# BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 4802

**KVP PHARMACY, INC. Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 50535** 

OAH No. 2015070842

KHACHATUR POGOSYAN Sole owner of KVP PHARMACY, INC. Designated Representative License No. EXC 19398

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER AS TO PAMELA LIAO ONLY

PAUL CUMMINGS
Pharmacist License No. RPH 44852

KAROLIN ABEDI Pharmacist License No. RPH 66363

PAMELA LIAO Pharmacist License No. RPH 68228

Respondents.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on March 17, 2016.

It is so ORDERED February 16, 2016.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By

Amy Gutierrez, Pharm.D. Board President

1	Kamala D. Harris				
2	Attorney General of California MARC D. GREENBAUM				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General MORGAN MALEK				
4	Deputy Attorney General				
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7	BEFORE THE				
8	BOARD OF PHARMACY				
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
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11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 4802			
12	KVP PHARMACY, INC. 440 W. Broadway #B	OAH No. 2015070842			
13	Glendale, CA 91204 Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 50535	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER AS TO			
14	KHACHATUR POGOSYAN	PAMELA LIAO ONLY			
15	Sole owner of KVP PHARMACY, INC. Designated Representative License No. EXC 19398				
16	PAUL CUMMINGS				
17	11343 Segrell Way				
18	Culver City, CA 90230 Pharmacist License No. RPH 44852				
19	KAROLIN ABEDI 8400 Irondale Ave				
20	Canoga Park, CA 91306 Pharmacist License No. RPH 66363				
21	PAMELA LIAO				
22	27929 Ridgebrook Court Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275				
23	Pharmacist License No. RPH 68228				
24	Respondents.				
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26	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-				
27	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:				
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		1 STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (4802)			
		STIFULATED SETTLEMENT (4802)			

### **PARTIES**

- 1. Virginia Herold ("Complainant") is the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board" or "board"). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Morgan Malek, Deputy Attorney General.
- 2. Respondent Pamela Liao ("respondent") is represented in this proceeding by Ivan Petrzelka of California Pharmacy Lawyers, whose address is: 2855-Michelle Drive #180, Irvine, CA 92606-1027.
- 3. On or about October 5, 2012, The Board issued Pharmacist License No. RPH 68228 to the respondent. The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October 31, 2016, unless renewed. Respondent LIAO was the PIC of KVP PHARMACY, INC., from June 10, 2013 to July 5, 2013.

### **JURISDICTION**

- 4. Accusation No. 4802 was filed before the Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against the respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on respondent on April 1, 2015. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 4802 is attached as <u>Exhibit A</u> and incorporated herein by reference.

### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 4802. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to

compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

### **CULPABILITY**

- 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation No. 4802, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Pharmacist License.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving the First Amended Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that respondent hereby gives up her right to contest those charges.
- 11. Respondent agrees that her Pharmacist License No. RPH 68228 is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

### CONTINGENCY

12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Pharmacy. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Pharmacy may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

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- 13. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 14. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
- 15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH issued to Respondent Pamela Liao is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

### 1. Obey All Laws

Respondent shall obey all state and federal laws and regulations.

Respondent shall report any of the following occurrences to the board, in writing, within seventy-two (72) hours of such occurrence:

- an arrest or issuance of a criminal complaint for violation of any provision of the

  Pharmacy Law, state and federal food and drug laws, or state and federal controlled substances laws
- a plea of guilty or nolo contendre in any state or federal criminal proceeding to any criminal complaint, information or indictment
- a conviction of any crime
- discipline, citation, or other administrative action filed by any state or federal agency
   which involves respondent's Pharmacist License or which is related to the practice of

pharmacy or the manufacturing, obtaining, handling, distributing, billing, or charging for any drug, device or controlled substance.

Failure to timely report such occurrence shall be considered a violation of probation.

### 2. Report to the Board

Respondent shall report to the board quarterly, on a schedule as directed by the board or its designee. The report shall be made either in person or in writing, as directed. Among other requirements, respondent shall state in each report under penalty of perjury whether there has been compliance with all the terms and conditions of probation. Failure to submit timely reports in a form as directed shall be considered a violation of probation. Any period(s) of delinquency in submission of reports as directed may be added to the total period of probation. Moreover, if the final probation report is not made as directed, probation shall be automatically extended until such time as the final report is made and accepted by the board.

### 3. Interview with the Board

Upon receipt of reasonable prior notice, respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the board or its designee, at such intervals and locations as are determined by the board or its designee. Failure to appear for any scheduled interview without prior notification to board staff, or failure to appear for two (2) or more scheduled interviews with the board or its designee during the period of probation, shall be considered a violation of probation.

### 4. Cooperate with Board Staff

Respondent shall cooperate with the board's inspection program and with the board's monitoring and investigation of respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of her probation. Failure to cooperate shall be considered a violation of probation.

### 5. Continuing Education

Respondent shall provide evidence of efforts to maintain skill and knowledge as a pharmacist as directed by the board or its designee.

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### 6. Notice to Employers

During the period of probation, respondent shall notify all present and prospective employers of the decision in case number 4802 and the terms, conditions and restrictions imposed on respondent by the decision, as follows:

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within fifteen (15) days of respondent undertaking any new employment, respondent shall cause her direct supervisor, pharmacist-in-charge (including each new pharmacist-in-charge employed during respondent's tenure of employment) and owner to report to the board in writing acknowledging that the listed individual(s) has/have read the decision in case number 4802, and terms and conditions imposed thereby. It shall be respondent's responsibility to ensure that her employer(s) and/or supervisor(s) submit timely acknowledgment(s) to the board.

If respondent works for or is employed by or through a pharmacy employment service, respondent must notify her direct supervisor, pharmacist-in-charge, and owner at every entity licensed by the board of the terms and conditions of the decision in case number 4802 in advance of the respondent commencing work at each licensed entity. A record of this notification must be provided to the board upon request.

Furthermore, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within fifteen (15) days of respondent undertaking any new employment by or through a pharmacy employment service, respondent shall cause her direct supervisor with the pharmacy employment service to report to the board in writing acknowledging that she has read the decision in case number 4802 and the terms and conditions imposed thereby. It shall be respondent's responsibility to ensure that her employer(s) and/or supervisor(s) submit timely acknowledgment(s) to the board.

Failure to timely notify present or prospective employer(s) or to cause that/those employer(s) to submit timely acknowledgments to the board shall be considered a violation of probation.

"Employment" within the meaning of this provision shall include any full-time, part-time, temporary, relief or pharmacy management service as a pharmacist or any

position for which a pharmacist license is a requirement or criterion for employment, whether the respondent is an employee, independent contractor or volunteer.

## 7. No Supervision of Interns, Serving as Pharmacist-in-Charge (PIC), Serving as Designated Representative-in-Charge, or Serving as a Consultant

During the period of probation, respondent shall not supervise any intern pharmacist, be the pharmacist-in-charge or designated representative-in-charge of any entity licensed by the board nor serve as a consultant unless otherwise specified in this order. Assumption of any such unauthorized supervision responsibilities shall be considered a violation of probation.

### 8. Reimbursement of Board Costs

As a condition precedent to successful completion of probation, respondent shall pay to the board its costs of investigation and prosecution in the amount of \$5,762.00. Respondent understands and agrees that said costs are not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

Respondent may make payments in a plan approved by the Board or its designee. There shall be no deviation from this schedule absent prior written approval by the Board or its designee. Failure to pay costs by the deadline(s) as directed shall be considered a violation of probation:

The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of her responsibility to reimburse the board its costs of investigation and prosecution.

### 9. Probation Monitoring Costs

Respondent shall pay any costs associated with probation monitoring as determined by the board each and every year of probation. Such costs shall be payable to the board on a schedule as directed by the board or its designee. Failure to pay such costs by the deadline(s) as directed shall be considered a violation of probation.

#### 10. Status of License

Respondent shall, at all times while on probation, maintain an active, current license with the board, including any period during which suspension or probation is tolled. Failure to maintain an active, current license shall be considered a violation of probation.

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If respondent's license expires or is cancelled by operation of law or otherwise at any time during the period of probation, including any extensions thereof due to tolling or otherwise, upon renewal or reapplication respondent's license shall be subject to all terms and conditions of this probation not previously satisfied.

### 11. License Surrender While on Probation/Suspension

Following the effective date of this decision, should respondent cease practice due to retirement or health, or be otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may tender her license to the board for surrender. The board or its designee shall have the discretion whether to grant the request for surrender or take any other action it deems appropriate and reasonable. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender of the license, respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. This surrender constitutes a record of discipline and shall become a part of the respondent's license history with the board.

Upon acceptance of the surrender, respondent shall relinquish her pocket and wall license to the board within ten (10) days of notification by the board that the surrender is accepted. Respondent may not reapply for any license from the board for three (3) years from the effective date of the surrender. Respondent shall meet all requirements applicable to the license sought as of the date the application for that license is submitted to the board, including any outstanding costs.

# 12. Notification of a Change in Name, Residence Address, Mailing Address or Employment

Respondent shall notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of any change of employment. Said notification shall include the reasons for leaving, the address of the new employer, the name of the supervisor and owner, and the work schedule if known. Respondent shall further notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of a change in name, residence address, mailing address, or phone number.

Failure to timely notify the board of any change in employer(s), name(s), address(es), or phone number(s) shall be considered a violation of probation.

### 13. Tolling of Probation

Except during periods of suspension, respondent shall, at all times while on probation, be employed as a pharmacist in California for a minimum of forty (40) hours per calendar month. Any month during which this minimum is not met shall toll the period of probation, i.e., the period of probation shall be extended by one month for each month during which this minimum is not met. During any such period of tolling of probation, respondent must nonetheless comply with all terms and conditions of probation.

Should respondent, regardless of residency, for any reason (including vacation) cease practicing as a pharmacist for a minimum of forty (40) hours per calendar month in California, respondent must notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of the cessation of practice, and must further notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of the resumption of practice. Any failure to provide such notification(s) shall be considered a violation of probation.

It is a violation of probation for respondent's probation to remain tolled pursuant to the provisions of this condition for a total period, counting consecutive and non-consecutive months, exceeding thirty-six (36) months.

"Cessation of practice" means any calendar month during which respondent is not practicing as a pharmacist for at least forty (40) hours, as defined by Business and Professions Code section 4000 et seq. "Resumption of practice" means any calendar month during which respondent is practicing as a pharmacist for at least forty (40) hours as a pharmacist as defined by Business and Professions Code section 4000 et seq.

### 14. Violation of Probation

If a respondent has not complied with any term or condition of probation, the board shall have continuing jurisdiction over respondent, and probation shall automatically be extended, until all terms and conditions have been satisfied or the board has taken other action as deemed appropriate to treat the failure to comply as a violation of probation, to terminate probation, and to impose the penalty that was stayed.

If respondent violates probation in any respect, the board, after giving respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. Notice and opportunity to be heard are not required for those provisions stating that a violation thereof may lead to automatic termination of the stay and/or revocation of the license. If a petition to revoke probation or an accusation is filed against respondent during probation, the board shall have continuing jurisdiction and the period of probation shall be automatically extended until the petition to revoke probation or accusation is heard and decided.

Further, If respondent violates probation in any respect, any and all allegations against the respondent in the First Amended Accusation Case No. 4802 will be deemed admitted by the respondent, and accordingly, paragraphs 9 to 11 on page 3 of this Stipulated Settlement will be stricken and replaced with the following language: "Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 4802. Respondent agrees that her Pharmacists License is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below."

### 15. Completion of Probation

Upon written notice by the board or its designee indicating successful completion of probation, respondent's license will be fully restored.

#### 16. Remedial Education

Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the board or its designee, for prior approval, an appropriate program of remedial education related to the pharmacy law, compounding law and the role a Pharmacist-In-Charge (PIC). The program of remedial education shall consist of at least twelve (12) hours, which shall be completed within the first two years of the effective date of this decision at respondent's own expense. All remedial education shall be in addition to, and shall not be credited toward, continuing education (CE) courses used for license renewal purposes.

Failure to timely submit or complete the approved remedial education shall be considered a violation of probation. The period of probation will be automatically extended until such remedial education is successfully completed and written proof, in a form acceptable to the board,

is provided to the board or its designee.

Following the completion of each course, the board or its designee may require the respondent, at her own expense, to take an approved examination to test the respondent's knowledge of the course. If the respondent does not achieve a passing score on the examination, this failure shall be considered a violation of probation. Any such examination failure shall require respondent to take another course approved by the board in the same subject area.

### 17. Supervised Practice

During the period of probation, respondent shall practice only under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist not on probation with the board. Upon and after the effective date of this decision, respondent shall not practice pharmacy and her license shall be automatically suspended until a supervisor is approved by the board or its designee.

The supervision shall be, as required by the board or its designee, set as:

Daily Review- Supervisor's review of probationer's daily activities within 24 hours. "Daily review" as this term is used herein shall not require that the supervising pharmacists be engaged in physical supervision of respondent's activities in real time, but shall require that the supervising pharmacist, by no later than close of business on each day following, review all transactions performed by respondent and records associated with those transactions to ensure compliance with state and federal statutes and regulations and with the requirements of this decision.

If respondent violates probation in any respect, the board or its designee shall have the power to impose any of the following supervision restrictions:

Continuous – At least 75% of a work week

Substantial - At least 50% of a work week

Partial - At least 25% of a work week

Daily Review - Supervisor's review of probationer's daily activities within 24 hours

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall have her supervisor submit notification to the board in writing stating that the supervisor has read the decision in case number 4802 and is familiar with the required level of supervision as determined

by the board or its designee. It shall be the respondent's responsibility to ensure that her employer(s), pharmacist-in-charge and/or supervisor(s) submit timely acknowledgement(s) to the board. Failure to cause the direct supervisor and the pharmacist-in-charge to submit timely acknowledgements to the board shall be considered a violation of probation.

If respondent changes employment, it shall be the respondent's responsibility to ensure that her employer(s), pharmacist-in-charge and/or supervisor(s) submit timely acknowledgement(s) to the board. Respondent shall have her new supervisor, within fifteen (15) days after employment commences, submit notification to the board in writing stating the direct supervisor and pharmacist-in-charge have read the decision in case number 4802 and is familiar with the level of supervision as determined by the board. Respondent shall not practice pharmacy and her license shall be automatically suspended until the board or its designee approves a new supervisor. Failure to cause the direct supervisor and the pharmacist-in-charge to submit timely acknowledgements to the board shall be considered a violation of probation.

Within ten (10) days of leaving employment, respondent shall notify the board in writing.

During suspension, respondent shall not enter any pharmacy area or any portion of the licensed premises of a wholesaler, veterinary food-animal drug retailer or any other distributor of drugs which is licensed by the board, or any manufacturer, or where dangerous drugs and devices or controlled substances are maintained. Respondent shall not practice pharmacy nor do any act involving drug selection, selection of stock, manufacturing, compounding, dispensing or patient consultation; nor shall respondent manage, administer, or be a consultant to any licensee of the board, or have access to or control the ordering, manufacturing or dispensing of dangerous drugs and controlled substances. Respondent shall not resume practice until notified by the board.

During suspension, respondent shall not engage in any activity that requires the professional judgment of a pharmacist. Respondent shall not direct or control any aspect of the practice of pharmacy. Respondent shall not perform the duties of a pharmacy technician or a designated representative for any entity licensed by the board.

Subject to the above restrictions, respondent may continue to own or hold an interest in any licensed premises in which she holds an interest at the time this decision becomes effective unless

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1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Pamela Liao the terms and conditions and				
2	other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its				
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4	DATED:	15-22-20(7_	Ivan Petrzelka	And the second s	
5			California Pharmacy Lawyers Attorney for Respondent		
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STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (4802)

### **ENDORSEMENT** The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy. Respectfully submitted, Dated: KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California MARC D. GREENBAUM Supervising Deputy Attorney General MORGAN MALEK Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant LA2013509843 61789118.doc

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (4802)

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 4802