



**BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

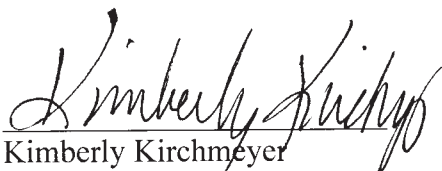
In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	)	
	)	MBC No. 06-2012-220622
Cameron Russell Adams, M.D.	)	
	)	
Physician's and Surgeon's	)	<b>ORDER GRANTING STAY</b>
Certificate No. G 82192	)	
	)	(Government Code Section 11521)
	)	
_____ Respondent	)	

Nicholas Jurkowitz, Esq. on behalf of respondent, Cameron Russell Adams, M.D., has filed a Petition for Reconsideration and Request for Stay of the Decision in this matter with an effective date of December 1, 2016.

Execution is stayed until December 9, 2016.

This stay is granted solely for the purpose of allowing the Board time to review and consider the Petition for Reconsideration.

DATED: November 28, 2016

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Kirchmeyer  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California

**BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

<b>In the Matter of the Accusation</b>	)	
<b>Against:</b>	)	
	)	
	)	
<b>Cameron Russell Adams, M.D.</b>	)	<b>Case No. 06-2012-220622</b>
	)	
<b>Physician's and Surgeon's</b>	)	
<b>Certificate No. G 82192</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent</b>	)	
_____	)	


**DECISION**

The attached Proposed Decision is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2016.

IT IS SO ORDERED November 1, 2016.

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Wright, Esq., Chair  
Panel A

BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

CAMERON R. ADAMS, M.D.,

Physician's and Surgeon's  
Certificate number G 82192,

Respondent.

Case No. 06-2012-220622

OAH Case No. 2015071340

**PROPOSED DECISION**

This matter came before Samuel D. Reyes, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, in Los Angeles, California, on September 6, 2016.

E.A. Jones III, Supervising Deputy Attorney General, represented complainant Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Board).

Nicholas Jurkowitz, Attorney at Law, represented Cameron R. Adams, M.D. (Respondent).

Complainant seeks to discipline Respondent's medical license based on allegations that Respondent suffered two criminal convictions substantially related to the practice of medicine. Respondent argues that the convictions are not substantially related to the practice of medicine and that cause for discipline does not exist. Respondent also presented evidence of his fitness to practice medicine.

Oral and documentary evidence was received at the hearing, and the matter was submitted for decision on September 6, 2016.

**FACTUAL FINDINGS**

1. Complainant filed the Accusation on September 1, 2016, in her official capacity.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Accusation amended the original accusation and deleted the Third Cause for Discipline, which had alleged unprofessional conduct as grounds for discipline. On June 1, 2016, the Administrative Law Judge issued an Order on Respondent's Motion to Dismiss, concluding that most of the allegations in the Third Cause for Discipline were time-barred by Business and Professions Code section 2230.5, subdivision (a).

2. On March 13, 1996, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 82192 to Respondent. The certificate has been in effect since then, and expires on February 28, 2018, unless renewed. The certificate has not been previously disciplined.

3. a. On November 10, 2011, in the Superior Court, Criminal Justice Center Division, County of Los Angeles, State of California, in case number 1CA11280, Respondent was convicted, following a jury trial, of violating Penal Code section 594, subdivision (a), (vandalism), and Los Angeles Municipal Code section 57.20.15C (false fire alarm).

b. The jury made the following findings:

"We, the jury in the above entitled case, find the defendant, Cameron R. Adams, guilty of the offense charged, to wit: a violation of Penal Code section 594(a), who did willfully, unlawfully, and maliciously deface with inscribed material, damage, and destroy real and personal property, to wit, vehicle not his own, belonging to Gina Caruso [(Caruso)], a misdemeanor as alleged in the complaint. . . .

"In the same case, title, and cause: [¶] We, the jury in the above-entitled cause, find the defendant, Cameron R. Adams, guilty of the offense charged, to wit: a violation of 57.20.15C of the Los Angeles Municipal Code section, who did willfully unlawfully, and maliciously send, give, transmit, and/or sound a false alarm of the fire by means of a fire protective signaling system and by any other means and methods, a misdemeanor, as alleged in count two of the complaint." (Exh. 6, at p. 9.)

c. On November 14, 2011, the court suspended imposition of sentence and placed Respondent on summary probation for 36 months on terms and conditions that included service of two days in county jail, less credit for two days, payment of \$2,200 in fines and fees, and payment of restitution to Caruso.

4. a. The incidents that led to the conviction occurred on April 14, 2011. The vehicle vandalism occurred as Respondent walked up the vehicular ramp from the basement to the first floor of his condominium building. At the hearing, Respondent denied he scratched the vehicle he passed as he walked up the ramp, which testimony is not credited because it is inconsistent with the jury findings.

b. With respect to the second incident, Respondent explained that he set off the alarm as a last resort to call attention to his predicament. He had walked to the 10th floor of his 13-story condominium complex to wash his clothes and had failed to take with him the key that would have allowed him to enter a floor from the stairs. His unit was on the 12th floor. The elevator malfunctioned, and could not be boarded on the 10th floor. He knocked on the apartment doors on the floor for assistance, but no one opened his or her door. Respondent testified that he did not walk the stairs to the first floor, where he would not need a key to exit the stairs, because he was feeling light-headed and was experiencing chest pressure, and felt that walking the 10 floors in this condition would present a health risk. Respondent also testified

that he knew that the alarm would not be heard outside the building, and expected the building concierge, located on the first floor, to check into the matter before calling the fire department.

5. The conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a physician in that Respondent displayed extremely poor judgment and reckless disregard for the health and safety of others by falsely setting off the fire alarm, and in that he displayed poor judgment and disregard for the property of others by vandalizing Caruso's vehicle, which, to a substantial degree, demonstrate present or potential unfitness to discharge the duties and responsibilities of a physician.

6. On November 14, 2011, in the Superior Court, Criminal Justice Center Division, County of Los Angeles, State of California, in case number 1CA10848, Respondent was convicted, on his plea of nolo contendere, of violating Penal Code section 602.5 (trespass), a misdemeanor. The court suspended imposition of sentence and placed Respondent on summary probation for three months on terms and conditions that included payment of \$1,000 in fines and fees.

7. a. The facts and circumstances underlying the conviction are that on April 14, 2011, at approximately 12:30 p.m., Respondent was involved in an altercation with the owner of Fratelli's Café on Melrose Avenue in Hollywood, California. Respondent purchased a soda at the café, but returned a few minutes later to look for his cellular phone, which he had misplaced. Respondent asked the proprietor of the establishment if he had seen the phone. In a tone Respondent deemed rude, the man replied that he had not seen the phone. Respondent asked if he could use the café's telephone to call the cell phone to determine if it was in the café. The café owner refused permission and continued with his work. Respondent nevertheless looked for the café's telephone, which he found behind four hookah pipes. Respondent reached for the telephone and in the process knocked one of the pipes to the ground, which made a loud noise. The café's owner asked Respondent to pick up the pipe. Respondent refused to do so, and stated: "that's karma, you act like a douche bag and bad s--- happens." Respondent testified he was being sarcastic in response to the man's rudeness. The café owner asked Respondent to leave and Respondent complied.

b. Respondent testified he did not intentionally knock down the hookah pipe, which testimony is not credible. Respondent was put off by the café owner's perceived rude behavior and lack of assistance in locating Respondent's mobile phone. Respondent admittedly reached for the phone, and knocking down the pipes that were in the way was at a minimum a foreseeable consequence of Respondent reaching over toward the phone.

8. The conviction set forth in factual finding 6 is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a physician. In seeking to use the personal property of another (the telephone) after permission had been denied, in willfully knocking down the property of another (the hookah pipe), and in verbally abusing the café's owner, Respondent displayed poor judgment in his conduct toward another, which conduct demonstrates present or potential unfitness to discharge the duties and responsibilities of a physician.

9. In addition, taken together, the convictions are substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a physician because they represent a pattern of poor judgment that to a substantial degree, demonstrates present or potential unfitness to discharge the duties and responsibilities of a physician.

10. Respondent complied with the terms and conditions of probation in both criminal cases. On January 16, 2015, both convictions were set aside pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4.

11. Respondent expressed regret over setting off the fire alarm and about making the “karma” comments to the owner of Fratelli’s Café. He has also learned from the incidents that it is important to take into account the perspective and feelings of others before acting. He has since made a greater effort to be cordial to the concierge and other occupants of his building.

12. Respondent graduated from Stanford University School of Medicine in June 1992. In June 1993, he completed a one-year internal medicine internship at Kaiser Permanente, in Santa Clara, California. In June 1996, he completed a three-year neurology residency program at Harvard-Longwood in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In June 1997, he completed a one-year neurology fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center/University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in Los Angeles, California. Respondent holds two certifications from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, including one in the subspecialty of clinical neurophysiology. Respondent has been practicing medicine in the Los Angeles Area since 1997, and specializes in clinical neurophysiology. He was an associate clinical professor of medicine at UCLA from September 2004 through April 2011.

13. Dawn Elishiv, M.D. (Elishiv), worked with Respondent while he worked at the Neurophysiology Laboratory at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and is familiar with Respondent’s continuing work at the medical center. She described Respondent as honest, professional, and very competent.

14. Thomas R. Garrick, M.D., a physician experienced in conducting fitness for duty evaluations concluded Respondent is fit to practice medicine despite his convictions.

## LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

1. Cause exists to discipline Respondent’s certificate pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2236, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, in that he was convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, duties, and functions of a physician, by reason of factual finding numbers 3 through 10.

2. The purpose of licensing statutes and administrative proceedings enforcing licensing requirements is not penal but public protection. (*Hughes v. Board of Architectural Examiners* (1998) 17 Cal.4th 763, 784-786; *Bryce v. Board of Medical Quality Assurance* (1986) 184 Cal.App.3d 1471, 1476).

3. All evidence presented at the hearing has been considered. While setting off a fire alarm despite the absence of a valid reason to do so is serious misconduct, the incident occurred more than five years ago and Respondent regrets his actions. All incidents occurred in one day, and there is no evidence his behavior on April 14, 2011, is typical of Respondent's behavior. He is a competent, well-respected physician. In the existing circumstances, the order that follows is necessary and sufficient for the protection of the public.

ORDER

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 82191 issued to Respondent Cameron R. Adams, M.D. is hereby publically reprovred pursuant to Business and Professions section 495.

DATED: 9/30/16

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SAMUEL D. REYES', is written over the printed name.

SAMUEL D. REYES

Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings