such objections in advance of trial.

Eff. Revised January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1225.

Rule 5.102 Trial

(A) **Notice.** The Clerk must serve notice of the trial date on the parties at least 30 days before the trial date.

(B) **Trial Date Rescheduled.** If a trial date is rescheduled, the Clerk must give at least 20 days' notice of the new date to the parties, orally or by mail, unless the parties agree to shorter notice.

(C) **Commencement of Trial.** Unless the hearing judge finds, in writing, that good cause exists for a continuance, the trial will begin no later than 125 days after the notice of disciplinary charges is served and will be conducted on consecutive days.

Rule 5.102.1 Order of Proof in Disciplinary Proceedings

In disciplinary proceedings, the parties shall present evidence as to culpability prior to presenting evidence as to aggravating or mitigating circumstances, or monetary sanctions, except as ordered by the court.

Eff. Revised January 1, 2019; January 1, 2021. Source: State Bar Ct., Rules of Prac., rule 1250.

Rule 5.102.2 Order of Proof in Other Proceedings

Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the party initiating the proceeding, or the State Bar if the proceeding was initiated by the court, shall present evidence first.

Eff. January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct., Rules of Prac., rule 1251.

Rule 5.103 The State Bar's Burden of Proof

The State Bar must prove culpability by clear and convincing evidence.

Rule 5.104 Evidence

(A) **Oral Evidence.** Oral evidence must be taken only on oath or affirmation.

(B) **Rights of Parties.** Each party will have these rights:

(1) to call and examine witnesses;

(2) to introduce exhibits;

(3) to cross-examine opposing witnesses on any matter relevant to the issues even though that matter was not covered in the direct examination;

(4) to impeach any witness regardless of which party first called him or her to testify;

(5) to rebut the evidence against him or her; and,

(6) if the attorney does not testify in his or her own behalf, he or she may be called and examined as if under cross-examination.

(C) **Relevant and Reliable Evidence.** The hearing need not be conducted according to technical rules relating to evidence and witnesses, except as hereinafter provided. Any

relevant evidence must be admitted if it is the sort of evidence on which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs, regardless of the existence of any common law or statutory rule which might make improper the admission of the evidence over objection in civil actions.

(D) **Hearsay.** Hearsay evidence may be used for the purpose of supplementing or explaining other evidence, but over timely objection will not be sufficient in itself to support a finding unless it would be admissible over objection in civil actions.

(E) **Privileges.** The rules of privilege will be effective to the extent that they are otherwise required by statute to be recognized at the hearing.

(F) **Judicial Discretion.** The hearing judge has discretion to exclude evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the probability that its admission will necessitate undue consumption of time.

(G) **Letters of Inquiry.**

(1) Proof that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel sent an e-mail notification to an attorney in compliance with rule 2409(a), Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, coupled with proof that the e-mail was not returned as undeliverable, creates a presumption affecting the burden of producing evidence that the attorney viewed the e-mail on or about the date it was sent.

(2) Proof that a letter of inquiry was remotely accessed on an attorney's "My State Bar Profile" on a given date creates a presumption affecting the burden of producing evidence that the attorney received the letter of inquiry on that date.

(3) The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may establish the proof necessary under paragraphs (i) and (ii) by submitting copies of State Bar records, supported by declarations(s) of State Bar staff attesting to the authenticity and nature of the records.

(H) **Judicial Notice of Court Records and Public Records.**

(1) For purposes of this rule, “court records” means pleadings, declarations, attachments, dockets, reporter’s transcripts, clerk’s transcripts, minutes, orders, and opinions that have been filed with the clerk of any tribunal or court within the United States.

(2) The State Bar Court may take judicial notice of the following:

(a) court records that have been certified by the clerk of the court or tribunal;

(b) non-certified court records of the State Bar Court;

(c) non-certified orders of the California Supreme Court in attorney disciplinary cases;

(d) non-certified court records that have been copied from the tribunal or court’s official file and timely provided to the opposing party during the course of formal or informal discovery. The party offering such records must provide a declaration stating the date on which the documents were copied

and certifying that the documents presented to the State Bar Court are an accurate copy of the court records obtained from the court's official file; and

(e) non-certified court records that have been copied from a public access website operated by a court or government agency for the purpose of posting official public records or court records, e.g., the federal court website called "Public Access to Court Electronic Records" and more commonly known as PACER. The party offering such records must provide a declaration stating the date on which the documents were copied and certifying that the documents presented to the State Bar Court are an accurate copy of the court records obtained from the website.

(3) The State Bar Court must take judicial notice of the records mentioned in paragraph (2) if they are relevant to the proceeding unless a party proves, e.g., through certified records, that the proffered records are incomplete or not authentic.

(4) This rule is not intended to limit the judicial notice provisions contained in Evidence Code, section 450 et seq.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised May 18, 2018; January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.105 Evidence of Client Security Fund Proceedings

(A) Admissibility of Reimbursement Application. The approval or denial, in whole or in part, of an application for reimbursement from the Client Security Fund is admissible in a discipline proceeding only if used:

(1) to prove the authorized reimbursement amount after a finding of culpability;

(2) to impeach the applicant for reimbursement, the complaining witness, or a party who is the subject of the State Bar Court proceeding; or

(3) for any purpose when a party who is the subject of the State Bar Court proceeding has already been disciplined for the same action that gave rise to the Client Security Fund application and the decision to discipline the party has become final.

(B) Admissibility of Payment and Reimbursement. If evidence that a Client Security Fund claim has been paid is introduced, evidence that it has been reimbursed is also admissible.

Rule 5.106 Prior Record of Discipline

(A) Included Items. A prior record of discipline comprises an authenticated copy of all charges, stipulations, findings, and decisions (final or not) reflecting or recommending that discipline be imposed on a party. It may include:

(1) records from any jurisdiction stated in Business and Professions Code § 6049.1, and

(2) recommended discipline that the Court of last resort in the jurisdiction has not yet approved.

(B) **Excluded Items.** A prior record does not include the following dispositions if ordered in California, or the equivalent if ordered elsewhere:

(1) inactive enrollment;

(2) suspension for nonpayment of State Bar fees;

(3) interim suspension after conviction of crime;

(4) admonition; and

(5) agreements in lieu of discipline.

(C) **Lost or Destroyed Records.** If part or all of the record is lost or destroyed, the record may be established by clear and convincing evidence.

(D) **Admissibility.** A record, or the existence of a record, is inadmissible unless the Court makes a tentative finding of culpability or it tends to prove a fact in issue in determining culpability.

(E) **Nonfinal Records.** A record of prior discipline is not made inadmissible by the fact that the discipline has been recommended but has not yet been imposed. If a record of prior discipline that is not yet final is admitted, the Court shall specify the disposition:

(1) if the non-final prior discipline recommendation is adopted; and

(2) if the non-final prior discipline recommendation is dismissed or modified.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised: January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.107 Victim's Impact Statement

(A) **Written Statement.** Any person who has been harmed by conduct of the attorney that is the subject of the pending proceeding may submit a written statement setting forth the nature and extent of that harm and the manner in which the attorney's conduct caused the harm.

(B) **Admissibility and Cross-Examination.** Once a finding of culpability of the attorney is made, victims' written statements must be admitted into evidence. Upon the attorney's showing of good cause, the Court may require the Office of Chief Trial Counsel to produce the victim(s) at the mitigation/aggravation phase of the hearing for purposes of cross-examination by the attorney.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.108 Admissibility of Complaints

If the attorney introduces evidence that no complaints or charges have been made, then evidence of any complaints or charges is admissible in rebuttal. Evidence of the facts underlying a record of complaint or unproven charge may be admitted to prove a fact in issue. Otherwise, evidence of complaints or unproven charges is inadmissible.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.109 Alleged Misconduct of Another Attorney

If the Court finds probable cause to believe that another attorney has committed acts of misconduct, it will file a decision in the current proceeding before referring the matter regarding the other attorney to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.110 Failure to Meet Burden of Proof

(A) **Motion on Failure to Meet Burden of Proof.** During a trial, after the party with the burden of proof has rested and before the proceeding is submitted to the Court, the opposing party may make a motion for a determination that the party with the burden of proof has failed to meet its burden, or the Court may make the motion itself and give the parties an opportunity to argue the issue. If the allegations are severable, the Court may dismiss some but not all of them. The Court must consider and weigh all the evidence introduced and determine credibility.

(B) **Denial of Motion.** If the motion is denied, the moving party may offer evidence to the same extent as if the motion had not been made.

(C) **Grant of Motion.** If the motion is granted, the Court's decision must include findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Rule 5.111 Submission and Decision

(A) **Submission.** The matter will be submitted on the last day of trial. Unless good cause is shown, no post-trial briefing is permitted. In no event may briefing extend submission beyond 21 days from the last day of trial.

(B) **Time to File Decision.** The Court will file its decision within 90 days after the matter is submitted, unless an expedited proceeding requires a shorter period by statute, by Supreme Court rule, or by these rules.

(C) **Service and Finality of Decision.** The Clerk will file and serve the Court's decision. The decision is final unless a timely request for review under rules 5.151 or 5.157 or post-trial motion under rules 5.111–5.114 is filed, or unless the decision is modified on the Court's own motion. A decision is not modified by correcting typographical errors or making insubstantial changes that do not affect the merits.

(D) **Inactive Enrollment**

(1) Disbarment Recommended. If the Court recommends disbarment, it must also order the attorney placed on inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(4). Unless the Court orders otherwise, the order takes effect upon personal service or three days after service by mail, whichever is earlier.

(2) Disbarment No Longer Recommended. If, either on reconsideration by the hearing judge or on review, a recommendation for disbarment is changed to one for a lesser discipline, the Court must vacate the order of inactive enrollment made under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(4).

(E) **State Bar Court's Annual Report.** By March 1 of each year, the State Bar Court must prepare and submit to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court an annual report describing how each State Bar Court hearing judge complied with the requirements of subsection (B) during the preceding calendar year.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.112 Post-trial Motions in the Hearing Department

(A) **Filing Before Decision.** Rule 5.45 governs post-trial motions. Additionally, post-trial motions must be in writing.

(B) **Filing After Decision.** If a post-trial motion is filed after the decision is served, the time to seek review begins when the Hearing Department rules on the motion. A request for review filed before the ruling is automatically vacated and a new request for review must be timely filed.

Rule 5.113 Motion to Reopen Record

(A) **When to Make Motion.** At any time before the period for requesting review by the Review Department expires, a party may make a motion in the Hearing Department to reopen the record to present additional evidence.

(B) **Requirements.** A motion to reopen the record must be accompanied by one or more declarations stating the substance of the evidence and showing that:

(1) it is newly discovered and could not with reasonable diligence have been discovered and produced earlier;

(2) it is not merely cumulative and is the best available evidence on the issue, and

(3) consideration of the evidence would probably lead to a different result.

Rule 5.114 Motion for New Trial

(A) **When to Make Motion.** Any party may make a motion in the Hearing Department for a new trial within 15 days after the decision in a proceeding is served.

(B) **Requirements.** A motion for a new trial must be accompanied by one or more declarations setting forth the facts that the moving party contends justify a new trial, under the standards for granting a motion for a new trial in a civil matter in the Courts of this state.

Rule 5.115 Motion for Reconsideration

(A) **Who May Make and When to Make Motion.** Any party may make a motion for reconsideration in the Hearing Department within 15 days after the decision in a proceeding is served.

(B) **Grounds.** The grounds for a motion for reconsideration are:

(1) new or different facts, circumstances, or law, as that ground is applied in civil matters under Code of Civil Procedure § 1008; or

(2) the order or decision contains one or more errors of fact or law, or both, based on the evidence already before the Court.

Chapter 6. Dispositions and Costs

Rule 5.120 Sending Disciplinary Recommendations to the Supreme Court

Unless the Court orders otherwise, the State Bar Court's final recommendation to suspend or disbar an attorney and the accompanying record will be sent to the Supreme Court after all applicable cost certificates have been filed, or an additional 30 days has expired, whichever is earlier.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.121 Waiver of Review by Review Department

The parties may file a stipulation to waive review under rule 5.150 and ask that the disciplinary recommendation be sent to the Supreme Court immediately. If applicable, the stipulation must be accompanied by a certificate of costs from the Office of Chief Trial Counsel. The Clerk will send the record to the Supreme Court on an expedited basis.

Rule 5.122 Types of Resolution; Procedure; Review

(A) **Types of Resolution.** Other than resolution by decision or stipulated disposition, a proceeding may be resolved by:

(1) dismissal without prejudice;

(2) dismissal with prejudice,

(3) an order terminating the proceeding; or

(4) issuance of an admonition.

(B) **Motion for Resolution.** A motion to resolve may be made by any party or by the Court on its own motion after giving the notice and an opportunity to object. A motion rather than a stipulation is required when the parties agree to resolve a proceeding by dismissal, admonition, or termination. A joint motion for an admonition must comply with rule 5.126(E).

(C) **Stipulation Affecting Resolution.** A stipulation under rules 5.55 or 5.56 may provide for the dismissal with prejudice of one or more charges brought in the proceeding in which the stipulation is filed.

(D) **Court Order Required.** Even if no party objects to a motion for resolution, the Court, in the interests of justice, may decline to issue an order resolving a proceeding.

(E) **Review.** If a motion for resolution under rules 5.122–5.126 is denied or the order granting the motion does not resolve the proceeding in its entirety, the order is reviewable under rule 5.150. If the order granting the motion resolves the proceeding in its entirety, any party who opposed the motion may request review under rules 5.151 or 5.157.

Rule 5.123 Dismissal With or Without Prejudice; Effect

(A) **Language of Order.** An order dismissing a proceeding, in whole or in part, must specify whether the dismissal is with or without prejudice. If with prejudice, the order must state its basis.

(B) **Effect of Dismissal with Prejudice.** After a dismissal with prejudice, the State Bar may not reopen the proceeding or begin a new proceeding based on the same transaction or occurrence.

(C) **Effect of Dismissal without Prejudice.** After a dismissal without prejudice, the State Bar may reopen the proceeding by filing an amended notice of disciplinary charges or by appropriate motion, or open a new proceeding based wholly or partially on the same transaction or occurrence. The notice of disciplinary charges in a new proceeding must identify the dismissed proceeding and state that it is based on the transaction or occurrence in that proceeding.

(D) **Limitation on Proceedings.** If more than two years have elapsed since the dismissal's effective date, or if the dismissal was based on an agreement in lieu of discipline, and the term of the agreement has expired, the State Bar must ask the Court's leave, based on good cause, to reopen a proceeding or begin a new proceeding opened based on the same transaction or occurrence.

Rule 5.124 Grounds for Dismissal

(A) **Voluntary Dismissal for Insufficiency of Evidence.** The party that began a proceeding may move to voluntarily dismiss the proceeding, in whole or in part, because evidence is unavailable or insufficient. Unless the Court, in its discretion, determines otherwise, a dismissal is without prejudice.

(B) **Dismissal for Defective Service.** A proceeding may be dismissed without prejudice because of a defect in the initial pleading's service, but the Court may allow a specified time for filing proof of proper service. If a timely motion is not filed, an alleged defect in service will not be grounds for dismissal. A motion to dismiss because of a defect in the initial pleading's service must be made no later than:

(1) the date on which the moving party's response must be filed;

(2) if the moving party's default is entered, the time to move for relief from default expires; or

(3) if no response is provided for, within 20 days after the date the allegedly defective service was made.

(C) **Dismissal for Defective Initial Pleading.** A proceeding may be dismissed without prejudice if the initial pleading does not state a legally sufficient basis for the action proposed, or, in a disciplinary proceeding, if the initial pleading does not state a disciplinable offense or give sufficient notice of the charges. In either event, the Court may order dismissal without prejudice but must allow at least one opportunity to amend the pleading within 20 days after the dismissal order is served or 20 days after the Review Department's decision on the order is served, whichever is later. The Court

may extend the time to amend. If the amended pleading does not cure the defects identified in the previous dismissal, the Court may dismiss the proceeding with prejudice.

(D) **Motion to Dismiss for Inadequate Notice.** If a timely motion to dismiss is not filed, an alleged defect in the pleading will not be grounds for dismissal but the party may still assert inadequate notice for other purposes. A motion to dismiss because the initial pleading fails to give sufficient notice of the charges must be made no later than:

(1) the date on which the moving party's response must be filed; or

(2) if no response is provided for, within 20 days after the initial pleading was served.

(E) **Motion to Dismiss for Failure to State a Disciplinable Offense.** A motion to dismiss for failure of the initial pleading to state a disciplinable offense may be made at any time before the Court finds culpability.

(F) **Proceeding Barred by Statute or Rule.** A proceeding may be dismissed if it is barred by any applicable statute or rule.

(G) **Dismissal to Further Justice.**

(1) The party that began a proceeding may move to dismiss in the furtherance of justice. A dismissal is without prejudice unless the motion shows good cause for dismissal with prejudice.

(2) The Court may move on its own motion to dismiss to further justice but must give the parties notice, state its reasons for dismissal, and order the parties to show cause why it should not dismiss the proceeding. Within 10 days after the Court's order to show cause is served, the parties may file a response that may include declarations, an offer of proof, and points and authorities either in support of or in opposition to the Court's intended action. In its response, the State Bar may include information concerning prior investigation matters that were closed with warning letters, resource letters, agreements in lieu of disciplinary prosecution, other agreements resolving investigations, and impositions of discipline (including private reprovals), or any other evidence of prior conduct tending to establish a common plan, scheme, or device. If the Court dismisses the proceeding, its written order will state its reasons and whether the dismissal is with or without prejudice.

(H) **Agreement in Lieu of Discipline.** If the State Bar and the attorney make an agreement in lieu of discipline under Business and Professions Code § 6092.5(i), a disciplinary proceeding may be voluntarily dismissed without prejudice. But if the attorney successfully performs the agreement, the State Bar cannot reopen the proceeding or bring a new one based on the misconduct charged in the dismissed proceeding.

(I) **Discovery Sanction.** Dismissal may be ordered as a discovery sanction. Unless the Court orders otherwise for good cause shown, dismissal is with prejudice.

(J) **Future Consolidation.** The State Bar may move to dismiss a proceeding so it may be refiled and consolidated with another proceeding involving the same attorney that is not yet ready for prosecution. A dismissal is without prejudice. The Court may not dismiss a proceeding on its own motion.

(K) **Resignation or Disbarment.** If the attorney who is the subject of a pending proceeding resigns or is disbarred, the Court will take judicial notice of the Supreme Court's order accepting the resignation or ordering the disbarment, and dismiss the proceeding without prejudice.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.125 Termination Because of Death

If an attorney, petitioner, or applicant who is the subject of a pending proceeding dies, any party or its counsel, promptly on learning of the death, may file a motion to terminate the proceeding. The motion must be accompanied by a certified copy of the death certificate or, if a death certificate cannot be obtained after diligent effort, other sufficient proof of death. On receipt of the motion, or on the Court's own motion after receiving sufficient proof of death and giving notice to the deputy trial counsel and the deceased party's counsel (if any), the Court will file an order terminating the proceeding.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.126 Admonition

(A) **When Permissible.** The Court may resolve a matter by an admonition to the attorney if the subject matter of a pending disciplinary proceeding does not involve a Client Security Fund matter or a serious offense, and the Court concludes that the violation(s) were not intentional or occurred under mitigating circumstances, and no significant harm resulted.

(B) **"Serious Offense" Defined.** "Serious offense" means conduct involving dishonesty, moral turpitude, or corruption, including bribery, forgery, perjury, extortion, obstruction of justice, burglary or related offenses, intentional fraud, and intentional breach of a fiduciary relationship.

(C) **Publicity.** A copy of the admonition or news of its issuance must be sent to the complainant, complainant's counsel (if any), and the deputy trial counsel. The State Bar or the State Bar Court will not actively publicize it otherwise. But unless otherwise ordered, the file in a public proceeding will remain public.

(D) **Not Discipline.** The giving of an admonition is not equal to imposing discipline on the attorney.

(E) **Who May Request Admonition.** Any party may move for an admonition, or the parties may make a joint motion. If the motion is made jointly, it must be accompanied by a stipulation under rule 5.56.

(F) **Reopening Proceedings.** If within two years after the effective date of an admonition the attorney allegedly commits misconduct that results in another disciplinary proceeding, then within 30 days after the new proceeding begins, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file a motion to reopen the proceeding resolved by admonition. All applicable time limitations are tolled between the issuance of the admonition and the filing of the order granting the motion to reopen.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.127 Public and Private Reprovals

(A) **Decisions, Opinions, or Orders Imposing a Reproval.** The State Bar Court's decision, opinion, or order approving a stipulation may include a reproval. The decision, opinion, or order must specify whether the reproval is public or private. In the absence of a request for review, the reproval will take effect 60 days after the filing of a decision, opinion, or order. If review of the hearing department decision or order is requested pursuant to rule 5.151, the reproval will, in the absence of a request for review by the California Supreme Court, take effect 60 days after the filing of an opinion or order by the Review Department. If review by the California Supreme Court is sought pursuant to California Rule of Court 9.13, the reproval will take effect 30 days after the filing of an opinion or order by the California Supreme Court.

(B) **Public or Private Reproval.** A public or private reproval is part of the attorney's official State Bar attorney records, is disclosed in response to public inquiries, and is reported as a record of public discipline on the State Bar's web page. The record of the proceeding in which the public or private reproval was imposed is also public. For a private reproval, the attorney is not obligated to pay discipline costs.

Eff. January 1, 2011. Revised: January 25, 2019; May 19, 2022; April 1, 2025.

Rule 5.128 Reprovals with Conditions

Conditions effective for a reasonable time may be attached to reprovals under California Rules of Court, rule 9.19. Motions to modify conditions attached to reprovals are governed by rules 5.300-5.306.

Rule 5.129 Certification and Assessment of Costs

(A) **Payment of Proceeding's Costs.** Under Business and Professions Code § 6086.10, an attorney who receives a public reproval or greater level of discipline must pay the costs of the disciplinary proceeding based upon cost certificates submitted by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel or the Office of Probation and of the State Bar Court.

(B) **Cost Certificates Submitted with Record.** If the record of the State Bar proceedings sent to the Supreme Court contains a recommendation of suspension, disbarment, or acceptance of an attorney's resignation with disciplinary charges pending, the cost certificates of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel or the Office of Probation and of the State Bar Court must accompany it.

(C) **Culpability and Award of Costs.** If the Court finds an attorney culpable in a matter, it will award costs to the State Bar. An attorney is found culpable in a matter if the State Bar Court decides that the attorney violated at least one rule or statute at issue in that matter.

(D) **"Matter" Defined.** "Matter" includes:

(1) a separate investigation opened by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel against an attorney;

(2) a probation revocation proceeding begun by the Office of Probation; or

(3) a conviction proceeding.

(E) **Resignation with Charges Pending.** If an attorney resigns from the practice of law while disciplinary charges are pending against the attorney, the Court will recommend that the State Bar recover the costs of: (1) processing the attorney's resignation; (2) the underlying pending disciplinary proceeding; and (3) any pending investigations that were complete when the State Bar received the attorney's resignation.

(F) **Payment in Annual Installments.** If the Court's order imposing costs allows an attorney to pay in annual installments, the order must designate the amount of each installment, which will be added to and become a part of the attorney's annual attorney fees.

(G) **State Bar Court's Authority.** This rule does not limit the State Bar Court's authority to grant relief from costs under rule 5.130 and Business and Professions Code § 6086.10(c).

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.130 Order Assessing Costs Against Disciplined or Resigning Respondent

(A) **Challenges to Costs.** Under Business and Professions Code § 6086.10(b), an attorney may challenge the propriety of including items in the certificate of costs or the calculation of properly included costs. But the attorney may not challenge the State Bar's determination of "reasonable costs" under Business and Professions Code § 6086.10(b)(3).

(B) **Motion for Relief from Complying or Extension of Time to Comply.** If costs have been assessed against an attorney under rule 5.129, the attorney may move for relief, in whole or in part, from the order assessing costs, for an extension of time to pay costs, or for the compromise of a judgment obtained under Business and Professions Code § 6086.10(a) on grounds of hardship, special circumstances, or other good cause. The motion must be served on the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel under rule 5.26. If the motion is based, in whole or in part, on financial hardship, it must be filed as soon as practicable after the circumstances giving rise to the financial hardship become known and be accompanied by the attorney's completed financial statement in the form prescribed by the Court. Otherwise, the motion may be filed within 30 days after the effective date of a public reproval by the State Bar Court or the filing of a Supreme Court order assessing costs. The motion must include the date the costs were originally ordered to be paid.

(C) **Response to Motion.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file and serve a response to the motion within 20 days after the motion is served.

(D) **Hearing.** No hearing on the motion is required. A hearing will be held only if the Court, in its discretion, determines that it will materially contribute to the consideration of the motion.

(E) **Review.** An order of the Court on the motion is reviewable only under rule 5.150 and on grounds of error of law or abuse of discretion.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.131 Award of Costs to Respondent Exonerated of All Charges After Trial

(A) **Motion for Costs.** If an attorney in a disciplinary proceeding is exonerated of all charges, the attorney may move for reimbursement of costs under Business and Professions Code § 6086.10(d). Exoneration may occur following trial in the Hearing Department, or, after review, by decision of the Review Department or by decision or order of the Supreme Court.

(B) **Reasonable Expenses.** Under Business and Professions Code § 6086.10(d), only the following items are reasonable hearing preparation expenses:

(1) taking, videotaping, and transcribing necessary depositions – including an original and one copy of depositions taken by the attorney and one copy of depositions taken by the State Bar – and travel expenses to attend depositions;

(2) service of process by a public officer, registered process server, or other means under Code of Civil Procedure § 1033.5(a)(4);

(3) ordinary witness fees – but not expert witness fees – under Government Code § 68093;

(4) models and blowups of exhibits and photocopies of exhibits (if, in the Court's discretion, they were reasonably helpful to the Court as the trier of fact);

(5) transcripts of Court proceedings ordered by the Court;

(6) copies of the State Bar Court Clerk's audiotape recordings of the proceeding in which the hearing is held;

(7) investigation expenses incurred to prepare the case for hearing after filing the notice of disciplinary charges (if, in the Court's discretion, the expenses were reasonably necessary);

(8) computerized legal research (if, in the Court's discretion, the research was reasonably required by the issues involved in the hearing and other less expensive means of research were not reasonably available); and

(9) photocopying (except exhibits), postage, and telephone and fax transmission charges (capped at $150 for the entire proceeding).

(C) **Expenses of Seeking Reimbursement.** An exonerated attorney cannot recover costs incurred in seeking reimbursement.

(D) **"Exoneration" Defined.** Under Business and Professions Code § 6086.10(d) "exonerated of all charges" means the Court found the attorney not culpable of the charged misconduct and dismissed the entire proceeding with prejudice. An attorney is not "exonerated of all charges" if the Court imposes an admonition.

(E) **Time to File Motion and Response.** A motion for reimbursement of costs must be filed within 30 days after finality of the ruling exonerating the attorney of all charges after all proceedings in the matter end, including any Supreme Court review. Appropriate

documentation of the costs for which reimbursement is requested must accompany the motion. A response may be filed within 20 days after it is served.

(F) **Hearing.** The motion will be decided by the hearing judge who was assigned to the underlying proceeding. If there is no such judge or that judge is unavailable or disqualified, the motion will be assigned to another hearing judge. A hearing will be held only if the Court, in its discretion, determines that it will materially contribute to the consideration of the motion.

(G) **Decision.** The judge will decide the motion by written order, and may grant or deny the motion, in whole or in part. The judge will determine the reasonable expenses to be reimbursed.

(H) **Review.** A party may file a petition for review under rule 5.150 within 15 days after the order on the motion is served.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.132 Stipulating to Relief from Payment of Costs or Extension of Time to Pay Costs

By written stipulation entered into between an attorney and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, the court may relieve the attorney, in whole or in part, from the obligation to pay the costs of disciplinary proceedings, or, the court may agree to extend the time to pay these costs on grounds of hardship, special circumstances, or other good cause.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.133 Approval of Agreements to Compromise Judgments for Client Security Fund Payments and Assessments

(A) **Application to Compromise Judgment.** If judgment has been entered under California Rules of Court, rule 9.23 and Business and Professions Code § 6140.5 against an attorney, that attorney and the State Bar may agree to compromise that judgment. The attorney must apply to the State Bar Court for approval of the proposed agreement. The application and any supporting documents must be served on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel under rule 5.25.

(B) **Response to Application.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file and serve a response to the application within 20 days after the application is served.

(C) **Hearing.** No hearing on the application is required. A hearing will be held only if the Court, in the exercise of its discretion, determines that it will materially contribute to the consideration of the application.

(D) **Review.** An order of the Court on the application under this rule is reviewable only under rule 5.150 and on grounds of error of law or abuse of discretion.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised: January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.134 Effect of Default on Installment Payments

In any disciplinary recommendation or order providing for installment payments of discipline costs, monetary sanctions, or restitution, the court must recommend or order that if the attorney fails to timely make any installment payment, the unpaid balance is due and payable immediately unless relief is granted under these rules.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.135 Mandatory Remedial Education in Ethics

(A) **State Bar Ethics School.** An attorney must satisfactorily complete the State Bar Ethics School in all dispositions or decisions imposing discipline, unless the attorney has completed the course within the prior two years or the Supreme Court orders otherwise.

(B) **Comparable Alternative.** If an attorney resides in another jurisdiction and is unable to attend the State Bar Ethics School, the attorney may seek authorization to attend a comparable remedial education course offered through a certified provider in the other jurisdiction by obtaining the prior approval of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel and final approval of the State Bar Court.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.136 Reimbursement to Client Security Fund

In any disciplinary recommendation or order that includes payment to a third party, the court must include a recommendation or order that the attorney reimburse the Client Security Fund to the extent the named payee receives reimbursement from the Client Security Fund under Business and Professions Code section 6140.5 for all or part of the recommended or ordered payment. Unless the Supreme Court orders otherwise or unless relief has been granted under these rules, the ordered reimbursement must be paid within 30 days after the effective date of the final disciplinary order or within 30 days after the date of the final Client Security Fund determination, whichever is later.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.137 Imposition and Payment of Monetary Sanctions (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6086.13.)

(A) **The Supreme Court May Order Monetary Sanctions.** Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 provides that, in any disciplinary proceeding in which the licensee is ordered actually suspended, is ordered disbarred, or resigns with charges pending, the Supreme Court may order the payment of a monetary sanction not to exceed $5,000 for each violation, to a maximum of $50,000 per disciplinary order.

(B) **Violation Defined.** For the purposes of this rule, "violation" means (1) each count (including its subparts) contained in a Notice of Disciplinary Charges for which the State Bar Court has found the licensee culpable; (2) each violation of a rule or statute the attorney admits to have violated in a stipulation; or (3) each record of criminal

conviction transmitted to State Bar Court pursuant to rule 5.341, regardless of the number of convictions contained in the transmittal.

(C) Monetary Sanctions Payable to Client Security Fund. Monetary sanctions collected under this rule shall be deposited into the Client Security Fund.

(D) Monetary Sanctions and Criminal Penalties or Civil Judgments. Monetary sanctions shall not be collected to the extent that collection would impair the collection of criminal penalties or civil judgments arising out of transactions connected with discipline of the licensee. If monetary sanctions are collected and such criminal penalties or civil judgments are otherwise uncollectible, those penalties or judgments may be reimbursed from the Client Security Fund to the extent of the monetary sanctions collected.

(E) Guidelines for Imposition and Collection of Monetary Sanctions.

(1) In any disciplinary proceeding described in subdivision (A), the State Bar Court shall make a recommendation to the Supreme Court regarding monetary sanctions and shall provide reasons for its recommendation.

(2) To determine the appropriate monetary sanction to recommend pursuant to subdivision (A), the State Bar Court shall be guided by the following baseline amounts as a total sanction for the Supreme Court's order:

(a) For disbarment: $5,000.

(b) For an actual suspension: $2,500.

(c) For a resignation with charges pending: $1,000.

(3) The State Bar Court may, in its discretion, recommend a monetary sanction in an amount less than or greater than the baseline amounts set forth in subdivision (E)(2), subject to the statutory maximum as stated in subdivision (A) and based on the following:

(a) A deviation under this provision must be reasonably based on the facts and circumstances of each discipline case. The State Bar Court must state reasons for its recommendation.

(b) If the same conduct is encompassed by two or more separate violations, the State Bar Court generally should not recommend more than one monetary sanction for that conduct. Instead, the State Bar Court should consider the most serious applicable violation for that conduct.

(c) The State Bar Court may, in its discretion, recommend that the monetary sanction be waived, in whole or in part, or be paid in installments, or the time to pay be extended based on a finding of financial hardship, special circumstances, whether a licensee's ability to pay criminal or civil judgments arising out of the discipline case is adversely affected, for good cause, or in the interests of justice. The burden of proof by preponderance of the evidence will be on the licensee to provide financial records and/or other proof to support any argument that the monetary sanction be

waived, in whole or in part, or be paid in installments, or the time to pay be extended. The State Bar Court must state reasons for its recommendation.

(4) Any stipulation to disposition between Office of Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar and the licensee in a disciplinary proceeding described in subdivision (A) must state in writing whether monetary sanctions should be ordered or waived; if ordered, the amount; the reasons for the order or waiver; whether a payment plan or extension of time will be allowed; and the reasons for and specifics of such payment plan or extension. All stipulations must be accepted and approved by the State Bar Court pursuant to rule 5.58.

(5) A licensee may seek relief from an order of monetary sanctions, an extension of time to pay the sanctions, or request a compromise of judgment, through a motion filed with the State Bar Court, following the motion procedure and based on the grounds set forth in rule 5.138. The burden of proof by preponderance of the evidence will be on the licensee to provide financial records and/or other proof to support the motion. The State Bar Court must state reasons for its ruling.

(6) Payment of restitution must be made in full before payment of any monetary sanctions.

(F) Reinstatement. Monetary sanctions shall be paid in full as a condition of reinstatement or return to active status, unless time for payment is extended pursuant to this rule.

(G) Collection. Monetary sanctions ordered under this rule are enforceable as a money judgment and may be collected through any means provided by law.

(H) Payment in Annual Installments. If the State Bar Court's recommendation to impose monetary sanctions for an actual suspension allows an attorney to pay in annual installments, the recommendation must designate the amount of each installment, which will be added to and become a part of the attorney's annual license fees.

(I) Application. This rule shall apply to all disciplinary and criminal conviction proceedings commenced and stipulations signed on or after January 1, 2026.

Eff. April 1, 2020; Revised March 1, 2021, January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.138 Motions for Relief from Complying or Extension of Time to Comply with Order Imposing Monetary Sanctions.

(A) Motion for Relief. If monetary sanctions have been assessed against an attorney under rule 5.137, the attorney may move for relief, in whole or in part, from the order imposing sanctions, for an extension of time to pay sanctions, or for the compromise of a judgment obtained under rule 5.137(G) on grounds of financial hardship, special circumstances, whether a licensee's ability to pay criminal or civil judgments arising out of the discipline case is adversely affected, for good cause, or in the interests of justice. The motion must be served on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel under rule 5.26. If the motion is based, in whole or in part, on financial hardship, it must be filed as soon as practicable after the circumstances giving rise to the financial hardship become known and be accompanied by the attorney's completed financial

statement in the form prescribed by the court. Otherwise, the motion may be filed within 30 days after the filing of a Supreme Court disciplinary order.

(B) **Response to Motion.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file and serve a response to the motion within 20 days after the motion is served.

(C) **Hearing.** No hearing on the motion is required. A hearing will be held only if the court, in its discretion, determines that it will materially contribute to the consideration of the motion.

(D) **Review.** An order of the court on the motion is reviewable only under rule 5.150 and on grounds of error of law or abuse of discretion.

Eff. January 1, 2021

Rule 5.139 Stipulating to Relief from Payment of Monetary Sanctions or Extension of Time to Pay Monetary Sanctions

By written stipulation entered into between an attorney and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, the court may relieve an attorney, in whole or in part, from the obligation to pay monetary sanctions, or the court may extend the time to pay these monetary sanctions on grounds of financial hardship, special circumstances, whether a licensee's ability to pay criminal or civil judgments arising out of the discipline case is adversely affected, for good cause, or in the interests of justice.

Eff. January 1, 2021.

DIVISION 3. REVIEW DEPARTMENT AND POWERS DELEGATED BY SUPREME COURT

Rule 5.150 Petition for Interlocutory Review and for Review of Specified Matters

(A) **Availability of Interlocutory Review and Review of Specified Matters.** As provided in these rules a party may petition for interlocutory review regarding significant issues requiring the Review Department to intervene before proceedings in the Hearing Department are complete if the issues are not readily remediable after trial. Other specified matters may be reviewed as provided by these rules of procedure.

(B) **Time for Filing Petition.** Any aggrieved party may petition the Review Department for review of a Hearing Department judge's order within 15 days after the written order is served, or the oral order is made on the record, whichever is later. If a rule specifies a different time for seeking review, that time controls. If a timely motion for reconsideration of the hearing judge's order is filed, the time to seek review is extended until 15 days after the ruling on the motion for reconsideration is served.

(C) **Contents of Petition.** Petitions under this rule must be accompanied by:

(1) a supporting memorandum of points and authorities containing specific citations to the relevant portions of the record in the Hearing Department; and

(2) an appendix containing:

(a) a copy of the written order or, if none, a copy of the audiotaped record of the hearing at which the oral order was made, and

(b) copies of all pleadings filed with the Hearing Department in support of or in opposition to issuing the order.

(D) Filing and Service. For all types of review, the petitioner must file the original and one copy of the petition and all supporting pleadings (including any required audiotape) with the Clerk. The petitioner must serve copies of the petition and all supporting pleadings under rule 5.26 on all other parties. If interlocutory review from an order is sought, the petitioner must also serve the hearing judge who issued the order.

(E) Response. No response to a petition for interlocutory review is required unless the Review Department grants review or otherwise orders. A responding party may file and serve a response within 10 days after the order granting review is served.

(F) Filing and Service of Later Pleadings. After the petition for interlocutory review is filed, any party who files a pleading with the Clerk, including the response to the petition, must file the original and one copy of such pleading with the Clerk, serve copies on all parties under rule 5.26, and serve copies on the hearing judge who issued the order from which interlocutory review is sought.

(G) Citations to Record; Supplemental Appendix. All statements of fact in support of or in response to the petition must cite to the appended record. If material pertaining to the challenged order is part of the Hearing Department record and was omitted from the appendix prepared by the petitioning party, an opposing party may file and serve, together with the response, a supplemental appendix containing the omitted material.

(H) Motion for Stay.

(1) A party who intends to file an interlocutory petition and who seeks a stay of proceedings in the Hearing Department must file the petition and concurrently make a motion to the hearing judge for a stay. The motion may be made orally on the record or in writing on shortened notice under rule 5.29. The motion must be ruled upon on an expedited basis.

(2) If the hearing judge denies the motion for stay, the petitioning party may move the Review Department to stay further Hearing Department proceedings in the matter until the Review Department files a ruling on the petition.

(a) The motion for stay must be filed within five days after the petitioning party receives notice that the hearing judge has denied the stay, or concurrently with the filing of the petition, whichever is later.

(b) The motion must state that the hearing judge denied the previous motion for a stay and include a copy of the hearing judge's ruling, or, if none, a copy of the audiotape of the hearing at which the oral order was made, together with copies of any pleadings filed in support of or in opposition to the motion.

(c) The Presiding Judge may issue a temporary stay while the Review Department considers the motion for stay.

(I) **Summary Denial.** The petition may be summarily denied if it does not meet the criteria set forth in subsection (A) or if the Review Department finds that the petition does not clearly demonstrate that the hearing judge's order was erroneous under the applicable standard of review.

(J) **No Oral Argument.** The issues raised by the petition and any response will be decided by the Review Department without oral argument unless the Review Department orders otherwise.

(K) **Standard of Review.** Except as otherwise specified in a rule authorizing the filing of a petition under this rule, the standard of review in proceedings under this rule is abuse of discretion or error of law.

(L) **Decision.** The Review Department may deny the relief sought in the petition, or may grant it, in whole or in part. Relief may be subject to appropriate conditions imposed on the petitioning party. If a quorum of the Review Department is not available to rule on the petition in time to provide the petitioning party with meaningful relief, the Presiding Judge may act for the Review Department on any petition under this rule, but the Review Department en banc may reconsider the petition on its own motion or on motion of any party.

Rule 5.151 Requests for Review

(A) **What May Be Reviewed.** Unless expressly provided otherwise in the rules governing a particular type of proceeding, all decisions and orders by hearing judges that fully dispose of an entire proceeding are reviewable by the Review Department at the request of any party under this rule.

(B) **Timing.** Any party may file and serve a request for review within 30 days after the hearing judge's decision or order is served. If a post-trial motion is filed in the Hearing Department, a party seeking review must file and serve the request within 30 days after the hearing judge's ruling on the post-trial motion is served.

(C) **Post-Trial Motion After Request Filed.** If a post-trial motion about a decision is filed in the Hearing Department after a request for review is filed, any request for review of that decision will be vacated and the requesting party must file another request for review after the hearing judge's ruling on the post-trial motion is served.

(D) **Certification and Transcript.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge, the request for review must certify that a trial transcript has been ordered and payment has been made or an application for waiver of transcript costs has been submitted as required under the Rules of Practice of the State Bar Court. Unless otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge, if the party requesting review fails to timely order a transcript, timely pay the required transcript cost, or timely apply for waiver of the cost, the Clerk will notify the party that the request will be dismissed unless, within five days after the Clerk's notice is served, the party: (1) tenders the required cost, (2) upon a motion and showing of good cause, obtains an order from the Court granting an extension of time or permitting other arrangements satisfactory to the Court, or (3) upon application, is granted a waiver of the cost.

(E) **Additional Parties' Requests for Review.** If any party files a request for review under rule 5.151, any opposing party may file a request for review within 10 days after the first party's request for review is served.

(F) **Multiple Requests for Review.** If more than one party requests review, the requesting parties will equally divide the cost of the transcript. Each will file an appellant's brief under rule 5.152 and a responsive brief under rule 5.153(A). Each may file a rebuttal brief under rule 5.153(B).

(G) **When Review Is Permitted.** Except as expressly permitted by these rules, no action of a hearing judge is reviewable by the Review Department until after the hearing judge enters a decision or order fully disposing of the entire proceeding.

(H) **Withdrawal of Request for Review.**

(1) At any time before service of notice of the time and place of oral argument, a party who requested review may withdraw the request for review.

(2) After the Clerk has served notice of the time and place of oral argument, a request for review may be withdrawn only by order of the Presiding Judge upon written motion by the party who sought review.

(3) Unless otherwise ordered by the court, a withdrawal of request for review in its entirety shall leave standing the decision of the Hearing Department as the final decision of the court.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019, January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.151.1 Number of Copies of Filed Documents

(A) Any party filing a request for review or any brief or pleading in the Review Department to be considered en banc shall file an original and four copies of such document.

(B) Any party filing a pleading to be determined by the Presiding Judge shall file an original and two copies.

Eff. January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1300.

Rule 5.151.2 Record on Review

Upon the filing of a timely request for review, the Clerk shall prepare the record on review. The record on review shall consist of all pleadings filed in the formal proceeding under review, the decision of the judge of the Hearing Department and all other orders relating to the matter under Review, all exhibits offered or received in evidence, and all tape recordings and transcripts of testimony relating to the matter under review.

Eff. Revised January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1310.

Rule 5.152 Appellant's Brief

(A) **Time to File.** Within 45 days after the request for review is served or the Clerk serves the trial transcript, whichever occurs later, the appellant must file and serve an opening brief.

(B) **Format of Brief.** Each point in a brief shall appear separately under an appropriate heading, with subheadings if desired. The statement of any matter in the record shall be supported by appropriate reference to the record, including the name of any document referred to and the specific page thereof.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge, the brief must not exceed 30 pages, exclusive of pages containing the table of contents, tables of citations and any addendum containing statutes, rules, regulations or similar materials.

Every brief in excess of 10 pages shall be prefaced by a topical index of its contents and a table of authorities, separately listing cases, statutes, court rules, constitutional provisions, and other authorities.

(C) **Factual Issues on Review**. The appellant must specify the particular findings of fact that are in dispute and must include references to the record to establish all facts in support of the points raised by the appellant. Any factual error that is not raised on review is waived by the parties.

(D) **Failure to File Brief**. Unless otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge, if the opening brief is not filed, the Clerk will notify the parties that the brief must be filed within five days after the Clerk's notice is served or:

(1) The request for review will be dismissed with prejudice; and

(2) If no other party requested review, the hearing judge's decision will become the State Bar Court's final decision.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; March 15, 2019.

Rule 5.152.1 Late Filings, Extensions of Time, Continuances, and Preference

Upon motion of a party and for good cause shown, the Presiding Judge may grant permission for late filings, including late filing of a request for review, for extensions of time for filing briefs, for continuance of oral argument, or for preference on the calendar.

Eff. Revised January 1, 2019. Source: State Bar Ct. Rules of Prac., rule 1301.

Rule 5.153 Subsequent Briefs

(A) **Responsive Brief.** Within 30 days after the appellant's brief is served, the appellee may file and serve a responsive brief that meets the same formal requirements as the appellant's brief under rule 5.152(B) and (C). Unless otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge, if the appellee's brief is not filed, the Clerk will notify the parties that the brief must be filed within five days after the Clerk's notice is served or:

(1) the proceeding will be submitted on review without oral argument; or

(2) if appellant requests or the Court orders oral argument, the appellee will be precluded from appearing.

(B) **Rebuttal Brief.** Within 15 days after the appellee's brief is served, the appellant may file and serve a rebuttal brief whose body is no more than 10 pages. For good cause,

the Presiding Judge may extend the time to file, or may permit the brief's body to exceed 10 pages, or both.

(C) **Brief of Amicus Curiae**. A brief of amicus curiae may be filed by order of the Presiding Judge.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.154 Oral Argument Before Review Department

Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Review Department will give the parties an opportunity for oral argument. The parties may waive oral argument at any time up to five days before the date set for oral argument. Unless oral argument is waived or the parties agree to a shorter period of notice, written notice of the time and place of oral argument must be served by the Clerk on the parties at least 30 days before the oral argument.

(A) **General Provision Requiring Parties to Appear In Person.** The Review Department will hear in-person oral argument in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Oral argument shall be scheduled in the venue in which the trial took place.

(B) **Notice by Party to Appear Remotely.** Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a party may appear remotely by video or telephone upon notice to the court that is served on the opposing party.

(1) **Notice to the Court.** Within 10 days after the court sends notice of the time and place of oral argument, a party may provide notice of the party's intent to appear remotely. The notice must be in writing and may be submitted using the court-approved form located on the court's website.

(2) **Notice to the Opposing Party.** The party must serve the notice on the opposing party pursuant to rule 5.26 or 5.26.1. If notice is not provided electronically pursuant to rule 5.26.1, the party must also provide notice by telephone or in-person within 10 days after the court sends notice of the time and place of oral argument.

(3) **Notice by the Opposing Party.** On receipt of notice under subparagraph (B)(2), should the opposing party elect to also appear remotely, that party must notify the court and all other parties within five days after the notice is served. The notice must be in writing, may be submitted using the court-approved form located on the court's website, and must be served on all parties pursuant to rule 5.26 or 5.26.1. If notice is not provided electronically pursuant to rule 5.26.1, the party must also provide notice by telephone or in-person within five days after the notice is served.

(C) **Information for Remote Appearances.** The court will publish information for remote appearances on the State Bar Court website;

(D) **Court Discretion to Require In-Person Appearance.** If oral argument is conducted remotely in full or in part, the court has discretion at any time during the proceeding being conducted remotely to require an in-person appearance if the court determines that:

(1) An in-person appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceeding or the effective management or resolution of the case;

(2) The quality of the technology or audibility at a proceeding prevents the effective management or resolution of the proceeding or inhibits the ability to accurately prepare a recording of the proceeding; or

(3) The court otherwise determines that an in-person appearance is necessary.

(E) Duration of Oral Argument. In a matter before the Review Department, each side shall have a maximum of 30 minutes for oral argument except as the Presiding Judge may otherwise direct.

(F) Expedited Oral Argument in Proceedings Underlying Business and Professions Code § 6007(c). Any respondent having timely sought review of a decision by the Hearing Department on the matter underlying an order for inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code section 6007(c) may move that the review of that underlying matter be set for oral argument on the next available calendar regardless of location. Such motion shall be filed and served no later than the last day for filing briefs.

(G) Time of Submission. A proceeding pending in the Review Department is submitted when that Department has heard oral argument or has approved at the conclusion of oral argument unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; April 4, 2022; November 25, 2024.

Rule 5.155 Actions by Review Department

(A) Standard of Review under Rule 5.151. The Review Department will independently review the record and may make findings, conclusions, or a decision or recommendation different from those of the hearing judge. The findings of fact of the hearing judge are entitled to great weight.

(B) Remand. The Review Department may remand a proceeding to the Hearing Department for a new trial on specified issues, for a trial de novo, or for other proceedings. If a proceeding is remanded, the same hearing judge will preside unless that judge is unavailable or the Review Department orders otherwise.

(C) Issues Not Raised for Review. The Review Department may take action on an issue that was not raised in the request for review or briefs of any party. Before it does so, the Review Department will notify the parties in writing of the issue before oral argument, and any party may file a supplemental brief about that issue. If the parties are not notified before oral argument, they may make a motion to file supplemental briefs or for reconsideration under rule 5.158.

(D) En Banc Review. The Review Department will decide matters before it en banc. Two judges constitute a quorum. A majority vote of the judges present and voting are sufficient to take any action or arrive at any decision.

(E) **Time for Opinion.** The Review Department will file its opinion within 90 days after the matter is submitted, unless the proceeding is expedited and a procedural rule, a statute, or a Supreme Court rule requires a shorter period for filing the opinion.

(F) **Disqualified Judge.** If one or more Review Department judges are disqualified or unavailable to serve, the Presiding Judge may designate a hearing judge appointed under Business and Professions Code § 6079.1 to act in the Review Department judge's place, if the designated hearing judge took no part in considering or deciding the matter in the Hearing Department. If the Presiding Judge is disqualified or unavailable to act and has not designated another judge to act in his or her place, the Acting Presiding Judge may act in place of the Presiding Judge.

(G) **Disbarment Recommendation.** If the Review Department recommends disbarment, it must include in its opinion an order that the attorney be enrolled as an inactive attorney under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(4). Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the order takes effect on personal service or three days after service by mail, whichever is earlier.

(H) **State Bar Court's Annual Report.** By March 1 of each year, the State Bar Court must prepare and submit to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court an annual report describing how the Review Department complied with the requirements of subsection (E) during the preceding calendar year.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; May 19, 2022.

Rule 5.156 Additional Evidence Before Review Department

(A) **Record and Excluded Evidence.** Except as provided by this rule or by order of the Review Department, the Review Department considers only evidence that is a part of the record made in the Hearing Department, or evidence offered and excluded that the Review Department determines should have been admitted.

(B) **Augmenting Record: Judicial Notice and Stipulations.** On its own motion or at the request of a party, the Review Department may take judicial notice of orders and decisions of the Supreme Court or the State Bar Court arising out of any State Bar Court proceeding involving the party who is the subject of the proceeding under review, whether or not such orders and decisions were introduced as evidence in the Hearing Department. The Review Department may also admit other judicially noticeable facts or stipulated facts such as those bearing on restitution or rehabilitation occurring after the evidentiary proceedings before the hearing judge ended.

(C) **Augmenting Record: Additional Evidence from a Party.** Any party may move to present additional evidence occurring after evidentiary proceedings before the hearing judge ended, including evidence bearing on restitution or rehabilitation. Alternatively, any party may move to remand the proceeding so the party may file a motion to reopen the record under rule 5.113. On this motion, or its own motion after notice to the parties, the Review Department may appoint a hearing judge as a referee to receive evidence and make proposed additional findings of fact.

(D) Procedures to Augment or Correct Record.

(1) A motion or stipulation to augment or correct the record on review must be identified as such and filed and served as a separate pleading on the date the appellant's opening brief is due to be filed.

(2) All other parties may file and serve a response to the motion to augment or correct the record as a separate pleading on the date the appellee's brief is due to be filed. If a motion to augment or correct the record is filed after the appellant's opening brief is filed, any response to the motion must be filed and served within 10 days after the motion is served.

(E) Augmentation Permitted. The Review Department will grant requests to augment or correct the record on review only if it determines that the original record is incomplete or incorrect, or as permitted by subsections (A) through (D) above.

Rule 5.157 Summary Review Program

(A) Scope for Summary Review. The Review Department may summarily review matters raising legal issues on review that can be decided without a transcript of the entire record of State Bar hearings or the normal briefing schedule.

(B) Eligibility for Summary Review. A matter is eligible for summary review if the requesting party does not challenge the hearing judge's findings of fact. The decision of the hearing judge will be the final State Bar Court decision on all material findings of fact and the parties will be bound by the facts as provided for under rule 5.54. The issues on review are limited to:

(1) contentions that the facts support conclusions of law different from those reached by the hearing judge;

(2) disagreement about the appropriate disposition, degree of discipline, or monetary sanctions; or

(3) other questions of law.

(C) Issues Waived. Any issue or contention not raised by the parties is waived.

(D) Inapplicable and Applicable Rules. Rules 5.151 – 5.154 do not apply to summary review matters. Rules 5.155, 5.156, and 5.158 apply to summary review matters.

(E) Requests for Summary Review.

(1) A party must ask the Review Department to designate the matter for summary review. The request must be filed within 30 days after the hearing judge's decision is served or, if a post-trial motion has been made, within 30 days after the hearing judge's ruling on the motion.

(2) If review is sought under rule 5.151, the Review Department may notify the parties on its own motion that it considers the matter eligible for summary review, and may invite the party seeking review to elect summary review. If the party declines to elect summary review, the matter will proceed under rules 5.151-5.154.

(3) If a request for summary review under this rule and a request for review under rule 5.151 are both timely filed in the same proceeding, the matter will proceed under rules 5.151-5.154. But the Review Department may apply subsection (E)(2) of this rule.

(F) Opening Memorandum. Instead of an opening brief, the party seeking summary review must file an opening memorandum within 20 days after the order designating the proceeding for summary review is served. The memorandum must not exceed 20 pages. It must include a copy of the decision from which review is sought and:

(1) concisely state the issues for review, including, if applicable, how the conclusions of law or disposition or both should be modified;

(2) list the supporting authorities cited for the contentions raised on review, and concisely state the proposition for which each authority is cited; and

(3) state whether or not oral argument is requested.

(G) Responsive Memorandum. Within 15 days after the opening memorandum is served, the opposing party may file a responsive memorandum that does not exceed 20 pages and:

(1) states whether the party disputes any issue raised or relief requested in the opening memorandum, and, if so, the party's position on the disputed issue or request for relief;

(2) states whether the party believes summary review is not proper;

(3) concisely states any additional issues for review, including, if applicable, how the conclusions of law or disposition or both should be modified;

(4) lists the supporting authorities cited for the party's position, and concisely state the proposition for which each authority is cited; and

(5) states whether or not oral argument is requested.

(H) Reply Memorandum. Within 10 days after the responsive memorandum is served, the party seeking summary review may file a reply memorandum not to exceed five pages addressing any new issues raised in the responsive memorandum.

(I) Oral Argument. Unless specifically requested by a party or ordered by the Review Department on its own motion, oral argument will not be heard in summary review proceedings. If requested or ordered, oral argument will be by telephone conference on 15 days' notice. The telephone conference will originate from one or more designated courtrooms that will be open to the public if the proceeding is public. The judges of the Review Department may participate from designated courtrooms at different locations. Each party may present its oral argument either by telephone or in person at one of the designated courtrooms.

(J) Full Record After Summary Review Granted.

(1) When summary review is granted, nothing in this rule restricts the Review Department's authority to independently review the full record of State Bar proceedings or to require a full or partial transcript and briefing schedule before oral argument of any case.

(2) If the Review Department determines that it needs to review the full record, it may order the matter reviewed under rules 5.151-5.154. In this event, the party requesting summary review may withdraw the request within 30 days after the Review Department's order is served.

(K) Denial of Summary Review. If the Review Department determines that summary review is not appropriate, then within 10 days after the order is served, a party may request review under rule 5.151.

(L) Review by the Supreme Court. After the Review Department files its opinion in a summary review matter, a party who intends to petition the Supreme Court for review must first file with the Review Department a certification that a trial transcript has been ordered and appropriate payment has been made. The certification must be filed within 15 days from service of the Review Department's opinion. The Supreme Court requires a complete record, including a trial transcript.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.158 Reconsideration of Review Department Actions

(A) Reconsideration Not Automatic. The Review Department does not reconsider opinions or orders unless it otherwise orders on its own motion or on a request for reconsideration filed and served by a party within 15 days after the Review Department's ruling is served. If the record in the proceeding has not yet been sent to the Supreme Court and good cause is shown, the time to file a request for reconsideration may be extended.

(B) Opposing Reconsideration. If a request for reconsideration is filed, any opposing party may file a response within 10 days of service after the request is served.

Rule 5.159 Review Department Opinions as Precedent

(A) Published and Unpublished Opinions. Review Department opinions that the Court designates for publication are published in the California State Bar Court Reporter or other publications, as directed by the Board of Trustees. Hearing Department decisions are not published.

(B) Precedential Value. A published opinion that has no review pending and either takes effect without a Supreme Court order, or is adopted by a Supreme Court order, is binding on the Hearing Department and citable as precedent in the State Bar Court.

(C) Petition for Review Filed. If a party to the proceeding files a petition for writ of review with the Supreme Court, the opinion in that proceeding cannot be cited as precedent unless the Supreme Court denies the petition for writ of review, dismisses the writ without issuing an opinion, or orders the Review Department opinion to remain citable.

(D) Depublished Opinions. If the Supreme Court orders a Review Department opinion depublished, the opinion is not citable as precedent.

(E) Criteria for Publication. By majority vote, the Review Department may designate for publication an opinion which:

(1) Establishes a new rule, applies an existing rule to a set of facts significantly different from those stated in published opinions, or modifies, or criticizes with reasons given, an existing rule;

(2) Resolves or creates an apparent conflict in the law;

(3) Involves a legal issue of continuing interest to the public generally and/or to attorneys of the State Bar, or one which is likely to recur;

(4) Makes a significant contribution to legal literature by collecting and analyzing the existing case law on a particular point or by reviewing and interpreting a statute or rule;

(5) Makes a significant contribution to the body of disciplinary case law by discussing the appropriate degree of discipline based on a set of facts and circumstances materially different from those stated in published opinions.

(F) Partial Publication. The Review Department may, by majority vote, designate for publication only that part of the opinion which satisfies the requirements of this rule, including any additional material, factual or legal, that aids in the interpretation of the published part of the opinion.

(G) Requirements for Publication of Certain Opinions. Opinions in non-public matters shall not be designated for publication or for partial publication unless all parties to the proceeding having a right to confidentiality have consented to publication.

(H) Requesting Publication or Non-Publication. Any person may request publication or partial publication of an opinion not designated for publication, or publication in full of an opinion designated for partial publication. The request shall be made promptly by letter stating concisely why the opinion meets one or more of the standards set forth in this rule. The letter shall be addressed to the Presiding Judge, and shall be accompanied by proof of service on all parties to the proceeding. Any party to the proceeding may respond to the letter, within 10 days of service, by means of a letter to the Presiding Judge accompanied by proof of service on all parties to the proceeding and on the person requesting publication. The decision regarding the request shall be made by majority vote of the Review Department.

(1) Within 20 days after the filing of an opinion designated for publication, any person may request by letter that the opinion not be published, that it be published only in part, or that it be published in a form which does not identify any party other than the State Bar. The request shall state the nature of the person's interest and shall state concisely the reasons why the change requested should be made. The request shall not exceed 10 pages and shall be accompanied by proof of service to each party to the action or proceeding.

(2) Any person may, within 10 days after receipt by the Review Department of a request for depublication, submit a response, either joining in the request or stating concisely the reasons why the opinion should remain published. A response shall state the nature of the person's request. Any response shall not

exceed 10 pages and shall be accompanied by proof of service to each party to the action or proceeding, and person requesting depublication.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.160 Settlement Conferences on Review

(A) **Application.** After a hearing judge's decision is filed, a settlement conference will be scheduled if requested in writing by both parties. A request by either party that declares that the other party joins in the request is adequate. A settlement conference under this rule will be before a hearing judge or a judge pro tem assigned by the Presiding Judge.

(B) **Purpose**. A settlement conference is to evaluate the merits of seeking review, consider a narrowing of the issues on review, and discuss settlement of the entire matter and other relevant issues.

(C) **Timing of Request**.

(1) Before a Request for Review Is Filed. A request for a settlement conference must be filed with the Clerk of the Review Department within seven days of service of a hearing judge's decision. If a post-trial motion is filed after the decision, the request must be filed within seven days of service of the ruling on the motion.

(2) After a Request for Review Is Filed. A request for a settlement conference may be filed with the Clerk of the Review Department any time prior to service of the notice of oral argument.

(D) **Date of Conference.** The Clerk will provide a settlement conference date within 15 days of the request. The parties must be prepared to accommodate the date provided by the Clerk or the conference may not be held.

(E) **Settlement Conference Statement.** No later than two days before the date set for the settlement conference, a party may serve on the other party and lodge with the clerk of the Review Department a settlement conference statement.

(F) **Court Approval of Settlement**.

(1) The assigned settlement judge must approve a stipulation reached between the parties under this rule. The judge must determine whether the stipulation is fair to the parties and adequately protects the public, courts and profession. In addition, the judge must determine whether a stipulation that seeks to modify the hearing judge's decision as to any fact, conclusion of law, disposition or other provision is supported by an adequate factual and legal basis.

(2) The stipulation must be submitted to the assigned settlement judge within 10 days of the settlement conference.

(3) If the stipulation is rejected and a request for review has not previously been filed, the parties have 10 days from service of the order to file a request for review under rule 5.151.

(G) **Review Proceedings.** Except as provided under subdivision (F)(3) or as otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge, the request for a settlement conference or the

pendency of settlement proceedings will not suspend the time to request review nor suspend the time to prepare the record for review under rule 5.151.

(H) Confidentiality. Except as otherwise required by law, information disclosed to the Settlement Conference judge and the parties in the conference is confidential and must not be disclosed to anyone not participating in the settlement conference, including the Review Department.

Rule 5.161 Exercise of Powers Delegated by Supreme Court

(A) Authorized Actions Similar to Those of State Bar Court. State Bar Court actions authorized under California Rules of Court, rule 9.10(a)-(e) will be taken by the Review Department, except that:

(1) a hearing judge will initially act on any modification of probation under California Rules of Court, rule 9.10(c) as provided in rules 5.300-5.306; and

(2) if a motion is made to extend the time within which an attorney must take and pass a professional responsibility examination under California Rules of Court, rule 9.10(b), and the deadline for complying has not passed, a hearing judge will act on the motion.

(B) Additional Authorized Actions. In addition to the actions in subsection (A), the Review Department will act on the following:

(1) Motions to vacate and motions to delay and temporarily stay the effective date of orders of interim suspension or orders of suspension issued under California Rules of Court, rule 9.10(a), (b), or (e). These motions are governed by rule 5.162 of these procedures.

(2) Motions by the Chief Trial Counsel to reconsider a decision not to place an eligible attorney on interim suspension. Any motion must be filed within 15 days after notice of the decision, show proof of service on all opposing parties under rule 5.26, and show the legal basis for entering an order of interim suspension. Opposition to the motion must be filed and served within 10 days after the motion is served. Parties must file the original and three copies of all pleadings submitted. For good cause, the Review Department may grant leave to file a motion more than 15 days after notice of the decision.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.162 Motions for Relief under California Rules of Court, Rule 9.10

(A) Filing Motions. Motions to the Review Department or the Hearing Department, as provided in rule 5.161(A) of these procedures for relief under California Rules of Court, rules 9.10(a) (to delay or stay interim suspension), 9.10(b) (to extend time to take and pass professional responsibility examination, or vacate suspension for failure to do so), or 9.10(e) (to delay or stay disciplinary suspension ordered by Supreme Court), must:

(1) be filed with the Clerk of the State Bar Court within 15 days after the suspension order (if any) is filed;

(2) show good cause for the relief requested; and

(3) show proof of service under rule 5.26. Service must be made on the deputy chief trial counsel in the appropriate venue.

(B) Pleadings Related to Motions. Parties must file the original and three copies of all pleadings related to motions under this rule. The legend "RULE OF COURT 9.10 MATTER" must appear in the caption immediately below the case number and above the title of the pleading.

(C) Extension of Time to File Motion or Temporary Relief. For good cause, the Review Department or the Presiding Judge may grant leave to file a motion more than 15 days after a suspension order is filed, or may order temporary relief to the extent necessary for the Review Department to act on the merits of the motion.

(D) Motion to Delay or Stay Interim Suspension. A motion under California Rules of Court, rule 9.10(a) to delay or temporarily stay the effect of an order of interim suspension imposed under Business and Professions Code § 6102(a) or to obtain an exception to the rule should include the following information as part of the attorney's showing of good cause:

(1) the date the attorney was convicted and whether the attorney has appealed the conviction;

(2) the steps the attorney has taken to prepare for the impending suspension;

(3) the nature and extent of the attorney's current practice of law and the titles, court case numbers, and dates of any future hearings or trials, and the dates and nature of other important legal events for which clients need representation; whether in cases pending before a tribunal, the tribunal has been notified of the attorney's impending suspension; and whether these legal events may be rescheduled or whether substitute counsel is available;

(4) for each matter that is or would be affected by the attorney's suspension: when the attorney undertook representation of the client; whether the client has been notified of the conviction, the impending suspension, and this motion; and whether the client would be substantially prejudiced by denial of this motion. If feasible, the motion should be accompanied by client declarations in support; and

(5) whether the attorney has notified the Office of Trials of the intended motion, and if so, when, how, and to whom.

(E) Motion Regarding Professional Responsibility Exam. An attorney seeking, under California Rules of Court, rule 9.10(b) to extend the time ordered for taking and providing proof of passage of a professional responsibility examination or to vacate the attorney's suspension for failing to take and pass the ordered examination must include with any motion made to the Review Department, or to the Hearing

Department as provided in rule 5.161(A), the following information as part of the attorney's showing of good cause:

(1) whether the attorney has taken the ordered examination and, if so, on what date or dates, what steps the attorney took to prepare for the examination, and the score received on each occasion;

(2) if the attorney did not take the examination on any available dates, the reason for not doing so on each of those dates;

(3) the nature and extent of the attorney's current legal practice and the titles, court case numbers, and dates of any future hearings or trials, and the dates and nature of other important legal events for which clients need representation during the time the attorney would be suspended if the motion is not granted; whether in cases pending before a tribunal, the tribunal has been notified of the attorney's impending suspension; and whether these legal events may be rescheduled or whether substitute counsel is available;

(4) for each matter that is or would be affected by the attorney's suspension: when the attorney undertook representation of the client; whether the client has been notified of this motion; and whether the client would be substantially prejudiced by denial of this motion. If feasible, the motion should be accompanied by client declarations in support; and

(5) whether the attorney has notified the Office of Trials of the intended motion, and if so, when, how, and to whom.

(F) Motion to Delay or Stay Actual Suspension. An attorney seeking, under California Rules of Court, rule 9.10(e), to delay or temporarily stay the actual suspension from the practice of law previously ordered by the Supreme Court must include with any motion made to the Review Department the following information as part of the attorney's showing of good cause:

(1) whether the suspension resulted from a stipulation or a decision, the date the attorney became aware of the final order or decision of the State Bar Court recommending suspension, and the date the attorney became aware that the proposed order of suspension had been sent to the Supreme Court;

(2) what steps the attorney has taken to prepare for the impending suspension;

(3) the nature and extent of the attorney's current practice of law and the titles, court case numbers, and dates of any future hearings or trials, and the dates and nature of other important legal events for which clients need representation during the time the attorney would be suspended if the motion is not granted; whether in cases pending before a tribunal, the tribunal has been notified of the attorney's impending suspension; and whether these legal events may be rescheduled or whether substitute counsel is available;

(4) for each matter that is or would be affected by the attorney's suspension: when the attorney undertook representation of the client; whether the client has been notified of this motion; and whether the client would be substantially prejudiced

by denial of this motion. If feasible, the motion should be accompanied by client declarations in support; and

(5) whether the attorney has notified the Office of Trials of the intended motion, and if so, when, how, and to whom.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

DIVISION 4. INVOLUNTARY INACTIVE ENROLLMENT PROCEEDINGS

Chapter 1. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(b)(1): Insanity or Mental Incompetence

Rule 5.170 Nature of Proceeding

These rules apply to proceedings that involve, or may involve, an attorney's transfer to inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(1).

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.171 Beginning Proceeding

(A) **Initial Pleading.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel or any attorney may make a motion to transfer an attorney to involuntary inactive enrollment accompanied by evidence that the attorney has asserted a claim of insanity or mental incompetence as specified in Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(1). The Court may issue an order to show cause if an attorney who is a party to a proceeding before the Court asserts a claim of insanity or mental incompetence as specified in § 6007(b)(1).

(B) **Service.** The motion or order to show cause must be served on all parties under rule 5.25.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.172 Proceedings on Motion; Actions Taken by Court

A motion under these rules is governed by the rules applicable to motions.

(A) **Motion Granted.** If the evidence received shows clearly and convincingly that the order is appropriate under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(1), the court may issue an order, without further notice or hearing, enrolling the attorney as an inactive attorney.

(B) **Motion Denied.** If the evidence received does not show clearly and convincingly that an order of involuntary inactive enrollment is authorized by § 6007(b)(1), the court may:

(1) issue an order denying the motion; or

(2) conduct further proceedings to determine whether the attorney should be enrolled as an inactive attorney.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.173 Proceedings on Order to Show Cause

If the Court issues an order to show cause, the parties have 10 days from the date the order is served to file and serve responses, unless otherwise ordered. The Court will act after the responses are filed or the time to file expires.

(A) **Order for Inactive Enrollment.** If the evidence received shows clearly and convincingly that the order is appropriate under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(1), the Court may issue an order, without a hearing, enrolling the attorney as an inactive attorney.

(B) **Refusal of Request for Order.** If the evidence received does not show clearly and convincingly that an order of involuntary inactive enrollment would be authorized by § 6007(b)(1), the Court may:

(1) decline to order the attorney's involuntary inactive enrollment; or

(2) conduct further proceedings to determine whether the attorney should be enrolled as an inactive attorney.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.174 Representation by Counsel

(A) **Appointment of Counsel.** If further proceedings are conducted under rules 5.172 or 5.173 and the attorney is not represented by counsel, the Court may appoint counsel without cost to the attorney. By court order, appointed counsel will be compensated for reasonable expenses and fees for work done on matters before the Court or for seeking review from the California Supreme Court of a Review Department decision ordering or upholding an order of inactive enrollment. Compensation will be at an hourly rate fixed by the Executive Committee. The Court will determine the reasonableness of counsel's fees and expenses.

(B) **Copies of Record.** An appointed counsel may ask the Clerk to prepare and furnish, free of charge, copies of compact disks, audiotapes, or transcripts of all or any part of any relevant State Bar Court proceeding involving the attorney.

(C) **Attorney's Failure or Inability to Assist Counsel.** The attorney's failure or inability to assist counsel is not in itself a reason to abate the Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(1) proceeding, or a basis for a continuance, or grounds for a motion by counsel to be relieved as attorney of record in proceedings under these rules.

(D) **Authority to File Motions.** Appointed counsel have the authority to file motions to abate or continue other pending State Bar Court proceedings involving the same attorney, and will be compensated for doing so as provided in paragraph (A).

(E) **Review of Award.** The counsel for whom the Court orders an award of costs or fees or both may file a petition under rule 5.150 for review of the hearing judge's determination of the award's amount within 15 days after the order is served. The action of the Review Department on the petition is the State Bar's final decision on the award's amount.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.175 Effective Date

An order of involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(1) takes effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail, unless the Court for good cause orders it to take effect on another date.

Rule 5.176 Review

An order granting or denying involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(1) is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.177 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply to proceedings on a motion or order to show cause under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(1):

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.65-5.71 (discovery); rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Chapter 2. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(b)(2): Assumption of Jurisdiction Over Law Practice

Rule 5.180 Nature of Proceeding

These rules apply to proceedings that involve, or may involve, an attorney's transfer to inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(2).

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.181 Beginning Proceeding

(A) **Initial Pleading.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel must file a motion for involuntary inactive enrollment, supported by evidence that a superior court has issued an order assuming jurisdiction over an attorney's law practice under Business and Professions Code § 6180 or § 6190.

(B) **Service.** The motion must be served on the attorney under rule 5.25.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.182 Proceedings on Motion

A motion under these rules is governed by the rules applicable to motions.

(A) **Motion Granted.** If the evidence received shows clearly and convincingly that the order is appropriate under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(2), the Court may issue an order, without further notice or hearing, enrolling the attorney as an

inactive attorney, and subject to any appropriate exceptions specified in the court order assuming jurisdiction over the attorney's law practice.

(B) **Motion Denied.** If the evidence received does not show clearly and convincingly that an order of involuntary inactive enrollment is authorized by § 6007(b)(2), the Court may:

(1) issue an order denying the motion; or

(2) conduct further proceedings to determine whether the attorney should be enrolled as an inactive attorney. The issues in any further proceedings are limited to determining whether clear and convincing evidence shows that a superior court has issued an order assuming jurisdiction over an attorney's law practice under Business and Professions Code § 6180 or § 6190, and if so, whether such order remains in effect and provides for any exceptions.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.183 Order of Involuntary Inactive Enrollment

The Court may not impose interim remedies under Business and Professions Code § 6007(h) in lieu of inactive enrollment in ruling on a motion under these rules. But when necessary to effectuate any exceptions in a superior court's order, the Court may make exceptions to the order of inactive enrollment.

Rule 5.184 Effective Date

An order of involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(2) takes effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail, unless the Court for good cause orders it to take effect on another date.

Rule 5.185 Review

An order granting or denying a motion for involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(2) is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.186 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply to proceedings on a motion under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(2):

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.65-5.71 (discovery); rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Chapter 3. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(b)(3): Mental Infirmity, Illness, or Habitual Use of Intoxicants

Rule 5.190 Nature of Proceeding

These rules apply to proceedings that involve, or may involve, an attorney's transfer to inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3).

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.191 Beginning Proceeding

(A) **Probable Cause Required.** To begin a proceeding, the Court must determine that there is probable cause and issue a notice to show cause. Because the determination is administrative in character, no notice or hearing is required.

(B) **Motion to Show Cause.**

(1) The Court may determine on its own motion, without notice or hearing, that probable cause exists to issue a notice to show cause; or

(2) Any party may file a motion asking the Court to issue a notice to show cause. The motion must be served on all opposing parties under rule 5.25. Unless ordered by the court, no response to the motion may be filed.

(C) **Probable Cause Hearing.** The Court may order a hearing to determine whether a notice to show cause should issue if, in the Court's opinion, it will materially contribute to determining whether probable cause exists. All hearings will be informal. Later proceedings will not be invalidated or otherwise prejudiced if a hearing is not held.

(D) **Notice to Show Cause.** When a notice to show cause is issued under this rule:

(1) the Court will promptly appoint counsel under rule 5.192 if the attorney is not represented by counsel;

(2) the Clerk will promptly serve the notice to show cause on all parties under rule 5.25;

(3) each party will file and serve a response to the notice to show cause within 20 days from the later of:

(a) the date that the notice to show cause is served, or

(b) the date that the order appointing counsel is served (if counsel is appointed).

(E) **Judicial Disqualification.** Except as provided under rule 5.46, the judge who conducts the probable cause hearing will not be disqualified from conducting the hearing on the merits.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.192 Representation by Counsel

(A) **Appointment of Counsel.** An attorney must be represented by counsel by the issuance date of the notice to show cause. If the attorney is not represented, the Court must appoint counsel without cost to the attorney. By court order, appointed counsel will be compensated for reasonable expenses and fees for work done on matters before the Court or for seeking review from the California Supreme Court of a Review Department decision ordering or upholding an order of inactive enrollment. Compensation will be at an hourly rate fixed by the Executive Committee. The Court will determine the reasonableness of counsel's fees and expenses.

(B) **Copies of Record.** An appointed counsel may ask the Clerk to prepare and furnish, free of charge, copies of tapes or transcripts of all or any part of any relevant State Bar Court proceeding involving the attorney, including any hearing held under rule 5.191(C).

(C) **Attorney's Failure or Inability to Assist Counsel.** The attorney's failure or inability to assist counsel is not in itself a reason to abate the Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3) proceeding, or a basis for a continuance, or grounds for a motion by counsel to be relieved as attorney of record in proceedings under these rules.

(D) **Authority to File Motions.** Appointed counsel have the authority to file motions to abate or continue other pending State Bar Court proceedings involving the same attorney, and will be compensated for doing so as provided in subsection (A).

(E) **Review of Award.** The counsel for whom the Court orders an award of costs or fees or both may file a petition under rule 5.150 for review of the hearing judge's determination of the award's amount within 15 days after the order is served. The action of the Review Department on the petition is the State Bar's final decision on the award's amount.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.193 Failure to Comply with Order for Physical or Mental Examination

(A) **Failure as Probable Cause.** If an attorney fails to obey an order for physical or mental examination issued under Business and Professions Code § 6053 and rule 5.68 of these rules, that fact may constitute probable cause to issue a notice to show cause.

(B) **Failure as Evidence.** After the Court issues a notice to show cause, if the attorney fails without good cause to obey an order of the Court for the attorney to undergo a physical or mental examination issued under § 6053 and rule 5.68 of these rules, that failure may be considered as evidence in determining whether the attorney should be transferred to inactive enrollment. But the failure does not in itself warrant a transfer.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.194 Stipulation for Transfer to Inactive Enrollment

(A) **Binding Effect.** Subject to the Court's approval, the parties may stipulate to an attorney's transfer to inactive enrollment. The stipulation will be binding on the parties

unless the Court rejects it or, for good cause, relieves the parties from the binding effect.

(B) **Contents of Stipulation.** If no finding of probable cause has been made, the stipulation will include a waiver of the requirement for a finding of probable cause and will include the following statements:

(1) a statement about the condition that is the basis for the transfer to inactive enrollment;

(2) that the attorney is unable to practice law competently or without danger to the interests of the attorney's clients or to the public;

(3) that the attorney understands that if the stipulation is approved, the attorney will not be allowed to practice law until the attorney petitions for transfer to active enrollment, and the petition is granted; and

(4) that the attorney understands that transfer to inactive enrollment is grounds for the superior court to assume jurisdiction over the attorney's practice.

(C) **Signing the Stipulation.** The attorney, the attorney's counsel of record, and the deputy trial counsel must sign the stipulation. If the attorney has no counsel of record, the Court will appoint counsel under rule 5.192, who will review and approve the stipulation before it is submitted to the hearing judge.

(D) **Approval of Stipulation.** An order approving a stipulation will specify the effective date of the inactive enrollment. If no date is specified, the inactive enrollment takes effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail of the order.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.195 Hearing on Merits

(A) **Time of Hearing.** If a hearing is ordered, it will be held as soon as practicable after the notice to show cause is issued. Time will be allowed to appoint counsel, to prepare a defense, and to complete appropriate discovery or a physical or a mental examination.

(B) **Notice.** The Clerk must serve notice of the hearing on the attorney, the attorney's counsel, and the deputy trial counsel at least 30 days before the hearing date.

(C) **Exhibits and Testimony.** Exhibits and testimony from the probable cause hearing will be admissible in the hearing on the merits if they are relevant and material to the issues. But:

(1) any portion of an exhibit or testimony that would be inadmissible if offered for the first time at the hearing on the merits may be objected to; and

(2) if prior testimony is offered, the party offering the testimony must make the witness available to testify at the hearing on the merits. Either party may elicit additional direct testimony to supplement the prior testimony. The witness may be cross-examined by the opposing party.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.196 Decision

(A) **Inactive Enrollment.** If the Court finds that clear and convincing evidence warrants involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3), it will enroll the attorney as an inactive attorney. The Court will also make appropriate findings about the attorney's ability to conduct or assist in defending himself or herself in any disciplinary proceedings.

(B) **Dismissal.** If the evidence is insufficient, the Court will dismiss the proceeding. Unless otherwise ordered for good cause, the dismissal will be with prejudice to starting a new proceeding based solely on the facts alleged in the dismissed proceeding, but without prejudice to starting a new proceeding based on additional or different facts.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.197 Effective Date

An order of involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3) takes effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail, unless the Court for good cause orders it to take effect on another date.

Rule 5.198 Review

An order granting or denying involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3) is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.199 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in a proceeding under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3):

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial) and rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence).

Chapter 4. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(b): Transfer from Inactive to Active Enrollment

Rule 5.205 Petition for Transfer to Active Enrollment

An attorney who was transferred to inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b) may petition to terminate the inactive order, with or without interim remedies. The petition must be verified, and must state the facts alleged to warrant the termination of the order. The petition must be addressed to the Hearing Department, filed with the Clerk, and served on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel under rule 5.25.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.206 Medical and Hospital Records

The attorney must authorize the State Bar to examine and copy medical, hospital, and related records relevant to the attorney's original mental infirmity, illness, or addiction, and related to the attorney's present condition. The authorizations must be written and attached to the petition.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.207 Stipulation for Transfer to Active Enrollment

(A) **Binding Effect.** Subject to the Court's approval, the parties may stipulate to an attorney's transfer to active enrollment. The stipulation will be binding on the parties unless the Court rejects it or, for good cause, relieves the parties from the binding effect.

(B) **Contents of Stipulation.** The stipulation must include the following statements:

(1) the condition that was the basis for the transfer to inactive enrollment no longer exists;

(2) the attorney is now able to practice law competently and without danger to the interests of the attorney's clients or to the public; and

(3) the attorney understands that the attorney will not be allowed to practice law until the Court approves the stipulation.

(C) **Signing the Stipulation.** The attorney, the attorney's counsel of record (if any), and the deputy trial counsel on behalf of the State Bar must sign the stipulation.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.208 Hearing on Petition

(A) **Requesting Hearing.** If the attorney seeks a hearing on the petition, the petition must include a request for a hearing. Whether or not the attorney has requested a hearing, the deputy trial counsel may request a hearing; such request must be filed within 20 days after service of the petition.

(B) **Order for Hearing.** The Court may order a hearing if it will materially contribute to the Court's determining whether a basis for the attorney's involuntary inactive enrollment still exists. The hearing will be held as soon as practicable.

(C) **Notice.** The Clerk must serve notice of the hearing on the attorney, the attorney's counsel (if any), and the deputy trial counsel at least 20 days before the hearing date, unless a continuance is granted for good cause shown.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.209 Decision

The decision is effective when served unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

(A) **Petition Granted.** If the Court finds by clear and convincing evidence that there is no longer a basis for the attorney's involuntary inactive enrollment, it may grant the petition and terminate the order of inactive enrollment.

(B) **Interim Remedies.** If the Court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the change in the attorney's condition makes interim remedies sufficient to protect the attorney's clients and the public, it may impose interim remedies in lieu of inactive enrollment.

(C) **Petition Denied.** If the Court finds inadequate change in the attorney's condition, it may deny the petition.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.210 Transfer to Active Status

An attorney's transfer to active enrollment does not revoke any suspension imposed on the attorney for any reason, or override any other independent restriction that may exist regarding the attorney's right to practice law.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.211 Review

An order granting or denying a petition under these rules is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.212 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in a proceeding for transfer to active enrollment:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Chapter 5. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(c)(1): Failure to Maintain Address of Record

Rule 5.215 Nature of Proceeding

These rules apply to proceedings under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(1) authorizing the involuntary transfer of an attorney to inactive enrollment upon a finding that the attorney has not complied with Business and Professions Code § 6002.1 and cannot be located after reasonable investigation.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.216 Issues

The issues in a proceeding under these rules are limited to whether the attorney has complied with § 6002.1 and whether the attorney can be located after reasonable investigation.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.217 Application for Involuntary Inactive Enrollment

To begin a proceeding, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will file with the Clerk a verified application with supporting documents. The application must state with particularity facts showing that the

attorney has failed to comply with Business and Professions Code § 6002.1 and that the attorney cannot be located after reasonable investigation. The application must be served under rule 5.25.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.218 Hearing

A hearing is not required. The Court may hold a hearing on an expedited basis if the Office of Chief Trial Counsel asks for a hearing or if the Court determines that a hearing will materially contribute to its consideration of the application.

Rule 5.219 Order to Transfer to Inactive Enrollment

If the Court finds that an attorney has failed to comply with Business and Professions Code § and cannot be located after reasonable investigation, it will order that the attorney be transferred to involuntary inactive enrollment, effective immediately, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.220 Review

An order denying an application under these rules is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.221 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in a proceeding under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(1):

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.65-5.71 (discovery); rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Chapter 6. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(c)(1)-(3): Threat of Harm

Rule 5.225 Nature of Proceeding

These rules apply to proceedings under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(1) through § 6007(c)(3), which authorize the transfer of an attorney to involuntary inactive enrollment upon a finding that the attorney's conduct poses a substantial threat of harm to the attorney's clients or to the public. The proceeding must be expedited.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.226 Application for Involuntary Enrollment

(A) **Beginning Proceeding.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel must file with the Clerk a verified application with supporting documents. A request for a hearing must be stated in the application or it will be waived.

(B) **Service.** The application must be served on the attorney under rule 5.25.

(C) **Stating Facts.** The application must state with particularity facts showing that (1) the attorney has caused or is causing substantial harm to the attorney's clients or the public and (2) there is a reasonable probability that the chief trial counsel will prevail on the merits of the underlying disciplinary matter, and that the attorney will be disbarred, as required under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(2)(A)-(B). It must be supported by declarations, transcripts, or requests for judicial notice.

(D) **Alleging Violations.** If the application relates to pending or concurrently filed notices of disciplinary charges, then those must be identified by case number and copies of all notices must be attached to the application. If there is no pending disciplinary proceeding, the application itself must:

(1) cite the statutes, rules, or court orders allegedly violated, or that warrant involuntary inactive enrollment, and

(2) state the particular acts or omissions that constitute the alleged violation or violations, or that form the basis for warranting involuntary inactive enrollment.

(E) **Notice to Attorney; Attorney's Response and Request for Hearing.** The application must contain a notice to the attorney, in prominent type, stating that the attorney must file a verified response to the application and request a hearing as provided in rule 5.227; otherwise, the right to a hearing will be waived.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019; April 1, 2024

Rule 5.227 Attorney's Response to Application and Right to Hearing

The attorney who is the subject of an application or order to show cause has 10 days from service of the order or the application to file with the Clerk a verified response and request for a hearing. If the attorney does not file a verified response and request a hearing, the attorney waives the right to a hearing.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.228 Stipulation to Involuntary Inactive Enrollment

The attorney may stipulate to a transfer to involuntary inactive enrollment. The stipulation must include the factual basis for the involuntary inactive enrollment. If the Court approves the stipulation, it will order the attorney's transfer. The stipulation becomes effective when the order is served, unless the Court's order specifies a different effective date.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.229 Expedited Hearing

The Court will conduct the hearing if timely requested by any party or if the Court determines that the hearing will materially contribute to its consideration of the application. The Clerk will set the hearing date and serve notice on the parties. The hearing will be expedited and completed as soon as practicable and may not be interrupted or continued except for good cause.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014.

Rule 5.230 Evidence

(A) **Types of Evidence.** At a hearing, evidence will be received by declaration, request for judicial notice, and transcripts. Declarations on information and belief are hearsay and generally insufficient as evidence. Conclusions of law in a declaration are not evidence. No testimony or cross-examination will be allowed, unless a party shows good cause.

(B) **Submitting Evidence.** Evidence to be offered at the hearing should be attached to and served with either the State Bar's application under rule 5.226 or the attorney's response under rule 5.227. Any additional proposed evidence must be filed with the Court and served on the opposing party at least three court days before the hearing. If the proposed evidence is filed within five court days before the hearing, the filing party must ensure that the other party actually receives copies at least two calendar days before the hearing.

(C) **Oral Testimony.** If a party wants to offer oral testimony (except in rebuttal to oral testimony presented by the other party), then, at least three court days before the hearing, the party must file and serve a written statement containing the substance of the proposed testimony, the names and addresses of witnesses, and a reasonable time estimate for the testimony. If the statement is filed within five court days before the hearing, the filing party must ensure that the other party actually receives copies at least two calendar days before the hearing.

(D) **Hearing; Admissibility of Evidence.** At a contested hearing, the hearing judge will rule on whether the declarations in support of the application are admissible as evidence, and will also rule on objections and motions to strike material in the declarations.

(E) **No Hearing Held.** If no hearing is held, the Court will consider and weigh only the evidence in and attached to the application and the attorney's response.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.231 Decision; Denial Without Prejudice

(A) **Time of Decision.** If no hearing is held, the Court will issue an order submitting the matter and must file its decision within 30 days after submission. If a hearing is held, the Court must file its decision within 30 days after the hearing ends.

(B) **Findings of Fact.** The Court's decision must include findings of fact about whether:

(1) the attorney was given notice of the proceeding under rule 5.226; and

(2) each factor required by Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(2) has been established by clear and convincing evidence.

(C) **Remedies Ordered.** The decision may order that the attorney be enrolled as an inactive attorney under § 6007(c)(2), or may order that interim remedies be imposed under § 6007(h).

(D) **Effective Date.** The decision takes effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

(E) **Application Denied.** If an application is denied without prejudice, a new application based on additional facts may be filed and may incorporate the facts alleged in prior applications.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.232 Review

A decision in a proceeding under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(2) is reviewable for errors of law or abuse of discretion under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.233 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in proceedings under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(2):

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.60-5.64 (subpoenas); rules 5.65-5.71 (discovery); rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Rule 5.234 Beginning Disciplinary Proceeding after Involuntary Inactive Enrollment Granted

(A) **Applicability of Rules.** These rules apply to disciplinary proceedings involving the matters on which a Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(2) application was based. These proceedings will be expedited.

(B) **Service.** The notice of disciplinary charges, the response to the charges, the Court's decision, any motion for reconsideration and any response to it, any request for review, the parties' briefs on review, and the decision of the Review Department must be served by personal delivery or by overnight mail. If served by overnight mail, the prescribed period for notice will be extended by one day for any right or duty to do an act, or to respond after the document is served.

Rule 5.235 Allegations in Notice of Disciplinary Charges

When an application for involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(2) has been filed before the related disciplinary charges are filed, the notice of disciplinary charges must state which counts of the notice refer to the factual allegations in the application for inactive enrollment.

Rule 5.236 Expedited Disciplinary Proceedings

(A) **Notice of Disciplinary Charges.** When the Court has issued an order of involuntary inactive enrollment, unless the Court determines that time limits have been waived by the attorney, the notice of disciplinary charges must be filed within 45 days after the effective date of the involuntary inactive enrollment. After giving notice to the attorney, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may move for up to 30 more days to file the notice of disciplinary charges. The Court may grant the motion on a showing of good cause.

(B) **Formal Discovery.** Formal discovery will begin as soon as the notice of disciplinary charges is filed and must be completed as provided in rule 5.65.

(C) **Hearing Decision.** The hearing judge's decision on the notice of disciplinary charges must be filed within six months of the effective date of the involuntary inactive enrollment.

(D) **Decision on Review.** The Review Department decision must be filed within five months after the request for review is filed.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.237 Undue Delay

(A) **Motion for Transfer to Active Enrollment.** If any requirement in rule 5.236 is not satisfied, the Court must grant a motion for transfer to active enrollment unless the Court finds that the attorney or the attorney's counsel caused the delay or that the delay was justified for good cause, such as the interest of public protection.

(B) **Hearing.** Any party may request a hearing on the motion; if none is requested, the Court has the discretion to order a hearing.

(C) **Decision on Motion.** If the Court denies the motion, it will state its reasons in writing. If the Court grants the motion, the Court's order will not relieve the attorney of any suspension imposed on the attorney for any reason, or of any other independent restriction that may exist regarding the attorney's right to practice law.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.238 Review of Order on Motion for Transfer to Active Enrollment

An order granting or denying a motion for transfer to active enrollment under rule 5.237 is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Chapter 7. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(c)(2): Transfer from Inactive to Active Enrollment

Rule 5.240 Petition

(A) **Eligibility.** An attorney who has been transferred to inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(2) may petition for transfer to active enrollment, with or without interim remedies.

(B) **Requirements.** The petition must be verified, state the facts alleged to warrant the relief requested, and contain any other information required by the order transferring the attorney to inactive enrollment. The petition must be addressed to the Hearing Department, filed with the Clerk, and served under rule 5.25 on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.241 Stipulations

The parties may stipulate to the attorney's transfer to active enrollment if it is shown that the attorney's conduct warrants the transfer. The stipulation must state sufficient facts to support the transfer; expert testimony is permitted. The Court, in its discretion, may reject the stipulation in the interests of justice.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.242 Decision; Denial Without Prejudice

(A) **Time for Decision.** If no hearing is held, the Court must file its decision, including findings of fact, within 10 court days after the matter is submitted. If a hearing is held, the Court must file its decision, including findings of fact, within 10 court days after the hearing ends.

(B) **Contents of Decision; Effective Date.** The written decision must include findings of fact about whether clear and convincing evidence established that the circumstances warranting the original involuntary inactive enrollment no longer exist and a conclusion of law about whether transferring the attorney to active enrollment will create a substantial threat of harm to the attorney's clients or the public. The decision takes effect on service, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

(C) **Denial of Petition.** Denial is without prejudice. A new petition based on additional facts may be filed and may incorporate the facts alleged in prior petitions.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.243 Limitations on Effect of Transfer

If the Court grants the petition or issues an order approving a stipulation, the Court's decision or order will not relieve the attorney of any suspension imposed on the attorney for any reason, or of any other independent restriction that may exist regarding the attorney's right to practice law.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.244 Review

A decision in a proceeding under these rules is reviewable only for errors of law or abuse of discretion under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.245 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in a proceeding for transfer to active enrollment:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Chapter 8. Bus. & Prof. Code Section 6007(e): Failure to File a Response in a Disciplinary Proceeding; Termination

Rule 5.250 Conditions for Involuntary Inactive Enrollment

(A) **Attorney's Default.** If the attorney defaults and the Court determines that the conditions in Business and Professions Code § 6007(e) have been met, then on entry of the attorney's default, the Court will order the attorney's transfer to involuntary inactive enrollment in a disciplinary proceeding.

(B) **Service.** The Clerk will serve the order by first-class mail addressed to the attorney at the address required to be maintained on State Bar records under Business and Professions Code § 6002.1. If the attorney is exempt from § 6002.1, the attorney may be served by first-class mail under rule 5.26.

(C) **Effective Date.** The transfer to inactive enrollment takes effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail of the order, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.251 Termination of Involuntary Inactive Enrollment

(A) **Conditions.** The Court must terminate the attorney's inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(e) when the attorney meets the conditions in § 6007(e)(2).

(B) **Service of Termination Order.** The Clerk will serve the order by first-class mail addressed to the attorney at the address required to be maintained on State Bar records under Business and Professions Code § 6002.1. If the attorney is exempt from § 6002.1, the attorney may be served by first-class mail under rule 5.26.

(C) **Effective Date.** The termination of inactive enrollment takes effect on service of the order. But if an attorney's involuntary inactive enrollment under § 6007(e) is still in effect when the final order on the merits in the underlying disciplinary proceeding takes effect, the involuntary inactive enrollment will terminate on the final order's effective date.

(D) **No Relief from Other Discipline.** Termination of an attorney's inactive enrollment under this rule will not relieve the attorney of any suspension imposed on the attorney for any reason, or of any other independent restriction that may exist regarding the attorney's right to practice law.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.252 No Hearing Required

No hearing is required because an attorney's inactive enrollment and any transfer to active enrollment are administrative matters.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.253 Applicable Rules

Involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6007(e) is governed solely by rules 5.80-5.85, 5.250-5.252, and 5.150 (interlocutory review). The underlying disciplinary proceeding in which an order of inactive enrollment under § 6007(e) is filed is governed by all rules applicable to that proceeding.

Chapter 9. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(h): Interim Remedies

Rule 5.255 Interim Remedies as Alternative to Involuntary Inactive Enrollment

In a proceeding for involuntary inactive enrollment brought under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3) or § 6007(c)(2), the Court may impose certain interim remedies.

(A) **Motion for Interim Remedies.** Either party may move the Court to order interim remedies as alternative relief. The motion must state the nature of the interim remedies requested. The applicable rules for involuntary inactive enrollment proceedings govern.

(B) **Stipulation for Interim Remedies.** The parties may stipulate to interim remedies instead of inactive enrollment, if the stipulation states the factual basis for interim remedies and specifies the remedies to be ordered. The Court must approve the stipulation.

(C) **Order for Interim Remedies.** The Court may order interim remedies on the motion of any party or on its own motion.

(D) **Denial of Motion.** When involuntary inactive enrollment is warranted, the Court will not order interim remedies.

Rule 5.256 Proceedings Seeking Interim Remedies Only

A proceeding to seek interim remedies may be brought under Business and Professions Code § 6007(h) without seeking the attorney's involuntary inactive enrollment. The proceeding is governed by these rules and is expedited.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.257 Application for Interim Remedies

To start a proceeding seeking interim remedies without requesting involuntary inactive enrollment, the initiating party must file with the Clerk a verified application with supporting documents. The application must state with particularity the factual and legal basis for the relief sought, specify the nature of the interim remedies requested, and state whether a hearing is requested. The application must be served on the opposing party under rule 5.25.

Rule 5.258 Application Based Solely on Allegations under Bus. & Prof. Code § 6007(b)(3)

If an application seeking interim remedies is based solely on allegations under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3), the following rules apply.

(A) **Non-Public.** The proceeding will not be public unless otherwise ordered by the Court for good cause.

(B) **Appointment of Counsel.** The Court may appoint counsel to represent the attorney, if the Court deems it necessary to protect the attorney's rights. The appointed counsel will be compensated in the same manner and have the same authority as counsel appointed to represent an attorney in a proceeding under § 6007(b)(3). By itself, the attorney's failure or inability to assist counsel is not a reason to abate the proceeding, or a basis for a continuance, or grounds for a motion by counsel to be relieved as attorney of record in a § 6007(h) proceeding.

(C) **Examination.** For good cause the Court may order a physical or mental examination of the attorney under Business and Professions Code § 6053 and rule 5.68 of these rules. If the attorney fails to obey the order, that failure may be considered as evidence in determining whether interim remedies are warranted.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.259 Response

The opposing party must file and serve a verified response within 10 days after the application is served. The response must state whether a hearing is requested. If no response is filed, the opposing party waives a hearing and, unless otherwise ordered by the Court for good cause, is precluded from appearing in the proceeding.

Rule 5.260 Stipulation

The parties may stipulate to interim remedies, but the stipulation must state the factual basis for interim remedies and must specify the remedies to be ordered. The Court and the attorney's counsel (if any) must approve the stipulation. The stipulated interim remedies take effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail of the order approving the stipulation, unless otherwise provided in the stipulation.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.261 Hearing

If either party requested a hearing or if the Court determines that a hearing will materially contribute to its consideration of the application, a hearing will be set on an expedited basis and conducted under rule 5.230. But if the application seeking interim remedies is based solely on allegations under Business and Professions Code § 6007(b)(3), it will be conducted under rule 5.195.

Rule 5.262 Burden of Proof

The party seeking interim remedies has the burden to establish by clear and convincing evidence the requested remedies are necessary because the attorney cannot practice law without a substantial threat of harm to the interests of the attorney's clients or the public, or that interim remedies are otherwise justified under the circumstances.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.263 Decision

(A) **Findings of Fact.** The Court's decision must include findings of fact showing the basis for ordering interim remedies or for denying the application. If no hearing is held, the Court must file its decision within 10 court days after the response due date. If a hearing is held, the Court must file its decision within 10 court days after the hearing concludes.

(B) **Effective Date.** The decision takes effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Rule 5.264 Review

A decision in a proceeding seeking interim remedies is reviewable only for errors of law or abuse of discretion under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.265 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in a proceeding seeking interim remedies:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Chapter 10. Change or Termination of Interim Remedies

Rule 5.270 Scope

These rules govern motions to modify or terminate interim remedies ordered under Business and Professions Code § 6007(h).

Rule 5.271 Filing and Service of Motion

A motion to modify or terminate interim remedies must state the nature of the relief requested, the factual and legal basis for it, and whether a hearing is requested. The party filing the motion must serve it under rule 5.25.

Rule 5.272 Response

The party served with a motion under these rules must file and serve a verified response within 10 days after the petition is served. The response must state whether a hearing is requested. If no response is filed, the opposing party waives a hearing and, unless otherwise ordered by the Court for good cause, is precluded from appearing in the proceeding.

Rule 5.273 Stipulation

The parties may stipulate to modifying or terminating interim remedies, but the stipulation must state the factual basis for any specific interim remedies to be ordered. The Court and the attorney's

counsel (if any) must approve the stipulation. The stipulated interim remedies take effect 10 days after service of the order approving the stipulation, unless otherwise provided in the stipulation.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.274 Hearing

If either party requests a hearing or if the Court determines that a hearing will materially contribute to its consideration of the motion, a hearing will be set on an expedited basis.

Rule 5.275 Burden of Proof

The party seeking to modify or terminate interim remedies has the burden to establish by clear and convincing evidence that the requested relief is justified under the circumstances.

Rule 5.276 Decision

(A) **Findings of Fact.** The Court's decision must include findings of fact showing the basis for the relief granted or for denying the requested relief. If no hearing is held, the Court must file its decision within 10 court days after the response is filed. If a hearing is held, the Court must file its decision within 10 court days after the hearing concludes.

(B) **Effective Date.** The decision takes effect on the earlier of personal service or three days after service by mail, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Rule 5.277 Review

A decision on a motion under these rules is reviewable only for error of law or abuse of discretion under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.278 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in proceedings on a motion to modify or terminate interim remedies:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

DIVISION 5. PROBATION PROCEEDINGS

Chapter 1. Probation Modification and Early Termination Proceedings

Rule 5.300 Motions for Modification or Early Termination of Probation

(A) **Timing of Motion.** If at least six months have passed since the effective date of the order imposing probation, either the attorney, the Office of Probation, or the Office of

Chief Trial Counsel may move to terminate probation early. A motion to modify probation may be made at any time.

(B) **Considerations; Requirements.** The State Bar Court must balance the interests of the attorney and the public and determine whether modifying or terminating probation serves the objectives of probation. A motion to modify or terminate probation early must state facts showing that the request is consistent with:

(1) protecting the public;

(2) the attorney's successful rehabilitation; and

(3) maintaining the integrity of the legal profession.

(C) **Modification of Suspension.** Unless expressly authorized by the Supreme Court, the State Bar Court will not consider a motion or stipulation to modify an actual or stayed period of suspension, whether it's a condition of probation or not.

(D) **Specific Relief.** The motion must clearly state the specific relief requested and be accompanied by one or more declarations.

(E) **Response.** A response to the motion must be filed within 30 days after the motion is served.

(F) **Hearing**.

(1) A party may file and serve a written request for a hearing when filing the motion or within 10 days after serving the response. Failure to request a hearing is a waiver of hearing.

(2) The Court will hold a hearing if timely requested by either party and it determines that a hearing will materially contribute to the Court's consideration of the motion. The hearing will be set on an expedited basis.

(G) **Service**. The party filing the motion must serve it under rule 5.25. Service on the State Bar under rule 5.25(E) must be made on both the Office of Probation and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel at 845 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; September 19, 2025.

Rule 5.301 Stipulation to Modification or Early Termination of Probation

The parties may stipulate to modifying the conditions of probation, as permitted by rule 9.10(c) of the California Rules of Court, or to terminating probation early. The stipulation must state specific facts demonstrating that the requested relief is appropriate and serves the objectives of probation. The Court must approve the stipulation and has the discretion to reject the stipulation in the interest of justice.

Rule 5.302 Burden of Proof; Discovery; Evidence

(A) **Supporting Evidence.** Clear and convincing evidence is required to support a motion to modify or terminate probation early.

(B) **Discovery.** The Court will allow discovery only if good cause is shown.

(C) **Objections to Motion**. Written objections to the declarations offered in support of and in response to the motion must be filed and served by a party within 10 days after the response is filed. If no hearing is held, the Court will receive the declarations in evidence, subject to its rulings on any objections.

(D) **Hearing.** If a hearing is held, the submitted declarations will be admitted in evidence, subject to appropriate objection, as the direct testimony of the respective declarants.

(E) **Cross-Examination.** If an opposing party is served a declaration, and files and serves within five days after service a request to cross-examine the declarant, the party that filed the declaration must produce the declarant for cross-examination at the hearing.

Rule 5.303 Ruling on Motion

The Court will issue a written order stating its ruling on the motion and its reasons.

Rule 5.304 Form of Ruling

(A) **Order.** The Court's ruling will be an order when:

(1) granting a motion to correct, modify, or terminate early a probation ordered by the State Bar Court as a condition of reproval;

(2) approving a stipulation or granting a motion to correct or modify probation terms for which the State Bar Court has delegated authority under rule 9.10(c) of the California Rules of Court;

(3) rejecting any stipulation; or

(4) denying any motion.

(B) **Recommendation.** The Court's ruling will be a recommendation when:

(1) granting a motion to terminate early a probation ordered by the Supreme Court; or

(2) granting a motion to modify probation terms for which the State Bar Court does not have delegated authority under rule 9.10(c) of the California Rules of Court.

Rule 5.305 Review

A ruling by a hearing judge on a motion under these rules is reviewable only under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.306 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in proceedings on a motion to modify or terminate probation early:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Chapter 2. Probation Revocation Proceedings

Rule 5.310 Probation Revocation Proceedings

If the Office of Probation or the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has reasonable cause to believe that an attorney has violated a condition of probation, either office may charge the probation violation in a probation revocation proceeding governed by these rules. Alternatively, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may charge the probation violation in an original disciplinary proceeding, based on the attorney's violation of Business and Professions Code § 6068(k), governed by the rules for disciplinary proceedings generally.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; September 19, 2025.

Rule 5.311 Burden of Proof in Probation Revocation Proceedings; Expedited Proceeding

A preponderance of the evidence is required in probation revocation proceedings, and the proceedings will be expedited.

Rule 5.312 Discipline Recommended in Probation Revocation Proceedings

The court may recommend imposing an actual suspension equal to or less than the period of stayed suspension. It may also recommend staying all or part of the actual suspension and imposing a new period of probation, which may be of a different duration or under different conditions than the original probation or both. The court must also make a recommendation regarding monetary sanctions, if applicable, pursuant to rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure, and set forth its reasons for its recommendation.

Rule 5.313 Consolidation of Probation Revocation Proceedings

A probation revocation proceeding may be consolidated with another probation revocation proceeding alleging a separate violation or violations of the same Supreme Court order. Otherwise, it may not be consolidated for decision with any other proceeding.

Rule 5.314 Conduct of Probation Revocation Proceedings

Probation revocation proceedings will be conducted as follows:

(A) **Motion**. The proceeding begins by filing a motion to revoke probation, accompanied by one or more declarations stating all the facts relied on in support of the motion. If a hearing is not requested in the motion, a hearing is waived. The motion and all supporting pleadings and evidence, including declarations and a copy of an approved response form, must be served on the attorney under rule 5.25.

(B) **Response.** The response, including any opposition, must be filed and served within 20 days of the service of the motion. All facts relied on in the response must be stated in one or more accompanying declarations. If a hearing is not requested in the response, the right to request a hearing is waived, regardless of a request for hearing in the

motion. The response must state whether the attorney wants to cross-examine the declarants at the hearing.

(C) **Admissions.** If no response is filed, the factual allegations contained in the motion and supporting documents will be treated as admissions.

(D) **Discovery.** The Court will allow discovery only if good cause is shown.

(E) **Hearing.** The Court will hold a hearing if timely requested by any party or if the Court determines that a hearing will materially contribute to its consideration of the motion.

(F) **Declarations in Support of Motion.** Subject to appropriate objection, the Court will admit in evidence the declarations submitted in support of the motion as the direct testimony of the respective declarants. If the attorney filed a timely response to the motion and expressly requested a hearing and the opportunity to cross-examine the declarants, counsel for the State Bar will produce the declarants at the hearing.

(G) **Declarations in Response.** If the attorney filed declarations in response to the motion, then, subject to appropriate objection, the Court will admit in evidence the declarations as the direct testimony of the respective declarants only if:

(1) the attorney produces the declarant at the hearing for cross-examination, or

(2) counsel for the State Bar waives the right to cross-examine the declarant.

(H) **No Hearing**. If no hearing is held, the Court will receive in evidence declarations and exhibits submitted in support of and in opposition to the motion. The admissibility of this evidence is subject to the Court's ruling on any appropriate objections asserted by the attorney in the response to the motion or by the State Bar in a writing filed and served within five court days after the response is served.

(I) **Order.** The Court will issue a written order stating its reasons for the recommended action.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; September 19, 2025.

Rule 5.315 Involuntary Inactive Enrollment in Probation Matters

In a probation revocation proceeding, or in an original disciplinary proceeding for violating Business and Professions Code § 6068(k), if the Court finds that each element of Business and Professions Code § 6007(d) has occurred, the Court may order the attorney transferred to involuntary inactive enrollment. The order takes effect three days after service, unless otherwise ordered by the judge. The involuntary inactive enrollment terminates when the conditions in § 6007(d)(2) occur.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.316 Review

A ruling on a motion to revoke probation is reviewable on an expedited basis under rule 5.151.

Rule 5.317 Applicable Rules

(A) **Inapplicable.** The following rules do not apply in probation revocation proceedings:

(1) rules that by their terms apply only to other specific proceedings, and

(2) rule 5.41 (notice of disciplinary charges); rule 5.43 (response to notice of disciplinary charges); rules 5.80-5.86 (default); and rule 5.103 (State Bar's burden of proof).

(B) Conditionally Applicable. The following rules apply in probation revocation proceedings in certain circumstances:

(1) rule 5.65 (discovery) only if and to the extent that the Court permits discovery;

(2) rule 5.100 (obligation to appear at trial) only if a hearing is held; and

(3) rule 5.104 (rules of evidence) subject to the provisions of rule 5.314.

DIVISION 6. SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS

Chapter 1. Rule 9.20 Proceedings

Rule 5.330 Nature of Proceeding

A rule 9.20 proceeding is one in which the attorney is charged with failing to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court as ordered by the Supreme Court. These rules apply to rule 9.20 proceedings.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.331 Definitions

(A) Rule 9.20. As used in these rules, "rule 9.20" refers to rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court, and "rule 9.20 order" means an order requiring an attorney to comply with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court.

(B) "Declaration of Compliance" Defined. A declaration signed by an attorney to comply or attempt to comply with a rule 9.20 order.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.332 Filing and Service of Declarations of Compliance

(A) Proof of Service. All declarations of compliance must be accompanied by proof of service on the Office of Probation.

(B) Mandatory Filing. The Clerk of the State Bar Court must file all declarations of compliance, regardless of their form or the date submitted.

(C) No Proof of Service. If the Clerk of the State Bar Court receives a declaration that is not accompanied by proof of service on the Office of Probation, the Clerk will file the declaration and serve it on the Office of Probation.

Rule 5.333 Time for Filing Proceeding Based on Untimely or Formally Defective Declaration

(A) Untimely or Defective Filing. Any notice of disciplinary charges alleging that a declaration of compliance was untimely filed or was defective in form must be filed

within 90 days after the declaration is served on the Office of Probation, unless the Court permits a later filing for good cause shown.

(B) **Time Limit Inapplicable.** This time limit does not apply to a notice of disciplinary charges alleging a substantive defect in a declaration of compliance or alleging failure to file any declaration of compliance.

(C) **Defects in Substance.** For purposes of this rule, if a declaration of compliance fails to state that the attorney fully complied with the requirements of rule 9.20(a), the failure is a defect in substance and not a defect in form covered by this rule.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.334 Notice of Disciplinary Charges; Initial Pleading

After an attorney allegedly fails to comply with a rule 9.20 order, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file and serve a notice of disciplinary charges under rule 9.20. A copy of the order must be attached as an exhibit to the notice, which must comply with rule 5.41(B). The notice is also the initial pleading in a rule 9.20 proceeding.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.335 Response to Notice of Disciplinary Charges

The attorney must file and serve a verified response to the notice of disciplinary charges as provided in rule 5.43.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.336 Record

The State Bar Court record includes all court orders and documents on file with the Clerk of the State Bar Court in the proceeding. The record must contain the rule 9.20 order and all documents submitted by the attorney to comply or attempt to comply with or respond to the order, whether or not introduced in evidence.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.337 Expedited Proceeding; Limited Discovery

(A) **Expedition.** A proceeding charging a failure to comply with a rule 9.20 order will be expedited.

(B) **Discovery By Chief Trial Counsel.** After the due date for filing the response, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may conduct discovery without leave of court only for the following limited issues:

(1) For all matters that were pending when the rule 9.20 order was filed, counsel may discover:

(a) the names, addresses and telephone numbers of clients;

(b) the case numbers and names of any litigation filed in a court, and the names of the courts in which pending litigation was filed; and

(c) the names, addresses and telephone numbers of co-counsel and opposing counsel (or in the absence of counsel, the adverse party) in pending litigation; and

(d) the names, addresses and telephone numbers of any person or entity to which the attorney was required by rule 9.20 to deliver papers or property or refund fees that had not been earned, including whether such delivery or refund was actually accomplished.

(2) The documents used to provide notice, as required by rule 9.20, to clients, courts, co-counsel, and opposing counsel (or in the absence of counsel, the adverse party).

(C) **Other Discovery**. Neither party may conduct any other discovery unless the Court allows it for good cause shown.

(D) **Applicable Rules**. Unless specific to another proceeding by their terms, all other rules apply.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 20, 2022.

Chapter 2. Conviction Proceedings

Rule 5.340 Nature of Proceedings

These rules apply to proceedings that result from an attorney's criminal conviction or sentence of incarceration for 90 days or more and are held under Business and Professions Code §§ 6007, 6101 and 6102, California Rules of Court, rule 9.10, and these Rules of Procedure of the State Bar.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.341 Beginning Proceedings

(A) **Initiation of proceedings.** Conviction proceedings are initiated in the Review Department of the State Bar Court when the Office of Chief Trial Counsel files a certified copy of the record of conviction or sentence of incarceration for 90 days or more. If the conviction is not final as defined in California Rules of Court, rule 9.10(a), but becomes final later, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must file a supplemental record of conviction containing sufficient proof that the conviction is final. Any record of conviction or sentence of incarceration for 90 days or more filed must be served on the attorney under rule 5.25.

(B) **Optional Prefiling Settlement Conference for Misdemeanor Convictions.** For misdemeanor convictions only, prior to filing a certified copy of the record of conviction, if the Office of Chief Trial Counsel believes that a prefiling settlement conference may affect its determination whether the misdemeanor conviction involves or may involve moral turpitude or other conduct warranting discipline, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may, but is not required to, request a prefiling settlement conference.

(1) **Scheduling Conference.** Within three days of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's receipt of the certified record of conviction, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will notify the attorney in writing, via email, that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has elected to request a prefiling settlement conference. The written notice must include the record of conviction and must state that the attorney may be ordered to pay costs pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.10, and monetary sanctions pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar. Within three days from the date of the written notice, the attorney must notify the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, in writing, via email, whether the attorney joins in the request for a prefiling settlement conference. If the attorney joins in the request for a prefiling settlement conference, then, within three days from the date of the attorney's notice of joinder, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will request a Prefiling Settlement Conference using the court-approved form located on the court's website and following the directions provided. A State Bar Court hearing judge will conduct the conference within 14 days of the request.

(2) **Meet and Confer; Settlement Conference Statements; Confidentiality.** Pursuant to Rule 5.52.4, the parties shall meet and confer prior to the Prefiling Settlement Conference. Pursuant to rule 1206 of the Rules of Practice of the State Bar Court, each party shall lodge with the court, but not file, a settlement conference statement. The statement must be clearly marked as such, may be in letter form, must indicate in the heading the date and time of the scheduled settlement conference, and must be addressed to the settlement conference judge. Settlement conference statements may, but are not required to, be served on the opposing party. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel must submit a copy of the record of conviction, a summary of the facts demonstrating that the conviction involves or may involve moral turpitude or other misconduct warranting discipline, and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's settlement position, including the amount of monetary sanctions being sought and the reasons. Each party may submit documents and information to support its position with the settlement conference statement. The failure of either party to submit the settlement conference statement and other required documentation within the specified time may result in the conference being cancelled. The content of discussions and written statements made in connection with the Prefiling Settlement Conference and the meet and confer process are confidential and subject to rule 5.52.6.

(3) **Stipulation for Approval; Assignment of Trial Judge.** If the parties resolve the matter in a way that requires court approval, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must document the resolution and submit it to the prefiling settlement judge for approval or rejection. If the matter does not settle prefiling, unless otherwise stipulated by the parties, the prefiling settlement judge cannot be the trial judge in a later proceeding involving the same facts.

(4) **Failure to Conduct Requested Conference.** If, for whatever reason, a requested prefiling settlement conference is not conducted within 28 days of the Office of

Chief Trial Counsel's receipt of the certified record of conviction, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may proceed to file the certified record of conviction in the Review Department.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; July 1, 2024.

Rule 5.342 Interim Suspension or Involuntary Inactive Enrollment

(A) **Review Department Examination**. The Review Department will examine the record of conviction or sentence of incarceration for 90 days or more:

(1) If any ground for suspension set forth in Business and Professions Code § 6102(a) is present, the Review Department may interimly suspend the attorney until a further order of the Review Department or until final disposition of the conviction proceeding.

(2) If any ground for involuntary inactive enrollment set forth in Business and Professions Code § 6007(c)(5) is present, the Review Department shall order involuntary inactive enrollment and order the attorney to comply with rule 9.20 of the Rules of Court.

(B) **Filing and Responding to Briefs**. Within 10 days after the initial record of conviction or sentence of incarceration for 90 days or more is served, either party may file a brief addressing whether grounds for interim suspension under § 6102(a) or grounds for involuntary inactive enrollment under § 6007(c)(5) are present. The brief may include evidence from the record of the proceedings resulting in the conviction or sentence of incarceration, including a transcript of any testimony. The opposing party has 10 days after the brief is served to file and serve a written response.

(C) **Misdemeanor Conviction and Moral Turpitude.** In cases involving misdemeanor convictions, the Review Department, on its own or on motion of any party, may direct the Hearing Department to conduct a hearing for the sole purpose of resolving factual issues as to whether there is probable cause to believe that the conviction involved moral turpitude, and if found, to make a recommendation whether interim suspension should be imposed. Proceedings pursuant to this subsection will be conducted as follows:

(1) the Court may allow discovery only if good cause is shown;

(2) within 30 days after the referral order, each party must file and serve:

(a) a list of all witnesses to be called at the hearing, except for impeachment or rebuttal; and

(b) copies of all exhibits to be offered.

(3) a hearing will be held within 45 days after the referral order is served. The court will file and submit its report to the Review Department within 15 days after the hearing concludes.

(4) rules 5.80-5.86 do not apply to these proceedings. If an attorney fails to appear at the hearing in person or by counsel, the hearing will proceed unless the court continues it for good cause.

(5) a recommendation for interim suspension is reviewable under rule 5.150.

(D) Motion to Vacate, or to Delay or Stay Order for Interim Suspension or Involuntary Inactive Enrollment. At any time while a conviction proceeding is pending in the State Bar Court, an attorney may file a motion in the Review Department to vacate, delay the effective date of, or temporarily stay the effect of an order of interim suspension or involuntary inactive enrollment. Rule 5.162 of these rules governs the motions.

(E) Review of Order for Involuntary Inactive Enrollment. An order granting or denying involuntary inactive enrollment under § 6007(c)(5) is reviewable under rule 5.150.

(F) Eligibility After Order for Involuntary Inactive Enrollment. An attorney who has been transferred to inactive enrollment under § 6007(c)(5) may petition for transfer to active enrollment, with or without interim remedies, pursuant to Chapter 7, rules 5.240-5.253.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019; March 15, 2019.

Rule 5.343 Summary Disbarment

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file a motion for the attorney's summary disbarment under Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (c)(1) or (2). The Office of Chief Trial Counsel's motion must include the amount of monetary sanctions sought pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, whether a payment plan or extension of time will be allowed and the specifics of such plan or extension, or whether a waiver of the monetary sanction is agreed to, and the reasons for the above. The motion must be filed concurrently with the record of conviction showing that the conviction is final. The attorney's written response must be filed within 10 days after the motion is served. If the motion is pursuant to (c)(2), the Review Department may refer the case to the Hearing Department to determine if the facts and circumstances involve moral turpitude.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.344 Final Convictions

(A) Convictions Not Subject to Summary Disbarment. After a conviction that is not subject to summary disbarment is final, the Review Department will refer the case to the Hearing Department to hear the case and decide the issues in the order of referral.

(B) Waiver of Finality. At any time before a conviction becomes final, an attorney may file a notice waiving finality and asking the Review Department to refer the case to the Hearing Department to hear and decide the case.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.345 Hearing Department Proceedings

(A) Referred Proceeding; Notice. When a conviction proceeding is referred under rule 5.344, the Clerk will file and serve under rule 5.25 a notice of hearing on conviction. A copy of the order of referral must be attached to the notice as an exhibit. The notice must state that the attorney may be ordered to pay costs pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and monetary sanctions pursuant to

section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, and must include the following language in capital letters:

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

(1) YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;

(2) YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;

(3) YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE; AND

(4) YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE. SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT AND MAY RECOMMEND THE IMPOSITION OF MONETARY SANCTIONS WITHOUT FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. (SEE RULES PROC. OF STATE BAR, RULES 5.80 ET SEQ. & 5.137). UNDER THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR, YOU MUST FILE YOUR WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER THIS NOTICE IS SERVED."

(B) **Response** to Notice. The attorney must file and serve a response to the notice within 20 days after it is served, unless the court grants an extension. The response must state the attorney's position on the issues stated in the order of referral and must contain an address for service on the attorney.

(C) **State Bar Court Record.** The State Bar Court record includes all court orders and documents on file with the Clerk of the State Bar Court in the proceeding, whether or not introduced in evidence. The evidence may include that permitted by Business and Professions Code section 6102, subdivision (g).

(D) **Deposition.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may take the respondent's deposition after service of the answer to the notice of hearing on conviction is filed. A respondent who does not reside in California must be given 30 days' written notice of the time and place of the deposition and must appear for it in California at his or her own expense. The deposition may, however, be conducted remotely in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure section 2025.310

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021; January 20, 2022.

Rule 5.346 Defaults

(A) **Procedure.** If an attorney does not file a response to the notice of hearing on conviction or fails to appear at trial, the default procedures in rules 5.80-5.86 apply as modified by this rule.

(B) **Definitions.** References in the default rules to "notice of disciplinary charges" will be treated as references to "notice of hearing on conviction." References to factual allegations deemed admitted will be treated as references to the factual allegations set forth in the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's statement of facts and circumstances

surrounding the conviction filed under section (C) of this rule. The wording of the notices required by the default rules will be modified accordingly.

(C) **Statement of Facts and Circumstances.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel must recite the facts and circumstances surrounding the conviction that it contends warrant the imposition of discipline and it has clear and convincing evidence to prove as follows:

(1) When the default is based on a failure to file a timely response, the statement must be included in the motion for entry of default under rule 5.80.

(2) When the default is based on a failure to appear at trial, the statement must be filed and served on the attorney under rule 5.25 no later than five days after the default order is served. The statement must include the following language in prominent type: "Because you failed to appear at trial, the Court has entered your default and will deem the following statement of facts deemed admitted."

(D) Upon entry of the attorney's default under rule 5.80, or 10 days after service of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's statement of facts and circumstances surrounding the conviction under subsection (C)(2) of this rule, the factual allegations in the statement will be treated as admitted by the attorney, unless the Court orders otherwise based on contrary evidence. No further proof will be required to establish the truth of those facts.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.347 Applicable Rules

All rules of procedure apply except the following:

(A) **General**. Rules that by their terms apply only to other specific proceedings do not apply in conviction proceedings; and

(B) **Conditional.** Rules 5.80-5.86 (default) apply as modified by these conviction proceedings rules.

Eff. July 1, 2014.

Chapter 3. Proceedings Based on Professional Misconduct in Another Jurisdiction

Rule 5.350 Scope and Nature of Proceeding

These rules apply to proceedings under Business and Professions Code § 6049.1(b). A proceeding under these rules will be expedited.

Rule 5.351 How Commenced; Notice of Disciplinary Charges; Response

(A) **Beginning Proceeding.** A proceeding begins when a notice of disciplinary charges is filed and served on the attorney.

(B) **Notice.** A notice of disciplinary charges issued under these rules may state that its only basis is the findings and final order of the other jurisdiction that imposed discipline on

the attorney. The notice must give sufficient detail to permit identification of the foreign disciplinary proceeding. The notice of disciplinary charges must also cite the California statutes or rules allegedly violated or that warrant the proposed action, and designate the specific finding(s) in the foreign proceeding supporting each allegation. The notice must state that the attorney may be ordered to pay costs pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.10 and monetary sanctions pursuant to section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, and must have attachments:

(1) a certified copy of the foreign jurisdiction's findings and final order; and

(2) a copy of the statutes, rules, or court orders of the foreign jurisdiction found to have been violated by the attorney.

(C) Response. Within 20 days after the notice of disciplinary charges is served, the attorney must file with the Clerk and serve on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel a response limited to the issues set forth in Business and Professions Code section 6049.1, subdivision (b)(1)-(3).

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Rule 5.352 No Formal Discovery Except for Good Cause Shown

The Court may allow formal discovery on a showing of good cause and then only on the terms and conditions ordered.

Rule 5.353 Record

A certified copy of any portion of the record of another jurisdiction's disciplinary proceedings, conducted as specified in Business and Professions Code § 6049.1(a), is admissible in evidence.

Rule 5.354 Applicable Rules

(A) Inapplicable. Rules that by their terms apply only to other specific proceedings do not apply in proceedings under Business and Professions Code § 6049.1(b).

(B) Conditionally Applicable. The following rules apply only in certain circumstances:

(1) rules 5.41(notice of disciplinary charges) and 5.43 (response to notice of disciplinary charges) apply subject to the provisions of rule 5.351; and

(2) rules 5.65-5.71 (discovery) apply only if and to the extent that the Court permits discovery.

(C) Other. All other rules apply.

Chapter 4. Fee Arbitration Award Enforcement Proceedings

Rule 5.360 Nature of Proceeding; Definitions

(A) Scope. These rules apply to proceedings to enforce fee arbitration awards under Business and Professions Code § 6203(d).

(B) **Supplemental Definitions.** For purposes of rules 5.360-5.371, the following definitions supplement those of rule 5.4:

(1) "Arbitration award" means an award made in a fee arbitration under § 6203 in which an attorney was ordered to pay a refund to a client. The award is binding or has become binding either by operation of law after confirmation under § 6203(c) or by a judgment in a post-arbitration trial under Business and Professions Code § 6204.

(2) "Award debtor" means an attorney who must pay a refund to a client under an arbitration award.

(3) "Client" means a client or former client of an attorney to whom the attorney must pay a refund under an arbitration award.

(4) "Inactive enrollment motion" means a motion to place an award debtor on involuntary inactive enrollment under § 6203(d).

(5) "Presiding Arbitrator," or his or her designee, means the person responsible for supervising arbitrators hearing State Bar mandatory fee arbitrations under Business and Professions Code §§ 6200 et seq.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.361 Initial Pleading; Service

(A) **Beginning Proceeding.** A proceeding under this chapter begins when the Presiding Arbitrator files an inactive enrollment motion. The motion must be accompanied by a certified copy of the arbitration award and by declarations and exhibits necessary to establish the statutory requirements for involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code § 6203(d). The motion must contain the following language in bold-face type:

"NOTICE: If you do not file a timely response to this motion and request a hearing, you will waive your right to a hearing regarding your involuntary inactive enrollment."

(B) **Service of Motion.** The Presiding Arbitrator must serve the inactive enrollment motion and supporting documents on the award debtor under rule 5.25.

(C) **Service of Later Pleadings.** Later pleadings must be served on the award debtor under rule 5.26. The award debtor must serve the Presiding Arbitrator under rule 5.26 at the address shown on the inactive enrollment motion.

Rule 5.362 Response; Failure to File Response; Amending or Supplementing Initial Pleading

(A) **Debtor's Response to Motion.** The award debtor must file and serve a response to the inactive enrollment motion within 10 days after the inactive enrollment motion is served. The response must be supported by declarations and exhibits, if any, setting forth the factual basis for the award debtor's contentions about the motion.

(B) **No Response.** If the award debtor does not respond to the inactive enrollment motion, and if it appears to the Court from the motion and supporting documents that the statutory requirements for involuntary inactive enrollment are satisfied, the Court must order the award debtor to be placed on involuntary inactive enrollment. Unless otherwise ordered, the order takes effect five days after it is served.

(C) **Amending or Supplementing Motion.** If the award debtor files a response or if the Court denies the motion despite no response, the Presiding Arbitrator may file an amendment or supplement to the inactive enrollment motion within five court days after the response or the Court's order denying the motion is served.

Rule 5.363 Withdrawal of Motion

(A) **Discretionary Withdrawal of Motion.** The Presiding Arbitrator may withdraw the inactive enrollment motion if the award debtor files a response to the inactive enrollment motion stating that the arbitration award has been paid in full, or that the award debtor is willing to agree to and comply with a payment plan satisfactory to the client or the Presiding Arbitrator.

(B) **Mandatory Withdrawal of Motion.** The Presiding Arbitrator must withdraw the inactive enrollment motion filed pursuant to this rule if the Presiding Arbitrator determines that the award debtor has filed for federal bankruptcy protection under any chapter of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised March 1, 2021.

Rule 5.364 Request for Hearing; Waiver of Hearing

If the award debtor files a timely response to the inactive enrollment motion and requests a hearing, the Court will set a hearing and give at least 20 days' notice. If the award debtor does not file a timely response and request a hearing, the award debtor waives the right to a hearing.

Rule 5.365 Burden of Proof

In proceedings on an inactive enrollment motion under these rules:

(A) **Presiding Arbitrator**. The Presiding Arbitrator has the burden to show by clear and convincing evidence that either:

(1) the award debtor has failed to comply with the arbitration award and has not proposed a payment plan acceptable to the client or the State Bar, or

(2) the award debtor agreed to a payment plan and has failed to make one or more payments required by the payment plan.

(B) **Award Debtor.** The award debtor has the burden to show by clear and convincing evidence that he or she:

(1) is not personally responsible for making or ensuring payment of the arbitration award;

(2) is unable to pay the arbitration award or the payments due under a previously agreed payment plan; or

(3) has proposed, and agrees to comply with, a payment plan that the State Bar unreasonably rejected as unsatisfactory.

Rule 5.366 Discovery

For good cause, the Court may permit limited discovery. Otherwise, there is no discovery in a proceeding under these rules.

Rule 5.367 Hearing Procedure; Evidence

(A) **Issues.** In a hearing, the issues are limited to whether the award debtor:

(1) has failed to comply with the arbitration award or with any previously agreed payment plan;

(2) has proposed a payment plan acceptable to the client or the State Bar;

(3) has proposed a payment plan that the State Bar unreasonably rejected as unsatisfactory;

(4) is personally responsible for making or ensuring payment of the arbitration award; or

(5) is unable to pay the arbitration award or any payments due under a previously agreed payment plan.

(B) **Declarations.** Subject to appropriate objection, the Court will admit in evidence the declarations submitted in support of and in response to the inactive enrollment motion as the direct testimony of the respective declarants.

(C) **Cross-Examination.** In a pleading, an opposing party may ask that a declarant be produced for cross-examination at the hearing. If the request is filed and served at least 10 days before the hearing or, if the declaration was filed under rule 5.362, within three court days after the declaration was served, then the party that filed the declaration must produce the declarant as requested.

Rule 5.368 Ruling on Motion; Costs

(A) **Contents of Order.** The Court will issue a written order on the inactive enrollment motion, stating its reasons for its decision and making findings on any disputed factual issues.

(B) **Motion Granted.** If the order grants the motion, then:

(1) unless otherwise ordered, the order takes effect five days after it is served, and

(2) when the Presiding Arbitrator submits a bill of costs, the Court will award reasonable costs to the State Bar under Business and Professions Code § 6203(d)(3).

(C) **Definition of Reasonable Costs.** For the purpose of this rule, reasonable costs include all expenses paid by the State Bar that would qualify as taxable costs recoverable in civil proceedings, plus the amount that the Discipline Committee from time to time determines to be the reasonable administrative costs to the State Bar and the Court of

processing inactive enrollment motions under these rules. Relief from costs may be sought under rule 5.130.

(D) Unreasonably Rejected Payment Plan. If the Court finds that the State Bar unreasonably rejected a payment plan proposed by the award debtor, the Court may deny the motion and order the award debtor to comply with a payment plan satisfactory to the Court.

Rule 5.369 Review

(A) Ruling on Motion. A ruling by a hearing judge on an inactive enrollment motion under these rules is reviewable under rule 5.150.

(B) Stay of Order. An order granting an inactive enrollment motion will not be stayed pending review unless ordered by the Court under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.370 Termination of Inactive Enrollment

(A) Termination Upon Payment. When the award debtor has paid in full the arbitration award plus any costs and penalties assessed because of the award debtor's failure to comply, the award debtor may move to terminate an involuntary inactive enrollment ordered under these rules.

(1) **Motion; Response.** The motion must be accompanied by one or more declarations and by proof of payment. It must be served on the Presiding Arbitrator, who has 10 court days after service to respond.

(2) **Order.** When the Presiding Arbitrator files the response or the time to file the response expires, the Court will promptly issue an order on the motion. If the Court finds that the arbitration award and any costs and penalties have been paid, it will terminate any involuntary inactive enrollment ordered under this chapter.

(B) Termination Upon Notice of Bankruptcy. At any time after an order granting the inactive enrollment motion, if the Presiding Arbitrator determines that the award debtor has filed for federal bankruptcy protection under any chapter of the United States Bankruptcy Code, and unless an involuntary inactive enrollment ordered under these rules has already been terminated or the State Bar's enforcement efforts have otherwise been concluded, the Presiding Arbitrator must move to terminate an involuntary inactive enrollment ordered under these rules.

(1) **Motion.** The motion must be accompanied by a copy of the notice of bankruptcy filed in the federal court. The motion must be served on the award debtor. No response by the award debtor shall be required.

(2) **Order.** Upon receipt of a motion showing that the award debtor has filed for federal bankruptcy protection, the Court must, as soon as reasonably practicable, order the inactive enrollment terminated. Any such order of termination will apply only to the involuntary inactive enrollment order issued under these rules, and will be without regard to any other basis for an attorney's inactive enrollment.

(3) **Effect of Bankruptcy Dismissal.** Upon receiving notice that the award debtor's bankruptcy filing has been dismissed by the bankruptcy court, the Presiding Arbitrator may subsequently file a new inactive enrollment motion pursuant to rule 5.361.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised March 1, 2021.

Rule 5.371 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in a proceeding on an inactive enrollment motion under these rules:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings.

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.44(A), (C), and (D) (amended pleadings); 5.50 (abatement); rules 5.60-5.71 (subpoenas and discovery); rules 5.80-5.102 (default; obligation to appear at trial; pretrial; notice of trial); rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014.

Chapter 5. Alternative Discipline Program

Rule 5.380 Purpose of Program; Authority

These rules apply to proceedings before the State Bar Court in which an attorney is identified as having a substance abuse or mental health issue and is seeking to participate in or has been accepted to participate in the State Bar Court's Alternative Discipline Program ("Program" or "ADP").

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.381 Eligibility to Apply for Participation in Program

(A) **Before Proceeding Begins.** An attorney is not eligible to participate in ADP until after a State Bar Court proceeding has been initiated by the filing of a Notice of Disciplinary Charges or the referral of a criminal conviction case to the State Bar Court's Hearing Department. Before a proceeding in the State Bar Court begins, a judge assigned to conduct a Prefiling Settlement Conference under rule 5.30 or rule 5.341(B) may discuss the attorney's eligibility to participate in the Program. If formal charges are filed, the prefiling settlement judge may be the Program Judge.

(B) **After Proceeding Begins.** At any time after a proceeding in the State Bar Court begins, at the request of either the attorney or the Office of Chief Trial Counsel or on the court's own motion, the court may, in its discretion, refer an attorney to a judge who shall serve as the Program Judge to preside over the matter for all Program proceedings and determinations subject to rules 5.382 to 5.387.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.382 Acceptance for Participation in Program

(A) **Conditions for Participation.** The Program Judge has the discretion to accept an attorney for participation in the Program if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) the Program Judge determines that the attorney is eligible to participate in the Program under the criteria set out in section (C) of this rule;

(2) the attorney is accepted into the State Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program;

(3) the Program Judge approves a stipulation of facts and conclusions of law signed by the parties in accordance with section (B) of this rule;

(4) the attorney or OCTC presents evidence sufficient for the Program Judge to determine that the attorney's substance abuse or mental health issue causally contributed to the misconduct; and

(5) the attorney satisfies any additional conditions that the Program Judge may impose.

(B) **No Stipulation or Incomplete Stipulation.** If the parties do not sign and submit a stipulation of facts and conclusions of law to the Program Judge for approval within 90 days after the date the attorney was referred to the Program to determine eligibility, the Program Judge may return the proceeding for processing as a standard discipline proceeding. The stipulation must resolve all relevant facts and conclusions of law.

(C) **Grounds for Ineligibility.** An attorney will not be accepted to participate in the Program if:

(1) the Program Judge finds, in the exercise of that judge's discretion, that the stipulation of facts and conclusions of law, including aggravating factors, signed by the attorney and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, shows that the attorney's disbarment is required, despite mitigating circumstances and even assuming successful completion of the Program;

(2) the Program Judge determines as a matter of law that the attorney has been convicted of a criminal offense that subjects the attorney to summary disbarment under Business and Professions Code section 6102(c)(1);

(3) the Program Judge finds that the stipulation of facts and conclusions of law shows by clear and convincing evidence that the attorney has been convicted of a criminal offense that subjects the attorney to summary disbarment under Business and Professions Code section 6102(c)(2); or

(4) the Program Judge finds that the stipulation of facts and conclusions of law shows by clear and convincing evidence that the attorney's current misconduct involves acts of dishonesty or corruption that have resulted in significant harm to one or more clients, the public, or the administration of justice; or

(5) the Program Judge determines that the attorney has previously participated in the Program and has either successfully completed the Program or been terminated from the Program.

(D) **Evidence and Findings.** In making findings pursuant to subsections (C)(1), (3), and (4) of this rule, the Program Judge may consider all of the stipulated facts and conclusions of law.

(E) **Timely Submission of Stipulation and Other Materials.** The Program Judge may, in the exercise of the judge's discretion, set deadlines for the parties to submit a proposed stipulation, the evidence required by subsection (A)(4) above, or any other materials the Program Judge determines are needed for the Program Judge to make a finding of acceptance or nonacceptance into the Program.

(F) **Effect of Nonacceptance.** Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, if the attorney is not accepted into the Program or refuses to sign the written agreement of the terms and conditions for participating in the Program, then any stipulation of facts and conclusions of law signed by the parties in the pending disciplinary proceeding and entered into as a condition for participating in the Program will be rejected and will not be binding on either the attorney or the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.383 Disqualification of Program Judge in Standard Proceeding

(A) **Standard Discipline Proceeding.** If the attorney is not admitted into the Program and the proceeding is returned for processing as a standard disciplinary proceeding, the Program Judge may not serve as the assigned judge in the proceeding.

(B) **Exception to Disqualification.** The Program Judge may be assigned the standard disciplinary proceeding if:

(1) the parties agree on the record; or

(2) the Program Judge has neither received a stipulation to the facts and conclusions of law signed by the parties nor received confidential evaluation, treatment, or nexus information about the attorney.

(C) **Definition of "Nexus."** As used here, the term "nexus" means clear and convincing evidence that the substance abuse or mental health issue causally contributed to the attorney's misconduct.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.384 Disposition; Deferral of Imposition

(A) **Statement of Disposition.** If an attorney seeking to participate in the Program has stipulated to the facts and conclusions of law in the pending disciplinary proceeding and has agreed to or has fulfilled all other conditions for participating in the Program, the Program Judge will give the attorney a written statement regarding:

(1) the disposition that will be implemented or recommended to the Supreme Court if the attorney successfully completes the Program; and

(2) the disposition that will be implemented or recommended to the Supreme Court if the attorney does not complete the Program.

(B) **Range of Dispositions.** If the attorney:

(1) successfully completes the Program, the disposition may be as low as dismissal of the charges or proceeding, with the exception that if the Program Judge determines, based on the stipulation of facts and conclusions of law, that the attorney's conduct involves one or more acts of moral turpitude that have resulted in significant harm to one or more clients, the public, or the administration of justice, the disposition may be no lower than:

(a) in the absence of compelling mitigating circumstances, a recommendation to the Supreme Court that includes an actual suspension; or

(b) a recommendation to the Supreme Court that includes a suspension, stayed or actual.

(2) does not complete the Program, the disposition may be as high as disbarment. The extent and severity of the attorney's stipulated misconduct, including the degree of harm suffered by his or her clients, are factors in determining the disposition implemented or recommended.

(C) Victim's Statement. Any person who has been harmed by the stipulated conduct of the attorney may submit a written statement setting forth the nature and extent of the harm caused by the attorney's conduct. The Program Judge must consider the victims' written statements in determining the degree of harm suffered by the attorney's client(s) and in determining the appropriate dispositions to be implemented or recommended in the proceeding.

(D) Delay in Implementation and Recommendation. If the attorney is accepted to participate in the Program, the stipulation of facts and conclusions of law will be filed and public, but the proposed disposition will not be implemented or transmitted to the Supreme Court until the attorney either successfully completes the Program or is terminated from the Program.

(E) Placement on Inactive Status. Unless the Program Judge finds, in writing, that inactive enrollment is not necessary for the protection of the public or of attorney's clients, the Program Judge must immediately place the attorney on inactive status if:

(1) the attorney is accepted to participate in the Program, and

(2) upon the attorney's successful completion of the Program, the disposition recommended to the Supreme Court will include an actual suspension of at least 90 days.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.385 Term of Participation in Program

(A) Minimum Time. To successfully complete the Program, an attorney must participate in the Program for 36 months from the date of acceptance to the Program. But if the attorney earns the incentives specified in the written agreement signed by the attorney, the Court may shorten the Program term to as little as 18 months.

(B) Certification. No attorney may successfully complete the Program unless the Lawyer Assistance Program certifies that he or she has been substance-free for at least one

year, or in the case of an attorney with mental health issues, a mental health professional's recommendation that is satisfactory to the Program Judge.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.386 Effect of Later Proceedings on Program Participation

(A) **Requirements for Incorporation of New Matters.** Before any additional inquiry, investigation or proceeding against the attorney, not included in the approved stipulation, can be incorporated into an existing ADP proceeding, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must file a Notice of Disciplinary Charges or the Review Department must refer a criminal conviction case to the Hearing Department relating to the new matter.

(B) **Misconduct after Admittance to Program.** An inquiry, investigation, or proceeding against the attorney in which the alleged misconduct occurred after the attorney's admittance to the Program may not be incorporated into the ADP proceeding without the stipulation of the parties and the approval of the Program Judge. If incorporated into the ADP proceeding, any new matter may result in changes to previously set levels of discipline. The attorney's culpability for later acts of misconduct, if proved by clear and convincing evidence, may constitute grounds to terminate the attorney from the Program.

(C) **Misconduct before Admittance to Program.** An inquiry, investigation or proceeding against the attorney in which the alleged misconduct occurred before the attorney's admittance to the Program may be incorporated into the ADP proceeding, if:

(1) the parties stipulate to the facts and conclusions of law about the additional acts of misconduct; and

(2) the attorney accepts any modifications to the alternative levels of disposition and conditions of participation recommended by the Program Judge.

(D) **Release from Program**. The attorney will be released from the Program if:

(1) the parties do not agree to stipulate to the facts and conclusions of law under section (C) of this rule; or

(2) the attorney refuses to accept the modified alternative levels of disposition recommended by the Program Judge.

(E) **Release to Standard Disciplinary Proceeding.** If the attorney is released under section (D), the entire proceeding will be assigned to another judge as a standard disciplinary proceeding and:

(1) the Program Judge's written statement regarding the proposed disposition or recommendation to the Supreme Court is vacated; and

(2) the original stipulation of facts and conclusions of law that the parties signed when the attorney entered the Program remains binding on the parties.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.387 Termination from Program

Before terminating an attorney from the Program for failure to comply with Program requirements, the Court will issue an order to show cause notifying the parties of the Court's intent to terminate the attorney from the Program and the proposed reasons for the termination. Within 10 days after the order to show cause is served, the parties may file a response. If timely requested by one or both of the parties in a written response, the Court will hold a hearing on the order.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.388 Confidentiality

(A) **Program; Pleadings; Order.** The fact that an attorney is currently in the Program and any pleadings or orders filed in the proceeding, including the stipulation as to facts and conclusions of law, will be public.

(B) **Treatment.** All information about the nature and extent of the attorney's treatment is absolutely confidential and may not be disclosed to the public unless the attorney waives confidentiality in writing.

(C) **Documents Submitted to Court.** Documents that are submitted to the Court, including but not limited to, the Court's written statement of proposed disposition, the attorney's nexus evidence, the parties' briefs on the recommended disposition, and reports from the Lawyer Assistance Program about the attorney's compliance with Lawyer Assistance Program requirements, will not be public unless the Court orders the documents filed when the attorney successfully completes the Program or the attorney is terminated from the Program. When the proceeding concludes, all documents that the Court did not order to be filed will be sealed under rule 5.12.

(D) **Permitted Disclosure.** Despite subsection (C), the Court may provide the Office of Probation and the Client Security Fund with documents necessary to help the Office of Probation monitor the attorney's compliance with the Lawyer Assistance Program and this Program requirements and to help the Client Security Fund process any claim for reimbursement made against the Fund.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.389 Review

(A) **Decisions and Orders.** The following decisions and orders of the Program Judge may be reviewed by the Review Department:

(1) The Program Judge's decision to grant or deny the attorney admittance to the Program. The issues that may be raised on review may include, but are not limited to:

(a) whether the attorney meets the eligibility requirements for admittance to the Program, and

(b) the appropriate disposition or recommendation for the level of discipline.

(2) The Program Judge's decision to terminate an attorney from the Program or to deny the State Bar's motion to terminate the attorney from the Program.

(B) **Procedure.** The procedure in rule 5.150 applies, except that the Review Department will:

(1) independently review the record and may adopt findings, conclusions, and a decision or recommendation different from those of the Program Judge;

(2) decide matters before it under this rule en banc, but two judges of the Review Department will constitute a quorum; and

(3) file its opinion or order within 60 days after the matter is submitted.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.389.1 Use of Findings in Subsequent Proceedings

The Program Judge's findings pursuant to subsection (1), (3), or (4) of rule 5.382(C) will not be binding or admissible at any subsequent hearing or trial, whether as the result of the attorney's non-acceptance into the Program, the attorney's release from the Program pursuant to rule 5.386(D), or the attorney's termination from the Program pursuant to rule 5.387.

Eff. January 1, 2026.

Chapter 6. Legal Specialization Proceedings

Rule 5.390 Scope

These rules apply to proceedings and hearings before the State Bar Court pursuant to State Bar Rules, Title 3, Division 2, Chapter 2, rule 3.125, wherein an attorney can seek review of the denial of certification as a legal specialist, or suspension or revocation of such certification, by the Board of Legal Specialization. The State Bar Court will independently review the record and may make findings, conclusions, or a decision or recommendation different from those of the Board of Legal Specialization. The findings of fact of the Board of Legal Specialization are entitled to great weight.

Eff. July 24, 2015; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.391 Beginning Proceeding; Time for Filing

If the Board of Legal Specialization denies, suspends, or revokes an attorney's legal specialization certification, the attorney may file an application for a legal specialization certification proceeding and hearing. Within 30 days after notice of such denial, suspension or revocation is served, an application must be served under rule 5.25 and filed, accompanied by supporting documents, including a copy of the notice of denial, suspension or revocation, the applicable filing fee, and proof of service upon the Board of Legal Specialization and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel. The attorney may apply for waiver of the filing fee pursuant to rule 5.32.

Eff. July 24, 2015; Revised January 25, 2019, January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.392 Response to Application

Within 30 days after the filing of the motion, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will file with the Court and serve upon the attorney a response to the application.

Eff. July 24, 2015. Revised: January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.393 Discovery

(A) **Generally**. No discovery is permitted in a proceeding under these rules.

(B) **Limited Discovery.** For good cause, the Court may permit limited discovery.

Eff. July 24, 2015.

Rule 5.394 Issues Not Subject to Review

The following grounds for the Board of Legal Specialization's denial, suspension or revocation of a certificate as a legal specialist are not subject to review:

(A) Failure to pass the written legal specialist certification examination. The examination grades given by the readers or by the Board of Legal Specialization are deemed final and are not subject to review; and

(B) Denial, suspension or revocation by the Board of Legal Specialization based upon final disciplinary action by the Supreme Court, the State Bar Court or any other body authorized to impose professional discipline.

Eff. July 24, 2015.

Rule 5.395 Hearing Procedure; Evidence

(A) **Declarations**. Subject to appropriate objection, the Court will admit in evidence the declarations submitted in support of and in response to the action taken by the Board of Legal Specialization.

(B) **Cross-Examination**. In a pleading, an opposing party may ask that a declarant be produced for cross-examination at the hearing. If the request is filed and served at least 10 days before the hearing or, if the declaration was filed under rule 5.362, within three court days after the declaration was served, the party that filed the declaration must produce the declarant as requested.

Eff. July 24, 2015.

Rule 5.396 Burden of Proof

The burden of proof is on the attorney to prove by clear and convincing evidence that he or she satisfies the requirements for certification or recertification as a legal specialist.

Eff. July 24, 2015; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.397 Review

A ruling by the hearing judge under these rules is reviewable under rule 5.150.

Eff. July 24, 2015.

Rule 5.398 Effect of State Bar Court Decision

The decision of the hearing judge, or (if review is requested) the decision of the Review Department, is the final State Bar Court decision in the proceeding. Unless the California Supreme Court grants a petition for review, the decision is binding on the attorney, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, and the Board of Legal Specialization.

Eff. July 24, 2015; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.399 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in a legal specialization proceeding:

(A) **General**. Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific**. Rules 5.50 (abatement); rules 5.60-5.71 (subpoenas and discovery); rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); and rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence); rules 5.151-5.108 (review).

Eff. July 24, 2015.

DIVISION 7. REGULATORY PROCEEDINGS

Chapter 1. Proceedings to Demonstrate Rehabilitation, Fitness, and Present Learning and Ability in the Law According to Standard 1.2(c)(1)

Rule 5.400 Scope and Expedited Nature of Proceeding

(A) **Scope.** These rules apply when a petitioner seeks relief from actual suspension under a disciplinary order that requires compliance with standard 1.2(c)(1), Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct.

(B) **Service.** The petition and all pleadings, decisions and other documents must be served by personal delivery or by overnight mail.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.401 Petition for Relief from Actual Suspension

(A) **Verification; Statements.** The petitioner must verify the petition for relief and state with particularity the facts alleged to demonstrate the petitioner's rehabilitation, present fitness to practice, and present learning and ability in the general law.

(B) **Attachments.** The petition must be supported by declarations, exhibits, or requests for judicial notice to establish the alleged facts.

(C) **Filing and Service.** No filing fee will be charged to file the petition. The petitioner must serve a copy of the verified petition and supporting documents on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel by personal delivery or overnight mail.

Rule 5.402 Earliest Time for Filing

The earliest a petition may be filed is six months before the actual suspension may be terminated. If a prior petition was denied, a subsequent petition may be filed six months after the order is final, unless the Court orders a shorter period for good cause.

Rule 5.403 Response; Request for Hearing

(A) **Timing of Response.** Within 90 days after the petition is served, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must file and serve a response, which may be accompanied by declarations, exhibits, and requests for judicial notice.

(B) **Position Taken.** The response will:

(1) oppose the petition;

(2) state that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel does not oppose the petition; or

(3) state that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel does not possess sufficient facts to determine whether or not it opposes the petition.

(C) **Hearing.** A hearing will be set, and 15 days' notice will be given, under the following circumstances:

(1) the Office of Chief Trial Counsel opposes the petition or states that it does not possess sufficient facts to determine whether or not it opposes the petition;

(2) any party requests a hearing; or

(3) the Court is considering denying the petition.

(D) **No Hearing.** If the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's response states that it does not oppose the petition, and no party has requested a hearing, the Court may consider and grant the petition without a hearing.

(E) **Withdrawal of Petition.** The petitioner may elect to withdraw the petition without prejudice at any time before the matter is submitted.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.404 Burden of Proof

The petitioner has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the petitioner has satisfied the conditions of standard 1.2(c)(1).

Rule 5.405 Discovery

(A) **Deposition.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may take the petitioner's deposition promptly after the petition is filed. Unless the Court orders an extension for good cause, the timing of the deposition will not extend any time limits required under these rules. A petitioner for reinstatement who does not reside in California must be given 30 days' written notice of the time and place of the deposition, and must appear for it in California at his or her own expense.

(B) **Other Discovery.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may issue subpoenas duces tecum after the petition is filed. Unless the Court orders an extension for good cause, receipt of documents pursuant to a subpoena duces tecum will not extend any time limits required under these rules. All responses to subpoenas received by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must be provided to petitioner within three court days of receipt. No other discovery will be allowed unless ordered by the Court for good cause. The Court's order will set forth the permitted extent and conditions for additional discovery.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.406 Documentary Evidence

Except on Court order for good cause, no party may submit documentary evidence other than that filed with the application or the response. A request to submit additional documentary evidence must be written, have a copy of the proposed documentary evidence attached, and be filed and served at least 10 days before the hearing.

Rule 5.407 Testimonial Evidence

(A) **Petitioner; Rebuttal.** The petitioner may testify at the hearing. Any party may present oral testimony to rebut oral testimony presented by the opposing party.

(B) **Other Oral Testimony.** Other oral testimony is not permitted unless ordered by the Court for good cause shown. A party who wants to present oral testimony for purposes other than rebuttal must file a written statement summarizing the proposed testimony and stating the reasons why the testimony cannot be presented by declaration. The statement must be filed and served at least 10 days before the hearing.

Rule 5.408 Decision

Unless the petitioner waives the time or additional time is otherwise justified by the circumstances, the Court will file its decision within 30 days after the hearing ends. If no hearing is held, the Court will file its decision within 30 days after the Office of Chief Trial Counsel files its response, or if none was filed, within 30 days from the date the response was due. The decision granting or denying the petition must contain findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.409 Review

A decision is reviewable under rule 5.150. The Review Department's decision must be filed within 60 days after the matter is submitted.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.410 Termination of Actual Suspension

While the petition is pending before the Court, the petitioner will remain on actual suspension. If the petition is granted, the petitioner will remain on actual suspension until the actual suspension period expires, and until the petitioner satisfies any other requirements for terminating actual suspension under the disciplinary order.

Rule 5.411 Applicable Rules

(A) **Inapplicable Rules.** The following rules do not apply to proceedings on a petition for relief from actual suspension under standard 1.2(c)(1):

(1) rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(2) rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial) and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

(B) Conditionally Applicable. All other rules apply, except that:

(1) Rules 5.25 (service of initial pleading) and 5.26 (service of subsequent pleadings) apply subject to the provisions of rule 5.400(B), and

(2) Rules 5.65-5.71 (discovery) apply only if and to the extent that the Court permits additional discovery.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019.

Chapter 2. Resignation Proceedings

Rule 5.420 Resignation with Charges Pending

California Rules of Court, rule 9.21, governs resignations with charges pending. A resignation must be in the form required by rule 9.21(b). Charges are pending when the attorney is the subject of an investigation by the Office of Investigations or a disciplinary proceeding under these rules, or when the attorney is the subject of a criminal charge or investigation, or has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.421 Perpetuation of Evidence

When a resignation is filed with the State Bar Court, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may perpetuate testimony and documentary evidence about the attorney's conduct that is pertinent to any future inquiry into the attorney's conduct or qualification to practice law.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.422 Notice of Intent to Perpetuate Evidence

Within 30 days after the attorney's resignation with charges pending is filed, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file and serve a notice of intent to perpetuate evidence. The notice must contain an estimate of the time required to complete perpetuation.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.423 Perpetuation Procedure

(A) Beginning. After filing a notice of intent to perpetuate, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may begin perpetuating the evidence.

(B) Perpetuation Process. Evidence is perpetuated by obtaining depositions or stipulations as to facts. The attorney may not take any witness's deposition except by order of the Court for good cause shown. Good cause is established when a witness is a person whose testimony should be taken in the interest of justice and when such action is consistent with the limited purpose of perpetuation.

(C) Motions; Status Reports. When a motion arising in the course of perpetuation is filed, a hearing judge will be assigned to rule on the motion. In addition to ruling on the motion, the hearing judge may set status conferences or require status reports to monitor the progress of the perpetuation.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.424 Report of Completion

When perpetuation is complete, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must file and serve on the attorney a notice that perpetuation is complete. On request and at the attorney's expense, the attorney may obtain a copy of the evidence perpetuated from the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.425 Use of Perpetuated Evidence

Subject to rule 5.104, the evidence perpetuated may be admitted in evidence in any future proceeding pertaining to the attorney's conduct or qualifications to practice law. But the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may introduce deposition testimony as permitted under Code of Civil Procedure § 2025.620(c) without showing that any enumerated factor is present.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.426 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in proceedings on resignations with charges pending and perpetuation of evidence:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rule 5.25 (service of initial pleadings); rule 5.42 (motions which extend time to file response); rules 5.50-5.52 (abatement); rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); rules 5.101-5.114 (pretrial, trial, evidence, decision, post-trial motions); rules 5.120-5.127 (dispositions); and rules 5.151-5.157 (review).

Rule 5.427 Procedure for Consideration and Transmittal of Resignations with Disciplinary Charges Pending

(A) **Filing and Serving Resignation.** The written resignation of an attorney against whom disciplinary charges are pending must be submitted to the Clerk of the State Bar Court in Los Angeles. The Clerk will file the resignation if it is dated, bears the attorney's signature, and is in the form required by California Rules of Court, rule 9.21(b). When the resignation is filed, the Clerk will serve a copy on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

(B) **Stipulation regarding Pending Investigations, Complaints or Proceedings.** Within 60 days from the date the resignation is filed, the attorney and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must enter into a written stipulation as to the facts and conclusions of law regarding any disciplinary complaints, investigations or proceedings that are pending against the attorney at the time his or her resignation was filed, and monetary sanctions pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6086.13 and rule 5.137 of the Rules of Procedure. The stipulation as to monetary sanctions must include the amount, whether a payment plan or extension of time will be allowed and the specifics of such plan or extension, or whether a waiver of the monetary sanction is agreed to, and the reasons for the above. If the attorney and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel have not entered into such stipulation, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must

report that fact and the reasons therefor to the Review Department in its report under subsection (C).

(C) **Report by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel**. Within 60 days from the date the resignation is filed, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel must file with the Review Department and serve upon the attorney pursuant to rule 5.25, a report setting forth the extent, if any, to which any of the factors enumerated in California Rules of Court, rule 9.21(d) are present and whether, in light of the application of those factors, the attorney's resignation should be accepted. All documents referenced in the report, including notices of disciplinary charges and prior records of discipline, must be filed with the report and supported by declaration.

(D) **Response to Report.** Within 30 days of service of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's report, the attorney may file a response with the Review Department and must serve it on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

(E) **Decision or Order.** Within 30 days of the filing of the attorney's response to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's report or the expiration of the period for filing such response, whichever occurs first, the Review Department will file an order or decision pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 9.21(c) recommending, in light of the factors enumerated in rule 9.21(d), whether the attorney's resignation should be accepted by the Supreme Court and the reasons for the Review Department's recommendation. The Review Department's order or decision must also set forth the State Bar Court's recommendation regarding monetary sanctions and the reasons for its recommendation.

(F) **Transmittal of Resignation.** Within 15 days of the filing of the Review Department's order regarding the attorney's resignation, the Clerk of the State Bar Court shall transmit the attorney's resignation to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, together with the Review Department's order or decision regarding acceptance or rejection of the resignation.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 25, 2019; January 1, 2021.

Chapter 3. Reinstatement Proceedings

Rule 5.440 Beginning Proceeding

(A) **Applicability of Rules.** These rules apply to proceedings for reinstatement of license with the State Bar after resignation with or without charges pending and after disbarment.

(B) **Reinstatement Proceedings Do Not Have Calendar Preference.** Reinstatement proceedings are not to be expedited and will not receive calendar preference over disciplinary proceedings that are ready for trial.

(C) **Petition.** The party seeking reinstatement begins the reinstatement proceeding by filing and serving a petition for reinstatement and paying the required fee.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised January 1, 2019; January 25, 2019.

Rule 5.441 Filing Requirements

(A) **Filing Petition, Disclosure Statement, and Authorization and Release.** A petitioner must complete and verify a petition and disclosure statement on the forms approved by the court and in compliance with the instructions therein. The original and three copies of the petition must be filed with the Clerk of the State Bar Court. The disclosure statement is not filed with the court but must be served on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel. In addition, a petitioner must complete an authorization and release approved by the State Bar. The authorization and release is not filed with the court but must be served on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

(B) **Pre-Filing Requirements and Proof.** Prior to filing the petition, the petitioner must satisfy the following requirements and must attach proof of compliance to the petition:

(1) Fingerprints Submitted. Under Business and Professions Code section 6054, the petitioner must have submitted fingerprints to the California Department of Justice via Live Scan technology, or if the petitioner resides outside the state, two sets of original fingerprints on record cards furnished by the State Bar must have been submitted to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel;

(2) Discipline Costs Paid. Unless the petitioner has been granted an extension of time for payment under these rules which has not expired at the time of the filing of the petition, petitioner must have paid all discipline costs imposed under Business and Professions Code section 6086.10, subdivision (a). Proof of payment of costs or a copy of the court order extending the time to pay costs must be attached to the petition.

(3) Client Security Fund Payments Reimbursed. Petitioner must have reimbursed all payments made by the Client Security Fund as a result of the petitioner's conduct, plus applicable interest and costs, under Business and Professions Code section 6140.5, subdivision (c).

(4) Passage of the Attorneys' Examination.

(a) Resigned with Charges Pending or Disbarred. Petitioners who resigned with charges pending or who were disbarred must establish that they have taken and passed the Attorneys' Examination by the Committee of Bar Examiners within three years prior to the filing of the petition for reinstatement.

(b) Resigned without Charges Pending. Petitioners who resigned without charges pending more than five years before filing the petition for reinstatement must establish that they have taken and passed the Attorneys' Examination administered by the Committee of Bar Examiners within five years prior to the filing of the application for readmission or reinstatement.

(C) **Filing Fee**. The petition must include the filing fee specified in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines, Appendix A to the Rules of the State Bar, which will be given to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel to defray incurred costs. Petitioner may apply for waiver

of the filing fee pursuant to rule 5.32. The Clerk will reject the petition for filing if the fee is not included and no application for waiver of the fee has been submitted.

(D) **Service**. The petition and disclosure statement must be served on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel under rule 5.25.

(E) **Dismissal**. Failure to comply with any of the requirements of this rule will be grounds to dismiss the petition. If the filing fee was paid or the petitioner was granted a fee waiver and the petitioner submits a new petition within 30 days of a dismissal under this rule, the petitioner will not have to pay the filing fee or apply for a waiver again. The new petition must otherwise meet all of the requirements of this rule.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised November 18, 2016; January 1, 2021; April 1, 2024; January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.442 Earliest Time for Filing Reinstatement Petition

(A) **Filing after Resignation without Charges Pending.** After resignation without charges pending, a first or subsequent petition for reinstatement may be filed at any time.

(B) **Filing after Resignation with Charges or Disbarment.** Except as provided in the order of disbarment, no petition for reinstatement will be filed within five years after the effective date of the petitioner's disbarment, interim suspension following a disbarment recommendation, or interim suspension following criminal conviction, or the filing date of the petitioner's resignation with charges pending, whichever occurred earliest. No petitioner who has been disbarred by the Supreme Court on two previous occasions may apply for reinstatement.

(C) **Subsequent Petitions.** If a petitioner received an adverse decision on a prior petition following disbarment or resignation with charges pending, a subsequent petition cannot be filed for two years after the effective date of the adverse decision, unless a shorter period is ordered by the Court for good cause.

Rule 5.443 Investigation and Discovery

(A) **Initial Investigation.** For 120 days after the petition is filed with the Court, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will investigate the petition to determine whether to oppose it. For good cause, the Court may extend the investigation period.

(B) **Response to Petition.** Within 10 days after the investigation period ends, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will file and serve a response to the petition stating, for each issue set forth in rule 5.445 (A) or (B), whether it opposes the petition. If it opposes the petition, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will state in its response its grounds for opposition.

(C) **Discovery and Subsequent Investigation**. For 120 days after its response to the petition is filed, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may conduct discovery and complete its investigation of the matter**.** Except as set forth in subsection (D), discovery may be conducted under rule 5.65. Requests for discovery must be made within 15 days after service of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's response.

(D) **Petitioner's Deposition.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may take the petitioner's deposition. It must be held no later than 45 days after the date the response is due

under subsection (B). A petitioner for reinstatement who resides outside California must appear in California at his or her own expense for his or her deposition, on 30 days' written notice of the time and place of the deposition.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised July 1, 2014; January 1, 2019.

Rule 5.444 Notice of Hearing; Publication

The Clerk will serve notice of the hearing on the parties. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may publish the fact that a petition for reinstatement has been filed with the State Bar Court, the petitioner's identity, and other relevant information identifying the proceeding.

Rule 5.445 Burden of Proof

(A) Reinstatement after Resignation with Charges Pending or Disbarment. Petitioners for reinstatement must:

(1) provide proof of passage of a professional responsibility examination within one year prior to filing the petition;

(2) establish their rehabilitation;

(3) establish present moral qualifications for reinstatement;

(4) establish present ability and learning in the general law by providing proof that they have taken and passed the Attorneys' Examination by the Committee of Bar Examiners within three years prior to the filing of the petition; and

(5) provide proof of payment of all monetary sanctions imposed under Business and Professions Code section 6086.13, subdivision (a).

(B) Reinstatement after Resignation without Charges Pending. Petitioners for reinstatement must:

(1) provide proof of passage of a professional responsibility examination within one year prior to filing the petition;

(2) establish their present moral qualifications for reinstatement; and

(3) establish present ability and learning in the general law. If the petitioner resigned without charges pending more than five years before filing the petition, the petitioner must establish present ability and learning in the general law by providing proof that he or she has taken and passed the Attorneys' Examination administered by the Committee of Bar Examiners within five years prior to the filing of the petition.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised April 1, 2024

Rule 5.446 Inapplicable Rules.

The following rules do not apply in a reinstatement proceeding:

(A) **General**. Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific**. Rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial) and rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence).

Chapter 4. Moral Character Proceedings

Rule 5.460 Scope

These rules apply to proceedings and hearings before the State Bar Court to determine whether an applicant for admission to the practice of law in California possesses good moral character within the meaning of Business and Professions Code § 6060(b) and Chapter 4, Moral Character Determination, under Title 4, Admissions and Educational Standards. The hearings before the State Bar Court are de novo and are not limited to matters considered by the Committee of Bar Examiners.

Rule 5.461 Beginning Proceeding; Time for Filing

If the Committee of Bar Examiners makes an adverse moral character determination, the applicant may file an application for a moral character proceeding and hearing. Within 60 days after the notice of adverse moral character determination is served, the application and supporting documents must be served under rule 5.25 and filed, accompanied by a copy of the notice of adverse moral character determination, the applicable filing fee, and proof of service upon the Committee of Bar Examiners and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel. The applicant may apply for waiver of the filing fee pursuant to rule 5.32. As an alternative to service via certified mail as otherwise required by rule 5.25(E), the application and supporting documents may be electronically served upon the Committee of Bar Examiners and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel to the email addresses specified for service on these entities on the State Bar's website.

Eff. January 1, 2011; Revised April 1, 2024; January 1, 2026.

Rule 5.462 Time to Complete Investigation; Response to Application

(A) **Investigation.** For 120 days after the application is filed, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will conduct an independent investigation of the applicant's moral character. For good cause, the Court may extend the investigation period.

(B) **Response.** Within 10 days after the investigation period ends, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will file with the Court and serve a response to the application. If the application is opposed, the response will state the grounds for opposition.

Rule 5.463 Discovery

(A) **Discovery.** Except as set forth in subsection (B), after the investigation ends, discovery may be conducted under rule 5.65. Requests for discovery must be made within 15 days after service of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's response.

(B) **Applicant's Deposition.** The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may take the applicant's deposition. It must be held no later than 45 days after the date the response is due under rule 5.462(B). An applicant who resides outside California must appear in California at his or her own expense for his or her deposition, on 30 days' written notice of the time and place of the deposition.

Rule 5.464 Abatement of Proceeding

(A) **Motion to Abate.** Upon motion by any party, or upon the Court's motion after notice to the parties, the Court may order a proceeding under these rules abated for a time and on terms it deems proper.

(B) **Staying and Tolling Effects.** Abatement stays the proceeding and tolls all time limitations in the State Bar Court. But upon motion, and for good cause shown, the Court may order perpetuation of evidence. Abatement of a proceeding under this rule does not toll or extend the time limitation in rule 4.17 under Title 4, Admissions and Educational Standards.

(C) **Abeyance.** Abatement under this rule is not intended as a substitute for the program of abeyance agreements administered by the Committee of Bar Examiners under Title 4, Admissions and Educational Standards.

(D) **Abatement Alternatives.** Before determining the merits of the proceeding, a proceeding cannot be abated or continued to allow a party to undertake or pass the California Bar Examination. Other forms of relief, such as continuing the trial and withdrawing an application, are preferred to abatement under this rule and will be granted instead of abatement unless the Court determines that no other remedy is adequate to address the issues raised by the party seeking abatement.

(E) **Consideration of Motion.** In considering a motion under this rule, the Court may consider any relevant factor, including the following:

(1) any prejudice to a party that may result if the proceeding is abated;

(2) any prejudice to a party that may result if the proceeding is not abated;

(3) the delay in the proceeding before it that would result from waiting for the outcome of a related proceeding;

(4) the probability that the proceeding before it would be expedited or aided in determining a material issue by waiting for evidence to be adduced in a related proceeding or by awaiting the outcome of a related proceeding;

(5) the extent to which evidence may be unavailable in the State Bar Court proceeding because of any delay occasioned by withholding further action; and

(6) the extent to which parties, witnesses or documents may be unavailable or unable to participate in the State Bar Court proceeding for reasons beyond the parties' control.

(F) **"Related Proceeding" Defined.** For purposes of this rule, a "related proceeding" is any civil, criminal, administrative, or licensing proceeding involving the applicant's conduct that is or is likely to be an issue in the proceeding before the Court.

(G) **Review.** Review of a hearing judge's ruling on a motion under this rule may be sought under rule 5.150.

Rule 5.465 Effect of State Bar Court Decision

The decision of the hearing judge, or (if review is requested) the decision of the Review Department, is the final State Bar Court decision in the proceeding. Unless the California Supreme Court grants a petition for review, the decision is binding on the applicant, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, and the Committee of Bar Examiners.

Rule 5.466 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply in a moral character proceeding:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings, and

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.50 (abatement); rules 5.80-5.100 (default; obligation to appear at trial); and rules 5.105-5.108 (admission of certain evidence).

Chapter 5 Provisionally Licensed Lawyer Proceedings

Rule 5.480 Nature of Proceeding

(A) **Scope.** These rules apply to a "Provisionally Licensed Lawyer," as defined and licensed pursuant to California Rules of Court, rules 9.49 and/or 9.49.1.

(B) **Issues.** The issues in a proceeding under these rules are limited to whether the Provisionally Licensed Lawyer is culpable of conduct that would result in discipline if the Provisionally Licensed Lawyer were fully licensed by the State Bar of California.

(C) **Applicable Rules.** The Rules of Procedure that by their terms apply to disciplinary proceedings shall govern these proceedings except as provided in rule 5.486. In all such applicable rules, any reference to "attorney" shall apply to a Provisionally Licensed Lawyer.

Rule 5.481 Beginning Proceeding

(A) **Notice of Disciplinary Charges**. A notice of disciplinary charges is the initial pleading, except where a Provisionally Licensed Lawyer is criminally convicted, and must include the content required by rule 5.41(B), except as follows:

(1) The notice of disciplinary charges shall not provide notice concerning costs or monetary sanctions as required by rule 5.41(B)(4); and

(2) The notice language set forth in rule 5.41(B)(5) must be replaced with the following:

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

(1) YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;

(2) YOUR PROVISIONAL LICENSE MAY TERMINATE AND YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;

(3) YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE; AND

(4) YOU WILL BE REFERRED TO THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS FOR A DETERMINATION REGARDING YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROVISIONAL LICENSURE PROGRAM AND/OR ABILITY TO QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION TO THE STATE BAR UNDER THE PROVISIONAL LICENSURE PROGRAM. (SEE CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULES 9.49 & 9.49.1.)"

(B) Notice of Record of Conviction. Conviction proceedings against a Provisionally Licensed Lawyer are initiated in the Review Department of the State Bar Court when the Office of Chief Trial Counsel files a certified copy of the record of conviction or sentence of incarceration for 90 days or more. Rules 5.340 through 5.347 will apply to the proceeding, except as follows:

(1) The Review Department will examine the record of conviction or sentence of incarceration for 90 days or more, and if the conviction would provide any ground for interim suspension or involuntary inactive enrollment under rule 5.342, the Review Department shall issue an order referring the matter to the Office of Admissions for a determination regarding the Provisionally Licensed Lawyer's eligibility to participate in the Provisional Licensure Program and/or ability to qualify for admission to the State Bar under the Provisional Licensure Program.

(2) If the conviction does not provide any ground for referral to the Office of Admissions under subparagraph (B)(1), upon finality or a waiver of finality, the conviction shall be referred by the Review Department to the Hearing Department. After the conviction is referred to the Hearing Department, the procedures under rule 5.435 apply except that:

(a) The notice of hearing on conviction shall not provide notice concerning costs or monetary sanctions as required by rule 5.345(A); and

(b) The notice language set forth in rule 5.345(A) must be replaced with the following:

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

(1) YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;

(2) YOUR PROVISIONAL LICENSE MAY TERMINATE AND YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;

(3) YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE; AND

(4) YOU WILL BE REFERRED TO THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS FOR A DETERMINATION REGARDING YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROVISIONAL LICENSURE PROGRAM AND/OR ABILITY TO QUALIFY FOR

ADMISSION TO THE STATE BAR UNDER THE PROVISIONAL LICENSURE PROGRAM. (SEE CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULES 9.49 & 9.49.1.)"

Rule 5.482 Default

If a Provisionally Licensed Lawyer does not file a response to the notice of disciplinary charges under rules 5.80 or 5.346, or fails to appear at trial under rules 5.81 or 5.346, and the Provisionally Licensed Lawyer does not vacate or set aside the default pursuant to rule 5.83, the court shall issue an order referring the matter to the Office of Admissions for termination from the Provisional Licensure Program pursuant to California Rule of Court, rules 9.49(j)(1)(A) or 9.49.1(h).

Rule 5.483 Termination of Provisional Licensure Program

(A) **Dismissal of Proceeding.** If a Provisionally Licensed Lawyer who is provisionally licensed pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 9.49 is the subject of a pending proceeding in the State Bar Court, the court must dismiss the proceeding without prejudice on the date the Provisional Licensure Program terminates as set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 9.49(a)(2). The allegations set forth in the Notice of Disciplinary Charges or the record of conviction may be grounds for an adverse moral character determination or for the filing of new charges by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel if the Provisionally Licensed Lawyer becomes a licensed attorney.

(B) **Continuation of Proceeding.** If a Provisionally Licensed Lawyer who is provisionally licensed pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 9.49.1 is the subject of a pending proceeding in the State Bar Court, the court shall continue with the proceeding after the date the Provisional Licensure Program terminates as set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 9.49.1(i)(5).

Rule 5.484 Decision

The court's decision shall be limited to whether, based on any finding of culpability and any aggravating or mitigating circumstances, the court would issue a reproval or recommend a greater degree of discipline. The decision may, but is not required to, include the degree of discipline that the court would recommend if it would exceed a reproval.

Rule 5.485 Service of Final Decision

The State Bar Court's final decision must be served on the parties, the Office of Admissions, and the California Supreme Court.

Rule 5.486 Inapplicable Rules

The following rules do not apply to Provisionally Licensed Lawyer proceedings:

(A) **General.** Rules that by their terms apply only to involuntary inactive enrollment proceedings (rules 5.170-5.278); probation proceedings (rules 5.300-5.317); certain special proceedings (rules 5.330-5.337, 5.350-5.399); and other regulatory proceedings (rule 5.400–5.466).

(B) **Specific.** Rules 5.120 (sending disciplinary recommendations to the Supreme Court); 5.128 (reprovals with conditions); 5.129-5.132 (costs); 5.135 (ethics school); and 5.137-5.139 (monetary sanctions).

Eff. May 19, 2022

TITLE III GENERAL PROVISIONS

STATE BAR NOTE: The rules in Title III were not included in the rule revisions adopted by the Board of Trustees effective January 1, 2011. The rule numbers and language of Title III remain the same and will remain in effect in their current form. To the extent any rule of procedure is referenced within Title III, that rule shall be applicable in its revised form.

DIVISION I. STATE BAR COURT

Rule 1000. STATE BAR COURT

The State Bar Court is the court created pursuant to section 6086.5 of the Business and Professions Code, consisting of judges and judges pro tempore.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Revised and renumbered November 1, 1995. Source: TRP 100.

Rule 1001. DEPARTMENTS OF THE STATE BAR COURT

The State Bar Court is organized into the following departments:

(a) The Hearing Department, consisting of hearing judges and judges pro tempore; and

(b) The Review Department, consisting of the presiding judge and the review judges (including, in a particular matter, any judge designated to serve under 305 (d)).

Eff. September. 1, 1989; Revised January 1, 1993; Revised and renumbered November 1, 1995. Source: TRP 101.

Rule 1005. OATH

Every member of the State Bar Court and every person appointed to serve in a similar capacity shall take an oath of office.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Revised and renumbered November 1, 1995. Source: TRP 105.

Rule 1010. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The Executive Committee of the State Bar Court shall consist of no fewer than seven persons appointed by the presiding judge pursuant to subdivision (c) of section 6086.65 of the Business and Professions Code. The Executive Committee may:

  (1) Adopt rules of practice, including State Bar Court forms, for the conduct of all proceedings within the State Bar Court's jurisdiction; and

  (2) Serve in an advisory capacity to the judges of the State Bar Court.

(b) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at such times and places as are prescribed by the Executive Committee or the presiding judge.

(c) A majority of the members of the Executive Committee then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting and the action of a majority of the members present at such meeting shall constitute the action of the Executive Committee.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Retitled January 1, 1995; Renumbered and revised November 1, 1995.

Source: TRP 110, 111, 112.

Rule 1011. COURT MEETINGS

(a) Notwithstanding Rule 1010, the judges of the State Bar Court may meet from time to time, as appropriate, to consider policy, operational or other matters relating to their duties and functions.

(b) The judges of the Hearing or Review Departments may convene separately to discuss matters within their exclusive purview.

Eff. November 1, 1995. Source: New

Rule 1013. PRESIDING JUDGE DUTIES

The presiding judge shall:

(a) Be the spokesperson for the State Bar Court;

(b) Preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and over all meetings of the combined Review and Hearing Department judges and at all meetings of the Review Department;

(c) Appoint such (standing or special) committees of the State Bar Court as may be advisable to assist the State Bar Court, the Executive Committee and the presiding judge in the proper performance of their respective duties;

(d) Provide for overall supervision of calendar management and assignment of judges for all matters within the jurisdiction of the State Bar Court;

(e) Represent the State Bar Court in the State Bar budgetary process;

(f) Designate another member of the Review Department to act as presiding judge for Review Department functions when the presiding judge is unavailable, except as provided by rule 305(d); and

(g) Take reasonable measures to assure the prompt disposition of matters before the judges of the State Bar Court and the proper performance of their other adjudicatory responsibilities.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Retitled January 1, 1995; Revised and renumbered November 1, 1995. Source: TRP 113 (substantially revised).

Rule 1014. SUPERVISING JUDGE OF THE HEARING DEPARTMENT

A supervising judge of the Hearing Department shall be annually appointed by the presiding judge, subject to the concurrence of a majority of the judges of the Hearing Department. The supervising judge of the Hearing Department shall:

(a) Appoint such (standing or special) committees of the Hearing Department as may be advisable to assist the Hearing Department in the proper performance of its duties;

(b) Supervise matters internal to the Hearing Department, including calendar management and assignment of judges in accordance with the rules of practice and general orders of the presiding judge;

(c) Preside over meetings, as appropriate, of the State Bar Court Hearing Department judges;

(d) Perform non-Review Department functions of the presiding judge in his or her absence to the extent permitted by statute and not contrary to these rules;

(e) Appoint an assistant supervising judge, if needed, with the concurrence of the presiding judge; and

(f) Consult on a regular basis with the presiding judge to assure efficient functioning of the State Bar Court.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Revised and renumbered November 1, 1995. Source: New (but see TRP 114).

Rule 1015. ADJUDICATORY INDEPENDENCE

(a) No State Bar entity, officer, employee or agent shall interfere with the adjudicatory independence of the State Bar Court to hear and decide the matters submitted to it fairly, correctly and efficiently.

(b) The State Bar Court shall identify and determine its priorities and the staff work necessary to support its adjudicatory responsibilities.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Revised and renumbered November 1, 1995. Source: New (but see TRP 115).

Rule 1016. ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

The State Bar shall provide adequate staff and facilities to support the adjudicatory functions of the State Bar Court. The Board of Trustees, in consultation with the presiding judge of the State Bar Court, shall determine, in the proper exercise of its executive and fiscal authority over the State Bar, the staffing levels and facilities required to meet the State Bar Court's stated priorities and adjudicatory responsibilities. The Board of Trustees shall direct the Executive Director to assign the appropriate staff and resources and to provide a process for the meaningful input of the State Bar Court judges concerning the performance of the executive and other staff assigned. The Executive Director may, after consultation with the presiding judge, designate an executive staff member to serve as the State Bar Court's administrative officer to:

(a) Be responsive to the expressed needs and priorities of the State Bar Court;

(b) Assure the effective functioning and efficient management of the operations and staff of the State Bar Court;

(c) Assure compliance with State Bar policies, procedures, statutory and other mandated duties;

(d) Consult regularly with the judges of the State Bar Court regarding the execution of these administrative responsibilities;

(e) Aid the presiding and supervising judges in the performance of their responsibilities;

(f) Protect the confidentiality of the State Bar Court; and

(g) Perform other duties as are consistent with this rule.

Nothing in this rule shall preclude a State Bar Court judge from exercising appropriate control over courtroom personnel in the courtroom.

Eff. November 1, 1995. Source: New.

STATE BAR NOTE: To effectuate rule 1016, the Executive Director of the State Bar has adopted the following process statement:

PROCESS PURSUANT TO RULE 1016, RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR

As used in this process the word "Court" means the State Bar Court; the words "judges" or "judge" means the judges or a judge of the State Bar Court; the words "Administrative Officer" means the Administrative Officer of the State Bar Court; the words "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the State Bar.

The judges shall identify and prioritize the staff work they perceive necessary to support the Court's adjudicatory responsibilities and accomplish its mission goals and objectives.

In consultation with the judges, the Administrative Officer shall, consistent with State Bar policies, cause the Court's mission, goals, objectives and priorities to be reflected in performance expectations for the staff assigned to support the Court.

The Administrative Officer shall consult with the judges to assure that the Court's priorities are being met to the extent possible within the resources allocated to support the Court.

Periodically, and not less than annually, the Administrative Officer shall poll each judge regarding the performance of the staff assigned to support the Court. Any concerns or problems identified shall be addressed by the Administrative Officer. Any concerns or problems which the judges believe are not adequately addressed by the Administrative Officer may be presented to the Executive Director.

The Executive Director, in consultation with the judges and the Administrative Officer, shall establish performance expectations for the Administrative Officer.

Periodically, and not less than annually, the Executive Director shall solicit the opinions of each judge regarding the performance of the Administrative Officer. Any concerns or problems identified shall be addressed by the Executive Director.

Each judge and the Court as a whole are encouraged to communicate to the Administrative Officer with regard to any member of the State Bar Court staff (including the Administrative Officer), or to the Executive Director with regard to the Administrative Officer, more frequently as needed to assure appropriate support.

Source: New.

DIVISION II. CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division III General Provisions and Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings. Division III General Provisions, Chapter 1 Address Requirements of Attorneys and Former Attorneys, TRP 201 is deleted. Chapter 5 Service and Filing of Papers, TRP 240-243, Chapter 6 Venue, TRP 250-252, Chapter 7 Consolidation and Transfer, TRP 262, Chapter 8 Transcripts, TRP 271, Chapter 10 Stays, TRP 350-352, Chapter 11 Stipulation and Terminations, TRP 401-415, Chapter 12 Review, TRP 450-455, Chapter 13 Costs of Disciplinary Proceedings Authorized by 1986 Cal. Stats., C. 622, TRP 460-464 are superseded by Title II. For notes regarding TRP Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings, see new Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings below.

CHAPTER 1. CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division III General Provisions, Chapter 2, State Bar Examiners and Investigations.

Rule 2101. AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

The Board of Trustees of the State Bar delegates to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel exclusive jurisdiction to review inquiries and complaints, conduct investigations and determine whether to file notices of disciplinary charges in the State Bar Court, except as provided in Title III, rules 2201 and 2502, and Title II, rules 150-157.

Eff. January 1, 1996. Source: New (but see TRP 210, 211).

CHAPTER 2. SPECIAL DEPUTY TRIAL COUNSEL

Rule 2201. APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORITY

(a) The Chief Trial Counsel shall recuse the Office of Chief Trial Counsel when:

(1) Any inquiry or complaint or other matter within the jurisdiction of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel is about:

I. The Chief Trial Counsel;

II. An attorney employed by the State Bar;

III. An attorney member of the Board of Trustees; or

IV. An attorney who within the past 12 months has had a personal, financial, or professional relationship to the Chief Trial Counsel; or,

(2) The Chief Trial Counsel believes the circumstances of any inquiry or complaint or other matter within the jurisdiction of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel creates an appearance that the office may not exercise its discretionary functions in an

evenhanded manner and that those circumstances are so grave as to render it unlikely that an attorney will receive fair treatment or that the public will not be protected.

(b) The Chief Trial Counsel may recuse the Office of Chief Trial Counsel when:

(1) Any inquiry or complaint or other matter within the jurisdiction of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel is about:

I. An attorney, who within the past 12 months has had a personal, financial, or professional relationship to the State Bar, its employees, other than the Chief Trial Counsel, or a member of the Board of Trustees; or

II. An attorney member of any State Bar committee or commission; or

(2) To avoid the appearance of any impropriety, when it appears that the attorney who is the subject of the inquiry or complaint or other matter will not receive fair treatment.

(c) Duties of the Special Deputy Trial Counsel Administrator:

(1) In the event of the Chief Trial Counsel's recusal, the inquiry or complaint or other matter shall be referred to the Special Deputy Trial Counsel Administrator ("Administrator") or designee.

(2) In the absence of the Special Deputy Trial Counsel Administrator, the powers and duties of the Special Deputy Trial Counsel Administrator shall be exercised by the alternate Special Deputy Trial Counsel Administrator.

(3) The Administrator shall have all the powers and duties of the Chief Trial Counsel and shall act entirely in the Chief Trial Counsel's place with regard to an inquiry or complaint or other matter and any resulting investigation or prosecution.

(4) The Administrator or delegee shall conduct a preliminary review of the inquiry or complaint, which may include reasonable attempts to determine if additional facts exist that, in conjunction with the complaint, may establish a colorable violation.

(5) If the Administrator or delegee determines that the factual allegations of the inquiry or complaint do not articulate a violation, or that the factual allegations contained therein, if proven, would not result in discipline of the attorney, the Administrator or delegee shall close the matter. In all other cases, including where the Administrator or delegee is unable to determine whether the factual allegations, if proven, would result in discipline of the attorney, the Administrator shall assign the matter for investigation.

(6) With regard to other matters, the Administrator shall conduct a preliminary review. If the Administrator determines that the matter should proceed, the Administrator shall assign the matter for prosecution.

(7) The preliminary review required by sections (c)(3)-(4) shall be completed within sixty (60) days after the written inquiry or complaint is first received, provided, however, that such time limit is not jurisdictional.

(8) A complainant may request review of a decision by the Administrator or delegee to close a complaint or inquiry. The Administrator shall refer such a request for review to a Special Deputy Trial Counsel.

(d) Duties of Special Deputy Trial Counsel

(1) Upon receipt of a referral by the Administrator, the Special Deputy Trial Counsel shall conduct an investigation and all such other proceedings as necessary and appropriate.

(2) A complainant may request review of a decision by a Special Deputy Trial Counsel to close a complaint or inquiry. The Administrator shall refer such a request for review to a different Special Deputy Trial Counsel than was originally assigned to complainant's case.

(3) Upon receipt of a referral by the Administrator to perform a review of a closed disciplinary complaint, the Special Deputy Trial Counsel will determine whether to recommend to the Administrator that the complaint should be reopened for investigation.

(e) The Administrator and Special Deputy Trial Counsel:

(1) Are subject to the oversight of the Regulation and Discipline Committee.

(2) Must be active attorneys in good standing of the State Bar of California, but may not be employees of the State Bar, members of the Board of Trustees, or Judges Pro Tempore of the State Bar Court.

(3) May receive compensation for services and reimbursement of reasonable expenses for investigative, administrative and legal support.

(4) Shall comply with the written or other established policies of the State Bar and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, except to the extent that compliance would be inconsistent with the purposes of this rule.

(5) May be removed by the Chairperson of the Regulation and Discipline Committee or designee only for good cause, including any condition that impedes the timely performance of their duties.

(f) The State Bar's Office of General Counsel may be designated by the Chairperson of the Regulation and Discipline Committee to track all referrals to the Administrator and Special Deputy Trial Counsel in a manner that maintains the required impartiality and confidentiality.

(g) The Administrator and/or the Office of General Counsel shall submit a full report to the Regulation and Discipline Committee in the appropriate session of each regularly scheduled meeting about the processing of all inquiries and complaints in a manner that maintains the necessary impartiality and confidentiality of the matters under review pursuant to this rule.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised September 1, 2006; July 22, 2016; January 25, 2019; November 14, 2019; November 18, 2021. Source: TRP 106, 212.

CHAPTER 3. CONFIDENTIALITY

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division III General Provisions, Chapter 3 Confidentiality of State Bar Court Records and Proceedings. With respect to proceedings pending in the State Bar Court, TRP 220 Confidentiality of Investigations and Formal Proceedings, TRP 221 Confidentiality of Information, TRP 225 Public Hearings, TRP 226 Information Available to Attorney, TRP 228 State Bar Court Access to Disciplinary Records During Consideration of Client Security Fund Application, TRP 229 Responses to Inquiries are superseded by Title II. With respect to State Bar Court files and

records in proceedings pending in the State Bar Court, TRP 223 Records, is superseded by Title II. TRP 222 Advising Complainant is superseded by Title III rule 2403 Complainant.

Rule 2301. RECORDS

Except as otherwise provided by law or by these rules, the files and records of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel are confidential.

Eff. January 1, 1996.
Source: TRP 223 (substantially revised).

Rule 2302. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law or these rules, information concerning inquiries, complaints or investigations of licensees and other attorneys subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the State Bar (collectively, licensees) is confidential, and shall not be shared outside of the State Bar Office of Chief Trial Counsel. The information that is confidential includes the existence and contents of an inquiry, complaint, or investigation, until the filing of a notice of disciplinary charges or the institution of a formal proceeding identified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Business and Profession Code section 6086.1.

(b) A licensee whose conduct is or has been the subject of an inquiry, complaint or investigation may consent to a public announcement or disclosure. Notwithstanding such consent, the Chief Trial Counsel or designee may decline to waive confidentiality regarding an inquiry, complaint or investigation, if it is determined that an inquiry, complaint, or investigation may be substantially prejudiced by a public disclosure of some or all of the information authorized by subdivision (c)(6) of this rule before the filing of a notice of disciplinary charges or the institution of a formal proceeding identified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Business and Professions Code section 6086.1.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding the confidentiality requirement of subdivision (a) and without waiving confidentiality for other purposes, the Chief Trial Counsel or designee, with the written concurrence of the Chair of the Board of Trustees or designee, after private notice to the licensee, may waive confidentiality and disclose some or all of the information authorized by subdivision (c)(6) of this Rule, but only if all of the following are met:

(A) Disclosure is warranted for protection of the public;

(B) Disclosure is necessary to prevent an immediate harm to the public, including, but not limited to, ongoing fraud, theft, or embezzlement; and

(C) Disclosure under the provisions of subdivision (c)(2) below is inadequate for the protection of the public.

(2) Notwithstanding the confidentiality requirements of subdivision (a) and without waiving confidentiality for other purposes, the Board of Trustees may vote to waive confidentiality, and disclose some or all of the information authorized by subdivision (c)(6) of this Rule, but only if the Board determines by majority vote that disclosure is warranted for protection of the public, and only after compliance with the following procedures:

(A) The Board shall set for closed session, at either a regular or special meeting, an agenda item for determination whether disclosure is warranted for protection of the public;

(B) The Board or its designee shall provide the licensee who is the subject of the complaint(s), inquiry(ies), or investigation(s) for which disclosure is being considered at least five days' notice of the fact that the Board will be meeting to consider disclosure – the notice provided to the licensee shall advise the licensee that the licensee will not be permitted to attend the closed session meeting of the Board but may, in advance of the Board meeting, submit a written statement to the Board for its consideration at the meeting;

(C) If the Board votes to waive confidentiality and disclose information, the State Bar shall provide notice to the licensee both via email at the email address shown on the licensee's State Bar registration records and via United States mail to the physical address shown on the licensee's State Bar registration records of all of the following (i) the fact that the Board voted to waive confidentiality; (ii) a description of the information that may be disclosed to the public; and (iii) that the licensee has five business days from the date of the notice to notify the State Bar that the licensee is contesting the release of the information; and

(D) If the licensee elects to contest the Board's determination to disclose information after providing the State Bar notice as required by subdivision (c)(2)(C) above and Business and Professions Code section 6086.1, subdivision (c)(3)(C), the licensee may do so by filing, within seven court days from the date of the notice provided to the licensee under subdivision (c)(2)(C) above, a motion with the State Bar Court to prevent the State Bar from disclosing information, which motion shall be filed, served, and resolved using the following procedures, which implement the provisions of Business and Professions Code section 6086.1, subdivision (d):

  (i) The licensee shall electronically serve the motion on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel at CTC@calbar.ca.gov and on the Office of General Counsel at GC@calbar.ca.gov;

  (ii) The State Bar shall file a response to the motion within three court days of the motion's filing and service and shall electronically serve this response on the licensee;

  (iii) No reply or additional briefing may be filed unless ordered by the court;

  (iv) The State Bar Court may, but is not required to, conduct a hearing on the motion;

  (v) The State Bar Court will issue a ruling based on the pleadings and any hearing within 10 court days from the filing of the motion;

  (vi) The ruling of the State Bar Court is final and not subject to review; and

(vii) The motion, the State Bar's response, any hearing, and the State Bar Court's ruling, shall all be confidential.

(3) In assessing whether and to what extent to waive confidentiality pursuant to subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2) above, the Chief Trial Counsel or designee, the Chair of the Board or designee, and the Board shall, at a minimum:

(A) Apply a presumption in favor of maintaining confidentiality of the complaint(s), inquiry(ies), and investigation(s);

(B) Consider the extent to which the allegations or issues involved in the complaint(s), inquiry(ies), and investigation(s) are already generally known to the public;

(C) Consider the gravity of the underlying allegations and the potential for continued harm to the public in the absence of disclosure; and

(D) Consider the potential for harm to the reputation of the licensee from any disclosure.

(4) In assessing whether and to what extent a waiver of confidentiality pursuant to subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2) above is warranted for the protection of the public, the Chief Trial Counsel or designee, the Chair of the Board or designee, and the Board may also consider any other information relating to the licensee and the relevant complaint(s), inquiry(ies), and investigation(s), including but not limited to the following:

(A) Whether the licensee's conduct has caused, or is likely to cause, harm to client(s), the public, or to the administration of justice;

(B) The need to maintain public confidence in the discipline system's exercise of self-regulation;

(C) The licensee's current license status;

(D) The record of prior complaints against and prior discipline of the licensee;

(E) The potential for the imposition of a substantial disciplinary sanction;

(F) The existence of any other public matters;

(G) The status of the complaint(s), inquiry(ies), or investigation(s);

(H) Any consent to disclosure by the licensee;

(I) The gravity of the underlying allegations;

(J) The licensee's cooperation with the State Bar;

(K) Whether the licensee has committed criminal acts or is under investigation by law enforcement authorities; and

(L) Whether the licensee is under investigation by a regulatory or licensing agency, or has committed acts or made omissions which may reasonably result in investigation by a regulatory or licensing agency.

(5) If the Chief Trial Counsel or Chair of the Board, for any reason, self-disqualifies, is otherwise disqualified, declines, or is otherwise unavailable to exercise the authority provided by subdivision (c)(1) above, the Chief Trial Counsel or Chair of the Board shall appoint a designee to act in their place.

(6) Once a decision to waive confidentiality and disclose information pursuant to subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2) above becomes final, the Chief Trial Counsel or designee or

the Chair of the Board or designee may issue, if appropriate, one or more public announcements or make information public generally or to specified individuals or entities. Any public announcement or any disclosure of information to the public generally or to specified individuals or entities shall include a statement defending the right of the licensee to a fair hearing and shall be limited to doing some or all of the following:

(A) Confirming the fact of a complaint, inquiry, investigation, or proceeding, whether pending or previously closed;

(B) Providing a brief factual summary to identify the subject matter of the complaint, inquiry, investigation, or proceeding; and

(C) Providing the status of the complaint, inquiry, investigation, or proceeding.

(7) The discretionary authority to waive confidentiality as authorized by Business and Professions Code section 6086.1, subdivisions (b)(2) and (c), and this Rule extends to both pending and previously closed complaints, inquiries, investigations or proceedings.

(d) The provisions of subdivisions (a) through (c) above do not apply to inquiries, complaints, or investigations regarding nonlicensees. The Chief Trial Counsel or designee may assert confidentiality with respect to inquiries, complaints, or investigations regarding nonlicensees if, in the discretion of the Chief Trial Counsel or designee, that is necessary to protect members of the public. The Chief Trial Counsel or designee may, in their discretion, issue, one or more public announcements and may disclose information, not subject to the limitations in subdivision (c)(6) above, concerning a complaint(s), inquiry(ies), or investigation(s) involving a nonlicensee, including but not limited to, when such disclosure would serve to protect the public, from an individual(s) who has engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

(e) Notwithstanding the confidentiality requirements of subdivision (a) and without waiving confidentiality for other purposes, the Chief Trial Counsel or designee, in the exercise of discretion, may disclose documents and information concerning disciplinary inquiries, complaints and investigations to the following individuals or entities:

(1) Any Special Deputy Trial Counsel or any employee of the State Bar. Any Special Deputy Trial Counsel or State Bar employee receiving confidential documents or information pursuant to this subdivision (e)(1) shall not disclose such documents or information to any other person or entity without the authorization of the Chief Trial Counsel or designee;

(2) Any person or entity providing services to the State Bar. Prior to receiving such confidential information or documents, any such person or entity must execute a confidentiality agreement or non-disclosure agreement with the State Bar, or a contract containing a confidentiality or non-disclosure clause;

(3) Members of the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission or Review Committee as to matters concerning nominees in any jurisdiction (see Business and Professions Code section 6044.5(b)(2));

(4) Witnesses or potential witnesses in conjunction with an inquiry, complaint, investigation, or proceeding (see Business and Professions Code section 6049(b));

(5) Other governmental agencies responsible for the enforcement of civil or criminal laws (see Business and Professions Code sections 6043.5 and 6044.5(b)(1));

(6) Agencies and other jurisdictions responsible for professional licensing and disciplinary enforcement (see Business and Professions Code section 6044.5(a), (b)(1));

(7) The complainant or lawful designee (see Business and Professions Code sections 6092.5(a) and 6093.5);

(8) The licensee(s) who is (are) the subject of the inquiry, complaint or investigation or their counsel of record, if any (see State Bar Rule of Procedure 2409);

(9) Judges of the State Bar Court (see Business and Professions Code sections 6049(a) and 6051.1);

(10) Any person or entity to the extent that such disclosure is authorized by Business and Professions Code sections 6094.5(b), 6086.14 or other statutory provision or any other law; or

(11) Third-party recipients of subpoenas duces tecum in a State Bar Court proceeding, when service of a narrowly tailored supporting declaration is necessary to inform the subpoenaed party why their private information is being subpoenaed (see Business and Professions Code section 6049 (a)).

(f) In exercising their discretion pursuant to subdivision (e), the Chief Trial Counsel or designee shall consider the purposes for which disclosure is sought, the State Bar's policy of promoting information sharing within the State Bar where necessary to advance the State Bar's goals and objectives, the need to maintain the confidentiality of the documents or information at issue, and the risk that the disclosure sought would lead to an improper or unlawful disclosure beyond the intended recipient(s) of the documents or information at issue. To protect the confidentiality of particular documents or information, to prevent the disclosure of information or documents beyond the intended recipient(s), or to prevent the use of disclosed information for improper purposes, the Chief Trial Counsel or designee may impose limitations or conditions on any disclosure pursuant to subdivision (e), including but not limited to: redaction; anonymization; limits on further disclosure to other persons or entities; confidentiality or non-disclosure agreements; and limits on the use of disclosed documents or information.

(g) This rule is not intended to conflict with and shall not be construed as conflicting with Business and Professions Code section 6079.5(a), which provides that the Chief Trial Counsel "shall report to and serve under the Regulation, Admissions, and Discipline Oversight Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State Bar or its successor committee on attorney discipline, and shall not serve under the direction of the chief executive officer."

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised November 18, 2016; May 18, 2018; November 16, 2018; January 25, 2019; April 1, 2024. Source: TRP 220, 221, 224, 227

CHAPTER 4. INVESTIGATIONS

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings, Chapter 1 Investigations. TRP 508 Authority to Terminate Matter is superseded by Title III, rule 2601 Closure of

Inquiries, Complaints and Investigations. TRP 509 Determination as to Reasonable Cause is superseded by Title III, rule 2604 Filing Notices of Disciplinary Charges. TRP 510 Issuance of Notice to Show Cause is superseded by Title III, rule 2604 Filing Notices of Disciplinary Charges. TRP 511 Termination Without Opening Formal Proceeding is superseded by Title III, rules 2602 Disposition by Admonition and 2601 Closure of Inquiries, Complaints and Investigations all contained in Chapter 6 Disposition of Inquiries, Complaints, and Investigations, below.

Rule 2401. PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION

The purpose of an investigation is to determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that an attorney of the State Bar has violated a provision of the State Bar Act or the Rules of Professional Conduct and if there is sufficient evidence to support the allegations of misconduct.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: TRP 502

Rule 2402. INITIATION OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATION

The State Bar may open an inquiry or investigation on its own accord or upon receipt of a communication concerning the conduct of an attorney of the State Bar.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: TRP 503.

Rule 2403. COMPLAINT

The Complainant is entitled to receive relevant information pursuant to the provisions of the State Bar Act or the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California. In matters where communications from more than one person concern the same or substantially the same underlying conduct of the attorney, there may be more than one complainant. The complainant may be, but is not limited to:

(a) a current or former client;

(b) one complaining on behalf of a current or former client;

(c) one owed or was owed a fiduciary duty and an alleged breach of the fiduciary duty is or should be a subject of the investigation;

(d) member of the judiciary or legal professions who alleged misconduct by the attorney which is or should be the subject of an investigation;

(e) a person who has significant new information about an alleged ethical violation committed by the attorney affecting the professions, the administration of justice, or the public.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: New.

Rule 2404. COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF ATTORNEYS

Communications concerning the conduct of an attorney of the State Bar may be made to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel at 845 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515. Complainants may be required to present appropriate information on forms supplied by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: TRP 504 (substantially revised).

Rule 2406. EFFECT OF COMMUNICATION TO THE STATE BAR

A client or former client who complains against an attorney thereby waives the attorney-client privilege and any other applicable privilege, as between the complainant and the attorney, to the extent necessary for the investigation and prosecution of the allegations.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019.

Rule 2407. CLOSURE FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may, in its discretion, close an injury, investigation or complaint if the complainant fails to comply with the State Bar's reasonable requests for assistance, information, or documentation.

Eff. January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 506 (substantially revised).

Rule 2408. EFFECT OF RESTITUTION OR SETTLEMENT; UNWILLINGNESS OF COMPLAINANT TO PROCEED

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may continue to investigate and, in its discretion, may prosecute a complaint even though the complainant has asked that the complaint be withdrawn, has failed to properly cooperate with the State Bar, has compromised his or her claim or has received restitution. In exercising its discretion under this rule, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall consider all relevant factors including but not limited to:

(a) whether prosecution of the matter is necessary for the protection of the public;

(b) whether prosecution of the matter is necessary to assure the public's confidence in the ability of the State Bar to regulate its attorneys;

(c) whether prosecution of the matter is likely to result in a significant level of discipline;

(d) whether the respondent is or has been the subject of other disciplinary investigations or proceedings;

(e) whether it appears that the attorney has unduly influenced the complainant's decision to request that the investigation be terminated; and/or

(f) whether the respondent has acknowledged wrongdoing and has fully compensated the victim of the misconduct.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: TRP 507 (substantially revised).

Rule 2409. ATTORNEY'S RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS

(a) Prior to the filing of a Notice of Disciplinary Charges, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall notify the attorney in writing of the allegations forming the basis for the complaint or investigation and shall provide the attorney with a period of not less than two weeks within which to submit a written explanation. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may transmit the letter of inquiry by: (1) posting the letter of inquiry to the attorney's "My State Bar Profile" on the State Bar's website and (2) sending an e-mail notification to the address the attorney maintains pursuant to California Rule of Court rule 9.9(a)(2). The e-mail notification must state that a letter of inquiry from the Office of Chief Trial Counsel has been posted on the attorney's "My State Bar Profile" and remind the attorney of his or her duty to cooperate and

participate in the State Bar's disciplinary investigation. If the attorney has not provided the State Bar with an e-mail address pursuant to rule 9.9(a)(2), the Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall transmit the letter of inquiry by personal delivery or by regular mail.

(b) An extension of time for submission of the attorney's written explanation shall be granted only upon written request to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel and for good cause shown as to the specific constraints on the attorney's practice which are claimed to necessitate the additional time. This rule does not prohibit the Office of Chief Trial Counsel from contacting an attorney by telephone for purposes of resolution of minor matters or investigation.

(c) In response to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's written notification pursuant to paragraph (a), the attorney may provide a written response claiming any applicable constitutional or statutory privilege; however, the availability of an applicable constitutional or statutory privilege shall not excuse the attorney from submitting a written response to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel to the extent necessary to identify and exercise the claimed privilege.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 1, 2000; November 4, 2011; May 18, 2018; January 25, 2019. Source: TRP 508 (substantially revised).

Rule 2410. COMMUNICATIONS WITH CURRENT CLIENTS OF AN ATTORNEY

(a) The staff of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may interview the current clients of an attorney who is under investigation or is the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in the following limited circumstances:

(1) with the consent of the attorney or counsel;

(2) when the client has complained against the attorney or has initiated contact with the State Bar; or

(3) to determine whether he or she is a current client of the attorney. The contact shall cease if it is determined that the person is a current client.

(b) The Chief Trial Counsel or designee, may, in his or her discretion, authorize interviews of current clients of an attorney upon a showing of good cause in writing.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: Board of Governors Resolution of August 29, 1987 (substantially revised).

CHAPTER 5. SUBPOENAS AND DEPOSITIONS

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division III General Provisions, Chapter 9 Subpoenas and Discovery. TRP 304 Specific Rules Applicable to Attorney's Non-Trust Fund Financial Records or for Nonattorney's Financial Records, TRP 305 Issuance of Subpoena, TRP 306 Service on Customer, TRP 307; Motion to Quash, TRP 308 Hearing on Motion to Quash, TRP 309 Review of Decision on Motion to Quash, TRP 310 Rules Applicable to Subpoenas Other than for the Purpose of Obtaining Financial Records, TRP 311 Service, TRP 312 Motion to Quash, TRP 313 Hearing on Motion to Quash, TRP 314 Review of Decision of Referee or Hearing Panel on Motion to Quash, TRP 315 Discovery in Formal Proceedings, TRP 316 Time Period for Discovery, TRP 317 Conditions Precedent to Formal Discovery, TRP 318 Depositions, TRP 319 Interrogatories and Requests for Admissions, TRP 321

Sanctions; Admissions of Facts not Denied in Request for Admissions, TRP 322 Contempt Proceeding, TRP 323 Other Depositions; Authority, TRP 324 Discovery Review, TRP 325 Protective Orders are superseded by Title II.

Rule 2501. FORMS FOR SUBPOENAS

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may promulgate forms for the subpoenas it issues.

Eff. January 1, 1996. Source: New.

Rule 2502. INVESTIGATION DEPOSITIONS

In the course of an investigation, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6049, subdivision (b), the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may compel by subpoena the appearance of a witness at a deposition. For purposes of this rule, "witness" means any person or entity, including an attorney whose conduct is being investigated. The deposition shall be conducted in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure sections 2025.220 through 2025.480, inclusive. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall serve a copy of the notice of deposition upon each attorney whose conduct is being investigated. Such attorneys shall have the right to appear and participate at the deposition and such attorneys and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall have the right to seek protective orders from the State Bar Court pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 2025.420, subdivision (b)(1) through subdivision (b)(5), inclusive, and subdivision (b)(8) through (b)(14), inclusive.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019; April 1, 2024; November 1, 2026. Source: New (but see TRP 323; Bus. & Prof. Code § 6049(b)).

Rule 2503. TRUST ACCOUNT FINANCIAL RECORDS

(a) This rule applies to investigation subpoenas issued by the State Bar directed to financial institutions requiring production of trust account financial records of an attorney, in compliance with Business and Professions Code sections 6049 and 6069(a), and applies before or after the commencement of a State Bar Court proceeding.

(b) A subpoena for trust account financial records shall describe the requested records with particularity and shall be supported by a declaration showing the following:

(1) that there is reasonable cause to believe that the financial records sought pertain to trust funds which the attorney must maintain in accordance with the Rules of Professional Conduct; and

(2) that the records sought are consistent with the scope and requirements of the matter under investigation; provided, however, that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall have discretion to make this determination. Declarations shall be confidential and need not be disclosed to the State Bar Court, the attorney, the financial institution, or other interested parties at any time.

(c) The Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall notify the attorney in writing within thirty (30) days after receiving trust account financial records from a financial institution in response to a subpoena issued pursuant to this rule. The notice shall be mailed to attorney's address furnished pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6002.1 or to his or her counsel, and shall include:

(1) a description with particularity of the financial records actually received; and

(2) notice that the attorney may submit a written request for a statement of reasons for the State Bar's examination of the attorney's trust account financial records within fifteen (15) days of the date of mailing of the notice.

(d) Upon timely and written request, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall provide the attorney with a statement of the reasons for the State Bar's examination of the attorney's trust fund financial records.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: Bus. & Prof. Code § 6069(a); TRP 301-303.

CHAPTER 6. DISPOSITION OF INQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings, Chapter 1 Investigations. See also Title III, Division II Chief Trial Counsel, Chapter 4 Investigations, above.

Rule 2601. CLOSURE OF INQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may, in its discretion, close an inquiry, complaint or investigation. The inquiry, complaint or investigation may also be closed with the issuance of a warning letter or a directional letter or by any other appropriate manner not constituting discipline.

Eff. January 1, 1996. Source: New (but see TRP 508).

Rule 2602. DISPOSITION BY ADMONITION

(a) The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may, in its discretion, dispose of any matter before it by an admonition to the attorney.

(b) The fact of the admonition shall be communicated to the complainant, if any, but otherwise shall not be public. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall notify the complainant of its action. The admonition does not constitute imposition of discipline upon the attorney. If within two years after the date of the admonition letter, a State Bar Court proceeding is filed against the attorney based upon other alleged misconduct, the matter terminated by admonition may be reopened. All applicable time limitations shall be tolled during the period between the issuance of the admonition and the filing of the notice of disciplinary charges.

(c) Upon written request of the attorney, mailed within fifteen (15) days after service of the admonition letter, the admonition shall be set aside and the investigation may be resumed.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: TRP 415 (substantially revised); see also Title II, Rule 264.

Rule 2603. REOPENING INQUIRIES, INVESTIGATIONS, AND COMPLAINTS

(a) The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may, subject to Rule 51 [Period of Limitations], reopen an inquiry, investigation, or complaint in the following limited circumstances:

(1) if there is new material evidence; or

(2) if the Chief Trial Counsel or designee, in his or her discretion, determines that there is good cause.

(b) Notwithstanding the Office of Chief Trial Counsel's exclusive jurisdiction over disciplinary matters as expressed in Rule 2101, the Board of Trustees of the State Bar delegates to the Office of General Counsel the authority to review closures of inquiries, investigations and complaints upon request by complainants. Upon recommendation by the Office of General Counsel following review of a request by a complainant to review closure of an inquiry, investigation or complaint, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may reopen the case for investigation.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised May 13, 2016. Source: TRP 511 (substantially revised).

Rule 2604. FILING NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file a notice of disciplinary charges if it finds in its discretion: (1) there is reasonable cause to believe that an attorney has committed a violation of the State Bar Act or the Rules of Professional Conduct and (2) the attorney has received a fair, adequate and reasonable opportunity to deny or explain the matters which are the subject of the notice of disciplinary charges.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 1, 2000; January 25, 2019. Source: TRP 509, 510

Rule 2605. VEXATIOUS COMPLAINANTS

(a) The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may designate a person a vexatious complainant if, in the preceding two-year period, the complainant has submitted to the State Bar 10 or more communications alleging attorney misconduct that have been finally closed at the inquiry stage without investigation because the communications did not allege sufficient factual or legal grounds to indicate a potential disciplinary violation. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel will mail notice of the designation and a copy of this rule to the complainant at the complainant's last known address.

(b) For purposes of this rule, a complainant's communication has been "finally closed" if: (i) the complainant failed to seek reopening of the complaint by the Complaint Review Unit of the Office of General Counsel within 90 days of the closure of the communication; or (ii) the Complaint Review Unit denied the complainant's request to reopen the communication and the complainant did not timely file an accusation arising from the communication with the Supreme Court in compliance with California Rules of Court, rule 9.13(d) through (f); or (iii) the Supreme Court denied an accusation arising from the communication.

(c) A complainant designated as vexatious under this rule may seek review of the designation by filing a request for review with the Presiding Judge of the Review Department of the State Bar Court within 30 days of the mailing of the notice issued pursuant to subdivision (a). The request for review must include a copy of the vexatious complainant designation notice and be accompanied by proof of service on the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, Intake Unit, at the Los Angeles office of the State Bar, and on the Clerk of the State Bar Court at the Los Angeles office. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may file and serve an answer to the complainant's request for review within 20 days of service of the complainant's request for review. Based

upon these written submissions, the State Bar Court will confirm whether the complainant has, in the two-year period preceding the notice of vexatious complainant designation, submitted 10 or more communications alleging attorney misconduct that have been finally closed. If the State Bar Court finds that the requirement of 10 or more finally closed communications, as specified in subdivision (a), was not met, the vexatious complainant designation will be vacated; otherwise, the designation will remain in place. The State Bar Court will not review the merits of the 10 or more communications on which the vexatious complainant designation is based. The Executive Committee of the State Bar Court may adopt rules of practice for these proceedings.

(d) The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may decline to review and process any subsequent communications from a person designated a vexatious complainant under this rule unless the communication is verified by the complainant under penalty of perjury and the communication is submitted on the complainant's behalf by an attorney who holds an active license to practice law in the State of California and is not currently in disciplinary proceedings or on disciplinary or criminal probation. If the vexatious complainant is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California, the communication must be submitted on the vexatious complainant's behalf by another attorney who is actively licensed to practice law in the State of California and is not currently in disciplinary proceedings or on disciplinary or criminal probation and is not designated as a vexatious complainant pursuant to this rule.

(e) This rule shall apply retroactively to January 1, 2018.

(f) This rule does not apply to complaints filed pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6158.4.

Eff. September 19, 2019 (Resolution adopted January 24, 2020, effective nunc pro tunc to September 19, 2019.)

DIVISION III. OFFICE OF CASE MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION

Rule 2701. Office of Case Management and Supervision

The Office of Case Management and Supervision shall supervise licensees who are the subject of orders issued by the Supreme Court or the State Bar Court in furtherance of the purposes of discipline as set forth in standard 1.1 and with the intent of reducing recidivism.

Eff. January 1, 1996; Revised January 1, 2004; January 25, 2019; May 1, 2024. Source: TRP 605 (substantially revised).

Rule 2702. Confidentiality of Office of Case Management and Supervision Files

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law or by these rules, the files and records of the Office of Case Management and Supervision are confidential and shall not be disclosed pursuant to any state law, including but not limited to, the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code).

(b) As it is used in this section, the term "files" includes information regarding a licensee's supervision conditions ordered by the Court, the licensee's compliance or noncompliance with those conditions, and related communications. Except as otherwise provided by law or these rules, files are generally available to the licensee, the licensee's counsel, and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel but shall not be available to the public.

(c) As it is used in this section, the term "records" includes information that the Office of Case Management and Supervision may request and collect from licensees subject to supervision that it deems useful to inform individual supervision needs. Such information is highly sensitive and in order to encourage candid and truthful responses, such records shall not be accessible outside of the Office of Case Management and Supervision except as follows:

(1) Upon a motion pursuant to Rule 5.45 and a State Bar Court order finding good cause to make the information accessible to the licensee, the licensee's counsel, or the Office of Chief Trial Counsel;

(2) To any office of the State Bar engaged in data collection, analysis, or research, and to any office of the State Bar providing support or advice thereto or to any person or entity providing related services, and only for research purposes to inform general supervision strategies.

(3) Any such person or entity providing related services must execute a confidentiality agreement or non-disclosure agreement with the State Bar or a contract containing a confidentiality or non-disclosure clause.

(4) Results of any such collection, analysis or research shall only be publicly disclosed in the aggregate, without reference to any individual or information that may allow any individual to potentially be identified.

(5) In the event the Office of Case Management and Supervision refers a matter to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel for noncompliance with disciplinary conditions, or files a motion to revoke probation with the State Bar Court, information relevant to the noncompliance may be disclosed.

Eff. May 1, 2024. (Effective May 1, 2024, former rule 2703 revised and renumbered as 2702 and former rule 2702 repealed. Former rule 2703 eff. revised January 1, 2004.) Source: New.

DIVISION IV. DISQUALIFICATION AND MCLE CREDIT

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division III General Provisions, Chapter 4 Disqualification.

CHAPTER 1. DISQUALIFICATION

STATE BAR NOTE: TRP 230 Referees, is superseded by Title II.

Rule 3101. DISQUALIFICATION OF CERTAIN PERSONS

(a) Members of the Board of Trustees, the Committee of Bar Examiners, judges, including pro tem judges, of the State Bar Court, and employees of the State Bar shall not:

(1) during their term of office or employment, represent a party in a matter which involves the regulatory jurisdiction of the State Bar and in which the party's interests are adverse to or in conflict with the regulatory interests of the State Bar;

(2) following expiration of their term of office or termination of employment, represent a party in a matter which involves the regulatory jurisdiction of the State Bar and in which they personally and materially participated during their State Bar service; or which involves material confidential information of the State Bar to which they had access as the result of their State Bar service;

(3) where subsection (a)(2) above does not apply, for a period of six (6) months following expiration of their term of office or termination of employment, represent a party in a matter which involves the regulatory jurisdiction of the State Bar and in which they had supervisorial responsibility during their State Bar service;

(b) Members and/or other appointees of State Bar committees, sections, and/or entities, other than those identified in Section (a) above, shall not, during or after their term of office, represent a party in a matter which involves the regulatory jurisdiction of the State Bar and which involves material confidential information of the State Bar to which they had access as the result of their State Bar service.

(c) The Board of Trustees, or its designee, may waive the requirements of this rule, for good cause.

(d) Nothing in this rule eliminates any disqualification under the statutory or decisional law, nor any disqualification under the Rules of Professional Conduct, or the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Renumbered January 1, 1996; Revised March 2, 1996; Corrected July 1, 1997. Source: TRP 231.

CHAPTER 2. MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDIT

Rule 3201. MINIMUM CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

An attorney may receive Minimum Continuing Legal Education Credit upon the satisfactory completion of State Bar Ethics School, or any other remedial education courses approved by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, unless the attorney's attendance at such courses is required by a decision or order of the State Bar Court or Supreme Court.

Eff. August 26, 1995; Revised January 25, 2019. Source: New.

DIVISION V. PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO VARIOUS PROCEEDINGS

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings. Chapter 1B Audit of Books and Records of Attorney, TRP 530-534 and Chapter 7 Proceedings to Assume Jurisdiction Over Incapacitated Attorney's Law Practice, TRP 630 are deleted. Chapter 2 Formal

Proceedings and Hearings, TRP 550-575, Chapter 3 Conviction Proceedings, TRP 601-603, Chapter 5 Public and Private Reprovals, TRP 615-618, Chapter 6 Rule 9.20 Proceedings, TRP 620-622, Chapter 8 Proceedings for Involuntary Transfer to or for Re-Transfer from Inactive Enrollment, TRP 640-649, Chapter 9 Resignation-Perpetuation of Testimony Proceedings, TRP 650-658, Chapter 10 Reinstatement Proceedings, TRP 660-669, Chapter 15 Proceedings re Involuntary Transfer to Inactive Status Upon a Finding that the Attorney's Conduct Poses a Substantial Threat of Harm to the Public or the Attorney's Clients, TRP 789-99, Chapter 15A Proceedings Re Involuntary Transfer to Inactive Status Upon a Finding that an Attorney has not Complied with Section 6002.1, Business and Professions Code, and Cannot be Located after Reasonable Investigation, TRP 799.1, Chapter 15B Expedited Disciplinary Proceedings in Connection with an Involuntary Inactive Enrollment Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 6007(c), TRP 799.5-799.8, Chapter 16 Expedited Disciplinary Proceedings Following Discipline of an Attorney by Another Jurisdiction, TRP 800-806, Chapter 17 Proceedings to Demonstrate Rehabilitation, Present Fitness and Learning and Ability in the Law Pursuant to Standard 1.4(c)(ii), TRP 810-826, Chapter 18 Moral Character Proceedings, TRP 830-836 are superseded by Title II. Chapter 11 Client Security Fund Proceedings, TRP 670-688, was moved to a separate publication entitled "Rules of Procedure, Client Security Fund Proceedings" effective January 1992. Chapter 12 Fee Arbitration Proceedings, TRP 690-732, was moved to a separate publication entitled "Rules of Procedure for Fee Arbitrations and the Enforcement of Awards by the State Bar of California" effective January 1991. See also, Fee Arbitration Award Enforcement Proceedings, Rules 700-711 of Title II.

CHAPTER 1. DISCIPLINE AUDIT PANEL

STATE BAR NOTE: Effective January 1, 2000, Business and Professions Code section 6086.11 was repealed by operation of law. As a result, the Discipline Audit Panel no longer exists and former rules 4101 through 4103, relating to the functions of the Discipline Audit Panel and its predecessor, the Complainants' Grievance Panel, have also been repealed by operation of law**.**

CHAPTER 2. LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE PROCEEDINGS

Rule 4201 Scope

The rules of this chapter apply to proceedings before the State Bar Court pursuant to Rules of the State Bar, title 3, division 5, chapter 3, rules 3.803 and 3.806, wherein an applicant for certification as a lawyer referral service or an existing certified lawyer referral service (collectively, lawyer referral service) may seek review of the denial, suspension, or revocation of certification by the State Bar. The State Bar Court will independently review the record and may make findings, conclusions, or a decision or recommendation different from those of the State Bar.

Eff. June 1, 2021.

Rule 4202 Beginning Proceeding; Time for Filing; Appearance by Counsel

If the State Bar denies, suspends, or revokes certification of a lawyer referral service, the lawyer referral service may file a petition for review under this chapter within 30 days pursuant to

rule 5.28. Such petition must be served under rule 5.25 and filed in the Hearing Department, accompanied by supporting documents, including but not limited to a copy of the notice of denial, suspension, or revocation, and proof of service upon the State Bar Office of Professional Competence and the Office of Chief Trial Counsel. A lawyer referral service filing and serving a petition for review under this chapter that is an organization shall be represented by counsel.

Eff. June 1, 2021.

Rule 4203 Response to Petition for Review

(A) **Timing of Response.** Within 30 days after the filing and service of a petition for review under this chapter, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel will file with the Court, and serve upon the Lawyer Referral Service or its attorney, a response to the petition.

(B) **Contents of Response.** The response may be accompanied by declarations, exhibits, and requests for judicial notice. The response will: (1) oppose the petition; (2) state that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel does not oppose the petition; or (3) state that the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel does not possess sufficient facts to determine whether or not it opposes the petition.

Eff. June 1, 2021.

Rule 4204 Hearing Procedure

(A) A lawyer referral service may file and serve a written request for a hearing when filing the petition for review or within 10 days of service of the response. The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may request a hearing; such request must be filed with the response. Failure to request a hearing is a waiver of hearing.

(B) The court will hold a hearing if timely requested by either party or the court determines that a hearing will materially contribute to the court's consideration of the petition for review.

Eff. June 1, 2021.

Rule 4205 Burden of Proof; Discovery; Evidence

(A) **Burden of Proof.** The lawyer referral service must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that it satisfies the minimum standards for certification or recertification as provided in the Rules of the State Bar, title 3, division 5, chapter 3, article 2.

(B) **Discovery.** The State Bar Court will allow discovery only if good cause is shown.

(C) **Objections to a Petition for Review.** Written objections to the declarations offered in support of and in response to the petition for review must be filed and served by a party within 10 days after the response is filed. If no hearing is held, the court will receive the declarations in evidence, subject to its rulings on any objections.

(D) **Hearing.** If a hearing is held, the submitted declarations will be admitted in evidence, subject to appropriate objection, as the direct testimony of the respective declarants.

(E) **Cross-Examination.** In a pleading, a party may request that a declarant be produced for cross-examination at the hearing. If the request is filed and served at least 10 days before the hearing or within five court days after the declaration was served,

whichever time is later, the party that filed the declaration must produce the declarant as requested. If such a declarant does not appear for cross-examination at the hearing, the Court may decline to admit in evidence the declaration or any portion thereof, including exhibits.

Eff. June 1, 2021.

Rule 4206 Review

A ruling by the hearing judge under this chapter is reviewable only under rule 5.150.

Eff. June 1, 2021.

Rule 4207 Effect of State Bar Court Decision

The decision of the hearing judge, or (if review is requested) the decision of the Review Department, is the final State Bar Court decision in a proceeding under this chapter. Unless the California Supreme Court grants a petition for review, the decision is binding on the lawyer referral service, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, and the State Bar.

Eff. June 1, 2021.

Rule 4208 Applicable Rules

(A) **Inapplicable Rules.** The following rules do not apply in a proceeding pursuant to this chapter:

(1) rules that by their terms apply only to disciplinary proceedings or to other specific proceedings; and

(2) rules 5.50 (abatement); rules 5.80-5.102 (defaults; obligation to appear at trial; pretrial; notice of trial); rule 5.103 (burden of proof); rules 5.151-5.158 (review).

(B) **Conditionally Applicable.** The following rules apply in a proceeding pursuant to this chapter in certain circumstances: (1) rules 5.60-5.71 (subpoenas and discovery) apply only if and to the extent that the court permits discovery.

(C) In such applicable rules, reference to “attorney” shall apply to a lawyer referral service as appropriate.

Eff. June 1, 2021.

CHAPTER 3. LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND PROCEEDINGS

STATE BAR NOTE: Formerly TRP Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings, Chapter 14 Legal Trust Fund Proceedings.

Rule 4301. NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS

These rules apply to hearings required by Business and Professions Code section 6224 and by the Rules Regulating Interest-Bearing Trust Fund Accounts For the Provision of Legal Services to Indigent Persons (hereinafter "Trust Fund Rules").

Eff. September 1, 1989; Revised April 17, 1993; Revised and renumbered January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 775.

Rule 4302. INITIATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings under these rules shall be initiated by the filing with the Clerk of the State Bar Court of a written request for hearing in accordance with the Trust Fund Rules. The applicant or recipient shall have thirty (30) days from service of a notice of denial or termination of funding to file the request for hearing with the Clerk of the State Bar Court. The request for hearing shall be accompanied by a copy of the notice of denial or termination and shall contain an address to which all further notices to the applicant or recipient in relation to the particular proceeding may be sent. A copy of the request for hearing shall also be served by the applicant or recipient on the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (hereinafter "Commission") at the San Francisco office of the State Bar.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Revised April 17, 1993; Revised and renumbered January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 776.

Rule 4303. APPEARANCE BY COUNSEL

In proceedings conducted pursuant to these rules, the Commission established pursuant to rule 4 of the Trust Fund Rules and an applicant or recipient shall be represented by their respective counsel. The Commission's counsel shall be selected as determined by the Board of Trustees.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Revised April 17, 1993; Renumbered January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 777, unchanged.

Rule 4304. APPLICABLE RULES

(a) Rules which by their terms apply only to other specific proceedings shall not apply in Legal Services Trust Fund proceedings.

(b) All other rules shall apply as nearly as may be practicable.

(c) In such applicable rules, reference to “attorney” shall apply to an applicant or recipient, and references to the State Bar, "examiner", or "Office of Trials" or "Chief Trial Counsel" shall refer to the Commission and/or its counsel, as appropriate.

Eff. September 1, 1989; Revised April 17, 1993; Revised and renumbered January 1, 1996. Revised January 25, 2019. Source: TRP 778, substantially revised.

CHAPTER 4. RULES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE BAR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLIENT-ATTORNEY MEDIATION PROGRAM (ADRCAMP)

STATE BAR NOTE: As originally adopted by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California, the following rules were under TRP Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings, Chapter 19 and were numbered 1.0 through 7.0. These rules have now been placed in the revised Title III Division IV Provisions Applicable to Various Proceedings, Chapter 4 and renumbered accordingly.

Rule 4401. AUTHORITY

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Client-Attorney Mediation (ADRCAMP) Program is established pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 6086.14.

Eff. May 14, 1994. Renumbered: January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 840.

Rule 4402. PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

The ADRCAMP is designed to help resolve complaints against attorneys which do not warrant the institution of formal investigation or prosecution. It also will educate the participants about their respective responsibilities and obligations.

ADRCAMP is intended to be an effective and inexpensive alternative to formal attorney discipline utilizing early identification and intervention in dispute resolution.

Eff. May 14, 1994. Renumbered: January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 841.

Rule 4403. STANDARDS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADRCAMP REFERRAL

(a) The Office of Chief Trial Counsel, in the exercise of its prosecutorial discretion, may require the participation of an attorney in the ADRCAMP after considering, but not limited to, the following factors:

(1) Attorney's prior discipline record including, but not limited to, any record of public discipline or informal action including Agreements in Lieu of Discipline, Admonitions, Warning Letters, Directional Letters, and reportable actions.

(2) The existence of open inquiries/investigations involving the same conduct.

(3) Disciplinary proceedings pending in the State Bar Court.

(4) Client willingness to participate in the program.

(5) Availability of ADRCAMP in county where attorney maintains principal place of practice or performed significant legal services.

(6) Prior efforts to resolve the dispute.

(b) The Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall select complaint areas by allegation type, area of the law, or fact scenario which may be considered for ADRCAMP referral.

Eff. May 14, 1994. Renumbered: January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 842, unchanged.

Rule 4404. GUIDELINES FOR REFERRAL TO ADRCAMP

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel shall adopt internal procedures and guidelines for appropriate referral to ADRCAMP entity of telephone and written communications received.

Eff. May 14, 1994. Renumbered: January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 843.

Rule 4405. POST-MEDIATION PROCEDURES – ADRCAMP

After the mediation is concluded or if mediation is unsuccessful, the ADRCAMP entity shall transmit the record of the mediation to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel. The record referred to in Business and Professions Code § 6086.14(c) shall consist of:

(a) A Mediation Summary Report Form to be completed by the ADRCAMP entity;

(b) A One Party Interview Form to be completed by the ADRCAMP entity if only one of the parties appears at the mediation.

Eff. May 14, 1994. Renumbered: January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 844.

Rule 4406. POST-MEDIATION PROCEDURES – OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

(a) When mediation is concluded, the discipline matter shall be considered closed subject to reopening if the client advises the Office of Chief Trial Counsel that the lawyer has failed to comply with the terms of the agreement.

(b) If the attorney fails to participate in the mediation, if the parties fail to reach agreement, or if the attorney fails to perform pursuant to any agreement reached in the mediation, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may:

(1) Request the ADRCAMP to reschedule the matter for further mediation;

(2) Consider the matter for further investigation;

(3) Initiate disciplinary proceedings relating to the matter; or

(4) Close the inquiry.

(c) Following the conclusion of the mediation process, the Office of Chief Trial Counsel may contact the parties to ascertain what steps, if any, may be taken to improve the efficiency, fairness or responsiveness of the program.

Eff. May 14, 1994. Renumbered: January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 845.

Rule 4407. MATERIALS

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel may publish forms, procedures and guidelines to be used in implementing this program.

Eff. May 14, 1994. Renumbered: January 1, 1996. Source: TRP 846.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE MEDIATION OF CLIENT-ATTORNEY DISPUTES

(Adopted by the Board of Governors May 14, 1994)

PURPOSE

To establish, in partnership with local bar associations, a statewide program for mediation of client/lawyer disputes which do not warrant the institution of formal investigation or prosecution. The pilot project shall include mandatory mediations referred by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel under Business and Professions Code Section 6086.14 and voluntary mediation requests made directly to the local bar by either the lawyer or client, if both the lawyer and client agree to mediate.

Participation in the pilot program shall be limited to no more than six local bar associations for the purpose of mediating mandatory referrals from the Office of Chief Trial Counsel. An unlimited number of bar associations may participate in the pilot program for the purpose of mediating voluntary requests from the lawyer and client. Any local bar association participating in the pilot program must have its rules of procedure, and any subsequent amendments, approved by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

Local bar association rules of procedure shall provide for:

1. A fair, speedy and impartial mediation procedure suitable to the circumstances;
2. Adequate training for mediators which includes classrooms and practical training with technical assistance provided by the State Bar;
3. Mediation of both mandatory and voluntary matters if the local bar is one of the associations handling mandatory meditations referred by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel;
4. The maintenance of statistics which show:
   (a) The number of requests received;
   (b) The nature of the disputes;
   (c) Whether the request was voluntary or mandatory;
   (d) If the request was voluntary, whether it was made by the client or attorney;
   (e) The disposition of each request.
5. An appropriate procedure for parties to challenge mediators for cause;
6. An appropriate procedure for a mediator to disclose any possible conflict of interest;
7. A rule setting forth jurisdiction requirements for accepting matters for mediation (e.g. lawyer practices in the county and/or services were performed in the county);
8. A procedure for preserving the confidentiality afforded by Evidence Code Section 1152.5 and Business and Professions Code Section 6086. 1(b);
9. A procedure which complies with requirements developed by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel for transmitting the results of mandatory mediation matters to that Office;

10. A procedure covering what action, if any, will be taken in those instances where information regarding lawyer misconduct may be disclosed during a mediation; and
11. If the program elects to allow such meditations, a procedure for determining the permissible participation of non-clients having a material interest in the proceedings, such as fee guarantors, lien claimants or other interested persons, subject to the consent of the client and lawyer.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. The local bar association may use both lawyer and non-lawyer mediators.

TITLE IV. STANDARDS FOR ATTORNEY SANCTIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

PART A. STANDARDS IN GENERAL

1.1 PURPOSES AND SCOPE OF STANDARDS

The Standards For Attorney Sanctions For Professional Misconduct (the "Standards") are adopted by the Board of Trustees to set forth a means for determining the appropriate disciplinary sanction in a particular case and to ensure consistency across cases dealing with similar misconduct and surrounding circumstances. The Standards help fulfill the primary purposes of discipline, which include:

(a) protection of the public, the courts and the legal profession;

(b) maintenance of the highest professional standards; and

(c) preservation of public confidence in the legal profession.

Rehabilitation can also be an objective in determining the appropriate sanction in a particular case, so long as it is consistent with the primary purposes of discipline.

The Standards are based on the State Bar Act, the published opinions of the Review Department of the State Bar Court, and the longstanding decisions of the California Supreme Court, which maintains inherent and plenary authority over the practice of law in California. Although not binding, the Standards are afforded great weight by the Supreme Court and should be followed whenever possible. The Supreme Court will accept a disciplinary recommendation that is consistent with the Standards unless it has grave doubts about the propriety of the recommended sanction. If a recommendation is at the high end or low end of a Standard, an explanation must be given as to how the recommendation was reached. Any disciplinary recommendation that deviates from the Standards must include clear reasons for the departure.

The Standards do not apply to: non-disciplinary dispositions such as admonitions and agreements in lieu of discipline; resignations; involuntary inactive enrollments; interim suspensions after

conviction of a crime; or suspensions for nonpayment of State Bar fees, failure to comply with child support orders, or tax delinquencies.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2007; January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) "Lawyer" means a licensee of the California Supreme Court, the State Bar of California, or a person who is admitted in good standing and eligible to practice before the bar of any United States court or the highest court of the District of Columbia or any state, territory, or insular possession of the United States, or is licensed to practice law in, or is admitted in good standing and eligible to practice before the bar of the highest court of, a foreign country or any political subdivision thereof and includes any agent of the lawyer, law firm, or law corporation doing business in the state.

(b) "Disbarment" is termination from the practice of law and from holding oneself out as entitled to practice law. The license issued by the Supreme Court or State Bar ceases and the licensee's name is stricken from the roll of attorneys.

(c) "Suspension" can include a period of actual suspension, stayed suspension, or both:

(1) "Actual suspension" is a disqualification from the practice of law and from holding oneself out as entitled to practice law, subject to probation and attached conditions. Actual suspension is generally for a period of thirty days, sixty days, ninety days, six months, one year, eighteen months, two years, three years, or until specific conditions are met. Actual suspension for two years or more requires proof, satisfactory to the State Bar Court, of rehabilitation, fitness to practice, and present learning and ability in the general law before a lawyer may be relieved of the actual suspension. The State Bar Court can require this showing in other appropriate cases as well.

(2) "Stayed suspension" is a stay of all or part of a suspension. Stayed suspension is generally for a period of at least one year. A suspension can be stayed only if it is consistent with the primary purposes of discipline.

(d) "Public Reproval" or "Private Reproval" is a public censure or reprimand. Either may include conditions.

(e) [This subsection not in use at this time.]

(f) "Interim Remedies" are temporary restrictions imposed by the State Bar Court on a lawyer's ability to practice law. They are imposed in order to protect the public, the courts, and the legal profession until such time as the issues can be resolved through formal proceedings.

(g) "Prior record of discipline" is a previous imposition or recommendation of discipline. It includes all charges, stipulations, findings and decisions (final or not) reflecting or recommending discipline, including from another jurisdiction. It can be discipline imposed for a violation of a term of probation or a violation of a Supreme Court order requiring compliance with rule 9.20 of the California Rules of Court.

(h) "Aggravating circumstances" are factors surrounding a lawyer's misconduct that demonstrate that the primary purposes of discipline warrant a greater sanction than what is otherwise specified in a given Standard.

(i) "Mitigating circumstances" are factors surrounding a lawyer's misconduct that demonstrate that the primary purposes of discipline warrant a more lenient sanction than what is otherwise specified in a given Standard.

(j) "Probation" is a period of time under which a lawyer is subject to State Bar supervision. Probation may include conditions that further the primary purposes of discipline.

(k) "Conditions" are terms with which a lawyer must comply as part of a disciplinary sanction. They relate to a lawyer's misconduct and the facts and circumstances surrounding the misconduct and serve the primary purposes of discipline.

(l) "Tribunal" means: (i) a court, an arbitrator, an administrative law judge, or an administrative body acting in an adjudicative capacity and authorized to make a decision that can be binding on the parties involved; or (ii) a special master or other person to whom a court refers one or more issues and whose decision or recommendation can be binding on the parties if approved by the court.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2007; January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015; January 25, 2019; April 1, 2025.

1.3 DEGREES OF SANCTIONS

Subject to these Standards and the laws and rules governing the conduct of disciplinary proceedings, the following sanctions may be imposed upon a finding of misconduct:

(a) disbarment;

(b) actual suspension;

(c) stayed suspension;

(d) public reproval;

(e) private reproval; or

(f) any interim remedies or other final discipline authorized by the Business and Professions Code.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015.

1.4 CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO SANCTIONS

Conditions attached to a reproval or probation may require a lawyer to:

(a) make specific restitution or file a satisfaction of judgment;

(b) take and pass a professional responsibility examination;

(c) undergo treatment, at the lawyer's expense, for medical, psychological, or psychiatric conditions or for problems related to alcohol or substance abuse;

(d) complete, at the lawyer's expense, educational or rehabilitative work regarding substantive law, ethics, or law office management;

(e) complete probation, subject to reporting requirements;

(f) give notice to affected parties, including clients, co-counsel, opposing counsel, courts or other tribunals; or

(g) comply with any other conditions consistent with the primary purposes of discipline.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015; January 25, 2019.

1.5 AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The State Bar must establish aggravating circumstances by clear and convincing evidence. Aggravating circumstances may include:

(a) a prior record of discipline;

(b) multiple acts of wrongdoing;

(c) a pattern of misconduct;

(d) intentional misconduct, bad faith or dishonesty;

(e) misrepresentation;

(f) concealment;

(g) overreaching;

(h) uncharged violations of the Business and Professions Code or the Rules of Professional Conduct;

(i) refusal or inability to account for entrusted funds or property;

(j) significant harm to the client, the public, or the administration of justice;

(k) indifference toward rectification or atonement for the consequences of the misconduct;

(l) lack of candor and cooperation to the victims of the misconduct or to the State Bar during disciplinary investigations or proceedings;

(m) failure to make restitution; or

(n) high level of vulnerability of the victim.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2007; January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015.

1.6 MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

A lawyer must establish mitigating circumstances by clear and convincing evidence. Mitigating circumstances may include:

(a) absence of any prior record of discipline over many years of practice coupled with present misconduct, which is not likely to recur;

(b) good faith belief that is honestly held and objectively reasonable;

(c) lack of harm to the client, the public, or the administration of justice;

(d) extreme emotional difficulties or physical or mental disabilities suffered by the lawyer at the time of the misconduct and established by expert testimony as directly responsible for the misconduct, provided that such difficulties or disabilities were not the product of any illegal conduct by the lawyer, such as illegal drug or substance abuse, and the lawyer established by clear and convincing evidence that the difficulties or disabilities no longer pose a risk that the lawyer will commit misconduct;

(e) spontaneous candor and cooperation displayed to the victims of the misconduct or to the State Bar;

(f) extraordinary good character attested to by a wide range of references in the legal and general communities, who are aware of the full extent of the misconduct;

(g) prompt objective steps, demonstrating spontaneous remorse and recognition of the wrongdoing and timely atonement;

(h) remoteness in time of the misconduct and subsequent rehabilitation;

(i) excessive delay by the State Bar in conducting disciplinary proceedings causing prejudice to the lawyer; or

(j) restitution was made without the threat or force of administrative, disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015; January 25, 2019.

1.7 DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE SANCTIONS

(a) If a lawyer commits two or more acts of misconduct and the Standards specify different sanctions for each act, the most severe sanction must be imposed.

(b) If aggravating circumstances are found, they should be considered alone and in balance with any mitigating circumstances, and if the net effect demonstrates that a greater sanction is needed to fulfill the primary purposes of discipline, it is appropriate to impose or recommend a greater sanction than what is otherwise specified in a given Standard. On balance, a greater sanction is appropriate in cases where there is serious harm to the client, the public, the legal system, or the profession and where the record demonstrates that the lawyer is unwilling or unable to conform to ethical responsibilities.

(c) If mitigating circumstances are found, they should be considered alone and in balance with any aggravating circumstances, and if the net effect demonstrates that a lesser sanction is needed to fulfill the primary purposes of discipline, it is appropriate to impose or recommend a lesser sanction than what is otherwise specified in a given Standard. On balance, a lesser sanction is appropriate in cases of minor misconduct, where there is little or no injury to a client, the public, the legal system, or the profession and where the record demonstrates that the lawyer is willing and has the ability to conform to ethical responsibilities in the future.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; January 25, 2019.

1.8 EFFECT OF PRIOR DISCIPLINE

(a) If a lawyer has a single prior record of discipline, the sanction should be greater than the previously imposed sanction unless the prior discipline was remote in time, the previous or current misconduct was not sufficiently serious to warrant greater discipline, or there are other circumstances that would make imposing greater discipline unjust. In matters in which a lawyer has a single prior record of discipline and the court is not recommending or imposing a sanction greater than the previously imposed sanction, the court must set forth its reason(s) for not imposing a greater sanction.

(b) If a lawyer has two or more prior records of discipline, disbarment is appropriate in the following circumstances, unless the most compelling mitigating circumstances clearly predominate or the misconduct underlying the prior discipline occurred during the same time period as the current misconduct:

(1) Actual suspension was ordered in any one of the prior disciplinary matters;

(2) The prior disciplinary matters coupled with the current record demonstrate a pattern of misconduct; or

(3) The prior disciplinary matters coupled with the current record demonstrate the lawyer's unwillingness or inability to conform to ethical responsibilities.

(c) Sanctions may be imposed, including disbarment, even if a lawyer has no prior record of discipline.

Eff. January 1, 2014; Revised January 25, 2019; January 1, 2025

PART B. SANCTIONS FOR SPECIFIC MISCONDUCT [1]

The presumed sanction for any specific act of misconduct is a starting point for the imposition of discipline, but can be adjusted up or down depending on the application of mitigating and aggravating circumstances set forth in Standards 1.5 and 1.6, and the balancing of these circumstances as described in Standard 1.7(b) and (c). For any specific act of misconduct not listed in Part B, please refer to Standards 2.18 and 2.19.

Eff. July 1, 2015.

2.1. MISAPPROPRIATION

(a) Disbarment is the presumed sanction for intentional or dishonest misappropriation of entrusted funds or property, unless the amount misappropriated is insignificantly small or sufficiently compelling mitigating circumstances clearly predominate, in which case actual suspension is appropriate.

(b) Actual suspension is the presumed sanction for misappropriation involving gross negligence.

(c) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction for misappropriation that does not involve intentional misconduct or gross negligence.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015.

2.2 COMMINGLING AND OTHER TRUST ACCOUNT VIOLATIONS

(a) Actual suspension of three months is the presumed sanction for (1) commingling, (2) failure to deposit funds received for a client or other person to whom the lawyer owes a contractual, statutory, or other legal duty, including advances for fees, costs and expenses, in a client trust account when that conduct does not involve misappropriation, or (3) failure to promptly pay out entrusted funds.

[1] The term "reproval" includes public or private reproval.

(b) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction for any other violation of rule 1.15 of the Rules of Professional Conduct including, but not limited to violations of 1.15(d).

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2001; January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015; May 17, 2019.

2.3 ILLEGAL OR UNCONSCIONABLE FEE

(a) Actual suspension of at least six months is the presumed sanction for entering into an agreement for, charging, or collecting an unconscionable fee for legal services.

(b) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction for entering into an agreement for, charging, or collecting an illegal fee for legal services, or other violations of rule 1.5 (c)–(e) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015; January 25, 2019.

2.4 BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS, PECUNIARY INTERESTS ADVERSE TO A CLIENT

Suspension is the presumed sanction for improperly entering into a business transaction with a client or knowingly acquiring a pecuniary interest adverse to a client, unless the extent of the misconduct and any harm it caused to the client are minimal, in which case reproval is appropriate. If the transaction or acquisition and its terms are unfair or unreasonable to the client, then disbarment or actual suspension is appropriate.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015.

2.5 REPRESENTATION OF ADVERSE INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

(a) Actual suspension is the presumed sanction when a lawyer violates rule 1.7, subparagraphs (a), (b), and (d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, or other law prohibiting an attorney from simultaneously representing conflicting interests and causes significant harm to any of the clients.

(b) Actual suspension is the presumed sanction when a lawyer either violates rule 1.9(a) or 1.9(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct and causes significant harm to the former client.

(c) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction for all other conflicts of interest violations or breaches of the duty of loyalty not covered by other subparagraphs of this Standard, depending on the magnitude of the violation and the harm to the client or clients. This includes, but is not limited to rules 1.7(c), 1.8.2, 1.8.6, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, and 1.18(c) and (d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Actual suspension is the presumed sanction if there is harm.

(d) Actual suspension is the presumed sanction for a violation of the former rules addressing conflicts, including, but not limited to rules 3-310, 3-320, and 3-600 of the former Rules of Professional Conduct, where the lawyer causes significant harm to the client or former client.

Eff. July 1, 2015; Revised May 17, 2019.

2.6 BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY OR MISUSE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

(a) Suspension is the presumed sanction when a lawyer intentionally reveals client confidences or secrets, or uses a current, former, or prospective client's information to the disadvantage of the client, depending on the harm to the current, former, or prospective client or clients.

(b) Reproval is the presumed sanction when a lawyer recklessly or through gross negligence reveals client confidences secrets, or uses a current, former, or prospective client's information to the disadvantage of the client, depending on the harm to the current, former, or prospective client or clients.

(c) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction when a lawyer violates rule 4.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct regarding a lawyer's duties concerning inadvertently transmitted writings depending on the harm to the party whose information is inadvertently disclosed.

Eff. July 1, 2015; Revised January 25, 2019; May 17, 2019.

2.7 PERFORMANCE, COMMUNICATION OR WITHDRAWAL VIOLATIONS

(a) Disbarment is the presumed sanction for performance, communication, or withdrawal violations demonstrating habitual disregard of client interests.

(b) Actual suspension is the presumed sanction for performance, communication, or withdrawal violations in multiple client matters, not demonstrating habitual disregard of client interests.

(c) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction for performance, communication, or withdrawal violations, which are limited in scope or time. The degree of sanction depends on the extent of the misconduct and the degree of harm to the client or clients.

(d) Performance in this Standard includes, but is not limited to, any of the following: the duties of diligence; competence; supervision; duties regarding disbarred, suspended, or involuntary inactive attorneys; duties of subordinate attorneys; and duties to an organization. This includes, but is not limited to rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.13, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and 5.3.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Communication in this Standard includes, but is not limited to of any of the following: communications with clients, communications of settlement offers, disclosure of professional liability, communications with prospective clients, communications with unrepresented persons, and communications with represented persons. This includes, but is not limited to, Business and Professions Code section 6068, subdivision (m), and rules 1.2, 1.4, 1.4.1, 2.1, 4.2, and 4.3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015; January 25, 2019.

2.8 PARTNERSHIP OR FEE-SPLITTING WITH NON-LAWYERS

Actual suspension is the presumed sanction when a lawyer enters into a partnership or other organization that practices law with a non-lawyer, allows a non-lawyer to own, direct, or control a professional corporation or other organization that practices law, shares legal fees with a non-lawyer, or any other violation of rule 5.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The degree of sanction depends upon the extent to which the misconduct interfered with an attorney-client

relationship and the extent to which the lawyer failed to perform legal services for which he or she was employed.

Eff. July 1, 2015; Revised and retitled January 25, 2019.

2.9 FRIVOLOUS LITIGATION

(a) Actual suspension is the presumed sanction when a lawyer counsels or maintains a frivolous claim or action for an improper purpose or uses means that have no substantial purpose other than to delay or prolong the proceeding or cause needless expense, resulting in significant harm to an individual or the administration of justice. Disbarment is appropriate if the misconduct demonstrates a pattern.

(b) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction when a lawyer counsels or maintains a frivolous claim or action for an improper purpose or uses means that have no substantial purpose other than to delay or prolong the proceeding or cause needless expense resulting in harm to an individual or the administration of justice.

Eff. July 1, 2015; Revised January 25, 2019.

2.10 UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW

(a) Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction when a lawyer engages in the unauthorized practice of law or unlawfully holds himself or herself out as entitled to practice law while he or she is on actual suspension for disciplinary reasons in the jurisdiction where the lawyer practices or holds himself or herself out as entitled to practice law or is on involuntary inactive enrollment under Business and Professions Code section 6007 or other law in the relevant jurisdiction. The degree of sanction depends on whether the lawyer knew he or she was not entitled to practice law.

(b) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction when a lawyer engages in the unauthorized practice of law or unlawfully holds himself or herself out as entitled to practice law while he or she is not licensed to practice law in that jurisdiction, is on voluntary inactive status, or on suspension for non-disciplinary reasons (including, but not limited to non-payment of fees or non-compliance with legal education requirements) in the jurisdiction where the lawyer practices or holds himself or herself out as entitled to practice law. The degree of sanction depends on whether the lawyer knew he or she was not entitled to practice law.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015; January 25, 2019.

2.11 MORAL TURPITUDE, DISHONESTY, FRAUD, CORRUPTION, OR CONCEALMENT

Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for an act of moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, corruption, intentional or grossly negligent misrepresentation, or concealment of a material fact. The degree of sanction depends on the magnitude of the misconduct; the extent to which the misconduct harmed or misled the victim, which may include the adjudicator; the impact on the administration of justice, if any; and the extent to which the misconduct related to the practice of law.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2001; January 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015; January 25, 2019.

2.12 VIOLATION OF OATH OR DUTIES OF AN ATTORNEY

(a) Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for disobedience or violation of a court or tribunal order related to the lawyer's practice of law, the attorney's oath, or the duties required of an attorney under Business and Professions Code section 6068, subdivisions (a)(b)(d)(e)(f), or (h), and rule 3.4(f) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

(b) Reproval is the presumed sanction for a violation of the duties required of an attorney under Business and Professions Code section 6068, subdivisions (i), (j), (l) or (o).

(c) Violations of the duties required of an attorney under Business and Professions Code section 6068, subdivisions (m) or (n), are covered in Standard 2.7.

(d) Violations of the duties required of an attorney under Business and Professions Code section 6068, subdivisions (c) or (g), are covered in Standard 2.9.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2001; January 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015; Revised January 25, 2019.

2.13 SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH CLIENTS

(a) Disbarment is the presumed sanction when a lawyer expressly or impliedly conditions the performance of legal services for a current or prospective client upon the client's willingness to engage in sexual relations with the attorney or employs coercion, intimidation, or undue influence in entering into sexual relations with a client.

(b) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction for any other violation of rule 1.8.10 of the Rules of Professional Conduct, or Business and Professions Code section 6106.9.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2001; January 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015. Revised May 17, 2019.

2.14 VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO DISCIPLINE

Actual suspension is the presumed sanction for failing to comply with a condition of discipline. The degree of sanction depends on the nature of the condition violated and the lawyer's unwillingness or inability to comply with disciplinary orders.

Eff. January 1, 1986; Revised January 1, 2014; July 1, 2015; January 25, 2019.

2.15 CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS INVOLVING MORAL TURPITUDE

(a) Summary disbarment is the sanction for final conviction of a felony under the laws of California, the United States, or any state or territory thereof, and either: (1) an element of the offense is the specific intent to deceive, defraud, steal, or make or suborn a false statement, or involved moral turpitude, or (2) the facts and circumstances of the offense involved moral turpitude.

(b) Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for final conviction of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

Eff. January 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015; Revised May 17, 2019.

2.16 CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS NOT INVOLVING MORAL TURPITUDE

(a) Actual suspension is the presumed sanction for final conviction of a felony not involving moral turpitude, but involving other misconduct warranting discipline.

(b) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction for final conviction of a misdemeanor not involving moral turpitude but involving other misconduct warranting discipline.

Eff. July 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015.

2.17 CRIMINAL CONVICTION FOR SPECIFIC MISDEMEANORS

(a) Disbarment is the presumed sanction for final conviction of a misdemeanor specified in Business and Professions Code section 6131, where a public prosecutor aids in the defense of a defendant.

(b) Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for final conviction of a misdemeanor specified in Business and Professions Code sections 6128-6129 and 6153.

Eff. July 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015.

2.18 VIOLATION OF OTHER ARTICLE 6 STATUTES

Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for any violation of a provision of Article 6 of the Business and Professions Code, not otherwise specified in these Standards.

Eff. July 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015.

2.19 VIOLATION OF RULES IN GENERAL

Suspension not to exceed three years or reproval is the presumed sanction for a violation of a provision of the Rules of Professional Conduct not specified in these Standards.

Eff. July 1, 2014; Renumbered and revised July 1, 2015.

2.20 VIOLATION OF A CRIMINAL ACT THAT REFLECTS ADVERSELY ON THE LAWYER'S HONESTY OR FITNESS AS A LAWYER IN OTHER RESPECTS

(a) Disbarment is the presumed sanction for violation of Business and Professions Code section 6131 even if the violation does not result in a conviction.

(b) Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for a criminal act that reflects on the lawyer’s honesty if Standards 2.15, 2.16, or 2.17 do not apply.

(c) Suspension or reproval is the presumed sanction for a criminal act that does not reflect on the lawyer’s honesty, but reflects on the lawyer’s fitness as a lawyer, if Standards 2.15, 2.16, or 2.17 do not apply.

Eff. January 25, 2019.

2.21 CONDUCT PREJUDICIAL TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Disbarment or actual suspension is the presumed sanction for conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of rule 8.4(d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The degree of sanction depends on the magnitude of the misconduct, the extent to which the misconduct

harmed the victim or the administration of justice, and the extent to which the misconduct related to the lawyer's practice of law.

Eff. May 17, 2019.

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