Hunter F. Perlmeter, Bar No. 024755 Staff Bar Counsel State Bar of Arizona 4201 North 24th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6288

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Nancy A. Greenlee, Bar No. 010892

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Respondent's Counsel

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA MAR 0 8 2012

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BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

Angela M. Wilson-Goodman

Bar No. 017558

Respondent.

PDJ-2012-9022

AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE BY CONSENT

No. 11-0688

The State Bar of Arizona, through undersigned Bar Counsel, and Respondent Angela M. Wilson-Goodman, who is represented in this matter by counsel, Nancy A. Greenlee, hereby submit their Tender of Admissions and Agreement for Discipline by Consent, pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. Respondent voluntarily waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, unless otherwise ordered, and waives all motions, defenses, objections or requests which have been made or raised, or could be asserted thereafter, if the conditional admission and proposed form of discipline is approved.

Respondent conditionally admits that her conduct, as set forth below, violated Rule 42, ERs 3.4(c) and 8.4(d) and Rule 54(c). Upon acceptance of this

agreement, Respondent agrees to accept imposition of the following discipline: 30 day suspension and one year probation during which she is required to complete six hours of CLE in the area of ethics. Probation is subject to early termination upon completion of the required CLE courses.

Respondent also agrees to pay the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding.¹ The State Bar's Statement of Costs and Expenses is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

FACTS

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a lawyer licensed to practice law in the state of Arizona having been first admitted to practice in Arizona on October 19, 1996.

COUNT ONE (State Bar File No. 11-0688)

- 2. Respondent owned a clothing store and leased retail space from Complainant's property management company.
- 3. In 2005, Respondent's store began to experience leaks caused by rain.

 Respondent did not believe that Complainant adequately addressed the problem and moved out of the space prior to the expiration of her lease.
- 4. Complainant filed suit in Maricopa County Superior Court (CV2006-007382) for breach of the lease, and judgment was entered against both Respondent's business and Respondent personally, as the guarantor on the lease. Respondent appealed and the trial court's decision was, for the most part, upheld.

¹ Respondent understands that the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding include the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona, the Disciplinary Clerk, the Probable Cause Committee, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge and the Supreme Court of Arizona.

- 5. While the matter was on appeal, Complainant's counsel requested a judgment debtor examination. Respondent believed that the Superior Court did not have jurisdiction to hold a debtor exam while the matter was on appeal. She filed a Motion to Dismiss Order Requiring Defendants to Appear for Debtor Exam. The order was denied and Respondent filed a special action in the Court of Appeals concerning the ruling. Special action jurisdiction was accepted by the Court of Appeals, but the trial court's decision was upheld.
- 6. On March 9, 2009, Respondent failed to appear for a debtor exam. The court indicated in its minute entry that Respondent's attorney had called the morning of the hearing to inform the court that Respondent had filed a Motion for Order Fixing Amount and Type of Security for Supersedeas Bond and would not appear for the 10 am hearing. Opposing counsel appeared for the 10am hearing. Respondent was ordered to post the bond by March 13, 2009.
- 7. On March 20, 2009, Respondent failed to appear for a scheduled debtor exam and oral argument concerning her motion to dismiss. Additionally, Respondent had failed to post a supersedeas bond. The court found her in contempt and ordered a sanctions hearing for April 7, 2009.
- 8. On April 7, 2009, Respondent appeared at the sanctions hearing and was ordered to pay \$2,000.00 to opposing counsel in attorney fees and costs as contempt sanctions. Additionally, the debtor exam was scheduled for April 13, 2009.
- 9. Respondent appeared for her debtor exam on April 13, 2009, but failed to provide information requested by Plaintiff. The court issued an order on the same day requiring Respondent to produce a list of financial documents and warned

Respondent that "Continued refusal to answer questions can and will result in contempt proceedings." The minute entry also stated, "Judgment debtor was initially directed to provide documentation months ago, and further delay will not be tolerated."

- 10. On May 8 2009, Respondent again appeared for a debtor exam. When a dispute arose between the parties concerning the production of documents, the court ordered Respondent to produce previously ordered tax statements, as well as her tax identification number, by May 15, 2009.
- 11. The parties next appeared for a debtor exam on November 30, 2010, at which time Respondent refused to answer questions and produce documents requested by opposing counsel claiming she had previously produced them. Upon the refusal, the debtor exam was continued until February 2, 2011.
- 12. At the February 2, 2011 hearing, the court found that Respondent had engaged in unjustified conduct by:
 - a. Refusing to answer questions on November 30, 2010 posed by Plaintiff's counsel;
 - Appearing at the November 30, 2010 hearing with only one of the requested documents as set forth in the list attached to the order to appear;
 - c. Objecting to Plaintiff's discovery into areas that had been addressed previously by Judge Nothwehr in his rulings prior to and on April 13, 2009, thereby ignoring the law of the case; and
 - d. Wasting the resources of this Court and its calendar and causing undue unnecessary delay and expense to Plaintiff by her conduct.

- e. The Court further finds the Defendant/Judgment Debtor has (a) unreasonably delayed the Supplementary proceedings, and (b) engaged in abuse of discovery.
- f. The Court further finds that the Defendant's actions were in bad faith and with little consideration for the fact that the law of the case had been previously established.
- 13. Respondent was ordered to pay attorney fees of \$2,500.00 and warned that failure to do so would result in a warrant for her arrest.
- 14. Respondent appealed the court's February, 2, 2011 order and on April 1, 2011, the court ruled that, while the appeal was pending, the court lacked jurisdiction to allow Complainant to proceed with any areas of the debtor exam that were the subject of Respondent's appeal.
- 15. After one continuance, the debtor exam was scheduled to resume on September 6, 2011. At that time, Respondent failed to appear. However, her counsel did appear and requested a continuance (the request was originally made in a September 1, 2011 motion, but was not ruled upon prior to the hearing). The continuance was denied and a civil arrest warrant was issued for Respondent. The warrant was quashed on September 20, 2011.
- 16. On October 4, 2011, the court set a status conference for January 10, 2012, to address whether a continued debtor examination date would be needed in light of a ruling from the court of appeals.
- 17. To date, the Court of Appeals has not ruled on Respondent's appeal of the Superior Court's November 30, 2010 order.

- 18. Respondent violated ER 3.4(c) by knowingly disobeying her obligation under the rules of the tribunal requiring her to attend court-ordered hearings.
- 19. Respondent violated ER 8.4(d) by engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, including failing to appear for hearings and failing to produce documents.
- 20. Respondent violated Rule 54(c) by knowingly violating rules and orders of the court.

CONDITIONAL ADMISSIONS

Respondent's admissions are being tendered in exchange for the form of discipline stated below and is submitted freely and voluntarily and not as a result of coercion or intimidation.

Respondent conditionally admits that her conduct violated Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., specifically ERs 3.4(c) and 8.4(d) and Rule 54(c).

RESTITUTION

Restitution is not an issue in this matter.

SANCTION

Respondent and the State Bar of Arizona agree that based on the facts and circumstances of this matter, as set forth above, the following sanction is appropriate: Suspension of 30 days and one year probation during which Respondent is required to complete 6 hours of CLE in the area of ethics. Probation is subject to early termination upon completion of the required CLE courses.

These hours are to be completed in addition to Respondent's annual CLE requirement.

NON-COMPLIANCE

In the event that Respondent fails to comply with any of the foregoing probation terms, and information thereof is received by the State Bar of Arizona, Bar Counsel shall file a notice of noncompliance with the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, pursuant to Rule 60(a)(5), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. The Presiding Disciplinary Judge may conduct a hearing within 30 days to determine whether a term of probation has been breached and, if so, to recommend an appropriate sanction. If there is an allegation that Respondent failed to comply with any of the foregoing terms, the burden of proof shall be on the State Bar of Arizona to prove noncompliance by a preponderance of the evidence.

LEGAL GROUNDS IN SUPPORT OF SANCTION

In determining an appropriate sanction, the parties consulted the American Bar Association's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions (Standards)* pursuant to Rule 57(a)(2)(E). The *Standards* are designed to promote consistency in the imposition of sanctions by identifying relevant factors that courts should consider and then applying those factors to situations where lawyers have engaged in various types of misconduct. *Standards* 1.3, Commentary. The *Standards* provide guidance with respect to an appropriate sanction in this matter. *In re Peasley*, 208 Ariz. 27, 33, 35, 90 P.3d 764, 770 (2004); *In re Rivkind*, 162 Ariz. 154, 157, 791 P.2d 1037, 1040 (1990).

In determining an appropriate sanction consideration is given to the duty violated, the lawyer's mental state, the actual or potential injury caused by the misconduct and the existence of aggravating and mitigating factors. *Peasley*, 208 Ariz. at 35, 90 P.3d at 772; *Standard* 3.0.

The parties agree that Standard 6.22 is the appropriate Standard given the

facts and circumstances of this matter. Standard 6.22 provides that Suspension is

generally appropriate when a lawyer knows that he or she is violating a court order

or rule, and causes injury or potential injury to a client or a party, or causes

interference or potential interference with a legal proceeding. Respondent failed to

appear for multiple hearings and failed to produce court-ordered documents in the

collection action filed against her.

The duty violated

As described above, Respondent's conduct violated her duty to the profession

and the legal system.

The lawyer's mental state

For purposes of this agreement the parties agree that Respondent knowingly

failed to appear for hearings, failed to produce court-ordered documents and that

her conduct was in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

The extent of the actual or potential injury

For purposes of this agreement, the parties agree that there was actual harm

to the legal system.

Aggravating and mitigating circumstances

The presumptive sanction in this matter is suspension. The parties

conditionally agree that the following aggravating and mitigating factors should be

considered.

In aggravation:

Standard 9.22(a): Prior Disciplinary Offenses

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- Informal Reprimand: 07-1945: Respondent failed to comply with ERs 1.2 and 5.3, when she failed to ensure that a separate interest bearing account, where the interest would be deposited straight back into the account, was opened for the benefit of her clients, per their instructions and failed to adequately supervise the firm office manager. Respondent also failed to adequately communicate with the firm's clients prior to filing a motion on their behalf.
- Informal Reprimand: 08-0762: (9/24/08-5/5/2011) By representing a client in a divorce from his wife, whom Respondent had previously represented in the drafting of a will, Respondent engaged in an impermissible conflict of interest in violation of ERs 1.9 and 1.10.
- Informal Reprimand: 08-1021: By continuing to represent a client adverse to the former client of a newly hired attorney in her firm, Respondent engaged in an impermissible conflict of interest in violation of ERs 1.9 and 1.10(d).

In mitigation:

Standard 9.32(e): full and free disclosure to the disciplinary board or cooperative attitude to toward proceedings.

Discussion

The parties have conditionally agreed that a greater or lesser sanction would not be appropriate under the facts and circumstances of this matter. This agreement was based on the following: Respondent failed to appear for multiple hearings in a civil matter filed against her and failed to produce court ordered documents. However, she was not acting in her capacity as an attorney at the time and, in one instance, her failure to appear was due, in part, to a lack of understanding the effect of posting a supersedeas bond. Based on the *Standards* and in light of the facts and circumstances of this matter, the parties conditionally agree that the sanction set forth above is within the range of appropriate sanctions and will serve the purposes of lawyer discipline.

CONCLUSION

The object of lawyer discipline is not to punish the lawyer, but to protect the public, the profession, and the administration of justice. *Peasley, supra* at ¶ 64, 90

P.3d at 778. Recognizing that determination of the appropriate sanction is the prerogative of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the State Bar and Respondent believe that the objectives of discipline will be met by the imposition of the proposed sanction of a 30 day suspension, one year probation requiring the completion of 6 hours of CLE in the area of ethics, and the imposition of costs and expenses. Probation is subject to early termination upon completion of the required CLE courses.

A proposed form order is attached hereto as Exhibit "B." Respondent has requested and Bar Counsel has consented, if it is acceptable to the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, to a suspension start date of March 31, 2012. Respondent understands that if a start date of March 31, 2012 is not feasible, the suspension will begin on the date indicated in the Presiding Disciplinary Judge's order.

DATED this 8th day of March, 2012.

STATE BAR OF ARIZONA

Hunter F. Perlmeter Staff Bar Counsel

This agreement, with conditional admission voluntarily and not under coercion or intimidation under the Rules of the Supreme Court with reinstatement. I understand these duties make the clients, return of property and other rules pertain	respect to discipline and
DATED this day of March, 2012.	
Angela M Responde	. Wilson-Goodman
DATED this day of March, 2012.	
Nancy A. Counsel for	Greenlee Or Respondent
Approved as to form and content	
Maret Vessella Chief Bar Counsel	
Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge this day of March, 2012.	
Copies of the foregoing mailed/ <u>emailed</u> this day of March, 2012, to:	
Nancy A. Greenlee 821 East Fern Drive North Phoenix, Arizona 85014-3248 Email: nancy@nancygreenlee.com Respondent's Counsel	

This agreement, with conditional admissions, is submitted freely and voluntarily and not under coercion or intimidation. I acknowledge my duty under the Rules of the Supreme Court with respect to discipline and reinstatement. I understand these duties may include notification of clients, return of property and other rules pertaining to suspension.

DATED this day of March, 2012.	
	Angela M. Wilson-Goodman Respondent
DATED this day of March, 2012.	
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en de la companya de La companya de la co	Nancy A. Greenlee Counsel for Respondent

Approved as to form and content

Maret Vessella Chief Bar Counsel

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge this 8th day of March, 2012.

Copies of the foregoing mailed/ $\underline{emailed}$ this 8^{th} day of March, 2012, to:

Nancy A. Greenlee 821 East Fern Drive North Phoenix, Arizona 85014-3248 Email: nancy@nancygreenlee.com Respondent's Counsel Copy of the foregoing <u>emailed</u> this 8th day of March, 2012, to:

Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered this 8th day of March, 2012, to:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager State Bar of Arizona 4201 North 24th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6288

y: //aou/eg/._

FILED
FEB 1 6 2012

PROBABLE CAUSE COMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA

ANGELA M. WILSON-GOODMAN Bar No. 017558

Respondent

No. 11-0688

PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER

The Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee of the Supreme Court of Arizona ("Committee") reviewed this matter on February 10, 2012, pursuant to Rules 50 and 55, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., for consideration of the State Bar's Report of Investigation and Recommendation, and Respondent's Response.

By a vote of 7-0-2,¹ the Committee finds that probable cause exists to file a complaint against Respondent in File No. 11-0688.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED pursuant to Rule 55(c) and 58(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., authorizing State Bar Counsel to prepare and file a complaint with the Disciplinary Clerk.

Parties may not file motions for reconsideration of this Order.

DATED this ______day of February, 2012.

Vice Chair, Daisy Flores

Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee of the Supreme Court of Arizona

Committee member Jeffrey Pollitt recused in this matter. The Committee position of attorney member/chair is currently vacant.

Original filed this <u>luth</u> day of February, 2012, with:

Lawyer Regulation Records Department State Bar of Arizona 4201 North 24th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6288

Copy mailed this 17TH day of February, 2012, to:

Nancy A. Greenlee 821 East Fern Drive North Phoenix, Arizona 85014-3248 Respondent's Counsel

Copy emailed this 17th day of February, 2012, to:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager State Bar of Arizona 4201 North 24th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6288

Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee of the Supreme Court of Arizona 1501 West Washington Street, Suite 104 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 ProbableCauseComm@courts.az.gov

by: Redney T. Brus



Statement of Costs and Expenses

In the Matter of a Member of the State Bar of Arizona, Angela M Wilson-Goodman, Bar No. 017558, Respondent

File No(s). 11-0688

Administrative Expenses

The Supreme Court of Arizona has adopted a schedule of administrative expenses to be assessed in lawyer discipline. If the number of charges/complainants exceeds five, the assessment for the general administrative expenses shall increase by 20% for each additional charge/complainant where a violation is admitted or proven.

Factors considered in the administrative expense are time expended by staff bar counsel, paralegal, secretaries, typists, file clerks and messenger; and normal postage charges, telephone costs, office supplies and all similar factors generally attributed to office overhead. As a matter of course, administrative costs will increase based on the length of time it takes a matter to proceed through the adjudication process.

General Administrative Expenses for above-numbered proceedings

\$1,200.00

Additional costs incurred by the State Bar of Arizona in the processing of this disciplinary matter, and not included in administrative expenses, are itemized below.

Staff Investigator/Miscellaneous Charges

Total for staff investigator charges

\$ 0.00

TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED

\$1,200.00

Sandra E. Montoya

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager

3-5-12

Date

EXHIBIT "B"

BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

Angela M. Wilson-Goodman Bar No. 017558

Respondent.

PDJ-2012-____

COPY

FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER

No. 11-0688

The undersigned Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona, having reviewed the Agreement for Discipline by Consent filed on March 8, 2012, pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., hereby accepts the parties' proposed agreement. Accordingly:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent, Angela M. Wilson-Goodman, is hereby suspended for 30 days for her conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents, effective March 31, 2012.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, upon reinstatement, Respondent shall be placed on probation for a period of one year during which she is required to complete 6 hours of CLE in the area of ethics. These hours are to be completed in addition to Respondent's annual CLE requirement. Probation is subject to early termination upon completion of the required CLE courses.

NON-COMPLIANCE

In the event that Respondent fails to comply with any of the foregoing probation terms, and information thereof is received by the State Bar of Arizona, Bar Counsel shall file a notice of noncompliance with the Presiding Disciplinary

Judge, pursuant to Rule 60(a)(5), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. The Presiding Disciplinary Judge may conduct a hearing within 30 days to determine whether a term of probation has been breached and, if so, to recommend an appropriate sanction. If there is an allegation that Respondent failed to comply with any of the foregoing terms, the burden of proof shall be on the State Bar of Arizona to prove noncompliance by a preponderance of the evidence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Rule 72 Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., Respondent shall immediately comply with the requirements relating to notification of clients and others.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the amount of \$ 1,200.00.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall pay the costs and expenses incurred by the disciplinary clerk and/or Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Office in connection with these disciplinary proceedings in the amount of

DATED this _____ day of March, 2012.

The Honorable William J. O'Neil Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona this ____ day of March, 2012.

Copies of the foregoing mailed/ <u>emailed</u> this day of March, 2012, to:
Nancy A. Greenlee 821 East Fern Drive North Phoenix, Arizona 85014-3248 Email: nancy@nancygreenlee.com Respondent's Counsel
Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered/ <u>emailed</u> this day of March, 2012, to:
Hunter F. Perlmeter Staff Bar Counsel State Bar of Arizona 4201 North 24 th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6288 Email: <u>Iro@staff.azbar.org</u>
Lawyer Regulation Records Manager State Bar of Arizona 4201 North 24 th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6288
By: