BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA ACUPUNCTURE BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Statement of Issues  ) Case No. 1A-2009-115
Against:  )

CHIN HUA CHENG  )
111 Montebello Ave., B112  )
Mountain View, CA 94043  )

Applicant/Respondent.  )

DECISION AND ORDER

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

This Decision shall become effective on MAR 09 2010.

It is so ORDERED ______________________.

Robert Brewer, Chair
Acupuncture Board
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

**PARTIES**

1. Marilyn Nielsen (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Acupuncture Board. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California, by Catherine E. Santillan, Senior Legal Analyst.

2. Respondent Chin Hua Cheng (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney S. Alex Liao, whose address is 28 North First Street, Suite 302, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. On or about March 9, 2009 the Board received Respondent’s application for an Acupuncture license which she had signed and dated March 3, 2009.
JURISDICTION

4. Statement of Issues No. 1A-2009-115 was filed before the Acupuncture Board (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Statement of Issues and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on January 21, 2010. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Statement of Issues. A copy of Statement of Issues No. 1A-2009-115 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVICEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Statement of Issues No. 1A-2009-115. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Statement of Issues; 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.

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

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegation in Statement of Issues No. 1A-2009-115, if proven at hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Acupuncture license.

9. For the purpose of resolving the Statement of Issues without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, complainant could
establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in the Statement of Issues.

10. Respondent agrees that her Acupuncture license is subject to denial and she agrees to be bound by the Board’s imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below:

CONTINGENCY

11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Acupuncture Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Acupuncture Board 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.

12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

13. 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 Respondent Chin Hua Cheng’s Acupuncture license will be issued and automatically revoked. The revocation will be stayed and the Respondent placed on two (2) years probation on the following terms and conditions:

1. REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROBATION SURVEILLANCE MONITORING

Respondent shall reimburse the Acupuncture Board for the hourly costs it incurs in monitoring the probation to ensure compliance for the duration of the probation period, not to exceed $500.00 annually.
2. **OBEY ALL LAWS** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws and all regulations governing the practice of acupuncture in California. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by the respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence.

3. **QUARTERLY REPORTS** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

4. **SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM** Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation surveillance program and shall, upon reasonable notice, report to the assigned investigative district office. Respondent shall contact the assigned probation surveillance monitor regarding any questions specific to the probation order. Respondent shall not have any unsolicited or unapproved contact with 1) victims or complainants associated with the case; 2) Board members or members of its staff; or 3) persons serving the Board as expert examiners.

5. **INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE** Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board or its designee upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice.

6. **CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT** Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, through the assigned probation surveillance compliance officer of any and all changes of employment, location and address within 30 days of such change.

7. **TOLLING FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE OR RESIDENCE** In the event respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the State, respondent must notify the Board in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of this probationary period.

8. **EMPLOYMENT AND SUPERVISION OF TRAINEES** Respondent shall not employ or supervise or apply to employ or supervise acupuncture trainees during the course of this probation. Respondent shall terminate any such supervisory relationship in existence on the effective date of this probation.

9. **VIOLATION OF PROBATION** If respondent violates probation in any respect, the
Board may, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stated. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final. No petition for modification or termination of probation shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against respondent.

10. COMPLETION OF PROBATION Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's license will be fully restored.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, S. Alex Liao. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Acupuncture. 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 Acupuncture Board.

DATED: 2/12/2010

CHIN HUA CHENG
Respondent

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

DATED: 2/12/2010

S. Alex Liao
Attorney for Respondent
ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Acupuncture Board of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: 2/14/2010

Respectfully Submitted,

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Attorney General of California

JOSE R. GUERRERO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Attorney General of California

JOSE R. GUERRERO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Catherine Santillan
Senior Legal Analyst
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Statement of Issues No. 1A-2009-115
BEFORE THE 
ACUPUNCTURE BOARD 
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 
STATE OF CALIFORNIA 

In the Matter of the Statement of Issues Against: 

CHIN HUA CHENG 
19315 Sorenson, #2 
Cupertino, CA 95014 

Case No. 1A-2009-115 

applicant/Respondent. 

Complainant alleges: 

PARTIES 

1. Janelle Wedge (Complainant) brings this Statement of Issues solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Acupuncture Board, Department of Consumer Affairs. 

2. On or about March 9, 2009, the Acupuncture Board, Department of Consumer Affairs received an application for an Acupuncture license from Chin Hua Cheng (Respondent). On or about March 3, 2009, Chin Hua Cheng certified under penalty of perjury to the truthfulness of all statements, answers, and representations in the application. The Board denied the application on September 24, 2009. 

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STATEMENT OF ISSUES (1A 2009 115)
3. This Statement of Issues is brought before the Acupuncture Board (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 4955 of the Code states:

"The board may deny, suspend, or revoke, or impose probationary conditions upon, the license of any acupuncturist if he or she is guilty of unprofessional conduct.

"Unprofessional conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

"(b) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an acupuncturist, the record of conviction being conclusive evidence thereof.

..."

"(i) Any action or conduct that would have warranted the denial of the acupuncture license."

5. Section 4955.1 of the Code states:

"The board may deny, suspend, revoke, or impose probationary conditions upon the license of any acupuncturist if he or she is guilty of committing a fraudulent act including, but not be limited to, any of the following:

..."

"(c) Committing any act involving dishonesty or corruption with respect to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an acupuncturist."

6. Section 4956 of the Code states:

"A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an acupuncturist is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this chapter."

A The board may order a license suspended or revoked, or may deny a license, or may impose probationary conditions upon a license, when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made
suspending the imposition of sentence irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw his or her pleas of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint, information, or indictment.

**FIRST CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION**

(Substantially-related Conviction)

7. Respondent’s application is subject to denial based on her 2007 misdemeanor conviction of violating Vehicle Code section 20002(a) [hit and run] which is in violation of code sections 4955(b) and 4956 [conviction of a substantially related crime.]

8. On or about February 27, 2007, Respondent was convicted of Vehicle Code section 20002(a) [hit and run], a misdemeanor. She was sentenced to two years probation, and ordered to complete 250 hours of community service.

9. Therefore, Respondent’s application is subject to denial based on her 2007 misdemeanor conviction of violating Vehicle Code section 20002(a) [hit and run] in violation of code sections 4955(b) and 4956 [conviction of a substantially related crime.]

**SECOND CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION**

(Dishonesty)

10. Paragraph 8 is incorporated herein.

11. On or about April 17, 2008, Respondent successfully completed the probation imposed by her conviction of Vehicle Code section 20002(a) [hit and run] On or about June 16, 2008, her motion for record clearance pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4 was granted. The Order states: “A Record Clearance Order pursuant to Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code does not relieve you of the obligation to disclose the conviction in response to any direct question in any questionnaire or application for public office, for license by any State or local agency, or contracting with the California lottery.”

12. On or about March 3, 2009, Respondent completed an application for licensure and certified under penalty of perjury that all statements she made in the application were true. Question 17 asked, “Have you ever been convicted of, or pled nolo contendere to any offense,
misdemeanor, or felony in any state, the United States, or a foreign country? **NOTE:** You are required to list any conviction that has been set aside and dismissed under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code or under any other provision of law.”

13. Respondent checked the box marked “No;” however, at the time Respondent completed the application, she was aware that on or about February 27, 2007, she had been convicted of Vehicle Code section 20002(a) [hit and run] and it had been dismissed pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4 but she did not reveal this information in her application.

14. Therefore, Respondent’s application is subject to denial based on code section 4955.1 [dishonesty related to the qualifications, functions or duties of an acupuncturist] in that she failed to reveal her 2007 conviction for violating Vehicle Code section 20002(a) [hit and run.]

**PRAYER**

WHEREFROE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Acupuncture Board issue a decision:

1. Denying the application of Chin Hua Cheng for a Acupuncture;
2. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: **JAN 21 2010**

JANELLE WEDGE
Executive Officer
Acupuncture Board
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant