

FILED

Sep 2, 2025

Disciplinary  
Board

Docket # 001

DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

**JOSEPHINE C. TOWNSEND,**

Lawyer (Bar No. 31965).

Proceeding No. 25#00052

ODC File No(s). 24-01415

Resignation Form of Josephine C Townsend  
(ELC 9.3(b))

I, Josephine C. Townsend, 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 2001-11-29.

3. 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 Oregon  
13 and any other state or jurisdiction in which I am admitted; and (c) provide Disciplinary Counsel  
14 with copies of this notification and any response(s). I acknowledge that this resignation could be  
15 treated as a disbarment by all other jurisdictions.

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

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

23           11. I understand that my resignation becomes effective on Disciplinary Counsel's

endorsement and filing of this document with the Clerk, and that under ELC 9.3(c) Disciplinary Counsel must do so promptly following receipt of this document.

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

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

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

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

8/19/25 Vancouver WA  
Date and Place

Josephine C. Townsend,  
Bar No. 31965

ENDORSED BY:

Ce. Ce

Claire Carden, Disciplinary Counsel  
Bar No. 50590

# Exhibit A

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8 DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

9  
10 In re

11 **JOSEPHINE C. TOWNSEND,**

12 Lawyer (Bar No. 31965).

Proceeding No.

ODC File No(s). 24-01415

13 STATEMENT OF ALLEGED  
14 MISCONDUCT UNDER ELC 9.3(b)(1)

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

17 **I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE**

18 1. Respondent Josephine C. Townsend was admitted to the practice of law in the State  
19 of Washington on November 29, 2001.

20 **II. ALLEGED FACTS**

21 2. On July 3, 2025, the Attorney General of Washington filed an Amended Information  
22 charging Respondent with two counts of forgery as follows:

23 **COUNT 1**

24 On or about July 17 and through July 18, 2024, the defendant, **JOSEPHINE C. TOWNSEND**, in the County of Clark, State of Washington, with intent to injure

1 or defraud, did false make, complete, or alter a written instrument, and/or did  
2 possess, utter, offer, dispose of, or put off as true a written instrument which she  
3 knew to be forged, said instrument being Order Modifying Protection Order, Clark  
4 County Cause 23-2-09215-06, protecting Angela Foss and restraining Travon  
5 Santiago, dated April 25, 2024; contrary to Revised Code of Washington  
6 9A.60.020(1)(Maximum Penalty – Five (5) years imprisonment and/or a \$10,000  
7 fine pursuant to RCW 9A.60.020(3) and RCW 9A.20.021(1)(c), plus restitution  
8 and assessments.)

9 **COUNT 2**

10 On or about July 17 and through July 18, 2024, the defendant, **JOSEPHINE C.**  
11 **TOWNSEND**, in the County of Clark, State of Washington, with intent to injure  
12 or defraud, did false make, complete, or alter a written instrument, and/or did  
13 possess, utter, offer, dispose of, or put off as true a written instrument which she  
14 knew to be forged, said instrument being Clark County Cause 23-2-09215-6  
15 Motion for New Hearing Under CR 60, declaration purportedly signed by Travon  
16 Santiago and filed July 18, 2024; contrary to Revised Code of Washington  
17 9A.60.020(1)(Maximum Penalty – Five (5) years imprisonment and/or a \$10,000  
18 fine pursuant to RCW 9A.60.020(3) and RCW 9A.20.021(1)(c), plus restitution  
19 and assessments.)

20 3. Forgery is a class C felony. RCW 9A.60.020(1).

21 4. The Amended Information also charged Respondent with two counts of identity theft

22 in the second degree as follows:

23 **COUNT 3**

24 On or about July 17 and through July 18, 2024 the defendant, **JOSEPHINE C.**  
**TOWNSEND**, in the County of Clark, State of Washington, did knowingly use or  
transfer a means of identification of another person, to-wit: Scott Weber, with the  
intent to commit or to aid the commission of any crime; contrary to Revised Code  
of Washington 9.35.020(Maximum Penalty – Five (5) years imprisonment and/or  
a \$10,000 fine pursuant to RCW 9A.60.020(3) and RCW 9A.20.021(1)(c), plus  
restitution and assessments.).

**COUNT 4**

On or about July 17 and through July 18, 2024 the defendant, **JOSEPHINE C.**  
**TOWNSEND**, in the County of Clark, State of Washington, did knowingly use or  
transfer a means of identification of another person, to-wit: Suzan Clark, with the  
intent to commit or to aid the commission of any crime; contrary to Revised Code  
of Washington 9.35.020(Maximum Penalty – Five (5) years imprisonment and/or  
a \$10,000 fine pursuant to RCW 9A.60.020(3) and RCW 9A.20.021(1)(c), plus  
restitution and assessments.).

5. Identity Theft in the Second Degree is a class C felony. RCW 9.35.020.

1           6.    On July 14, 2025, the court held a bench trial in *State v. Townsend*, Clark County  
2 Superior Court No. 24-1-03277-06.

3           7.    On July 30, 2025, the court found Townsend found guilty as charged in the Amended  
4 Information.

5           8.    Respondent's sentencing has not yet been held.

6                               **III. ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.**

7           9.    By committing the crime of identity theft in the second degree, Respondent violated  
8 RPC 8.4(b) and RPC 8.4(c).

9           10. By committing the crime of forgery, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(b) and RPC  
10 8.4(c).

11  
12           DATED this 19 day of August, 2025.

13   *Ce. Ce*

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15   Claire Carden, Bar No. 50590  
16   Disciplinary Counsel  
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