

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE
1501 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 102, PHOENIX, AZ 85007-3231

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

**PAUL RODRIGO SAUCEDA,
Bar No. 022995**

Respondent.

PDJ-2014-9079

FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER

[State Bar No. 13-1126]

FILED SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona, having reviewed the Agreement for Discipline by Consent filed on September 2, 2014, pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., hereby accepts the parties' proposed agreement. Accordingly:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent, **Paul Rodrigo Saucedo**, is hereby suspended for a period of sixty (60) days for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents, effective thirty (30) days from the date of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon reinstatement, Respondent shall be placed on probation for a period of two (2) years.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as a term of that probation, Respondent shall abstain from alcohol and/or drug use and contact the State Bar's Member Assistance Program (MAP) Compliance Monitor at 602-340-7258 within thirty (30) days of the date of the reinstatement.

During Respondent's participation in MAP, Respondent shall continue his counseling sessions with Dr. Debra Gion or other doctor(s) approved by the MAP Compliance Monitor and follow all recommended treatment. Respondent shall also continue attending weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and submit to monthly alcohol testing at his own expense.

The MAP Compliance Monitor shall develop "Terms and Conditions of Probation", and those terms shall be incorporated herein by reference. The probation period will be effective the date of the reinstatement order and will conclude two (2) years from that date. Respondent shall be responsible for any costs associated with MAP.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall be subject to any additional terms imposed by the Presiding Disciplinary Judge as a result of reinstatement hearings held.

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 \$1,205.00. There are no costs or expenses incurred by the disciplinary clerk and/or Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Office in connection with these disciplinary proceedings.

DATED this 22nd day of September, 2014.

William J. O'Neil

**William J. O'Neil, Presiding Disciplinary
Judge**

Copies of the foregoing mailed/emailed
this 22nd day of September, 2014.

Karen Clark
Adams & Clark PC
520 E Portland St
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1843
Email: karen@adamsclark.com
Respondent's Counsel

Craig D. Henley
Senior Bar Counsel
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

by: MSmith

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE
1501 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 102, PHOENIX, AZ 85007-3231

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

PAUL RODRIGO SAUCEDA,
Bar No. 022995

Respondent.

No. PDJ-2014-9079

**REPORT ACCEPTING CONSENT
FOR DISCIPLINE**

[No. 13-1126]

FILED SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

An Agreement for Discipline by Consent was filed on September 2, 2014, and submitted pursuant to Rule 57(a)(3), of the Rules of the Arizona Supreme Court. A Probable Cause Order was filed on May 14, 2014, though no formal complaint has been filed. Upon filing such Agreement, the presiding disciplinary judge, "shall accept, reject or recommend modification of the agreement as appropriate".

Bar Counsel provided notice of this agreement to the complainant(s) by letter on June 25, 2014. Included within that letter was a notification of the opportunity for the complainant to file a written objection to the agreement with the State Bar within five (5) business days of bar counsel's notice. No objection was filed.

IT IS ORDERED incorporating by this reference the Agreement for Discipline by Consent and any supporting documents by this reference. The agreed upon sanctions are: 60 day suspension, two (2) years of probation (MAP). Respondent also agrees to pay costs associated with the disciplinary proceedings of \$1,205.00.

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 ORDERED the Agreement for Discipline by Consent discipline is accepted. A Final Judgment and Order was submitted simultaneously with the Agreement. Costs as submitted are approved in the amount of \$1,205.00. The proposed final judgment and order having been reviewed are approved as to form. Now therefore, the final judgment and order is signed this date.

DATED this 22nd day of September, 2014.

William J. O'Neil

**William J. O'Neil,
Presiding Disciplinary Judge**

Copies of the foregoing mailed/emailed
this 22nd day of September, 2014.

Craig D. Henley
Senior Bar Counsel
State Bar of Arizona
4201 North 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6266
Email: lro@staff.azbar.org

Karen Clark
Adams and Clark, PC
520 East Portland Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Email: karen@adamsclark.com
Respondent's Counsel

Sandra Montoya
Lawyer Regulation Records Manager
State Bar of Arizona
4201 North 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

by: MSmith

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE
SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA
SEP 02 2014
BY *JK* FILED

Craig D. Henley, Bar No. 018801
Senior Bar Counsel - Litigation
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
Telephone (602)340-7272
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

Karen Clark, Bar No. 012665
Adams & Clark PC
520 E Portland St
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1843
Telephone 602-258-3542
Email: karen@adamsclark.com
Respondent's Counsel

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA**

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

**PAUL RODRIGO SAUCEDA,
Bar No. 022995,**

Respondent.

PDJ-2014- 9079

**AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE BY
CONSENT**

State Bar No. 13-1126

The State Bar of Arizona, through undersigned Bar Counsel, and Respondent, Paul Rodrigo Saucedo, who is represented in this matter by counsel Karen Clark, hereby submit their Tender of Admissions and Agreement for Discipline by Consent, pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. A Probable Cause Order was entered on May 14, 2014, but no formal complaint has been filed in this matter. Respondent voluntarily waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing and further 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.

Pursuant to Rule 53(b)(3), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., notice of this agreement was provided to the complainant(s) by letter on June 25, 2014. Complainant(s) have been notified of the opportunity to file a written objection to the agreement with the State Bar within five (5) business days of bar counsel's notice.

Respondent conditionally admits that his conduct, as set forth below, violated Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., ER 8.4(b) ~ Misconduct - Commission of a Criminal Act and ER 8.4(d) ~ Misconduct - Conduct Which was Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice. Upon acceptance of this agreement, Respondent agrees to accept imposition of the following discipline: Short-Term Suspension of Sixty (60) days followed by a Two (2) Year period of probation. 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 November 1, 2004.

COUNT ONE (File no. 13-1126/ Beechum)

2. In *State v. Beechum*, Pinal County Case No. CR2011-00827, Complainant was charged with three felony offenses - Class 3 Aggravated Assault (2 counts) and Class 3 Discharging a Firearm at an Occupied Structure (1 count).

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.

3. Respondent, who was then a Deputy Pinal County Public Defender, was assigned to Complainant's case.

4. Three days prior to Complainant's trial, Respondent was involved in an alcohol and family violence incident for which he was cited and released.

5. Respondent immediately called his supervisor, Pinal County Public Defender Mary Wisdom, and told her about his arrest. Ms. Wisdom told Respondent to take time off if he needed to. See Letter from Ms. Wisdom, attached as Exhibit "B".

6. Respondent was released from jail prior to the December 11, 2012 trial date in *State v. Beechum*. He returned to work two days later, on December 13th.

7. Ms. Wisdom appeared on behalf of Complainant on December 11th, and requested a continuance of the trial date. Prior to court, Ms. Wisdom met with Complainant - who was aware of Respondent's arrest - and asked if he would like his case reassigned to another attorney in her office. Complainant declined, stating that he would like to continue with Respondent. See Exhibit B.

8. The Court granted the requested continuance and reset the trial for January 22, 2013. Complainant, represented by Respondent, was convicted. Ms. Wisdom believes that Respondent did an excellent job on the case, and that Complainant should have taken the very favorable plea offer that Respondent had negotiated for him. See Exhibit B.

9. Respondent's criminal history is as follows:

- A. Extreme DUI. On January 8, 2004, Respondent pled guilty to a class 1 misdemeanor of Extreme DUI. He was given jail time, fines, counseling, and had to attend a MADD impact panel. See Phoenix Municipal Court case number 3030754;
- B. Violation of Driving License Restriction. On March 9, 2008, Respondent pled guilty to a class 1 misdemeanor of operating a vehicle without an ordered interlock. He paid a fine, and completed four days of work service in lieu of two days in jail. This incident did not involve any alcohol use by Respondent. See Phoenix Municipal Court case number 3787125;
- C. Violation of Driving License Restriction/Possession of Open Container in Vehicle. On September 17, 2008, Respondent signed a diversion agreement (that involved no admission of guilt) resolving a charge of Operation in Violation of Driving License Restriction, a class 1 misdemeanor. He was placed on diversion, paid a fine, and the case was dismissed after he successfully completed diversion. This incident did not involve any alcohol use by Respondent. See Eloy City Court case number CR2008-0257];
- D. Extreme DUI. Respondent pled guilty to a class 1 misdemeanor of Extreme DUI for an incident that occurred on April 4, 2011. He was given jail time, fines, alcohol counseling, and attended a victim impact panel. See Dreamy Draw Justice Court case number TR2011-116624];

E. DUI. Respondent pled guilty to a class 1 misdemeanor DUI for an incident that occurred on July 24, 2011. Respondent was given home detention, alcohol monitoring, additional counseling, and a fine. See Eloy City Court case number TR2011-0268];

F. Domestic Violence Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Damage. The Casa Grande Police Department investigated Respondent for an incident at his parent's home on October 13, 2012. Respondent was not arrested or given any citation, nor was he ever criminally charged for this incident, and;

G. Domestic Violence Assault, Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Damage. Respondent signed a diversion agreement (that involved no admission of guilt) resolving a charge of Disorderly Conduct, a class 1 misdemeanor, for an incident that occurred on December 9, 2012. Respondent was placed on diversion, attended 54 hours of alcohol counseling, paid a diversion fee, and the case was dismissed after he successfully completed diversion. See Casa Grande City Court case number CR12-1868].

10. In this discipline matter and throughout his interactions with the criminal justice system, Respondent has readily admitted that he suffers from alcohol addiction, which has inflicted serious harm to him and to his personal life. However, other than the case involved in this matter Respondent has never allowed his alcohol addiction to interfere with his representation of clients. Respondent's

supervisor at the time of the events at issue in this matter – Mary Wisdom, a highly respected member of the Bar - attests to this fact. See Letter from Mary Wisdom, attached as Exhibit B.

11. From February 2011 to present, Respondent has taken significant steps to deal with his addiction. See Letters to State Bar Counsel dated September 9, 2013, May 30, 2014 and August 19, 2014 attached as Exhibits C, D and E.² Respondent has voluntarily submitted to urinalysis testing, which began in April 2014 and confirms his on-going sobriety. See Exhibit E.

CONDITIONAL ADMISSIONS

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

Respondent conditionally admits that his conduct violated Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., ER 8.4(b) ~ Misconduct – Commission of a Criminal Act and ER 8.4(d) ~ Misconduct – Conduct Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice.

CONDITIONAL DISMISSALS

The State Bar has conditionally agreed to dismiss none.

RESTITUTION

Restitution is not an issue in this matter.

SANCTION

² Exhibits C was previously sealed by Order of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge filed on September 19, 2013. Respondent is seeking a Protective Order for Exhibits D and E from the Presiding Disciplinary Judge.

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:

Sixty (60) day suspension and two (2) year period of probation.

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 the following *Standards* are the appropriate *Standards* given the facts and circumstances of this matter:

Rule 42, Ariz.R.Sup.Ct., ER 8.4(b)

Standard 5.12: Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in criminal conduct which does not contain the elements listed in *Standard* 5.11 and that seriously adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to practice.

Rule 42, Ariz.R.Sup.Ct., ER 8.4(d)

Standard 6.22: 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 other party, or causes interference or potential interference with a legal proceeding.

The duty violated

As described above, Respondent's conduct violated his duty to his client, the profession and the legal system.

The lawyer's mental state

For purposes of this agreement the parties agree that Respondent knowingly engaged in criminal conduct and caused his client's previously scheduled trial to be delayed, and that his 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 potential harm to his client, and actual harm to the profession and 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(c) a pattern of misconduct;

Standard 9.22(k) illegal conduct.

In mitigation:

Standard 9.32(a) absence of a prior disciplinary record;

Standard 9.32(b) absence of a dishonest or selfish motive;

Standard 9.32(c) personal or emotional problems;

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

Standard 9.32(g) character or reputation;

Standard 9.32(i) chemical dependency including alcoholism when:

- 1) Medical Evidence
- 2) Chemical Dependency caused misconduct
- 3) Recovery is demonstrated by a meaningful and sustained period of successful rehabilitation, and
- 4) Recovery arrested the misconduct/recurrence of misconduct is unlikely;

Standard 9.32(k) imposition of other penalties or sanctions (misdemeanor convictions, jail, fines, MVD penalties, etc.);

Standard 9.32(l) remorse.

Proportionality

In *In re Hemerling*, SB-10-0069-D (2010), Hemerling was suspended for one year and was placed on probation for two years. Hemerling violated the terms of her probation contract by using alcohol and being convicted of Extreme DUI. The case involved three aggravating factors: (c) – a pattern of misconduct, (d) – multiple offenses and (k) – illegal conduct. There were eight mitigating factors: (a) – absence of prior disciplinary record, (c) – personal or emotional problems, (d) – timely good faith effort to make restitution, (e) – full and free disclosure to disciplinary board, (f) – inexperience in the practice of law, and (g) – character or reputation, (k) – imposition of other penalties or sanctions and (l) – remorse. Hemerling was sanctioned for violation of Rule 42, Ariz.R.S.Ct., specifically ERs 8.4(b) and Rule 53(g) Ariz.R.Sup.Ct.

In *In re Gove*, SB-12-3243 (2013)[ADPCC], Gove received an admonition and was placed on probation for one year. Gove pled guilty to one count of Extreme DUI

and attempted to leave the scene of an accident. Gove was sanctioned for violation of Rule 42, Ariz.R.S.Ct., ERs 8.4(b).

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:

The presumptive sanction is a suspension, the length of which was based upon several factors including, but not limited to, the Respondent's:

1. Lack of prior disciplinary history;
2. Evidence of ongoing sobriety;
3. Prior voluntary attempts to address his addiction issues; and
4. Previously imposed sanctions by the Court for the misconduct.

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 sanction 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 **sixty (60) day suspension followed by a two (2) year period of probation** along with the imposition of costs and expenses. A proposed form order is attached hereto as Exhibit "F."

DATED this 22nd day of August 2014.

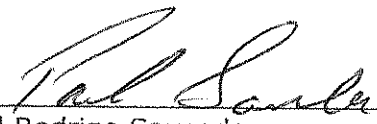
State Bar of Arizona



Craig D. Henley
Senior Bar 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.

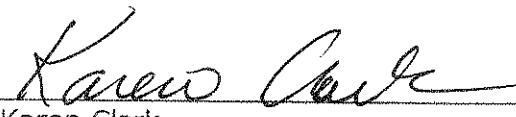
DATED this 19 day of August, 2014.



Paul Rodrigo Saucedo
Respondent


DATED this 21st day of August, 2014.

Adams & Clark PC



Karen Clark
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
of the Supreme Court of Arizona
this 2nd day of ~~August~~ September, 2014.

Copies of the foregoing mailed/emailed
this 2nd day of ~~August~~ September, 2014 to:

Karen Clark
Adams & Clark PC
520 E Portland St
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1843
karen@adamsclark.com
Respondent's Counsel

Copy of the foregoing emailed
this 2nd day of ~~August~~ September, 2014, to:

Hon. William J. O'Neil
Presiding Disciplinary Judge
Supreme Court of Arizona
Email: officepdj@courts.az.gov

Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered
this 2nd day of ~~August~~ September, 2014, to:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager
State Bar of Arizona
4201 North 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

by:

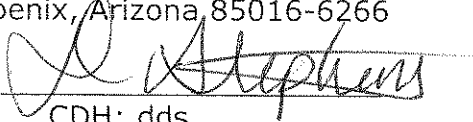

CDH: dds

EXHIBIT A

Statement of Costs and Expenses

In the Matter of a Current Member of the State Bar of Arizona,
Paul Rodrigo Saucedo, Bar No. 022995, Respondent

File No. 13-1126

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.

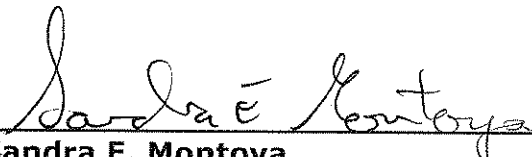
***General Administrative Expenses
for above-numbered proceedings***

\$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

07/10/13	Copies of MCSO reports	\$	5.00
	Total for staff investigator/miscellaneous charges	\$	5.00
TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED			\$ 1,205.00



Sandra E. Montoya
Lawyer Regulation Records Manager

6-27-14

Date

EXHIBIT B

Mary Wisdom
2201 North Central Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85004
AZ Bar No. 004633

To Whom it May Concern:

I was the Pinal County Public Defender from February 2005 until March 2013. During part of that time, Paul Saucedo worked for that office. I was his supervisor. I knew that he had a serious problem with alcohol because he was very candid with me about his problem. I never saw it affect his work, not once did he come to work under the influence of alcohol or any other drug. I do believe that it affected his personal life, but never his work. He spent 30 days in an inpatient treatment facility and after that, he was an outstanding employee in every way. He was the first to volunteer for anything the office needed. I believe that Paul is an excellent lawyer with a tremendous gift for trial work.

I know that Paul was very concerned about Elijah Beecham's case. Elijah was a young man without a criminal record who had been an upstanding citizen. However, the risk at trial was very high. Paul spoke with me several times about that case. It was my opinion that the case against the client was good for the state, but there were some holes in it and there was something to argue at trial. The client had rejected a very favorable plea offer which Paul had negotiated. The charges were very serious, with mandatory prison, and I know that Paul encouraged the client to accept the plea offer. However, when the client rejected the offer, Paul prepared very thoroughly for trial. He knew the facts of the case very very well.

The day of trial, I appeared in court and requested a continuance. Paul had contacted me over the weekend and told me that, although he was completely prepared, he felt that he could not give the case his full attention due to his arrest over the weekend. He took a few days off and then returned to work. In our conversation, Paul was concerned only that he could not give his client his best work if he proceeded to trial on December 11.

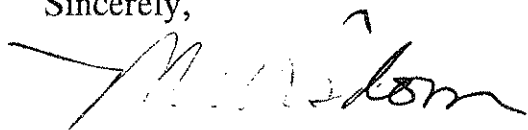
When I arrived in court, the Judge and the prosecutor knew about Paul's arrest over the weekend. It was actually common knowledge throughout the county. I met with the client and his parents. They knew about Paul's arrest. I knew that the parents had had a very good rapport with their son's prior attorney, Lorenzo Jones. When Lorenzo retired, I had reassigned the case to Paul, knowing that he had the interpersonal skills

to work with the client and his parents, as well as the trial skills to give Elijah his best shot at an acquittal. When we met on December 11, I asked the client if he would like me to reassign the case or to give Paul a second chair. I offered to try the case myself. The client's parents did most of the talking, but he advised me that he would like to continue with Paul as his lawyer, although his parents indicated that they liked Mr. Jones more. The court continued the case without an explanation of the reason because the reason was well known, having been reported in the newspaper.

I have been a lawyer for 37 years. In my opinion, Paul Saucedo is a very gifted lawyer and a credit to our profession. Although he suffers from a terrible disease, I have seen him fight it with all his efforts. It has never affected his work, not ever. His concern in all of his cases has been the welfare of his clients. He has the legal skills, the personal skills, and the compassion to excel. I have enormous respect for him as a person, as a father, as a son, and as a lawyer. He truly puts his clients' concerns above his own. I am proud to know him.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Wisdom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Wisdom 004633