

# Public Matter

1 STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
 2 OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL  
 3 GEORGE S. CARDONA, No. 135439  
 4 CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL  
 5 CHRISTOPHER G. JAGARD, No. 191147  
 6 DEPUTY CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL  
 7 CINDY CHAN, No. 247495  
 8 ASSISTANT CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL  
 9 MANUEL JIMENEZ, No. 218234  
 10 SUPERVISING ATTORNEY  
 11 LISA JEONG CUMMINS, No. 118087  
 12 TRIAL COUNSEL  
 13 Lisa.Cummins@calbar.ca.gov  
 14 180 Howard Street  
 15 San Francisco, California 94105-1639  
 16 Telephone: (415) 538-2385  
 17

**FILED** P.B.  
**MAR 30 2026**  
**STATE BAR COURT**  
**CLERK'S OFFICE**  
**LOS ANGELES**

11 THE STATE BAR COURT  
 12 HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

13 In the Matter of: ) Case No. SBC-26-O-30333  
 14 )  
 15 STEVEN THOMAS ROMEYN, ) NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES  
 16 State Bar No. 304535, )  
 17 ) (OCTC Case No. 25-O-31767)  
 18 )  
 19 An Attorney of the State Bar )

20 **NOTICE - FAILURE TO RESPOND!**

21 **IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO THIS NOTICE**  
 22 **WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER SERVICE, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT**  
 23 **THE STATE BAR COURT TRIAL:**

- 24 (1) **YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;**
- 25 (2) **YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU**  
 26 **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;**
- 27 (3) **YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN**  
 28 **THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION**  
**AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE; AND,**
- (4) **YOU SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE.**  
**SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE**  
**OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN**  
**ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT AND MAY**  
**RECOMMEND THE IMPOSITION OF MONETARY SANCTIONS**  
**WITHOUT FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. (SEE RULES**  
**PROC. OF STATE BAR, RULES 5.80 ET SEQ. & 5.137.)**

1 The State Bar of California alleges:

2 JURISDICTION

3 1. Steven Thomas Romeyn ("respondent") was admitted to the practice of law in the  
4 State of California on July 10, 2015. Respondent currently is, and at all times pertinent to these  
5 charges was, a licensed attorney of the State Bar of California.

6 FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

7 2. Respondent represented the plaintiff, Jewel Hinkes-Galvez ("Hinkes-Galvez"), in a  
8 personal injury case, *Hinkes-Galvez v. Wilkinson*, Case No. 30-2024-01432299-CU-PA-CJC,  
9 before the Orange County Superior Court ("the civil action").

10 3. On October 13, 2025, Respondent signed and filed, on behalf of Hinkes-Galvez, an  
11 Opposition to Defendant's Motion to Strike Portions of the Plaintiff's Complaint ("Opposition")  
12 in the civil action. The Opposition was replete with internal citations and quotes from decisions  
13 that were non-existent, did not contain the language quoted, or did not support the propositions  
14 for which they were offered ("fabricated legal authority").

15 4. On October 24, 2025, the court denied Respondent's Opposition and found that many  
16 of the citations in the Opposition were fabricated, as they did not support the position stated,  
17 were misquoted, or did not exist. The court set an Order to Show Cause re sanctions against  
18 plaintiff's attorneys ("OSC") for November 20, 2025.

19 5. On November 6, 2025, Jafer Jaffery ("Jaffery"), an attorney at Respondent's law  
20 firm, filed a Response to the OSC ("Response to OSC") that was accompanied by the  
21 Declarations of Respondent and Jaffery. The Response to OSC stated that Respondent had used  
22 an artificial intelligence ("AI") drafting tool without authorization or partner knowledge.

23 6. Respondent's declaration to the Response to OSC stated, in relevant part:

- 24 a. "An initial template draft of the opposition was prepared with the assistance of an  
25 artificial intelligence tool. At the time of filing, there was no statewide rule from  
26 the California Judicial Council requiring litigants to disclose AI use in pleadings.  
27 I was unaware that AI was used at the time of filing";



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**THREAT OF HARM TO THE INTERESTS OF YOUR CLIENTS OR TO THE PUBLIC, YOU MAY BE INVOLUNTARILY ENROLLED AS AN INACTIVE ATTORNEY OF THE STATE BAR. YOUR INACTIVE ENROLLMENT WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO ANY DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED BY THE COURT.**

**NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!**

**IN THE EVENT THESE PROCEDURES RESULT IN PUBLIC DISCIPLINE, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE STATE BAR IN THE INVESTIGATION, HEARING AND REVIEW OF THIS MATTER PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6086.10.**

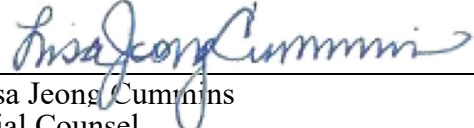
**NOTICE – MONETARY SANCTION!**

**IN THE EVENT THIS MATTER RESULTS IN ACTUAL SUSPENSION, DISBARMENT, OR RESIGNATION WITH CHARGES PENDING, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF A MONETARY SANCTION NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000 FOR EACH VIOLATION, TO A MAXIMUM OF \$50,000 PER DISCIPLINARY ORDER, PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6086.13. SEE RULE 5.137, RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA.**

Respectfully submitted,

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

DATED: March 30, 2026

By:   
Lisa Jeong Cummins  
Trial Counsel

**DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL**

**CASE NUMBER: 25-O-31767**

I, the undersigned, over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action, whose business address and place of employment is the State Bar of California, 845 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90017; that I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service; that in the ordinary course of the State Bar of California's practice, correspondence collected and processed by the State Bar of California would be deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day; that I am aware that on motion of party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope or package is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing contained in the affidavit; and that in accordance with the practice of the State Bar of California for collection and processing of mail, I deposited or placed for collection and mailing in the City and County of Los Angeles, on the date shown below, a true copy of the within

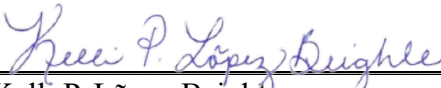
**NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES**

in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing as certified mail, return receipt requested, Article No.: 9414 7266 9904 2111 0300 94, at Los Angeles, on the date shown below, addressed to:

**Steven Thomas Romeyn  
Enara Law  
7631 E Greenway Rd, Suite B-2  
Scottsdale AZ 85260**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on the date shown below.

DATED: March 30, 2026

Signed:   
Kelli P. Lopez Beighle  
Declarant