

1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 MATTHEW FLEMING  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 277992  
1300 I Street, Suite 125  
5 P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550  
6 Telephone: (916) 210-7820  
Facsimile: (916) 327-2247  
7 E-mail: Matthew.Fleming@doj.ca.gov  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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9 **BEFORE THE  
PODIATRIC MEDICAL BOARD**

10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 500-2024-001558

13 **CHARLOTTE DIANA VANG, DPM**  
P.O. Box 3768  
14 Merced, CA 95344  
15 **Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No.  
5292**

**ACCUSATION**

16 **Respondent.**

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19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Brian Naslund (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as  
21 the Executive Officer of the Podiatric Medical Board, Department of Consumer Affairs.

22 2. On or about June 16, 2016, Podiatric Medical Board issued Doctor of Podiatric  
23 Medicine License No. 5292 to CHARLOTTE DIANA VANG, DPM (Respondent). The Doctor  
24 of Podiatric Medicine License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges  
25 brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2026, unless renewed.

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**JURISDICTION**

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

4. Section 2222 of the Code states:

The California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall enforce and administer this article as to doctors of podiatric medicine. Any acts of unprofessional conduct or other violations proscribed by this chapter are applicable to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine and wherever the Medical Quality Hearing Panel established under Section 11371 of the Government Code is vested with the authority to enforce and carry out this chapter as to licensed physicians and surgeons, the Medical Quality Hearing Panel also possesses that same authority as to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine.

The California Board of Podiatric Medicine may order the denial of an application or issue a certificate subject to conditions as set forth in Section 2221, or order the revocation, suspension, or other restriction of, or the modification of that penalty, and the reinstatement of any certificate of a doctor of podiatric medicine within its authority as granted by this chapter and in conjunction with the administrative hearing procedures established pursuant to Sections 11371, 11372, 11373, and 11529 of the Government Code. For these purposes, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall exercise the powers granted and be governed by the procedures set forth in this chapter.

**STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

5. Section 820 of the Code states:

Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licentiate's ability to practice is impaired due to mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency, the licensing agency may order the licentiate to be examined by one or more physicians and surgeons or psychologists designated by the agency. The report of the examiners shall be made available to the licentiate and may be received as direct evidence in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 822.

6. Section 822 of the Code states:

If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

- (a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.
- (b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.

1 (c) Placing the licentiate on probation.

2 (d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency  
3 in its discretion deems proper.

4 The licensing section shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or  
5 license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the  
6 condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the  
7 public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be  
8 safely reinstated.

9 7. Section 2239 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

10 (a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any controlled  
11 substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of  
12 alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the  
13 licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such use impairs the  
14 ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than one misdemeanor or any  
15 felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances  
16 referred to in this section, or any combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct.  
17 The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.

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### 19 COST RECOVERY

20 8. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

21 (a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her  
22 proposed decision in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to  
23 direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum  
24 not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of  
25 the case.

26 (b) The costs to be assessed shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and  
27 shall not be increased by the board unless the board does not adopt a proposed  
28 decision and in making its own decision finds grounds for increasing the costs to be  
assessed, not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and  
prosecution of the case.

(c) When the payment directed in the board's order for payment of costs is not  
made by the licensee, the board may enforce the order for payment by bringing an  
action in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any  
other rights the board may have as to any licensee directed to pay costs.

(d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision  
shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for  
payment.

(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or  
reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered  
under this section.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion,  
conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any

1 licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement  
2 with the board to reimburse the board within that one year period for those unpaid  
3 costs.

4 (f) All costs recovered under this section shall be deposited in the Board of  
5 Podiatric Medicine Fund as a reimbursement in either the fiscal year in which the  
6 costs are actually recovered or the previous fiscal year, as the board may direct.

#### 7 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8 9. On or about the morning of April 4, 2024, Respondent was scheduled to work at  
9 Merced Faculty Associates Medical Group (hereinafter "MFAMG"). Prior to beginning her shift,  
10 at approximately 9:00 a.m., Respondent was involved in a vehicle accident in the parking lot.  
11 Respondent admitted to colleagues that she was under the influence of alcohol at the time.  
12 Respondent was placed on suspension and was required to complete a breathalyzer test prior to  
13 beginning work, and before returning to work from a break. Respondent completed her suspension  
14 and mandatory breathalyzer testing period, but she continued to consume alcohol irresponsibly.

15 10. On or about July 6, 2024, Respondent again came to work while under the influence.  
16 Respondent was asked, and refused to provide, a breathalyzer test while at work. Respondent  
17 refused to complete the breathalyzer test out of fear that she would have a positive result.  
18 Respondent was then terminated from her employment at MFAMG. During a recorded interview  
19 Respondent admitted to drinking before work, referred to herself as an alcoholic, and confessed to  
20 drinking just days before her interview, despite being in alcohol treatment therapy.

21 11. Respondent voluntarily agreed to undergo mental and physical examinations. In  
22 October of 2024, she was evaluated by two board-appointed practitioners. Each of them reviewed  
23 numerous documents, including incident reports and treatment records and concluded that  
24 Respondent has severe Alcohol Use Disorder, and that her ability to safely practice was  
25 compromised as a result.

26 12. On or about February 12, 2025, following a hearing, Respondent's license to practice  
27 podiatric medicine was suspended. On or about February 28, 2025, Respondent entered into an  
28 agreement with the Board under which she would be allowed to practice so long as she complied  
with all the conditions of that agreement, including that she abstain from the use of alcohol. Two  
days later, on or about March 2, 2025, Respondent was arrested on suspicion of driving under the

1 influence. According to the arrest report, Respondent did not perform her field sobriety tests  
2 properly and she submitted to a breathalyzer test that yielded results of .28% and .27% Blood  
3 Alcohol Concentration (BAC), which are both more than three times the legal limit of .08%.<sup>1</sup>

4 **FIRST CAUSE FOR ACTION**

5 **(Mental Illness and/or Physical Illness Affecting Competency)**

6 13. Respondent is subject to action under section 822, of the Code, in that Respondent is  
7 not safe to practice medicine safely as she suffers from a mental illness, as more specifically  
8 alleged in paragraphs 9 through 12, which are incorporated here by reference and realleged as if  
9 fully set forth herein.

10 14. Prior to Respondent's most recent arrest for driving under the influence, an expert  
11 evaluator had concluded that Respondent "has a mental health condition, specifically, Alcohol  
12 Use Disorder, Severe, which impacts her ability to safely engage in the practice of her  
13 profession." A second expert opined that Respondent's alcohol use disorder could interfere with  
14 her ability to safely practice as a care provider if she does not fully engage in treatment  
15 recommendations and abstain from alcohol.

16 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

17 **(Excessive Use of Alcohol)**

18 15. Respondent is subject to action under section 2239, of the Code, in that Respondent  
19 has engaged in the excessive and dangerous use of alcohol, as more specifically alleged in  
20 paragraphs 9 through 14, which are incorporated here by reference and realleged as if fully set  
21 forth herein.

22 **PRAYER**

23 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,  
24 and that following the hearing, the Podiatric Medical Board issue a decision:

25 1. Revoking or suspending Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. 5292, issued to  
26 Charlotte Diana Vang, DPM;

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28 <sup>1</sup> See Vehicle Code Section 23152.

2. Ordering Charlotte Diana Vang, DPM to pay the Podiatric Medical Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2497.5 and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and,

3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

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DATED: MAY 16 2025

  
BRIAN NASLUND  
Executive Officer  
Podiatric Medical Board  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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