# MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Jesslin Abraham, PTL

MBC File # 800-2022-088114

Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052

Respondent.

# ORDER CORRECTING NUNC PRO TUNC CLERICAL ERROR IN "CHAIRPERSON'S NAME" PORTION OF DECISION

On its own motion, the Medical Board of California (hereafter "Board") finds that there is a clerical error in the "chairperson's name" portion of the Decision in the above-entitled matter and that such clerical error should be corrected to indicate that Randy W. Hawkins, M.D. presided over this meeting.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the chairperson's name "Laurie Rose Lubiano, J.D." contained on the Decision Order Page in the above-entitled matter be and hereby is amended and corrected nunc pro tunc as of the date of entry of the decision to read as "Randy W. Hawkins, M.D.".

June 6, 2024

Randy W. Hawkins, M.D., Vice Chair

Panel A

# BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Jesslin Abraham, PTL

Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2022-088114

#### **DECISION**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on June 28, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED: May 29, 2024.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Laurie Rose Lubiano, J.D., Chair

Panel A

1	ROB BONTA				
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 169127				
5	300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013				
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6448 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117				
7	E-mail: Peggie.Tarwater@doj.ca.gov  Attorneys for Complainant				
8					
9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
11	STATE OF CA	ADIFORNIA			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2022-088114			
13	JESSLIN ABRAHAM, PTL	OAH No. 2023110080			
14	3408 Willowcreek Dr. Sunnyvale, TX 75182-4009	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND			
15	Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052,	DISCIPLINARY ORDER			
16	Respondent.				
17					
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-				
19	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	e true:			
20	<u>PAR'</u>	<u>ries</u>			
21	{	xecutive Director of the Medical Board of			
22	California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this				
23	matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Peggie Bradford Tarwater,				
24	Deputy Attorney General.				
25	2. Respondent Jesslin Abraham, PTL (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by				
26	attorney Elizabeth M. Brady, whose address is: 8880 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 800, San Diego				
27	CA 92108-1642.	·			
28	///				
		STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (800-2022-088114)			
	II	· · · · · · · · · ·			

3. On or about July 23, 2021, the Board issued Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052 to Respondent. The Post Graduate Training License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2022-088114, and will expire on July 23, 2024, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 4. Accusation No. 800-2022-088114 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 21, 2023. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2022-088114 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

#### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-088114. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with his counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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#### **CULPABILITY**

- 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-088114, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Post Graduate Training License.
- 10. Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case or factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.
- agrees to be bound by the Board's terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below. Respondent further agrees that if he fails to comply with the terms set forth in the Disciplinary Order, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2022-088114 shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any further proceeding before the Board, and that his failure to complete the terms set forth in the Disciplinary Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for further discipline.

#### **CONTINGENCY**

- 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 13. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2022-088114 shall be

deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

- 14. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

#### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052 issued to Respondent Jesslin Abraham, PTL shall be and is hereby publicly reprimanded pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4). This Public Reprimand is issued in connection with the allegations that Respondent was convicted of alcohol-related reckless driving, that he used alcohol in a dangerous manner, and that he failed to participate in a Board interview, as set forth in Exhibit A.

1. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have

been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

2. <u>INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY</u>. Respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, including, but not limited to, expert review, amended accusations, legal reviews, investigation(s), and subpoena enforcement, as applicable, in the amount of \$9,887. Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California. Payment must be made in full within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or by a payment plan approved by the Medical Board of California. Any and all requests for a payment plan shall be submitted in writing by Respondent to the Board. Failure to comply with the payment plan shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for further disciplinary order.

The filing of bankruptcy by Respondent shall not relieve Respondent of the responsibility to repay investigation and enforcement costs.

3. <u>FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE</u>. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2022-088114 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict license.

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#### **ACCEPTANCE**

<u> </u>	ACCEPTATION .		
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully		
3	discussed it with my attorney, Elizabeth M. Brady. I understand the stipulation and the effect it		
4	will have on my Post Graduate Training License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and		
5	Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the		
6	Decision and Order of the Medical Boa	ard of California.	
7		·	
8	DATED: 02/27/2024	as the second se	
9		JESSLIN ABRAHAM, PTL Respondent	
0	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Jesslin Abraham, PTL the terms and		
1	conditions and other matters contained	in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.	
2	I approve its form and content.		
3	DATED: Feb. 28, 2024	FLIZABETH M. BRADY	
4		Attorney for Respondent	
15			
16		ENDORSEMENT	
17	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully		
18	submitted for consideration by the Me	dical Board of California.	
19		D	
20	DATED:	Respectfully submitted,	
21		ROB BONTA Attorney General of California	
22		JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
23			
24		PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER	
25		Deputy Attorney General  Attorneys for Complainant	
26	· ·	same may by the desired management of the same management of the sam	
27	LA2022604423		

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## **ACCEPTANCE**

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2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully	
3	discussed it with my attorney, Elizabeth M. Brady. I understand the stipulation and the effect it	
4	will have on my Post Graduate Training License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and	
5	Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the	
6	Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.	
7	··	
8	DATED:	
9	JESSLIN ABRAHAM, PTL Respondent	
10	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Jesslin Abraham, PTL the terms and	
11	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.	
12	I approve its form and content.	
13 -	DATED:	
14	ELIZABETH M. BRADY Attorney for Respondent	
15		
16	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>	
17	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully	
18	submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.	
19	DATED: Feb. 29, 2024 Respectfully submitted,	
20	ROB BONTA	
21 22	Attorney General of California  JUDITH T. ALVARADO  Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
23	Peggie Bradford Digitally signed by Peggle	
24	Tarwater Date: 2024.02.29 11:34:35 -08'00'	
25	PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER Deputy Attorney General	
26	Attorneys for Complainant	
27	LA2022604423	
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1	ROB BONTA	
2	Attorney General of California  JUDITH T. ALVARADO	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 169127	
5	300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013	
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6448 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117	
7	E-mail: Peggie, Tarwater@doj.ca.gov  Attorneys for Complainant	
8	BEFORE THE	
	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
10		
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 800-2022-088114	
12	Jesslin Abraham 3408 Willowcreek Dr.	
13	Sunnyvale, TX 75182-4009	
14	Post Graduate Training License	
15	No. PTL 6052,  Respondent.	
16	Respondent	
17		
18	PARTIES	
19	1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as	
20	the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs	
21	(Board).	
22	2. On or about July 23, 2021, the Medical Board issued Post Graduate Training License	
23	Number PTL 6052 to Jesslin Abraham (Respondent). The Post Graduate Training License was in	
24	full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30,	
25	2024, unless renewed.	
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	(JESSLIN ABRAHAM) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2022-088114	

#### **JURISDICTION**

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

- 4. At the time that Respondent's Post Graduate Training License was issued, section 2064,5 of the Code stated:
  - (a) Within 180 days after enrollment in a board-approved postgraduate training program pursuant to Section 2065, medical school graduates shall obtain a physician's and surgeon's postgraduate training license. To be considered for a postgraduate training license, the applicant shall submit the application forms and primary source documents required by the board, shall successfully pass all required licensing examinations, shall pay a nonrefundable application and processing fee, and shall not have committed any act that would be grounds for denial.
  - (b) The physician's and surgeon's postgraduate training license shall be valid until 90 days after the holder has received 36 months credit of board-approved postgraduate training. The physician's and surgeon's postgraduate training licensee may engage in the practice of medicine only in connection with his or her duties as an intern or resident physician in a board-approved program, including its affiliated sites, or under those conditions as are approved in writing and maintained in the postgraduate training licensee's file by the director of his or her program.
  - (d) The postgraduate training licensee may be disciplined by the board at any time for any of the grounds that would subject the holder of a physician's and surgeon's certificate to discipline.
  - (e) If the medical school graduate fails to obtain a postgraduate license within 180 days after enrollment in a board-approved postgraduate training program or if the board denies the graduate's application for a postgraduate license, all privileges and exemptions under this section shall automatically cease.
  - (f) Each medical school graduate enrolled in a board-approved postgraduate training program on January 1, 2020, shall apply for and obtain a postgraduate training license by June 30, 2020, in order to continue in postgraduate training pursuant to Section 2065.

#### 5. Section 2064.7 of the Code states:

(a) The board may deny a postgraduate training license to an applicant guilty of unprofessional conduct or of any cause that would subject a licensee to revocation or suspension of his or her license. The board, in its sole discretion, may issue a probationary postgraduate training license to an applicant subject to terms and

Prior to January 1, 2022, and at the time Respondent's Post Graduate Training License was issued, section 2064.5, subdivision (b) provided, in relevant part, that "[t]he physician's and surgeon's postgraduate training license shall be valid until 90 days after the holder has successfully completed 36 months of board-approved postgraduate training."

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	conditions, including, but not limited to, any of the following conditions of probation:	
	(1) Limitations on practice,	
3	(2) Total or partial restrictions on drug prescribing privileges for controlled substances.	
4	(3) Continuing medical or psychiatric treatment.	
5	(4) Ongoing participation in a specified rehabilitation program.	
6	(5) Abstention from the use of alcohol or drugs.	
7	(6) Restrictions against engaging in certain types of medical practice.	
8	(7) Compliance with all provisions of this chapter.	
9.	(8) Payment of the cost of probation monitoring.	
0	(b) The decision placing the applicant on probation shall be disclosed to an inquiring member of the public indefinitely and shall be posted on the board's Internet Web site for the period of probation.	
1		
2	(c) The board may modify or terminate the terms and conditions imposed on the probationary postgraduate training license after one year upon receipt of a petition from the postgraduate training licensee. The board may assign the petition to an	
14	administrative law judge designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code. After a hearing on the petition, the administrative law judge shall provide a proposed decision to the board.	
15	(1) The beard shall dany a postgraduate training license to an applicant who is	
16	required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code. This subdivision does not apply to an applicant who is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code solely because of a misdemeanor conviction under Section 314 of the Penal Code.	
17		
18 19	(e) An applicant shall not be eligible to reapply for a postgraduate training license for a minimum of three years from the effective date of the denial of his or her	
20	application, except that the board may, in its discretion and for good cause demonstrated, permit reapplication after not less than one year has elapsed from the	
21	effective date of the denial.	
22	6. Section 2227 of the Code states:	
23	(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of	
24	the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Governme Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the	
25	provisions of this chapter:  (1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.	
26	(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one	
27	year upon order of the board.	
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(JESSLIN ABRAHAM) ACCUSATION NO, 800-2022-088114

(d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred.

#### 10. Section 2239 of the Code states:

- (a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.
- (b) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section. The Medical Board may order discipline of the licensee in accordance with Section 2227 or the Medical Board may order the denial of the license when the time for appeal has elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint, information, or indictment.

## REGULATORY PROVISIONS

# 11. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, states:

For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license, certificate or permit pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license, certificate or permit under the Medical Practice Act if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license, certificate or permit to perform the functions authorized by the license, certificate or permit in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include but not be limited to the following: Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of the Medical Practice Act.

#### COST RECOVERY

12. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licensee to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of an Offense)

- 13. Respondent has subjected his Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052 to disciplinary action under sections 2234, and 2236 of the Code, and California Code of Regulations, title 16 section 1360, in that he has been convicted of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances are as follows:
- 14. On February 19, 2022, at approximately 1:45 a.m., California Highway Patrol Officers were on patrol, traveling in the area of Rosedale Highway, east of Mohawk Street in Bakersfield, California. The officers were stopped within a left turn lane facing a steady red left turn area. Directly in front of them was a Nissan SUV, of which Respondent was determined to be the driver. When the turn signal cycled to a left green arrow, the Nissan SUV accelerated, made a tight left turn, and entered the wrong side of the roadway. The Nissan SUV then traveled southbound in the northbound lanes. The officers activated their patrol car's lights and sirens, drove parallel to the Nissan SUV on the Southbound side of Mohawk Street before making a Uturn and stopping in front of the Nissan SUV.
- 15. The officers contacted Respondent. Respondent admitted to having consumed alcohol. Respondent agreed to participate in field sobriety testing. Based on observations of Respondent, his performance on the field sobriety tests, and the fact that he was driving the wrong way on surface streets divided by a raised concrete center divide, it was determined that Respondent was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and unable to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- 16. Respondent agreed to undergo breath testing, which yielded results of .18 percent blood alcohol concentration (BAC).
- 17. On or about March 7, 2022, a Complaint was filed in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Kern, in *People v. Jesslin Abraham*, Case No. BM967752A, charging Respondent with driving a vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, in violation

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of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (a) (Count 1), and willfully and unlawfully driving a vehicle while having a .08 percent or more BAC, in violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b) (Count 2). As to both counts, it was further alleged that Respondent had an excessive BAC of .15 percent or more.

- 18. On April 8, 2022, the Complaint was amended to add Count 3, alcohol-involved reckless driving, in violation of Vehicle Code section 23103, pursuant to Vehicle Code section 23103.5 (alcohol involved). Counts 1 and 2 were dismissed. Respondent was placed on probation for a period of one year with terms including completion of 100 hours of community service, participation in a licensed alcohol education program for a minimum of three months, participation in a victim impact panel, and the payment of various fines and assessments.
- 19. On or about May 9, 2023, an Order of Dismissal was entered dismissing Respondent's conviction pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4.

#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Excessive Use of Alcohol)

- 20. Respondent has further subjected his Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052 to disciplinary action under sections 2234 and 2239, subdivision (a), of the Code, in that he has used alcoholic beverages to the extent, or in such a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or the public. The circumstances are as follows:
- 21. The allegations of the First Cause for Discipline are hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

# THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Failure to Participate in Board Interview)

- 22. Respondent has subjected his Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052 to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (g), of the Code, in that he failed participate in a Board interview. The circumstances are as follows:
- 23. On October 13, 2022, a Board investigator sent an email to Respondent requesting to schedule an interview to discuss the circumstances leading to the investigation of Respondent.

- 24. The Board received a letter of representation, dated October 19, 2022, from counsel for Respondent. Through counsel, Respondent indicated he wished to cooperate in the investigation; however, to protect his constitutional and other legal rights, he would not be "answering summarily any spontaneous requests for information [on the spot] at an interview, without advance written questions." (Emphasis in original.)
- 25. In follow-up email correspondence, Respondent, through counsel, requested that he be permitted to answer written questions relating to the investigation rather than participating in a Board interview. The Board investigator advised that if an interview could not be scheduled on a mutually agreeable date, a subpoena to appear and testify may be issued.
- 26. A mutually agreeable date of December 20, 2022 was set for a telephonic interview, although Respondent, through counsel, continued to indicate that he would not be answering questions "on the spot."
- 27. At the subsequent Board interview, Respondent refused to answer the questions posed by the Board investigator, with the exception of identifying himself.
- 28. On or about January 2, 2023, counsel for Respondent provided unsigned, written answers to the interview questions.

## FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Unprofessional Conduct)

- 29. Respondent has subjected his Post Graduate Training License No. PTL 6052 to disciplinary action under section 2234 of the Code in that he has engaged in unprofessional conduct and conduct that breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine. (Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.) The circumstances are as follows:
- 30. The allegations of the First and Third Causes for Discipline are hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

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