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8		RE THE
9	BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS	
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 5179
12	EMILY ANNE CLARK	Cuse 110, 3177
13	200 E. La Vida Avenue Visalia, CA 92377	ACCUSATION
14	Original Pharmacist License No. RPH 63443	
15	Respondent.	
16 17		
18	Complainant alleges:	
19	PARTIES	
20	1. Virginia Herold (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity	
21	as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs.	
22	2. On or about November 19, 2009, the Board of Pharmacy issued Original Pharmacist	
23	License Number RPH 63443 to Emily Anne Clark (Respondent). The Pharmacist License will	
24	expire on June 30, 2015, unless renewed.	
25	JURISDICTION	
26	3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of	
27	Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the	
28	Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.	
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- 4. Section 4300 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) Every license issued may be suspended or revoked. . . . "
- 5. Section 4300.1 of the Code states:

"The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license."

#### **BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE**

- 6. Section 490 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.
  - 7. Section 4022 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

"Dangerous drug" or "dangerous device" means any drug or device unsafe for self use in humans or animals, and includes the following:

"(a) Any drug that bears the legend: "Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription," "Rx only," or words of similar import.

"

- "(c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006."
  - 8. Section 4059 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) A person may not furnish any dangerous drug, except upon the prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, veterinarian, or naturopathic doctor pursuant to Section 3640.7. A person may not furnish any dangerous device, except upon the prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, veterinarian, or naturopathic doctor pursuant to Section 3640.7..."

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#### 9. Section 4060 of the Code states:

"No person shall possess any controlled substance, except that furnished to a person upon the prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, veterinarian, or naturopathic doctor pursuant to Section 3640.7, or furnished pursuant to a drug order issued by a certified nurse midwife pursuant to Section 2746.51, a nurse practitioner pursuant to Section 2836.1, or a physician assistant pursuant to Section 3502.1, or naturopathic doctor pursuant to Section 3640.5, or a pharmacist pursuant to either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section 4052. This section shall not apply to the possession of any controlled substance by a manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacy, pharmacist, physician, podiatrist, dentist, optometrist, veterinarian, naturopathic doctor, certified nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, when in stock in containers correctly labeled with the name and address of the supplier or producer.

Nothing in this section authorizes a certified nurse midwife, a nurse practitioner, a physician assistant, or a naturopathic doctor, to order his or her own stock of dangerous drugs and devices."

10. Section 4301 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

"The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or whose license has been procured by fraud or misrepresentation or issued by mistake. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

"...

"(f) The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or corruption, whether the act is committed in the course of relations as a licensee or otherwise, and whether the act is a felony or misdemeanor or not.

h . . .

"(h) The administering to oneself, of any controlled substance, or the use of any dangerous drug or of alcoholic beverages to the extent or in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to oneself, to a person holding a license under this chapter, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by the license.

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"(j) The violation of any of the statutes of this state, or any other state, or of the United States regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs.

"...

"(l) The conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee under this chapter. The record of conviction of a violation of Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 801) of Title 21 of the United States Code regulating controlled substances or of a violation of the statutes of this state regulating controlled substances or dangerous drugs shall be conclusive evidence of unprofessional conduct. In all other cases, the record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, in order to fix the degree of discipline or, in the case of a conviction not involving controlled substances or dangerous drugs, to determine if the conviction is of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee under this chapter. 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 provision. The board may take action 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 the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the 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, information, or indictment.

. . .

"(o) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy, including regulations established by the board or by any other state or federal regulatory agency. . . ."

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- 11. Section 4324 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) Every person who signs the name of another, or of a fictitious person, or falsely makes, alters, forges, utters, publishes, passes, or attempts to pass, as genuine, any prescription for any drugs is guilty of forgery and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year. . . ."

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

- 12. California Health and Safety Code section 11157 states, "No person shall issue a prescription that is false or fictitious in any respect."
- 13. California Health and Safety Code section 11170 states, "No person shall prescribe, administer, or furnish a controlled substance for himself."
- 14. California Health and Safety Code section 11171 states, "No person shall prescribe, administer, or furnish a controlled substance except under the conditions and in the manner provided by this division."
  - 15. California Health and Safety Code section 11173 states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) No person shall obtain or attempt to obtain controlled substances, or procure or attempt to procure the administration of or prescription for controlled substances, (1) by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge; or (2) by the concealment of a material fact.
- "(b) No person shall make a false statement in any prescription, order, report, or record, required by this division. . . . "
  - 16. California Health and Safety Code section 11350 states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, every person who possesses (1) any controlled substance specified in subdivision (b) or (c), or paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of Section 11054, specified in paragraph (14), (15), or (20) of subdivision (d) of Section 11054, or specified in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 11055, or specified in subdivision (h) of Section 11056, or (2) any controlled substance classified in Schedule III, IV, or V which is a narcotic drug, unless upon the written prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or veterinarian licensed to practice in this state, shall be punished by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code. . . . "

#### REGULATIONS

- 17. Title 21 of the United States Code, section 828 states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) Unlawful distribution of controlled substances. It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute a controlled substance in schedule I or II to another except in pursuance of a written order of the person to whom such substance is distributed, made on a form to be issued by the Attorney General in blank in accordance with subsection (d) and regulations prescribed by him pursuant to this section..."
  - 18. Title 21 of the United States Code, section 829 states, in pertinent part:

"Schedule II substances. Except when dispensed directly by a practitioner, other than a pharmacist, to an ultimate user, no controlled substance in schedule II, which is a prescription drug as determined under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [21 USCS §§ 301 et seq.], may be dispensed without the written prescription of a practitioner, except that in emergency situations, as prescribed by the Secretary by regulation after consultation with the Attorney General, such drug may be dispensed upon oral prescription in accordance with section 503(b) of that Act [21 USCS § 353(b)]. Prescriptions shall be retained in conformity with the requirements of section 307 of this title [21 USCS § 827]. No prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II may be refilled.

- "(b) Schedule III and IV substances. Except when dispensed directly by a practitioner, other than a pharmacist, to an ultimate user, no controlled substance in schedule III or IV, which is a prescription drug as determined under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [21 USCS §§ 301 et seq.], may be dispensed without a written or oral prescription in conformity with section 503(b) of that Act [21 USCS § 353(b)]. Such prescriptions may not be filled or refilled more than six months after the date thereof or be refilled more than five times after the date of the prescription unless renewed by the practitioner...."
  - 19. Title 21 of the United States Code, section 841 states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) Unlawful acts. Except as authorized by this title, it shall be unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally—

- "(1) to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, a controlled substance; or
- "(2) to create, distribute, or dispense, or possess with intent to distribute or dispense, a counterfeit substance. . . ."

#### COST RECOVERY

20. Section 125.3 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate 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.

#### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- 21. "Carisoprodol" is a muscle-relaxant and sedative. It is a dangerous drug as defined in Code section 4022, and a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined in section 11057(b)(d) of the Health and Safety Code.
- 22. "Morphine Sulfate," aka as brand names Astramorph, Duramorph, MSIR, RMS Uniserts, and Roxanol, is for use in patients who require a potent opioid analgesic for relief of moderate to severe pain, and is a dangerous drug as defined in section 4022 of the Code and a Schedule II controlled substance as defined in section 11055(b)(1)(L) of the Health and Safety Code.
- 23. "Oxycodone" with acetaminophen and oxycodone with aspirin both contain oxycodone, a white odorless crystalline powder derived from the opium alkaloid, thebaine. Oxycodone is a semisynthetic narcotic analgesic with multiple actions qualitatively similar to those of morphine. It is a dangerous drug as defined in Code section 4022, a schedule II controlled substance and narcotic as defined by section 11055(b)(1)(M) of the Health and Safety Code, and a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by section 1308.12(b)(1) of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- 24. "Meperidine Hydrochloride" is a strong synthetic opioid analysesic used in the relief of moderate to severe pain, as a pre-operative supplement to anesthesia, and to provide pain relief during labor. Also known by the brand name Demerol, meperidine hydrochloride preparations

are subject to control as Schedule II controlled substances as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11055(c)(17), and dangerous drugs within the meaning of Code section 4022.

- 25. "Methadone Hydrochloride," aka as brand names Dolophine, Methadose, and Physeptone, is a synthetic narcotic analgesic with multiple actions quantitatively similar to those of morphine. It is a dangerous drug as defined in Code section 4211, and a schedule II controlled substance as defined in section 11055(c)(14) of the Health and Safety Code
- 26. "Diazepam (Valium)" is a psychotropic drug for the management of anxiety disorders or for the short-term relief of the symptoms of anxiety. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined by section 11057(d)(9) of the Health and Safety Code, and a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined by section 1308.14(c)(16) of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- 27. "Xanax," a trade name for Alprazolam, is a dangerous drug as defined in Code section 4022, and a schedule IV controlled substance as defined by section 1308.14(c)(2) of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- 28. "Lorazepam (Ativan)" is used for anxiety and sedation in the management of anxiety disorder for short-term relief from the symptoms of anxiety or anxiety associated with depressive symptoms. It is a dangerous drug as defined in Code section 4022, a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined by section 11057(d)(16) of the Health and Safety Code, and a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined by section 1308.14(c)(30) of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 29. On or about December 26, 2013, the Board received a Subsequent Arrest Notification from the California Department of Justice informing that on or about December 20, 2013, the Fresno Police Department arrested Respondent on charges of violating Health and Safety Code sections 11351 (possession/purchase for sale narcotic/controlled substance) and 11352(a) (transport/sell narcotic/controlled substance).
- 30. On or about January 15, 2014, the Board received a Fresno Police Department arrest report for Respondent which revealed the following. On December 20, 2013, after being notified by the Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FYIA) Public Safety Dispatch of a possible

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prohibited item at the TSA checkpoint, a Fresno Police Officer responded to the airport. Upon the Officer's arrival, a TSA supervisor informed the Officer that the supervisor located a cleartopped metal jar on Respondent as she was going through the checkpoint. The supervisor was alerted to search Respondent due to a scanner hit which located an object near Respondent's groin area. The container had a pink powdery substance. The supervisor also located a metal tray with powder residue in the same groin area as the jar. When the Officer performed a field identification test of the pink powdery substance, it tested positive for amphetamines. The Officer then searched Respondent's luggage which contained the following: (1) three prescription bottles issued to Respondent, one of which contained two different types of pills (one type of pills did not match the prescription label and were unidentifiable); (2) four pill bottles containing meperidine, morphine oral 15mg, Oxycontin 80mg, methadone oral 10mg, carisoporodol 350mg, oxycodone 10mg, Adderall 20mg, morphine oral 30mg, hydromorphone 2mg, morphine oral 100mg, and amphetamine salts 30mg (prescription issued to D. C.); and (3) numerous unit dose blister packs of carisoprodol 350mg. A DEA Special Agent responded to the FYIA terminal and in his opinion, the quantity of medication was consistent with possession for sale and not personal use. Respondent did not possess a current, valid prescription for any of the medications.

- 31. On or about December 20, 2013, the Fresno Police Department arrested Respondent. During an interview with a Fresno Police Drug Interdiction Team Sergeant, Respondent admitted having a problem with opiate use since college. Respondent told the Sergeant that she had the pills in her possession for personal use but was also moving them from Visalia to Colorado for someone. Respondent stated that she made two trips in nine months to deliver pills to Southern California. Respondent told the Sergeant that she generally gets paid \$2,000.00 per trip to deliver "stuff like that," indicating the pills on the table.
- 32. After receiving notification of Respondent's arrest, the Board initiated an investigation. As part of its investigation, Board Inspector D. P. contacted Respondent's employer, Adventist Central Valley Network (Adventist). Adventist owns and operates four hospitals: Adventist Medical Center-Hanford, Adventist Medical Center-Selma, Adventist

Medical Center-Reedley, and Central Valley General Hospital. Each hospital has a pharmacy. All of Adventist's pharmacists work at each hospital.

- 33. On or about March 13, 2014, Adventist provided Inspector D. P. with a DVD copy of security surveillance video at one of Adventist's pharmacies, Adventist Medical Center-Selma. The video showed Respondent accessing and obtaining controlled substances after the pharmacy was closed on February 19, 2014. Respondent was not scheduled to work on February 19, 2014, and time clock records showed she did not clock in to work.
- 34. Adventist also provided Inspector D. P. with a security surveillance video, dated February 25, 2014, showing Respondent's access to controlled substances at one of Adventist's pharmacies, Central Valley Hospital, after the pharmacy was closed. The video shows Respondent place a zipper plastic bag full of medication into her personal carry bag.
- 35. As part of her investigation, Inspector D. P. reviewed documentation from Adventist regarding controlled substances that it received from a wholesaler from June 18, 2011 through March 7, 2014, which included the time frame during which Respondent worked at Adventist. This revealed that Respondent had received controlled substances from the wholesaler on four different occasions but did not enter those products into inventory. While an exact count of the amount of controlled substances missing from all four Adventist locations could not be made, an audit of those pharmacies suggested large amounts of controlled substances could not be accounted for in dispensing records.
- 36. During her investigation, Inspector D. P. discovered that on November 11, and December 13, 2013, Respondent picked up two Adderall prescriptions for D. C. at two different Rite Aid pharmacies located in Hanford, California. These prescriptions were written on an Adventist prescription blank that was stored under pharmacy control at Adventist Medical Center-Hanford. Dr. J. C. was the prescriber listed on both prescriptions. Dr. J. C. stated that he did not know patient D. C. and did not issue the two prescriptions. The two Adventist prescription blanks were not signed out in the pharmacy and were reported as missing in an audit of the prescription blanks. Respondent's handwriting on time clock documents showed substantial similarities to the handwriting on the two prescriptions.

37. During her investigation, Inspector D. P. discovered that on December 13, 2013, Respondent accessed her Adventist Health record and entered a false prescription record for a generic Adderall prescription written by an Adventist physician. During an interview with Adventist's pharmacist-in-charge, she admitted to seeing a prescription for D C. listed in Respondent's health record.

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Unprofessional Conduct—Conviction of a Crime Substantially Related to Qualifications, Functions, and Duties of Licensee)

- 38. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 490 and 4301(*l*) of the Code in that Respondent has been convicted of a crime that is substantially related to her qualifications, functions, and duties as a pharmacist. The facts and circumstances of this conviction are as follows:
- 39. On or about April 21, 2015, in *People of the State of California v. Emily Anne Clark*, Superior Court of California, County of Kings, case no. 14CM3049, Respondent pled nolo contendere to: (1) a felony charge of embezzlement by public officer (a violation of Penal Code section 504); (2) a felony charge of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud (a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11173(a)); and (3) two misdemeanor charges of unlawful use of prescription: forgery (a violation of Business and Professions Code section 4324(a)). The facts and circumstances of this conviction are described with more particularity in paragraphs 29-31.

#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Unprofessional Conduct—Commission of Acts Involving Moral Turpitude, Dishonesty, Fraud, Deceit, or Corruption)

- 40. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 4301(f) of the Code, by and through sections 4060 and 4324 of the Code, in that Respondent committed acts involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit or corruption as follows:
- a. On or about December 20, 2013, Respondent possessed various controlled substances without a current, valid prescription.

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#### FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Unprofessional Conduct-Violation of Statutes of This State and the United States Regulating Controlled Substances and Dangerous Drugs)

- 42. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 4301(j) of the Code, by and through sections 4060 and 4324 of the Code, sections 11157, 11170, 11171, 11173, and 11350 of the Health and Safety Code, and sections 828(a), 829(a) and (b), and 841(a) of Title 21 of the United States Code, in that Respondent violated the statutes of this state and the United States regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs as follows:
- a. On or about December 20, 2013, Respondent possessed various controlled substances without a current, valid prescription.
- b. On or about December 20, 2013, Respondent admitted that she was transporting controlled substances to Colorado to provide to another individual.
- c. On or about December 20, 2013, Respondent admitted that she had made two trips in nine months to deliver pills to Southern California.
- d. On or about February 19 and 25, 2014, Respondent took controlled substances from Adventist's pharmacies after the pharmacies were closed.
- e. On and between June 18, 2011 and March 7, 2014, while working at Adventist,
  Respondent received controlled substances from a wholesaler on four different occasions but did
  not enter those products into inventory.
- f. On November 11 and December 13, 2013, Respondent picked up two Adderall prescriptions for D. C. These were prescriptions which Respondent forged.
  - g. The facts and circumstances are described with more particularity in paragraphs 31-

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#### FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct—Violating or Attempting to Violate Any Provision or Term of
This Chapter or of the Applicable Federal and State Laws and Regulations Governing
Pharmacy)

43. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 4301(o) of the Code, by and through sections 4060 and 4324 of the Code, sections 11157, 11170, 11171, 11173, and 11350 of the Health and Safety Code, and sections 828(a), 829(a) and (b), and 841(a) of Title 21 of the United States Code, in that Respondent violated or attempted to violate the provisions of the terms of this chapter and the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy. The facts and circumstances are described with more particularity in paragraphs 31-37 and 42.

#### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Pharmacy issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Original Pharmacist License Number RPH 63443, issued to Emily Anne Clark.;
- 2. Ordering Emily Anne Clark to pay the Board of Pharmacy the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and
  - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

TED: 10/20/15

VIRGINIA NEROLD Executive Officer Board of Pharmacy

Department of Consumer Affairs State of California

Complainant