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$7 \mid A$	ttorneys for Complainant				
_	BEFORE THE				
8	BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS				
9	STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
10					
11 Ir	the Matter of the Accusation Against:				
	ŭ	Case Nos. 5225 and 5226			
28	PEX MEDICAL DISTRIBUTOR 8298 Constellation Rd.				
	alencia, CA 91355 Vholesaler Permit No. WLS 3993;	ACCHEATION			
14	,	ACCUSATION			
	LEXANDER SOLIMAN 0305 Adriana Pl.				
, V	alencia, CA 91351				
	esignated Representative No. EXC 16456 (Status 1);				
	RROW-MED PHARMACY 111 Winnetka Ave., #10				
18 C	anoga Park, CA 91306				
19	harmacy License No. PHY 50024;				
	ANA HEALTHCARE PHARMACY 111 Winnetka Ave., #2				
C	anoga Park, CA 91306				
· . '	harmacy License No. PHY 49223 (sold);				
22	and				
	OLIMAN A. SOLIMAN				
$_{24}\parallel_{\mathrm{Ta}}^{54}$	435 Donna Ave. arzana, CA 91356				
	egistered Pharmacist License No. RPH 45176;				
	Respondents.				
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27	Complainant alleges:				
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	. 1				
	ccusation against: Apex Medical Distributor, et. al.	ACCUSATION			

25.

PARTIES

- 1. Virginia Herold ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs.
- 2. On or about November 6, 2001, the Board of Pharmacy ("Board") issued Wholesaler License No. WLS 3993 to Apex Medical Distributor ("Apex") located at 28298 Constellation Rd in Valencia, CA 91355. The license expired on November 1, 2011, and has not been renewed.
- 3. On or about December 21, 2001, the Board issued Designated Representative License No. EXC 16456 to Alexander Soliman. Alexander Soliman became Designated Representative—in-Charge ("DRIC") of Apex on February 19, 2002. The license expired on December 1, 2010, and has not been renewed.
- 4. On or about October 1, 2009, the Board issued Pharmacy License No. PHY 50024 to Arrow-Med Pharmacy ("Arrow-Med") located at 7111 Winnetka Ave. #10 in Canoga Park, CA 91306. The license expired on October 1, 2014, and has not been renewed.
- 5. On or about March 11, 1992, the Board issued Registered Pharmacist ("RPH") License No. RPH 45176 to Mr. Soliman Soliman. RPH Soliman became Pharmacist-in-Charge ("PIC") of Arrow-Med on October 1, 2009. The license will expire on December 31, 2017 unless renewed.
- 6. On or about March 20, 2009, the Board issued Pharmacy License No. PHY 49223 to Jana Healthcare Pharmacy ("Jana") located at 7111 Winnetka Ave. #2 in Canoga Park, CA 91306. The pharmacy was sold on October 4, 2011 and relocated to 5233 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90038 with a different license of PHY 50759. RPH Soliman Soliman was PIC of Jana from August 1, 2010 to October 5, 2011.

JURISDICTION

- 7. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 8. Section 118, subdivision (b), provides in pertinent part that the suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a Board in the Department, or

its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the licensee or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground.

- 9. Section 4011 of the Code provides that the Board shall administer and enforce both the Pharmacy Law [Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4000 et seq.] and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act [Health & Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- 10. Section 4300(a) of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.

11. 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.

12. Section 4307(a) of the Code states:

Any person who has been denied a license or whose license has been revoked or is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it was under suspension, or who has been a manager, administrator, owner member, officer, director, associate, or partner of any partnership, corporation, firm, or association whose application for a license has been denied or revoked, is under suspension or has been placed on probation, and while acting as the manger, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner had knowledge or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the license was denied, revoked, suspended, or placed on probation, shall be prohibited from serving as a manger, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee as follows:

- (1) Where a probationary license is issued or where an existing license is placed on probation, this prohibition shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed five years.
- (2) Where the license is denied or revoked, the prohibition shall continue until the license is issued or reinstated.

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13. Section 4022 of the Code states:

"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.
- (b) Any device that bears the statement: "Caution: federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a _____," "Rx only," or words of similar import, the blank to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or order use of the device.
- (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.
- 14. Section 4035 of the Code defines "person" to include a "firm, association, partnership, corporation, [or] limited liability company."
- 15. Section 4043 of the Code, in pertinent part, defines "wholesaler" to mean and include "a person who acts as a wholesale merchant, broker, jobber, customs broker, reverse distributor, agent, or a nonresident wholesaler, who sells for resale, or negotiates for distribution, or takes possession of, any drug or device included in Section 4022."
 - 16. Section 4053(a) of the Code states, in pertinent part:

Notwithstanding Section 4051, the board may issue a license as a designated representative to provide sufficient and qualified supervision in a wholesaler. . . The designated representative shall protect the public health and safety in the handling, storage, and shipment of dangerous drugs and dangerous devices in the wholesaler. . .

17. Section 4059.5(a) of the Code states:

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, dangerous drugs or dangerous devices may only be ordered by an entity licensed by the board and shall be delivered to the licensed premises and signed for and received by a pharmacist. Where a licensee is permitted to operate through a designated representative, the designated representative shall sign for and receive the delivery.

- 18. Section 4081 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
- (a) All records of manufacture and of sale, acquisition, or disposition of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices shall be at all times during business hours open to inspection by authorized officers of the law, and shall be preserved for at least three years from the date of making. A current inventory shall be kept by

every manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacy... or establishment holding a currently

- (a) A manufacturer, wholesaler, repackager, or pharmacy may not furnish a dangerous drug or dangerous device to an unauthorized person.
- 23. Section 4169 of the Code states in pertinent part:
 - (a) A person or entity may not do any of the following:
- (1) Purchase, trade, sell, or transfer dangerous drugs or dangerous devices at wholesale with a person or entity that is not licensed with the board as a wholesaler or pharmacy.
- (5) Fail to maintain records of the acquisition or disposition of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices for at least three years.
- 24. 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:

- (c) Gross negligence.
- (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.
- (q) Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert an investigation of the board.
- 25. Section 4380 of the Code states:
- (a) The resale, by any person, of drugs acquired at preferentially low prices permitted under federal law only because of the Nonprofit Institutions Act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 13c) is prohibited except in any of the following instances:
- (1) When for the person's own use, as defined by the federal courts in Abbott Labs. v. Portland Retail Druggists (425 U.S. 1, 47 L. Ed. 2d 537) and DeModena v. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (743 F. 2d 1388).
- (2) When sold to a purchaser also eligible for those prices under the Nonprofit Institutions Act, that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, the seller, and that purchases the products for its own use, as defined in paragraph (1).

ACCUSATION

Accusation against: Apex Medical Distributor, et. al.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 31. On or about February 7, 2013, an inspector for the Board traveled to Respondent Apex Medical Distributor in Valencia to conduct an inspection and contacted Designated Representative-in-Charge (DRIC) Alexander Soliman. The inspector explained to DRIC Soliman that his designated representative license (EXC 16456) had expired on December 1, 2010, and was not renewed, and that the Wholesaler Permit of Apex (WLS 3993) also had expired on November 1, 2011, and was not renewed.
- 32. Upon inspecting the warehouse in the back, the inspector found bottles of carisoprodol 350 mg. ("Soma"), a Schedule IV Controlled Substance. He also found boxes of midazolam ("Versed"), a Schedule IV Controlled Substance, and other legend pharmaceuticals and devices.
- 33. In the office of Apex, the inspector found a folder of sales invoices from HD Smith Wholesale Drug Co. to Jana Pharmacy and to Arrow-Med Pharmacy. DRIC Alexander Soliman stated the two pharmacies were owned by his father, Soliman Soliman, and that his father was helping him out by selling pharmaceuticals to him. When asked by the inspector if he had invoices from Jana or Arrow-Med evidencing these sales, DRIC Soliman responded that he did not have any invoices.
- 34. On or about July 17, 2013, the inspector travelled to Arrow-Med Pharmacy in Canoga Park. Although the pharmacy was closed, the owner and Pharmacist-in-Charge (PIC), Solimam Soliman, was present. The inspector requested invoices regarding sales of drugs from Jana and Arrow-Med Pharmacies to Apex. PIC Soliman stated that he had sold Jana more than a year prior, and that he did not have any invoices regarding the drugs sold to Apex. PIC Soliman stated that he was a poor record keeper and that all of the drugs had been sent to Egypt. When asked if he had any export documents or any invoices indicating to whom the drugs had been sold, PIC Soliman stated he did not. The inspector then requested PIC Soliman immediately compile and forward to the Board the following documents for review:
 - a. copies of the pharmacy's Policies and Procedures and self-assessment;
 - b. all invoices of transfers, sales, and/ or purchases between Arrow-Med and Apex;

- c. all invoices of transfers, sales, and/ or purchases between Jana Pharmacy and Apex;
- d. detailed explanations of all such transfers, sales, and/ or purchases, including explanations of why and how the transfers were made;
- e. copies of cancelled checks for payments between Arrow-Med and Jana pharmacies and Apex; and
- f. copies of HD Smith or other wholesaler invoices where the purchases of these drugs were originally purchased and copies of cancelled checks relating to those transfers.
- 35. No invoices of transfers between Arrow-Med or Jana Pharmacies and Apex were ever provided to the Board, nor were copies of any checks between the pharmacies and Apex.
- 36. On or about July 18, 2013, the inspector requested from HD Smith Wholesale Drug Co. records of all sales made to Arrow-Med dating back to June 1, 2012 and information relating to whether Arrow-Med or Jana belonged to a contract buying group.
- 37. On or about July 23, 2013, the inspector received a reply from HD Smith which included a printout of sales to Arrow-Med and a copy of GPO Contract Designation Forms which indicated that Arrow-Med and Jana were under contract to PDM Healthcare Group, and that they agreed that products purchased at contract pricing were for their own use and prohibited from resale with certain exceptions.
- 38. The invoices found by the inspector at Apex on February 7, 2013, itemizing sales by HD Smith Wholesale Drug Co. to Jana Pharmacy and Arrow-Med Pharmacy revealed that Jana (when owned by PIC Soliman) and Arrow-Med resold the dangerous drugs to Apex between September 27, 2009 and April 14, 2011 for a total of \$381,123.59, even though Jana and Arrow-Med were never licensed as wholesalers.
- 39. The invoices also revealed that Apex and its Designated Representative-in-Charge, Alexander Soliman, ordered and received dangerous drugs from Jana and Arrow-Med after Alexander Soliman's DRIC license had expired on December 1, 2010.

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FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

40. Respondents are each and severally subject to discipline under section 4301 of the Code, in that the acts described in paragraphs 31 through 39 constitute unprofessional conduct.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conduct that Subverts or Attempts to Subvert an Investigation by the Board)

41. Respondents are each and severally subject to discipline under section 4301(q) of the Code in that they failed, neglected, or refused to maintain or provide accurate/ correct invoices of transfers of dangerous drugs as set forth in paragraphs 31 through 39, which are incorporated herein by reference.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Acting as an Unlicensed Wholesalers)

42. Respondents Jana, Arrow-Med, and Soliman Soliman are each and severally subject to discipline under Code section 4301(o), for violating and/or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisted in or abetted the violation of, or conspired to violate, the laws governing pharmacy, in that Respondents transferred dangerous drugs or dangerous devices while not licensed as a wholesaler, thus violating Code section 4160, as set forth in paragraphs 31 through 39, which are incorporated herein by reference.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Acting as a Wholesaler Without A Designated Representative)

43. Respondents Apex and Alexander Soliman are each and severally subject to discipline under Code section 4301(o), for violating Code section 4059.5(a), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 1781, in that they ordered and received dangerous drugs from pharmacies without a licensed designated representative from at least December 1, 2010 through April 14, 2011, as set forth in paragraphs 31 through 39, which are incorporated herein by reference.

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FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Keep Records of Acquisitions Open for Inspection and to Keep a Current Inventory)

44. Respondents Apex, Alexander Soliman, Jana Pharmacy, Soliman Soliman, and Arrow-Med are each and severally subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301(o), for violating Code sections 4081(a) and (b) in that they failed, refused, or neglected to keep records of the sale, acquisition, or disposition of dangerous drugs open for inspection or to keep a current inventory of the dangerous drugs originally furnished by HD Smith Wholesale Drug Co., as set forth in paragraphs 31 through 39, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Notify the Board of Termination of Business)

45. Respondents Apex and Alexander Soliman are each and severally subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301(o), for violating California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 1708.2, in that they failed to notify the Board of the closure of the business in 2011, exact date unknown.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Have Pharmacist or Licensed

Designated Representative on Premise)

46. Respondents Apex and Alexander Soliman are each and severally subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301(o), for violating California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 1781, in that Apex had dangerous drugs with no licensed designated representative or pharmacist on the premises when visited by a Board inspector on February 7, 2013.

EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Prohibited Sales or Transfers)

47. Respondents Alexander Soliman and Apex are each and severally subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301(o), for violating Code section 4126.5(a)(1), in that they sold or transferred dangerous drugs to Apex.

NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Furnishing Dangerous Drugs to Unauthorized Persons)

48. Respondents Soliman Soliman, Arrow-Med, and Jana are each and severally subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301(o), for violating Code section 4163(a) in that they furnished dangerous drugs to Alexander Soliman after his Designated Representative's license expired on December 1, 2010, as set forth in paragraphs 31 through 39, which are incorporated herein by reference.

TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unfair Trade Practices)

49. Respondents Soliman Soliman, Arrow-Med, and Jana are each and severally subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301(o), for violating Code section 4380 in that they sold dangerous drugs to Apex which they had acquired at preferentially low prices through PDM Healthcare Group under none of the specific exceptions allowed, as set forth in paragraphs 31 through 39, which are incorporated herein by reference.

ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Records)

50. Respondents Soliman Soliman, Arrow-Med, and Jana are each and severally subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301(o), for violating Code sections 4105(a) and (c), in that they failed to retain records or other documentation of the acquisition and disposition of dangerous drugs on the licensed premises in a readily retrievable form for a period of three years, as set forth in paragraphs 31 through 39, which are incorporated herein by reference.

OTHER MATTERS

51. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Wholesaler Permit No. WLS 3993 issued to Apex Medical Distributor and Alexander Soliman while acting as the manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of Apex had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which Wholesaler Permit No. WLS 3993 was revoked, suspended or placed on probation, Alexander Soliman shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner

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of a licensee for five years if Wholesaler Permit No. WLS 3993 is placed on probation or until Wholesaler Permit No. WLS 3993 is reinstated if it is revoked.

- 52. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Designated Representative License No. EXC 16456 (Status 1) issued to Alexander Soliman, he shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Designated Representative License No. EXC 16456 (Status 1) is placed on probation or until Designated Representative License No. EXC 16456 (Status 1) is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 53. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy License No. PHY 50024, issued to Arrow-Med Pharmacy and Soliman Soliman while acting as the manager. administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of Arrow-Med had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which Pharmacy License No. PHY 50024 was revoked, suspended or placed on probation, Soliman Soliman shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy License No. PHY 50024 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy License No. PHY 50024 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 54. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy License No. PHY 49223, issued to Jana Healthcare Pharmacy and Soliman Soliman while acting as the manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of Jana had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which Pharmacy License No. PHY 49233 was revoked, suspended or placed on probation, Soliman Soliman shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy License No. PHY 49223 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy License No. PHY 49223 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 55. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacist License No. RPH 45176 issued to Soliman Soliman, he shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years

if Pharmacist License No. RPH 45176 is placed on probation or until Pharmacist License No. RPH 45176 is reinstated if it is revoked.

DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

- 56. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Apex Medical Distributor, Complainant alleges that on or about September 15, 2009, the Board issued Citation No. CI 2007 36405 against Apex for violating Business and Professions Code section 4169(a)(1), in that it purchased, traded, sold, or transferred dangerous drugs to unlicensed person or entity. It has not paid the fine of \$405,000.00 imposed by the Citation.
- 57. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Alexander Soliman, Complainant alleges that on or about September 15, 2009, the Board issued Citation No. CI 2009 40864 against Alexander Soliman for violating Business and Professions Code section 4169(a)(1), in that he purchased, traded, sold, or transferred dangerous drugs to unlicensed person or entity. He has not paid the fine of \$405,000.00 imposed by the Citation.

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 Wholesaler Permit No. WLS 3993, issued to Apex Medical Distributors;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Designated Representative License No. EXC 16456 (Status 1), issued to Alexander Soliman;
- 3. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy License No. PHY 50024, issued to Arrow-Med Pharmacy;
- 4. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy License No. PHY 49223, issued to Jana Healthcare Pharmacy;
- 5. Revoking or suspending Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 45176, issued to Soliman Soliman;
- 6. Prohibiting Alexander Soliman from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Wholesaler Permit

ACCUSATION

Accusation against: Apex Medical Distributor, et. al.

1	12. Taking such other and further	r action as deemed necessary and proper.
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3	DATED:	Cegina Steedy
4		VIRGINIA HEROLD Executive Officer
5		Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
6		Complainant
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ACCUSATION