

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**  
2 **OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

3 \* \* \* \* \*

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5  
6 **In the Matter of Charges and** )  
7 **Complaint Against** )  
8 **ROBERT BIEN, M.D.,** )  
9 **Respondent.** )

Case No. 16-9727-1

**FILED**

SEP 11 2017

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
By: 

11  
12 **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

13 The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
14 (Board), by and through Robert Kilroy, Esq., General Counsel for the Board and attorney for the  
15 IC, and Robert Bien, M.D. (Respondent), a licensed medical doctor in Nevada, represented by  
16 Adam Schneider, Esq., of the law firm of John H. Cotton & Associates, hereby enter into this  
17 Settlement Agreement (Agreement) based on the following:<sup>1</sup>

18 **A. Background**

19 1. Respondent is a physician licensed by the Board, pursuant to Chapter 630 of the  
20 Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Chapter 630 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC)  
21 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), to practice medicine in Nevada since July 1, 1988 (License  
22 No. 5658).

23 2. On July 26, 2016, in Case No. 16-9727-1, the IC filed a formal Complaint  
24 (Complaint) charging Respondent with violating the Medical Practice Act. Specifically, this  
25 Complaint alleges one (1) violation of NRS 630.3062(1), for failure to maintain proper medical

26 <sup>1</sup> All agreements and admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this matter  
27 and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and  
28 Respondent. Therefore, Respondent's agreements and admissions are not intended or made for  
any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government regulatory agency  
proceeding, state or federal civil or criminal proceeding, any state or federal court proceeding, or  
any credentialing or privileges matter.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
1105 Terminal Way #301  
Reno, Nevada 89502  
(775) 688-2559

1 records, and two (2) violations of NRS 630.301(4), for malpractice, as defined in NAC 630.040, which  
2 means the failure of a physician, in treating a patient, to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge  
3 ordinarily used under similar circumstances. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to  
4 discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

5 3. Respondent was properly served with a copy of this Complaint, has reviewed and  
6 understands this Complaint, and has had the opportunity to consult with competent counsel  
7 concerning the nature and significance of this Complaint.

8 4. Respondent is hereby advised of his rights regarding this administrative matter, and of  
9 his opportunity to defend against the allegations in the Complaint. Specifically, Respondent has  
10 certain rights in this administrative matter as set out by the United States Constitution, the Nevada  
11 Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML), which is contained in  
12 NRS Chapter 241, and the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which is contained in NRS  
13 Chapter 233B. These rights include the right to a formal hearing on the allegations in the Complaint,  
14 the right to representation by counsel, at his own expense, in the preparation and presentation of his  
15 defense, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses and evidence against him, the right to  
16 written findings of fact, conclusions of law and order reflecting the final decision of the Board, and the  
17 right to judicial review of the Board's order, if the decision is adverse to him.

18 5. Respondent understands that, under the Board's charge to protect the public by  
19 regulating the practice of medicine, the Board may take disciplinary action against Respondent's  
20 license, including license probation, license suspension, license revocation and imposition of  
21 administrative fines, as well as any other reasonable requirement or limitation, if the Board  
22 concludes that Respondent violated one or more provisions of the Medical Practice Act.

23 6. Respondent understands and agrees that this Agreement, by and between  
24 Respondent and the IC, is not with the Board, and that the IC will present this Agreement to the  
25 Board for consideration in open session at a duly noticed and scheduled meeting. Respondent  
26 understands that the IC shall advocate for the Board's approval of this Agreement, but that the  
27 Board has the right to decide in its own discretion whether or not to approve this Agreement.  
28 Respondent further understands and agrees that if the Board approves this Agreement, then the

1 terms and conditions enumerated below shall be binding and enforceable upon him and the Board.

2 **B. Terms & Conditions**

3 **NOW, THEREFORE**, in order to resolve the matters addressed herein, i.e., the matters  
4 with regard to the Complaint, Respondent and the IC hereby agree to the following terms and  
5 conditions:

6 **1. Jurisdiction.** Respondent is, and at all times relevant to the Complaint has been, a  
7 physician licensed to practice medicine in Nevada subject to the jurisdiction of the Board as set  
8 forth in the Medical Practice Act.

9 **2. Representation by Counsel/Knowing, Willing and Intelligent Agreement.**  
10 Respondent acknowledges he is represented by counsel, and wishes to resolve the matters  
11 addressed herein with said counsel. Respondent agrees that if representation by counsel in this  
12 matter materially changes prior to entering into this Agreement and for the duration of this  
13 Agreement, that counsel for the IC will be timely notified of the material change. Respondent  
14 agrees that he knowingly, willingly and intelligently enters into this Agreement after deciding to  
15 have a full consultation with and upon the advice of legal counsel.

16 **3. Waiver of Rights.** In connection with this Agreement, and the associated terms  
17 and conditions, Respondent knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights in connection  
18 with this administrative matter. Respondent hereby knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives  
19 all rights arising under the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical  
20 Practice Act, the OML, the APA, and any other legal rights that may be available to him or that  
21 may apply to him in connection with the administrative proceedings resulting from the Complaint  
22 filed in this matter, including defense of the Complaint, adjudication of the allegations set forth in  
23 the Complaint, and imposition of any disciplinary actions or sanctions ordered by the Board.  
24 Respondent agrees to settle and resolve the allegations of the Complaint as set out by this  
25 Agreement, without a hearing or any further proceedings and without the right to judicial review.

26 **4. Acknowledgement of Reasonable Basis to Proceed.** Respondent acknowledges  
27 that the IC believes it has a reasonable basis to allege that Respondent engaged in conduct that is  
28 grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. The Board acknowledges Respondent

1 is not admitting that the Board's claims/counts as alleged in the Complaint have merit and  
2 Respondent is agreeing to resolve this matter to avoid the costs of hearing and potential  
3 subsequent litigation. Respondent asserts if this matter were to proceed to hearing, he has  
4 evidence, witnesses, expert witness(es) and defenses to the counts/claims alleged in the  
5 Complaint, but for the purposes of resolving the matter and for no other purpose, Respondent  
6 waives the presentation of evidence, witnesses, expert witnesses, and defenses in order to  
7 effectuate this Agreement.

8 **5. Consent to Entry of Order.** In order to resolve this Complaint pending against  
9 Respondent without incurring any further costs or the expense associated with a hearing, and without  
10 admitting that the Board's claims have merit, Respondent hereby agrees that the Board may issue an  
11 order finding that Respondent engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the  
12 Medical Practice Act. Accordingly, the following terms and conditions are hereby agreed upon:

13 a. Respondent pleads nolo contendere to one (1) violation of NRS 630.301(4), for  
14 malpractice, as defined in NAC 630.040, as set forth in Case No. 16-9727-1.

15 b. Respondent will pay the costs and expenses incurred in the investigation and  
16 prosecution of the above-referenced matter within thirty (30) days of the Board's  
17 acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement, the current amount being \$4,847.90,  
18 not including any costs that may be necessary to finalize this Agreement.

19 c. Respondent shall take three (3) hours of continuing medical education (CME) related  
20 to the subject matter of the proper use of intrathecal catheters and/or best practices in  
21 performance of post-operative neurological examinations of patients within six (6) months  
22 from the date of the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement. The  
23 aforementioned hours of CME shall be in addition to any CME requirements that are  
24 regularly imposed upon Respondent as a condition of licensure in the State of Nevada and  
25 shall be approved by the Board prior to their completion.

26 d. This Agreement shall be reported to the appropriate entities and parties as required  
27 by law, including, but not limited to, the National Practitioner Data Bank.

28 e. Respondent shall receive a Public Letter of Reprimand.

1           **6. Release From Liability.** In execution of this Agreement, Respondent understands  
2 and agrees that the State of Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel,  
3 investigators, experts, peer reviewers, committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents  
4 are immune from civil liability for any decision or action taken in good faith in response to  
5 information acquired by the Board. NRS 630.364(2)(a). Respondent agrees to release the State of  
6 Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, investigators, experts, peer reviewers,  
7 committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents from any and all manner of actions,  
8 causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and  
9 unknown, in law or equity, that Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have, against  
10 any or all of the persons, government agencies or entities named in this paragraph arising out of,  
11 or by reason of, this investigation, this Agreement or the administration of the case referenced  
12 herein.

13           **7. Procedure for Adoption of Agreement.** The IC and counsel for the IC shall  
14 recommend approval and adoption of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by the Board in  
15 resolution of this Complaint. In the course of seeking Board acceptance, approval and adoption of  
16 this Agreement, counsel for the IC may communicate directly with the Board staff and the  
17 adjudicating members of the Board.

18           Respondent acknowledges that such contacts and communications may be made or  
19 conducted ex parte, without notice or opportunity to be heard on his part until the public Board  
20 meeting where this Agreement is discussed, and that such contacts and communications may  
21 include, but may not be limited to, matters concerning this Agreement, the Complaint and any and  
22 all information of every nature whatsoever related to this matter. The IC and its counsel agree that  
23 Respondent may appear at the Board meeting where this Agreement is discussed and, if requested,  
24 respond to any questions that may be addressed to the IC or the IC's counsel.

25           **8. Effect of Acceptance of Agreement by Board.** In the event the Board accepts,  
26 approves and adopts this Agreement, the Board shall issue a final order, making this Agreement  
27 an order of the Board, and, pending full compliance with the terms herein, the case shall be closed  
28 and the remaining counts of the Complaint shall be dismissed with prejudice.

1           **9.     Effect of Rejection of Agreement by Board.** In the event the Board does not  
2 accept, approve and adopt this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null, void and of no force and  
3 effect except as to the following agreement regarding adjudications: (1) Respondent agrees that,  
4 notwithstanding rejection of this Agreement by the Board, nothing contained in this Agreement  
5 and nothing that occurs pursuant to efforts of the IC to seek the Board’s acceptance of this  
6 Agreement shall disqualify any member of the adjudicating panel of the Board from considering  
7 this Complaint and from participating in disciplinary proceedings against Respondent, including  
8 adjudication of this case; and (2) Respondent further agrees that he shall not seek to disqualify any  
9 such member absent evidence of bad faith.

10           **10.    Binding Effect.** If approved by the Board, Respondent understands that this  
11 Agreement is a binding and enforceable contract upon Respondent and the Board.

12           **11.    Forum Selection Clause.** The parties agree that in the event either party is  
13 required to seek enforcement of this Agreement in district court, the parties consent to such  
14 jurisdiction and agree that exclusive jurisdiction shall be in the Second Judicial District Court,  
15 State of Nevada, Washoe County.


16           **12.    Attorneys’ Fees and Costs.** The parties agree that in the event an action is  
17 commenced in district court to enforce any provision of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall  
18 be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

19           **13.    Failure to Comply with Terms.** Should Respondent fail to comply with any term  
20 or condition of this Agreement once the Agreement has been accepted, approved and adopted by  
21 the Board, the IC shall be authorized to immediately suspend Respondent’s license to practice  
22 medicine in Nevada pending an Order To Show Cause Hearing, which will be duly noticed.  
23 Failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement, including failure to pay any fines, costs,  
24 expenses or fees owed to the Board, is a failure to comply with an order of the Board, which may  
25 result in additional disciplinary action being taken against Respondent. NRS 630.3065(2)(a).


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1 Further, Respondent's failure to remit payment to the Board for monies agreed to be paid as a  
2 condition of this Agreement may subject Respondent to civil collection efforts.


3 Dated this 23 day of June, 2017.

4 By:   
5 Robert Kilroy, Esq.  
6 Aaron Bart Fricke, Esq.  
7 General Counsel and Attorney for the Investigative Committee

8 Dated this 21 day of June, 2017.

9 By:   
10 Adam Schneider, Esq.  
11 Attorney for the Respondent

12 **UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED:**

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15 Robert Bien, M.D., Respondent

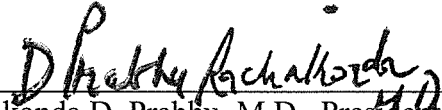
16 Dated this 20 day of June, 2017.

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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
1105 Terminal Way #301  
Reno, Nevada 89502  
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**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the foregoing Settlement Agreement is approved and accepted by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017, with the final total amount of costs due of \$4,847.90.

  
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Rachakonda D. Prabhu, M.D., President  
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS