

FILED

Nov 6, 2025

Disciplinary  
Board

Docket # 006

DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

**KARAN VEER PHAMBOTA,**  
Lawyer (Bar No. 55628).

Proceeding No. 25#00048

ODC File No(s). 25-00124

STIPULATION TO REPRIMAND

Under Rule 9.1 of the Washington Supreme Court's Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC), the following Stipulation to reprimand is entered into by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) of the Washington State Bar Association (Association) through disciplinary counsel Claire Carden and Respondent lawyer Karan Veer Phambota.

Respondent understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELC to a hearing, to present exhibits and witnesses on Respondent's behalf, and to have a hearing officer determine the facts, misconduct and sanction in this case. Respondent further understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELC to appeal the outcome of a hearing to the Disciplinary Board, and, in certain cases, the Supreme Court. Respondent further understands that a hearing and appeal could result in an outcome more favorable or less favorable to Respondent. Respondent chooses to resolve this proceeding now by entering into the following stipulation to facts, misconduct and sanction to

avoid the risk, time, expense attendant to further proceedings.

Respondent wishes to stipulate to reprimand without affirmatively admitting the facts and misconduct in ¶¶ 1-8, rather than proceed to a public hearing. Respondent agrees that if this matter were to proceed to a public hearing, there is a substantial likelihood that ODC would be able to prove, by a clear preponderance of the evidence, the facts and misconduct in ¶¶ 1-8, and that the facts and misconduct will be deemed proved in any subsequent disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction.

## **I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE**

1. Respondent was admitted to practice law in the State of Washington on October 23, 2019.

## II. STIPULATED FACTS

2. On August 2, 2024, while driving, Phambota got into an altercation with an individual driving a moped and police arrived at the scene

3. Phambota told responding officers that Phambota was “an attorney; like a prosecuting attorney.”

4. When asked where, Phambota responded Snohomish County.

5. This statement was false; Phambota has never worked for the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in any capacity.

6. In the approximately 30-minute interaction, Phambota claimed on at least five occasions that Phambota was a prosecuting attorney.

7. By claiming to be a prosecuting attorney, Phambota attempted to influence law enforcement officers to consider criminal charges against the moped driver.

### **III. STIPULATION TO MISCONDUCT**

8. By falsely claiming to be a Snohomish County prosecuting attorney to law enforcement officers, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(c), RPC 8.4(d) and RPC 8.4(e).

#### **IV. PRIOR DISCIPLINE**

9. Respondent has no prior discipline.

## **V. APPLICATION OF ABA STANDARDS**

10. The following American Bar Association Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions (1991 ed. & Feb. 1992 Supp.) apply to this case:

## ***7.0 Violations of Duties Owed as a Professional***

7.1 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional with the intent to obtain a benefit for the lawyer or another, and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.2 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.3 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer negligently engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.4 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in an isolated instance of negligence that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional, and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

11. Respondent knowingly violated RPC 8.4(c), RPC 8.4(d), and RPC 8.4(e).

12. Respondent caused actual injury to the legal profession by repeatedly falsely claiming to by a Snohomish County prosecuting attorney in an attempt to influence law enforcement officers to press charges against the moped driver.

13. The presumptive sanction is suspension under ABA Standard 7.2.

1      14. The following aggravating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.22:

2      (b) dishonest or selfish motive; and

3      (d) multiple offenses

4      15. The following mitigating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.32:

5      (a) Absence of a prior disciplinary record;

6      (c) Personal or emotional problems [See Appendix A- filed under seal]; and

7      (i) remorse.

8      16. It is an additional mitigating factor that Respondent has agreed to resolve this matter  
9 at an early stage of the proceedings.

10     17. Based on the factors set forth above, the presumptive sanction should be mitigated to  
11 reprimand.

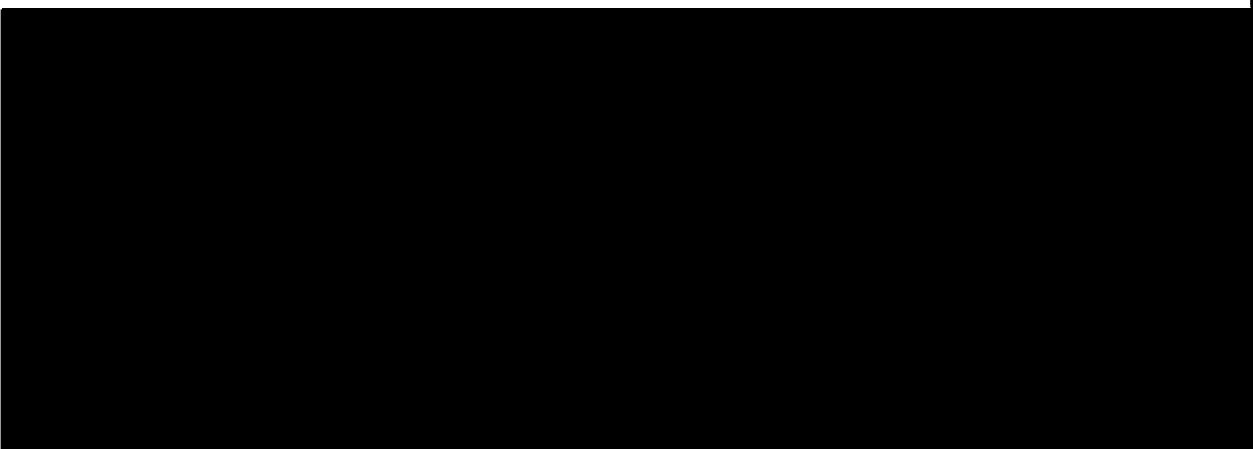
## 12                   **VI. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE**

13     18. The parties stipulate that Respondent shall receive a reprimand.

## 14                   **VII. CONDITIONS OF PROBATION**

15     19. Respondent will be subject to probation for a period of two years beginning when this  
16 stipulation receives final approval and shall comply with the specific probation terms set forth  
17 below:

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2 Ethics School

3 a. Respondent shall attend Ethics School by webinar (approximately 7.5 hours), or by  
4 obtaining the recorded product, and to pay registration costs of \$150 plus applicable sales  
5 tax. Respondent will receive all applicable approved CLE credits for time in attendance  
6 at the Ethics School.

7 b. Attendance at Ethics School is in addition to and shall not fulfill any continuing legal  
8 education (CLE) requirements set out in this stipulation.

9 c. Respondent shall contact the Ethics School Administrator, currently Claire Carden, at  
10 (206) 727-8220 or [clairec@wsba.org](mailto:clairec@wsba.org), within two weeks of the stipulation being approved  
11 to confirm enrollment in Ethics School and related logistics.

12 d. Respondent shall complete the ethics school requirement within 30 days of the  
13 stipulation being approved.

14 e. Respondent shall provide evidence of completion of ethics school to the Probation  
15 Administrator no later than 30 days after the conclusion of the course. Proof of attendance  
16 shall include the program brochure, evidence of payment, and a written statement that  
17 includes the date and time of attendance.

18 f. The Ethics School administrator may respond to inquiries from the Probation  
19 Administrator regarding Respondent's compliance with these conditions.

20. Respondent's compliance with these conditions shall be monitored by the Probation  
21 Administrator of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("Probation Administrator"). Failure to  
22 comply with a condition of probation listed herein may be grounds for further disciplinary action  
23 under ELC 13.8(b).

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### VIII. COSTS AND EXPENSES

25 21. In light of Respondent's willingness to resolve this matter by stipulation at an early  
26 stage of the proceedings, Respondent shall pay attorney fees and administrative costs of \$750 in  
27 accordance with ELC 13.9(i). The Association will seek a money judgment under ELC 13.9(l) if  
28 these costs are not paid within 30 days of approval of this stipulation.

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### IX. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT

30 22. Respondent states that prior to entering into this Stipulation Respondent had an  
31 opportunity to consult independent legal counsel regarding this Stipulation, that Respondent is  
32 entering into this Stipulation voluntarily, and that no promises or threats have been made by ODC,  
33 Stipulation to Discipline

1 the Association, nor by any representative thereof, to induce the Respondent to enter into this  
2 Stipulation except as provided herein.

3 23. Once fully executed, this stipulation is a contract governed by the legal principles  
4 applicable to contracts, and may not be unilaterally revoked or modified by either party.

5 **X. LIMITATIONS**

6 24. This Stipulation is a compromise agreement intended to resolve this matter in  
7 accordance with the purposes of lawyer discipline while avoiding further proceedings and the  
8 expenditure of additional resources by the Respondent and ODC. Both the Respondent lawyer  
9 and ODC acknowledge that the result after further proceedings in this matter might differ from  
10 the result agreed to herein.

11 25. This Stipulation is not binding upon ODC or the respondent as a statement of all  
12 existing facts relating to the professional conduct of the Respondent, and any additional existing  
13 facts may be proven in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

14 26. This Stipulation results from the consideration of various factors by both parties,  
15 including the benefits to both by promptly resolving this matter without the time and expense of  
16 hearings, Disciplinary Board appeals, and Supreme Court appeals or petitions for review. As  
17 such, approval of this Stipulation will not constitute precedent in determining the appropriate  
18 sanction to be imposed in other cases; but, if approved, this Stipulation will be admissible in  
19 subsequent proceedings against Respondent to the same extent as any other approved Stipulation.

20 27. Under ELC 3.1(b), all documents that form the record before the Hearing Officer for  
21 Hearing Officer's review become public information on approval of the Stipulation by the  
22 Hearing Officer, unless disclosure is restricted by order or rule of law.

23 28. If this Stipulation is approved by the Hearing Officer, it will be followed by the

1 disciplinary action agreed to in this Stipulation. All notices required in the Rules for Enforcement  
2 of Lawyer Conduct will be made. Respondent represents that, in addition to Washington,  
3 Respondent also is admitted to practice law in the following jurisdictions, whether current status  
4 is active, inactive, or suspended.

5       29. If this Stipulation is not approved by the Hearing Officer, this Stipulation will have no  
6 force or effect, and neither it nor the fact of its execution will be admissible as evidence in the  
7 pending disciplinary proceeding, in any subsequent disciplinary proceeding, or in any civil or  
8 criminal action.

9       WHEREFORE the undersigned being fully advised, adopt and agree to this Stipulation to  
10 Reprimand as set forth above.

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12 Karan Veer Phambota, Bar No. 55628  
13 Respondent

Dated: 08/14/2025

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15 Claire Carden, Bar No. 50590  
16 Disciplinary Counsel

Dated: August 20, 2025