

FILED

Apr 2, 2026

Disciplinary
Board

Docket # 001

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**DISCIPLINARY BOARD
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

In re
ANTHONY WALTON DOUGHERTY,
Lawyer (Bar No. 7334).

Proceeding No. 26#00017
ODC File No(s). 24-00083; 24-01135
Resignation Form of Anthony Walton
Dougherty (ELC 9.3(b))

I, Anthony Walton Dougherty, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen years and am competent. I make the statements in this declaration from personal knowledge.
2. I was admitted to practice law in the State of Washington on May 13, 1977.
3. After consulting with my counsel, Jeffrey T Kestle, I have voluntarily decided to resign from the Washington State Bar Association (the Association) in Lieu of Discipline under Rule 9.3 of the Washington Supreme Court's Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC).
4. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is Disciplinary Counsel's statement of alleged misconduct for purposes of ELC 9.3(b). I am aware of the alleged misconduct stated in Disciplinary Counsel's statement, but rather than defend against the allegations, I wish to permanently resign from membership in the Association.

1 5. I consent to entry of an order under ELC 13.9(e) assessing expenses of \$1,500 in
2 this matter.

3 6. I agree to pay any additional costs or restitution that may be ordered by a Review
4 Committee under ELC 9.3(g).

5 7. I understand that my resignation is permanent and that any future application by me
6 for reinstatement as a member of the Association is currently barred. If the Washington Supreme
7 Court changes this rule or an application is otherwise permitted in the future, it will be treated as
8 an application by one who has been disbarred for ethical misconduct. If I file an application, I
9 will not be entitled to a reconsideration or reexamination of the facts, complaints, allegations, or
10 instances of alleged misconduct on which this resignation was based.

11 8. I agree to (a) notify all other states and jurisdictions in which I am admitted, of this
12 resignation in lieu of discipline; (b) seek to resign permanently from the practice of law in [*other*
13 *jurisdictions in which the Respondent is licensed; if any are listed, name them here*] [and] any
14 other state or jurisdiction in which I am admitted]; and (c) provide Disciplinary Counsel with
15 copies of this notification and any response(s). I acknowledge that this resignation could be
16 treated as a disbarment by all other jurisdictions.

17 9. I agree to (a) notify all other professional licensing agencies in any jurisdiction from
18 which I have a professional license that is predicated on my admission to practice law of this
19 resignation in lieu of discipline; (b) seek to resign permanently from any such license; and (c)
20 provide disciplinary counsel with copies of any of these notifications and any responses.

21 10. I agree that when applying for any employment, I will disclose the resignation in
22 lieu of discipline in response to any question regarding disciplinary action or the status of my
23 license to practice law.

1 license to practice law.

2 11. I understand that my resignation becomes effective on Disciplinary Counsel's
3 endorsement and filing of this document with the Clerk, and that under ELC 9.3(c) Disciplinary
4 Counsel must do so promptly following receipt of this document.

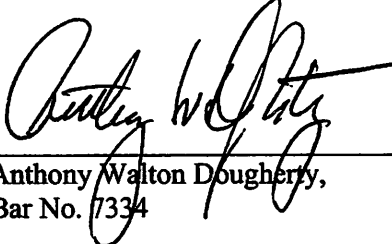
5 12. When my resignation becomes effective, I agree to be subject to all restrictions that
6 apply to a disbarred lawyer.

7 13. Upon filing of my resignation, I agree to comply with the same duties as a disbarred
8 lawyer under ELC 14.1 through ELC 14.4.

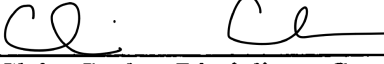
9 14. I understand that, after my resignation becomes effective, it is permanent. I will
10 never be eligible to apply and will not be considered for admission or reinstatement to the practice
11 of law nor will I be eligible for admission for any limited practice of law.

12 15. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the
13 foregoing is true and correct.

14
15 3/26/2026 Clinton, WA.
16 Date and Place


17
18 Anthony Walton Dougherty,
19 Bar No. 7334

17 ENDORSED BY:

18 
19 Claire Carden, Disciplinary Counsel
20 Bar No. 50590

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10 In re
11 **ANTHONY WALTON DOUGHERTY,**
12 Lawyer (Bar No. 7334).

Proceeding No. 26#00017
ODC File No(s). 24-00083; 24-01135
STATEMENT OF ALLEGED
MISCONDUCT UNDER ELC 9.3(b)(1)

13
14 The following constitutes a Statement of Alleged Misconduct under Rule 9.3(b)(1) of the
15 Washington Supreme Court's Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC).

16 **I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE**

17 1. Respondent Anthony Walton Dougherty was admitted to the practice of law in the
18 State of Washington on May 13, 1977.

19 **II. ALLEGED FACTS**

20 2. Respondent hired Michael Rapson as a contract paralegal to work on Respondent's
21 personal injury cases.

22 3. Client N.Y. met with Rapson, believing Rapson was acting on behalf of Respondent.

23 4. After that meeting, N.Y. signed a contingency fee agreement for Respondent to

1 represent N.Y. in two personal injury cases.

2 5. Respondent authorized Rapson to use Respondent's electronic signature including on
3 legal service agreements and pleadings.

4 6. Respondent authorized Rapson to use Respondent's login credentials for filing and to
5 negotiate with insurance companies.

6 7. Rapson negotiated one of N.Y.'s cases and settled it for \$25,000 without N.Y.'s
7 approval.

8 8. Neither Respondent nor Rapson communicated the settlement offer to N.Y.

9 9. Respondent failed to supervise Rapson's conduct.

10 10. Rapson's actions constituted the unauthorized practice of law.

11 11. Rapson deposited the settlement check into Respondent's trust account.

12 12. Respondent then wrote checks to Respondent, Rapson, and N.Y.

13 13. N.Y. did not receive the check.

14 14. Respondent did not tell N.Y. before withdrawing fees from Respondent's trust
15 account.

16 15. Respondent did not provide N.Y. a written accounting of N.Y.'s funds.

17 16. With regard to the second personal injury suit, Rapson filed a complaint bearing
18 Respondent's signature.

19 17. The complaint was received by the court the day after the statute of limitations ran.

20 18. Defense counsel successfully moved to dismiss the case.

21 19. ODC audited Respondent's account for the period of January 2023 through April
22 2024.

23 20. During the audit period, on one or more occasions, Respondent used one client's

1 funds on behalf of another.

2 21. During the audit period, Respondent held one or more client's funds years after
3 receipt.

4 22. On one or more occasions, Respondent failed to promptly disburse client funds.

5 **III. ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.**

6 23. By failing to supervise Rapson, Respondent violated RPC 5.3(b).

7 24. By assisting Rapson in the unauthorized practice of law, Respondent violated RPC
8 5.5(a).

9 25. By failing to inform N.Y. about the settlement offer, Respondent violated RPC
10 1.4(b).

11 26. By withdrawing earned fees prior to notifying N.Y. of Respondent's intent to do so,
12 Respondent violated RPC 1.15A(c)(2) and (h)(3).

13 27. By failing to provide a written accounting to N.Y., Respondent violated RPC
14 1.5A(e).

15 28. By failing to promptly disburse client funds, Respondent violated RPC 1.15A(f).

16 29. By using one client's funds on behalf of another, Respondent violated RPC
17 1.15A(h)(8).

18
19 DATED this 2 day of April, 2026.

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Claire Carden, Bar No. 50590
22 Disciplinary Counsel
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