The Commission is providing a copy of this pleading (Accusation, or Statement of Reasons, Statement of Particulars, or Statement of Issues) so the public is as informed as possible of pending administrative proceedings regarding the allegations contained in the pleading. An Accusation, Statement of Issues, Statement of Reasons, or Statement of Particulars is simply an allegation of facts that, if true, may rise to the level of disciplinary action against or denial of a license, registration, work permit, or finding of suitability. The facts contained in the pleadings should not be taken as established or proven. The licensee/applicant will have an opportunity to dispute the allegations in a formal administrative proceeding.

ROL COMMIS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Attorney General of California SARA J. DRAKE Senior Assistant Attorney General T. MICHELLE LAIRD Supervising Deputy Attorney General WILLIAM P. TORNGREN Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 58493 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-7782 Fax: (916) 327-2319 E-mail: William.Torngren@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant					
10	BEFORE THE					
11	GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION					
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
13						
14						
15	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: BGC Case No. BGC- HQ201	6-00003AC				
16	STANLEY S. PENN (GEOW-002251), doing					
17	(GEGE-000950) FIRST AMENDED ACCUS	ATION AND				
18	5526 El Cajon Boulevard					
19	Respondent.					
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24		•				
25		his official capacity as the Chief of the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Gambling				
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27	complainant and brings this First Amended Accusation and Statement of Issues (Pleading)					
28	8 solely in her official capacity as the Bureau's Director.					

2. Lucky Lady Card Room (Lucky Lady) is a licensed gambling establishment, California State Gambling License Number GEGE-000950. It is an 11-table card room presently operating at 5526 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego, California. Respondent Stanley S. Penn (Respondent), license number GEOW-002251, is endorsed on Lucky Lady's license. He is the sole proprietor of, and does business as, Lucky Lady.

3. The California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) issued the above-described licenses pursuant to the Gambling Control Act (Act) and the regulations adopted under the Act. An application for renewal is pending as to each license. On November 16, 2017, the Commission considered the renewal applications. At that time, the Commission voted to refer the renewal applications to an evidentiary hearing pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12054, subdivision (a)(2) to be conducted as an Administrative Procedures Act hearing and consolidated with the filed initial Accusation. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 12058.) At that time, the Commission issued an interim renewal license to Lucky Lady and Respondent.

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

4. The Act is an exercise of the state's police power for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of California. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19971.) The Legislature has declared that the public trust requires comprehensive measures to ensure that gambling is free from criminal or corruptive elements. This proceeding seeks the revocation of Respondent's license, the denial of his renewal application, and the imposition of fines and penalties as allowed by law. Because Respondent's continued licensing undermines the public trust that gambling does not endanger public health, safety, and welfare, Respondent is not suitable for continued licensure, or renewal of his license, under the Act and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. Respondent's associations, arrest, and plea agreement pose a threat to the state's public interest and create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable and illegal practices. Additionally, Respondent ostensibly ceded Lucky Lady's management and control to an unlicensed entity and, when questioned about that, provided false or misleading information to the Bureau regarding the employment and duties of Lucky Lady's general manager. Further,

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Respondent failed to comply with and implement minimum internal controls fully.

Respondent's continued licensure or license renewal is inimical to the public health, safety, and welfare. Respondent's continued licensure or license renewal also undermines the public trust that the licensed gambling industry is free from corruptive elements.

JURISDICTION AND COST RECOVERY

- 5. The Commission has jurisdiction over the operation and concentration of gambling establishments and all persons and things having to do with operation of gambling establishments. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19811, subd. (b).)¹ The Act tasks the Bureau with, among other responsibilities, investigating suspected violations of the Act and initiating disciplinary actions. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19826, subds. (c) & (e) & 19930, subd. (b).) Upon the Bureau filing an accusation, the Commission proceeds under Government Code section 11500 et seq. (Bus. & Prof Code, § 19930, subd. (b); see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 12554, subd. (a).) The Commission's disciplinary powers include, among other things, revocation and imposition of a fine or monetary penalty. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 12554, subd. (d).)
- 6. In a matter involving revocation, suspension, or denial of a license, the Bureau may recover its costs of investigation and prosecuting the proceeding. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19930, subd. (d).)

INDICTMENT, EMERGENCY ORDER, AND PLEA AGREEMENT

7. On July 22, 2016, the United States unsealed an indictment against, among others, Respondent. On that same date, he was arrested. The United States charged Respondent with participation in a racketeering conspiracy under the Racketeer Influenced and Controlled Organizations Act of 1970 (RICO) (18 U.S.C. § 1962(d)) and an illegal gambling business (18 U.S.C. § 1955). As a predicate for these charges, the United States alleges, among other things, bookmaking in violation of Penal Code section 337a. The United States issued a press release that was reported in the San Diego media.

- 8. On August 30, 2016, the former complainant issued an emergency order (Emergency Order) to Respondent pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19931. That Emergency Order established conditions for Lucky Lady's continued operation.
- 9. On March 29, 2019, Respondent and the United States entered into a Plea Agreement. Under the terms of that agreement, Respondent pleaded guilty to an illegal gambling business charge contained in a superseding indictment and consented to forfeit guns and \$172,801 in cash. Respondent expressly agreed that he understood the offense and its elements. He further expressly agreed to the factual basis for the guilty plea. The Plea Agreement provided that because of Respondent's "serious cancer diagnosis and poor prognosis, and the particular circumstances of [his] role in the offense," the United States would request the court to delay acceptance of the plea and sentencing for 12 months. The United States further agreed that if Respondent complied with the terms of the Plea Agreement, the United States would move to dismiss the superseding indictment.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE AND DENIAL (Unqualified for Continued Licensure or License Renewal)

application to denial, pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 19823 and 19857, subdivisions (a) and (b), and California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12568, subdivision (c)(3). Respondent's continued licensure, or license renewal, is inimical to public health, safety, and welfare. Also, Respondent is not a person of good character, honesty, and integrity. Further, Respondent's prior activities and associations pose a threat to the effective regulation and control of controlled gambling, and create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in carrying on the business and financial arrangements incidental to the conduct of controlled gambling. Respondent's conduct in his dealings with the Commission and the Bureau demonstrate that he is unqualified for licensure. The factual basis for revocation and denial of his renewal application includes, among other things, the following:

- a. On July 22, 2016, the United States unsealed an indictment against, among others, Respondent. On that same date, he was arrested. The United States charged Respondent with participation in a racketeering conspiracy under RICO and an illegal gambling business. As a predicate for these charges, the United States alleged, among other things, bookmaking in violation of Penal Code section 337a. Respondent associated with persons, who are alleged in the indictment, and who later admitted in plea agreements, to be bookmakers.
- b. Seven months earlier, on December 9, 2015, the United States unsealed an indictment against 27 other defendants, including the owner of the only other gambling establishment in San Diego. The United States charged the defendants there with, among other things, violations of the Bank Secrecy Act arising out of, or associated with, a bookmaking operation. Respondent associated with some of the persons, who were named in the indictment that was unsealed on December 9, 2015.
- c. In connection with his 2015 license renewal application, Respondent, for the first time, submitted to the Bureau a copy of a services agreement, which was already in effect and which was dated March 10, 2014. That agreement provided for a corporation to "provide all management and daily operations of the Lucky Lady." Even though it was owned by Lucky Lady's general manger, the corporation was and is not licensed under the Act. The previously undisclosed agreement literally ceded management and control of Lucky Lady to an unlicensed entity.
- d. On March 29, 2019, Respondent signed the Plea Agreement in which he admitted to the factual basis for a violation of federal laws proscribing illegal gambling businesses and agreed to forfeit guns and \$172,801 in cash. The predicate for the illegal gambling business count was bookmaking in violation of California law. In the Plea Agreement, Respondent expressly agreed that he "has committed each of the elements of the crime, and admits that there is a factual basis for this guilty plea."
- e. In monitoring Lucky Lady's compliance with the Act, regulations adopted under the Act, and compliance with the Emergency Order, the Bureau found,

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in exchange.

2) Despite the revised minimum internal controls, Lucky Lady failed to have separate or second persons verify the accuracy of chip counts and cash counts at the beginning of the card room's opening shift. Lucky Lady provided the cage cashier direct access to locked-up count sheets in violation of the Commission's regulations. Lucky Lady also provided the cage cashier with access to financial documents and secured areas without adequate oversight.

On February 24, 2017, the Bureau issued a letter of warning to

Lucky Lady regarding inadequate minimum internal controls. Lucky Lady

ensure proper accounting and safeguarding funds and chips within the cage.

purportedly revised its minimum internal controls regarding cage employees to

Despite the revisions and surveillance video, Lucky Lady's management failed

to observe, and take action to prevent, a cage cashier from stealing chips from

the cage, putting them in his pocket, and gambling with stolen chips during his

shift. Surveillance video showed multiple incidents. Lucky Lady's management

also failed to observe, and take action to prevent, an employee from taking chips

from a floor podium and giving them to the cage cashier with receiving any cash

- 3) Despite the revised minimum internal controls, Lucky Lady failed to maintain appropriate security and accountability for monetary transactions.

 The failures included, among other things: leaving large stacks of money thousands of dollars at a time in plain view of customers; and having a large area within the cage not covered by surveillance video.
- 4) Lucky Lady's vault log was not accurate. Lucky Lady allowed its general manager to commingle another business's money with the card room's funds in the vault. The general manager stored her own cash in the vault without maintaining a record.

5) Despite the fact that Lucky Lady was operating under the Emergency Order, the Bureau was required to issue a letter of warning on September 17, 2019, regarding (i) Lucky Lady's failure to keep a key and electronic code list as required by the Commission's regulations and (ii) deficiencies in the audio feed for count room surveillance in violation of the Commission's regulations. Lucky Lady remedied the matters raised in the September 17, 2019 letter of warning.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE AND DENIAL

(Supplying Untrue or Misleading Material Information to the Bureau)

- application to denial, pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 19823, 19857, subdivisions (a) and (b), and 19859, subdivisions (a) and (b), and California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12568, subdivision (c)(3) and (4). Respondent's continued licensure, or renewal of his license, is inimical to public health, safety, and welfare. Respondent is not a person of good character, honesty, and integrity. His prior activities and associations pose a threat to the effective regulation and control of controlled gambling, and create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in carrying on the business and financial arrangements incidental to the conduct of controlled gambling. Respondent breached his duty of full and true disclosure to the Commission and the Bureau. Respondent supplied information that was untrue or misleading as to a material fact pertaining to the qualification criteria.
- 12. The services agreement between Respondent and the unlicensed corporation provided for monthly payments that were nearly equal to the annual median household income for California (approximately \$62,000 annually in 2014) and that substantially exceeded payments made to general managers of other card rooms of similar size. In response to the Bureau's inquiries regarding whether the general manager, through her unlicensed entity, was an independent contractor over whom Respondent did not, and could not, exercise control or an employee for whom certain tax and other payments would be required, Respondent's

designated agent wrote that "Mr. Penn simply chooses to let [the general manager] do the 'grunt work'." The designated agent's response was made on Respondent's behalf and intended to influence both the Bureau and the Commission with respect to qualification matters. The response showed, among other things: (i) the service agreement's provision for, and denomination of, services was untrue or misleading; (ii) Respondent was classifying an employee as an independent contractor which was untrue or misleading; (iii) Respondent was paying an unlicensed entity substantial monies for insubstantial services characterized as "grunt work"; or (iv) in view of the service agreement's terms and conditions, Respondent's designated agent's response was untrue or misleading.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE AND DENIAL

(Failure To Reveal to the Bureau a Fact Material to Qualification)

- application to denial, pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 19823, 19857, subdivisions (a) and (b), and 19859, subdivisions (a) and (b), and California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12568, subdivision (c)(3) and (4). Respondent's continued licensure, or license renewal, is inimical to public health, safety, and welfare. Respondent is not a person of good character, honesty, and integrity. His prior activities and associations pose a threat to the effective regulation and control of controlled gambling, and create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in carrying on the business and financial arrangements incidental to the conduct of controlled gambling. Respondent breached his duty of full and true disclosure to the Bureau. Respondent failed to reveal to the Bureau a fact material to qualification.
- 14. From at least March 10, 2014, until submitting his 2015 license renewal application, Respondent failed to reveal to the Bureau the services agreement by which he literally ceded management and control of Lucky Lady to an unlicensed entity. Respondent failed to reveal that an unlicensed entity was empowered to make discretionary decisions that regulated, managed, and controlled, and exercised significant influence over, Lucky Lady's gambling operations.

FACTORS IN AGGRAVATION

15. In considering the penalty in this matter, the Commission may take into account
Respondent's previous disciplinary history. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 12556, subd. (h).) On
November 7, 2011, Respondent was served with an accusation in the case of <i>In the Matter of</i>
the Accusation Against: Stanley Penn, et al. (OAH No. 2011111047; BGC Case No. HQ2011-
0001AC). On August 29, 2012, the Commission approved a Stipulated Settlement; Decision
and Order (Order). ² Therein Respondent admitted that he had failed to establish and implement
applicable standards for the functioning of the cage at Lucky Lady. He also admitted that the
cage was operated and/or maintained in an unsuitable manner. The indictment unsealed on July
22, 2016, alleges, among other things that Respondent gave the RICO co-conspirators access to
Lucky Lady's cage, a RICO co-conspirator managed Lucky Lady's cage, and cash from
unlawful sports betting was held in Lucky Lady's cage. The conduct alleged in the First Cause
for Discipline and Denial above shows continuing and additional deficiencies in how
Respondent operated or maintained Lucky Lady's cage.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Commission issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking, and denying the renewal application for, California State Gambling License Number GEGE-000950, issued to Lucky Lady Card Room;
- 2. Revoking, and denying the renewal application for, California State Gambling License Number GEOW-002251, issued to Respondent Stanley S. Penn;
- 3. Imposing fines or monetary penalties against Respondent, according to proof and to the maximum extent allowed by law;
- 4. Awarding Complainant the costs of investigation and costs of bringing this Pleading before the Commission, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19930, subdivisions (d) and (f), in a sum according to proof; and

² The Order is available on the Commission's website at http://www.cgcc.ca.gov/documents/adminactions/decision/GEGE-000950_decision.pdf.

1		5.	Taking such	other and f	urther acti	ion as the	Commission m	ay deem app	ropriate.
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3		Dated:	February 25	, 2020	_	Sty	Dan. D	heran	
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1		<u>APPENDIX A – STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS</u>
2		Jurisdictional Provisions
3	1.	Business and Professions Code section 19811 provides, in part:
4		(b) Jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over operation and
5		concentration, and supervision over gambling establishments in this state and over all persons or things having to do with the operations of gambling establishments is vested in the commission.
6		establishments is vested in the commission.
7	2.	Business and Professions Code section 19823 provides:
8		(a) The responsibilities of the commission include, without limitation,
9		all of the following:
10		(1) Assuring that licenses, approvals, and permits are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons
11		whose operations are conducted in a manner that is inimical to the
12		public health, safety, or welfare.
13		(2) Assuring that there is no material involvement, directly or indirectly, with a licensed gambling operation, or the ownership or
14		management thereof, by unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is inimical to
15		the public health, safety, or welfare.
16		(b) For the purposes of this section, "unqualified person" means a
17 18		person who is found to be unqualified pursuant to the criteria set forth in Section 19857, and "disqualified person" means a person who is found to
		be disqualified pursuant to the criteria set forth in Section 19859.
19	3.	Business and Professions Code section 19824 provides, in part:
20		The commission shall have all powers necessary and proper to enable it fully and effectually to carry out the policies and purposes of this
21		chapter, including, without limitation, the power to do all of the following:
22		* * * (b) For any cause deemed reasonable by the commission limit
23		(b) For any cause deemed reasonable by the commission, limit, condition, or restrict any license, permit, or approval, or impose any fine
24		upon any person licensed or approved. The commission may condition, restrict, discipline, or take action against the license of an individual owner
2526		endorsed on the license certificate of the gambling enterprise whether or not the commission takes action against the license of the gambling enterprise.
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2		(1) Revoke the license, registration, permit, finding of suitability, or approval;
3		(2) Suspend the license, registration, or permit;
4		* * *
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6 7		(5) Impose any fine or monetary penalty consistent with Business and Professions Code sections 19930, subdivision (c), and 19943, subdivision (b)
8		Cost Recovery Provisions
9	7.	Business and Professions Code section 19930 provides, in part:
10		(b) If, after any investigation, the department is satisfied that a license,
		permit, finding of suitability, or approval should be suspended or revoked, it shall file an accusation with the commission in accordance with Chapter 5
11		(commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
12		
13		* * *
14		(d) In any case in which the administrative law judge recommends that
1516		the commission revoke, suspend, or deny a license, the administrative law judge may, upon presentation of suitable proof, order the licensee or applicant for a license to pay the department the reasonable costs of the
17		investigation and prosecution of the case.
18		(1) The costs assessed pursuant to this subdivision shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and may not be increased by the
19		commission. When the commission does not adopt a proposed decision
20		and remands the case to the administrative law judge, the administrative law judge may not increase the amount of any costs assessed in the
21		proposed decision.
22		(2) The department may enforce the order for payment in the superior court in the county in which the administrative hearing was
23		held. The right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights
24		that the division may have as to any licensee to pay costs.
25		(3) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the commission's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the
26		order of payment and the terms for payment.
27		* * *
28		

1	10.	Business and Professions Code section 19853, subdivision (a)(6), provides:
2 3		(a) The commission, by regulation or order, may require that the following persons register with the commission, apply for a finding of suitability as defined in subdivision (j) of 19805, or apply for a
4		gambling license:
5		*** (6) Every reason who in the indement of the commission has the
6		(6) Every person who, in the judgment of the commission, has the power to exercise a significant influence over the gambling operation.
7	11.	Business and Professions Code section 19855 provides, in part:
8 9		[E]very person who, by statute or regulation, is required to hold a state license shall obtain the license prior to engaging in the activity or occupying the position with respect to which the license is required.
10	12.	Business and Professions Code section 19857 provides:
11		No gambling license shall be issued unless, based on all the information and documents submitted, the commission is satisfied that
12		the applicant is all of the following:
13		(a) A person of good character, honesty and integrity.
14		(b) A person whose prior activities, criminal record, if any,
15 16		reputation, habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state, or to the effective regulation and control of controlled gambling, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable,
17		unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of controlled gambling or in the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto.
18		(c) A person that is in all other respects qualified to be licensed as
19		provided in this chapter.
20	13.	Business and Professions Code section 19859 provides, in part:
21		The commission shall deny a license to any applicant who is disqualified for any of the following reasons:
22		(a) Failure of the applicant to clearly establish eligibility and
23		qualification in accordance with this chapter.
24 25		(b) Failure of the applicant to provide information, documentation, and assurances required by the Chief, or failure of the applicant to reveal any fact material to qualification, or the
26		supplying of information that is untrue or misleading as to a material
27		fact pertaining to the qualification criteria.
28	14.	Business and Professions Code section 19866 provides:
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1			any of the criteria for mandatory denial of an application set forth
2			in Business and Professions Code sections 19859 or 19860.
3		19.	California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12556, subdivision (h), provides, in
4	part:		
5			Factors in aggravation may increase a penalty or be taken into
6			consideration in determining whether or not to allow a suspension to be stayed upon payment of a monetary penalty. If presented by
7			complainant , the Commission shall consider the following factors in aggravation of the penalty imposed:
8			***
9			(h) Disciplinary history of respondent, repeated offenses of the
10 11			same or similar nature, or evidence that the unlawful act was part of a pattern or practice, including the frequency or duration of any pattern or
12			practice which violates applicable law.
13		20.	California Code of Regulations, title 11, section 2052, subdivision (c), provides:
14			Within five days of any owner licensee or key employee obtaining
15			knowledge or notice of any possible violation of the Act or these regulations, a written report shall be submitted to the Bureau, which
16			details the nature of the violation, the identities of those persons involved in the violation, and describes what actions have been taken to
17			address the violation.
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