



The State Bar of California

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

pauline.castro@calbar.ca.gov

March 12, 2026

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

DELIVERED VIA U.S. MAIL

Kevin Perelman
26500 Agoura Road Ste. 102
Calabasas, CA 91302

RE: Case Number: 25-O-28710
Respondent: Shep Alan Zebberman

Dear Kevin Perelman:

The State Bar has decided to close your complaint against Shep Alan Zebberman.

Please understand that the State Bar cannot proceed with disciplinary charges unless we can present evidence and testimony in court, sufficient to prove by clear and convincing evidence that the attorney has committed a violation of the State Bar Act or the Rules of Professional Conduct. The violation must be serious enough to support both a finding of culpability and the imposition of professional discipline. In some cases, there may be evidence of attorney malfeasance or negligence, but this evidence may be insufficient to justify the commencement of a disciplinary proceeding, or to be successful at a disciplinary trial.

After carefully reviewing the information you provided, as well as information from other sources including a written response with supporting documentation from Mr. Zebberman, this office has concluded that we would not be able to prevail in a disciplinary proceeding.

In your complaint, you enumerated your allegations against Mr. Zebberman, other individuals including several judicial officers, and the CAP-LA Administration. This letter will address your allegations against Mr. Zebberman. You alleged that the attorney failed to present exculpatory evidence on your behalf. You also alleged that Mr. Zebberman failed to file a Pitches Motion and a Petition for a change of venue. Lastly, you alleged that there was a conflict of interest based

Kevin Perelman

25-O-28710

Page 2

on information that Mr. Zebberman has social and personal relationships with Judge Dohi, who was the judge assigned to your case.

The State Bar reviewed the information and documents you presented and obtained a response with supporting documents from Mr. Zebberman who addressed your allegations.

Mr. Zebberman stated that he represented you in two matters: 1) Los Angeles County Superior Court matter of *Fishman vs. Perelman* Case Number 23CHR001347 and 2) Los Angeles County Superior Court matter of *People vs. Perelman* Case Number LA099813. The cases were regarding a Civil Restraining Order and a Felony and Misdemeanor complaint, respectively. Mr. Zebberman stated that the Civil Restraining Order case was dismissed through his negotiations.

As for the Felony and Misdemeanor complaint, Mr. Zebberman stated that he did not believe there was any exculpatory evidence. The attorney explained that you never denied committing the alleged acts. Rather, you stated that the acts were done in an act of self-defense. Mr. Zebberman stated that you provided him hours of video footage, but that the footage did not substantiate your claims regarding an act or acts of conspiracy done against you. Mr. Zebberman stated that he informed you of this as well as advised you that your reason for self-defense would not be considered valid.

Pertaining to the allegation that Mr. Zebberman failed to file a Pitches Motion and a Petition to Change Venue, the attorney provided this office a copy of a Minute Order dated March 15, 2024, where it states the "Pitches Motion is granted...". As for the change of venue, Mr. Zebberman stated that you did not request that a Petition for a venue changed be filed. Rather, you broached the topic of the possibility of changing venue and Mr. Zebberman advised that there was no valid reason to do so and also that doing so would not be advantageous to your defense.

Regarding the allegation that there is a conflict of interest, Mr. Zebberman denies having any personal relationship with Judge Dohi or the other judges in your arraignment and preliminary hearing. He also denies informing you of the purported personal relationship between him and the judges. Mr. Zebberman explained that when you raised the possibility of change of venue, he informed you that based on his experience with Judge Dohi in his other court cases, the attorney found that the Judge was reasonable and fair. Mr. Zebberman informed this office that he and Judge Dohi attended Judge College together but that no personal conversation ever occurred. Mr. Zebberman stated that all conversations Mr. Zebberman had with the judge were strictly professional.

Kevin Perelman

25-O-28710

Page 3

Based on the information and documents you and Mr. Zebberman provided, there is insufficient evidence to prove that Mr. Zebberman failed to perform his legal duties on your behalf. Contrary to your allegation, there is evidence to confirm that a Pitches Motion was indeed filed and that the Court granted said motion. As for the change in venue, an attorney has wide latitude in determining what tactic or course to take as it pertains to their clients' cases. The State Bar cannot discipline an attorney solely based on his or her refusal to change court venues when no valid reason has been deemed sufficient to file one. As for the alleged conflict of interest, individuals attending the same course or school do not constitute a conflict. In addition, there is insufficient evidence to support that a relationship other than a professional one exists between Mr. Zebberman and the judge assigned to your case. As such, there is insufficient evidence to prove by clear and convincing standard that Mr. Zebberman committed a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct and/or the State Bar Act. Therefore, this matter is now closed.

With respect to your complaint against the judge/s who heard your case, and CAP-LA, the State Bar is not authorized to address complaints of misconduct by a sitting judge or complaints regarding other institutions. Therefore, we are closing our file on your complaint.

The agency authorized to investigate and prosecute state judicial officers is the Commission on Judicial Performance. If you decide to pursue a written complaint against the state court judge, you may submit your complaint and accompanying documents to the Commission on Judicial Performance at 455 Golden Gate Avenue, #14400, San Francisco, CA 94102.

If you would like to provide additional information or documented evidence that you have not yet provided to the State Bar regarding your allegations against Mr. Zebberman, we request but do not require that you send us the information within ten days of the date of this letter. You may send your additional information or documentation to me via United States Mail to 845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or via email at Pauline.Castro@calbar.ca.gov. In your communication, please be sure to clearly identify the lawyer complained against and the case number assigned to your complaint. I will respond to your communication as soon as possible.

If you have presented all of the information that you wish to have considered, and you disagree with the decision to close your complaint, you may request that the State Bar's Complaint Review Unit review your complaint. The Complaint Review Unit will recommend that your complaint be reopened if it determines that further investigation is warranted. To request review by the Complaint Review Unit, you must submit your request in writing, either:

- 1) Via email: Within 90 days of the date of this letter, by email to: CRU@calbar.ca.gov; or
- 2) Via United States Mail: Post-marked within 90 days of the date of this letter, by United States Mail to:

The State Bar of California
Complaint Review Unit
Office of General Counsel
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1617

Please note that telephonic requests for review will not be accepted.

If you decide to send new information or documents to this office, the 90-day period will continue to run during the time that this office considers the new material. You may wish to consult with legal counsel for advice regarding any other available remedies. You may contact your local or county bar association to obtain the names of attorneys to assist you in this matter.

We would appreciate if you would complete a short, anonymous survey about your experience with filing your complaint. While your responses to the survey will not change the outcome of the complaint you filed against the attorney, the State Bar will use your answers to help improve the services we provide to the public. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HJGKWY7>.

Sincerely,



Pauline Castro
Investigator