



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-28711
Respondent: Yisrael Gelb

Dear Kevin Perelman:

The State Bar has decided to close your complaint against Yisrael Gelb.

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 from Mr. Gelb, this office has concluded that we would not be able to prevail in a disciplinary proceeding.

In your complaint, you alleged that Mr. Gelb, who is your Court appointed appellate counsel continues to represent you in the Court of Appeal, 2nd Appellate District Division 4 Case Number B343120, despite a conflict of interest. You alleged that Mr. Gelb is "*a rabbi who is closely connected to Mr. Zebberman within the Jewish community*". Mr. Zebberman (OCTC Case Number 25-O-28710) was your trial counsel. You also stated that Mr. Gelb only has two years of

experience and alleged that the attorney has failed to refuse to file habeas corpus petition or other reliefs on your behalf.

The State Bar reviewed the information and documents you provided as well as obtained a response from Mr. Gelb.

Mr. Gelb confirmed that he was appointed by the Court of Appeal through CAP-LA. It was also noted that you have broached the same complaint against the attorney asking that the attorney be relieved as your counsel, but that the Court denied this request. Mr. Gelb contends that filing said habeas corpus petition requires approval from the Court or the Appellate project. In addition, a review of the documents you included with your complaint indicates that you were informed that Mr. Gelb was not appointed by the Appellate Court to handle your habeas complaints, rather the attorney was appointed to handle the appeal.

In consideration of the information and documents both you and Mr. Gelb provided, the State Bar has insufficient evidence to prove that Mr. Gelb committed misconduct as your attorney. If the appointed attorney has not been formally relieved as counsel by the Court, said attorney will remain counsel of record. Furthermore, if Mr. Gelb has discretion as to what strategy to pursue in your appeal. Please be informed that the State Bar cannot overturn a Court's decision in any given matter. In other words, relieving your attorney as your counsel falls outside the State Bar's jurisdiction. In addition, Mr. Gelb is a licensed attorney of the California State Bar and therefore is able to practice law in the state of California. As for the purported conflict of interest, there is insufficient evidence to support this claim. For these reasons, there is insufficient evidence to prove by clear and convincing standard that Mr. Gelb committed a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct and/or the State Bar Act. Therefore, this matter is now closed.

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. Gelb, 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