

**BEFORE THE  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID  
DISPENSERS BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Second Amended  
Accusation Against:

**Miriam R. Dahut (a.k.a. Miriam R.  
Blanchard)**

**5435 Babcock Avenue  
Valley Village, California 91607**

**Speech Language Pathologist License  
No. SP 8627,**

Respondent.

Case No. 11-2012-70

OAH No. 2014110847

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

This Decision shall become effective on July 22, 2015.

It is so ORDERED June 22, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FOR THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
AND AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID  
DISPENSERS BOARD

1 KAMALA D. HARRIS  
Attorney General of California  
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
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Deputy Attorney General  
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7

8 **BEFORE THE**  
**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID**  
**DISPENSERS BOARD**  
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
10 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 In the Matter of the Second Amended  
12 Accusation Against:

13 **Miriam R. Dahut (a.k.a. Miriam R.**  
14 **Blanchard)**

15 **5435 Babcock Avenue**  
**Valley Village, California 91607**

16 **Speech Language Pathologist License**  
17 **No. SP 8627,**

18  
19 Respondent.  
20

Case No. 11-2012-70

OAH No. 2014110847

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND**  
**DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

21 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-  
22 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

23 PARTIES

24 1. Paul Sanchez ("Complainant") is the Executive Officer of the Speech-Language  
25 Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (Board). He brought this action solely  
26 in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of  
27 the State of California, by Tan N. Tran, Deputy Attorney General.  
28



1 CULPABILITY

2 9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Second  
3 Amended Accusation No. 11-2012-70.

4 10. Respondent agrees that her Speech-Language Pathologist License is subject to  
5 discipline and that she is to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the  
6 Disciplinary Order below.

7 RESERVATION

8 11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this  
9 proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board or other professional licensing agency is  
10 involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

11 CONTINGENCY

12 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Speech-Language Pathology and  
13 Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel  
14 for Complainant and the staff of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid  
15 Dispensers Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and  
16 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the  
17 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek  
18 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails  
19 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary  
20 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal  
21 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having  
22 considered this matter.

23 13. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile  
24 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including Portable Document Format  
25 (PDF) and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

26 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that  
27 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following  
28 Disciplinary Order:

## DISCIPLINARY ORDER

1  
2 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Speech Pathologist License No. SP 8627 issued to  
3 Miriam R. Blanchard (a.k.a. Miriam R. Dahut) ("Respondent") is revoked. However, the  
4 revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for seven (7) years on the following  
5 terms and conditions.

6  
7 1. ACTUAL SUSPENSION. As part of probation, Respondent is suspended from the  
8 practice of speech pathology for ninety (90) days beginning the sixteenth (16th) day after the  
9 effective date of this decision.

10 2. PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

11 Respondent shall participate in a psychiatric or psychological evaluation. This  
12 evaluation shall be for the purpose of determining Respondent's current mental, psychological  
13 and emotional fitness to perform all professional duties with safety to self and to the public.  
14 Respondent shall provide the evaluator with a copy of the Board's Decision prior to the  
15 evaluation. The evaluation shall be performed by a psychiatrist licensed in California and Board  
16 certified in psychiatry or by a clinical psychologist licensed in California, approved by the Board.

17 Within twenty (20) days of the effective date of the Decision, Respondent shall  
18 submit to the Board the name of one or more proposed evaluators for prior approval by the Board.

19 Respondent shall cause the evaluator to submit to the Board a written psychiatric  
20 or psychological report evaluating Respondent's status and progress as well as such other  
21 information as may be requested by the Board. This report shall be submitted within ninety (90)  
22 days from the effective date of the Decision. Cost of such evaluation shall be paid by the  
23 Respondent.  
24

25 If the evaluator finds that Respondent is not psychologically fit to practice safely,  
26 or can only practice with restrictions, the evaluator shall notify the Board within three (3)  
27 working days. The Board shall notify the Respondent in writing of the evaluator's determination  
28

1 of unfitness to practice and shall notify the Respondent to cease or restrict licensed activities as a  
2 condition of probation. Respondent shall comply with this condition until the Board is satisfied of  
3 Respondent's fitness to practice safely and has so notified the Respondent. Respondent shall  
4 document compliance in the manner required by the Board.

5           If the evaluator finds that psychotherapy is required, Respondent shall participate  
6 in a therapeutic program at the Board's discretion. Cost of such therapy shall be paid for by  
7 Respondent.

### 8           3.       PSYCHOTHERAPY

9           After completion of psychological evaluation above, if the evaluator deems that  
10 additional therapy is needed, Respondent shall participate in ongoing psychotherapy with a  
11 California licensed psychiatrist, Board certified in Psychiatry, clinical psychologist, marriage,  
12 family, and child counselor, or licensed clinical social worker approved by the Board.  
13 Counseling shall be at least once a week unless otherwise determined by the Board. Respondent  
14 shall continue in such therapy at the Board's discretion. Cost of such therapy shall be paid for by  
15 Respondent.  
16 Respondent.

17           Within twenty (20) days of the effective date of the Decision, Respondent shall  
18 submit to the Board the name of one or more proposed therapists for prior approval. Upon  
19 approval by the Board, Respondent shall commence psychotherapy. Respondent shall provide  
20 the therapist with a copy of the Board's Decision no later than the first counseling session.  
21

22           If the therapist finds that Respondent is not psychologically fit to practice safely,  
23 or can only practice with restrictions, the therapist shall notify the Board within three (3) working  
24 days. The Board shall notify the Respondent in writing of the therapist's determination of  
25 unfitness to practice and shall notify the Respondent to cease or restrict licensed activities as a  
26 condition of probation. Respondent shall comply with this condition until the Board is satisfied  
27  
28

1 of Respondent's fitness to practice safely and has so notified the Respondent.

2 Respondent shall cause the therapist to submit quarterly written declarations to the  
3 Board concerning Respondent's fitness to practice and progress in treatment.

4 4. PRACTICE RESTRICTIONS: SERVING AS A SUPERVISOR

5 Respondent may not function as a supervisor for any required professional  
6 experience (RPE) candidate, or any registered support personnel, or trainee during the  
7 period of probation or until approved by the Board.

8 5. OBEY ALL LAWS

9 Respondent shall obey all federal, state, US Military and local laws, including  
10 all statutes and regulations governing the practice of the licensee.

11 Further, Respondent shall, within five (5) days of any arrest, submit to the Board in writing  
12 a full and detailed account of such arrest.

13 14 6. COMPLY WITH PROBATION PROGRAM

15 Respondent shall fully comply with the probation program established by the  
16 Board and shall cooperate with the representatives of the Board.

17 18 7. CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION

19 Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, within five (5) days of a change  
20 of name, residence or mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

21 22 8. FUNCTION AS A LICENSEE

23 Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of speech-  
24 language pathology in California for a minimum of sixteen (16) hours per week or sixty-four (64)  
25 hours per calendar month. For the purpose of compliance with this section, "engaged in the  
26 practice of speech-language pathology" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer  
27 work in speech-language pathology, or work in any non-direct patient position that requires  
28

1 licensure. In the event Respondent should leave California to practice outside the state,  
2 Respondent must provide written notification (within five (5) calendar days) to the Board of the  
3 dates of departure and anticipated return to the state. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and  
4 when Respondent ceases practicing in California. Practice outside of California will not apply to  
5 the reduction of the probationary period.

6  
7 In the event Respondent ceases to practice a minimum of sixteen (16) hours per calendar  
8 week or sixty-four (64) hours per calendar month in California, Respondent must provide written  
9 notification of that fact to the Board. The period when the Respondent is not practicing the  
10 minimum number of hours noted above, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary  
11 period. Absence from practice shall not relieve the Respondent from maintaining a current  
12 license. For purposes of this term and condition, non-practice due to Board ordered suspension  
13 shall not be considered a period of non-practice. If Respondent stops practicing in California for  
14 a total of five (5) years for a speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or speech-language  
15 pathology assistant, or three (3) years for a hearing aid dispensers, Respondent's license shall be  
16 automatically cancelled.

17 If Respondent has not complied with this term and condition during the probationary  
18 period, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of his or her good faith efforts to  
19 comply with this term and condition, and if Respondent is in compliance with all other probation  
20 terms and conditions, the Board, in its sole discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's  
21 probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this term and  
22 condition. During the one year extension, all original terms and conditions of probation shall  
23 apply unless they have been modified by the Board via a petition for modification of probation.

24  
25 9. SUBMIT QUARTERLY WRITTEN DECLARATIONS

26 Respondent shall submit to the Board quarterly written declarations and  
27 verification of actions signed under penalty of perjury. These declarations shall certify and  
28 document compliance with all the conditions of probation.

10. EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION

When currently employed, applying for employment, or contracted to provide services as a speech-language pathologist, audiologist, dispensing audiologist, speech-language pathology assistant, or hearing aid dispenser, respondent shall notify his or her employer and supervisor or contractor of the probationary status of respondent's license. This notification to the respondent's current employer and supervisor, or contractor shall occur no later than the effective date of the Decision placing respondent on probation. The respondent shall notify any prospective employer and supervisor or contractor of his or her probationary status with the Board prior to accepting such employment. This notification shall include a copy of the Board's Decision placing respondent on probation.

The respondent shall provide to the Board the names, physical addresses, and telephone numbers of all employers, supervisors and contractors.

The respondent shall complete and sign an agreement with the employer and supervisor, or contractor, and the Board to allow the Board to communicate with the employer and supervisor or contractor.

Respondent shall cause each employer and supervisor or contractor to submit quarterly written declarations to the Board. These declarations shall include a performance evaluation.

Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, of any change in his or her employment status, within five (5) days of such change.

11. INTERVIEWS WITH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board, or its designee, upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice. An initial probation visit will be required within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the Decision. The purpose of this initial

1 interview is to introduce Respondent to the Board's representatives and to familiarize Respondent  
2 with specific probation conditions and requirements. Additional meetings may be scheduled as  
3 needed.

#### 4 12. EMPLOYMENT LIMITATIONS

5 While on probation, Respondent may not work as a faculty member in an  
6 accredited or approved school of speech-language pathology or school of audiology.

#### 7 13. SUPERVISED PRACTICE

8 Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall  
9 submit to the Board, for its prior approval, the name and qualifications of one or more proposed  
10 supervisors. Each supervisor shall have been licensed in California for at least three (3) years and  
11 have no current or prior disciplinary action by the Board. An administrative citation and fine does  
12 not constitute discipline and therefore, in and of itself, is not a reason to deny an individual as a  
13 supervisor. The supervisor shall be independent, with no current or prior business, or  
14 professional relationship, other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the  
15 ability of the supervisor provide impartial and unbiased supervision of the Respondent.  
16

17  
18 The Board will advise Respondent within two weeks whether or not the proposed  
19 supervisor and plan of supervision are approved. Respondent shall not practice until receiving  
20 notification of Board of the approval of Respondent's choice of a supervisor and plan of  
21 supervision. All costs of the supervision shall be borne by the Respondent.

22 The plan of supervision shall be general and not require the physical presence of  
23 the supervisor during the time services are performed, but does require an occasional, random  
24 review of the work performed as well as quarterly monitoring visits at the office or place of  
25 practice. Additionally, the supervisor shall have full and random access to all patient records of  
26 Respondent. The supervisor may evaluate all aspects of Respondent's practice regardless of  
27 Respondent's areas of deficiencies.  
28

1 Each proposed supervisor shall be a California licensed speech-language  
2 pathologist who shall submit written reports to the Board on a quarterly basis verifying that  
3 supervision has taken place as required and include an evaluation of Respondent's performance.  
4 It shall be Respondent's responsibility to assure that the required reports are filed in a timely  
5 manner.

6 If the supervisor terminates his or her supervision or is no longer available to  
7 serve in the supervisory role, Respondent must submit to the Board the name or names of a new  
8 supervisor within fifteen (15) days. If a new supervisor is not approved by the Board within  
9 thirty (30) days from the date of resignation of the previous supervisor, Respondent shall be  
10 suspended from practice until a new supervisor has been approved by the Board and necessary  
11 documents are filed with the Board. All costs of the supervision shall be borne by the  
12 Respondent.

#### 14 14. EDUCATIONAL COURSE

15 Respondent shall take and successfully complete an Ethics course. The Board  
16 shall, within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the Decision, advise the Respondent of the  
17 number of contact hours required. Within thirty (30) days thereafter, Respondent shall submit a  
18 plan to comply with this requirement. Respondent must obtain approval of such plan by the  
19 Board prior to enrollment in any course of study.

20 Respondent shall successfully complete the required remedial education no later  
21 than the end of the first year of probation. Upon successful completion of the course, Respondent  
22 shall cause the instructor to furnish proof to the Board immediately.

#### 25 15. RECOVERY OF COSTS

26 Respondent shall reimburse the Board \$14,467.50 for prosecutorial and  
27 investigative costs, payable within the first twelve months of probation.

1                   16.     MAINTAIN A VALID LICENSE

2                   Respondent shall, at all times while on probation, maintain an active current  
3 license with the Board, including any period during which suspension or probation is tolled.

4                   Should Respondent's license, by operation of law or otherwise, expire, upon  
5 renewal or reinstatement, Respondent's license shall be subject to any and all terms of this  
6 probation not previously satisfied.

7  
8                   17.     VOLUNTARY LICENSE SURRENDER

9                   During Respondent's term of probation, if he or she wishes to cease practice,  
10 Respondent may request in writing to surrender the license(s) to the Board. The Board shall  
11 evaluate the request based on the factual circumstances surrounding that particular request, and  
12 notify Respondent in writing whether is has been granted. Upon formal acceptance of the license  
13 surrender, Respondent's license will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of  
14 probation. Respondent shall return the pocket license(s) and wall certificate(s) to the Board  
15 within ten (10) days of the effective date of the surrender.

16                   Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and  
17 shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. If Respondent re-applies for  
18 a license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked license.

19  
20                   18.     VIOLATION OF PROBATION

21                   If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board may seek to revoke  
22 probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. The Respondent shall receive prior  
23 notice and the opportunity to be heard. If a Petition to Revoke Probation, an Accusation or  
24 Petition to Vacate Stay or other formal disciplinary action is filed against Respondent during  
25 probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction and the period of probation shall be  
26 extended and Respondent shall comply with all probation terms and conditions until the matter is  
27 final. No petition for modification or termination of probation shall be considered while there is  
28

1 an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against Respondent.

2 19. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

3 Each term and condition of probation is a separate and distinct term and condition. If  
4 any term or condition of this Decision and Order, or any application thereof, is declared  
5 unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Decision and Order, and all  
6 other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each term and condition of this Decision and  
7 Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

8  
9 20. COMPLETION OF PROBATION

10 Respondent's license will be fully restored upon successful completion of  
11 probation.

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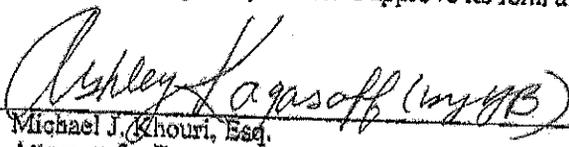
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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Michael J. Khouri, Esq.. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Speech Language Pathologist License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board.

DATED: 4/22/15   
Miriam R. Blanchard (a.k.a. Miriam R. Dahut)  
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 04-24-15   
Michael J. Khouri, Esq.  
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board

Dated: 4/28/15

Respectfully submitted,  
KAMALA D. HARRIS  
Attorney General of California  
JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

  
TANN. TRAN  
Deputy Attorney General  
Attorneys for Complainant

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**Exhibit A**

**Second Amended Accusation No. 11-2012-70**

1 KAMALA D. HARRIS  
Attorney General of California  
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 TAN N. TRAN  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 197775  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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15 **5435 Babeock Avenue**  
16 **Valley Village, California 91607**

17 **Speech Language Pathologist License**  
18 **No. SP 8627,**

19 Respondent.

Case No. 1I-2012-70

OAH No. 2014110847

**SECOND AMENDED ACCUSATION**

20 Complainant alleges:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Paul Sanchez (Complainant) brings this Second Amended Accusation solely in his  
23 official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology and  
24 Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (Board).

25 2. On or about January 5, 1993, the Board issued Speech Language Pathologist License  
26 Number SP 8627 to Miriam R. Blanchard (a.k.a. Miriam R. Dahut) (Respondent). This license  
27 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on  
28 November 30, 2016, unless renewed.



1           “(e) Committing a dishonest or fraudulent act that is substantially related to the  
2 qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee.

3           “(f) Incompetence, gross negligence, or repeated negligent acts.

4           “(g) Other acts that have endangered or are likely to endanger the health, welfare, and  
5 safety of the public.

6           “(h) Use by a hearing aid dispenser of the term "doctor" or "physician" or "clinic" or  
7 "audiologist," or any derivation thereof, except as authorized by law.

8           “(i) The use, or causing the use, of any advertising or promotional literature in a manner  
9 that has the capacity or tendency to mislead or deceive purchasers or prospective purchasers.

10           “(j) Any cause that would be grounds for denial of an application for a license.

11           “(k) Violation of Section 1689.6 or 1793.02 of the Civil Code.

12           “(l) Violation of a term or condition of a probationary order of a license issued by the board  
13 pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the  
14 Government Code.

15           “(m) Violation of a term or condition of a conditional license issued by the board pursuant  
16 to this section.”

17           6.       Section 2533.1 of the Code states:

18           “A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a  
19 charge substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a speech-language  
20 pathologist or audiologist is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this article. The  
21 board may order a licensee be disciplined or denied a license as provided in Section 2533 when  
22 the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or  
23 when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence irrespective of a  
24 subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw his or  
25 her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or  
26 dismissing the accusation, information or indictment.”

27           7.       Section 2537 of the Code states in pertinent part:

28       ///

1 "It shall constitute unprofessional conduct and a violation of this chapter for any person  
2 licensed under this chapter to violate, attempt to violate, directly or indirectly, or assist in or abet  
3 the violation of, or conspire to violate, any provision or term of this article...or any regulations  
4 duly adopted under those laws."

5 8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.156, states:

6 "Unprofessional conduct as set forth in Section 2533 of the code includes, but is not limited  
7 to, the following:

8 "(a) Violating or conspiring to violate or aiding or abetting any person to violate the  
9 provisions of the Act or these regulations.

10 "..."

11 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.156.1, states:

12 "For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license or registration pursuant to  
13 Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime or act shall be considered to be  
14 substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license under  
15 the Act if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a  
16 license to perform the functions authorized by his or her license or registration in a manner  
17 consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include, but not be  
18 limited to, those involving the following:

19 "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the  
20 violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of the Act.

21 "..."

22 10. Section 125.3 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the  
23 administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of  
24 the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and  
25 enforcement of the case.

26 ///

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1 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 (Conviction of a Crime)

3 11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 2533, subdivision  
4 (a), and 2533.1, and title 16 of the California Code of Regulations sections 1399.156 and  
5 1399.156.1 in that she was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications,  
6 functions, and duties of a speech-language pathologist. The circumstances are as follows:

7 12. On or about October 25, 2012, in the matter entitled *The People of the State of*  
8 *California vs. Miriam Ramirez Blanchard* (a.k.a. Miriam Dabut), in Los Angeles County Superior  
9 Court Case No. LA072393, Respondent was charged with Grand Theft of Personal Property, in  
10 violation of Penal Code section 487(a), a felony. An arrest warrant was issued against  
11 Respondent on the same date.

12 13. On or about October 28, 2013, pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement, Respondent  
13 entered a *nolo contendere* plea to a violation of Penal Code section 487(a) (Grand Theft).<sup>1</sup>  
14 Thereafter, imposition of sentence was suspended. Respondent was placed on probation for three  
15 years under the following terms and conditions, among others:

- 16 a. Serve one day in Los Angeles County jail;
- 17 b. make restitution in the amount of \$108,350.00
- 18 c. pay fines and assessments;
- 19 d. provide buccal swab samples, a right thumb print, a full palm print, and other  
20 biological samples;
- 21 e. notify employer(s) of conviction; and
- 22 f. comply with standard terms and conditions of probation.

23 <sup>1</sup> Respondent's conviction for grand theft resulted from an audit of Respondent's billings by the  
24 Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on or about June 2012. The Grand Theft filing to  
25 the overbilling was limited to false documentation submitted by Respondent, purportedly  
26 prepared by Barbara Vasser, a licensed speech therapist who was not employed by Respondent  
27 during that period. The audit also showed that the Respondent billed for more than 24 hours on  
28 several days, and that Respondent represented that she employed several other licensed therapists,  
when in fact, she was sending out unlicensed employees to visit the children/patients. Altogether,  
the audit showed that Respondent may have overbilled DDS and the North Los Angeles County  
Regional Center (NLACRC) for over one million dollars for speech pathology services.



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4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 2/18/2015



PAUL SANCHEZ  
Executive Officer  
Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology and Hearing  
Aid Dispensers Board  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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