

FILED

Apr 20, 2026

LLLT
Board

Docket # 013

BEFORE THE LIMITED LICENSE LEGAL TECHNICIAN BOARD
OF WASHINGTON STATE

In re

**KARINA ALEJANDRA GOMEZ-
SILVA,**

Limited License Legal Technician

(LLLT No. 183LLLT).

Proceeding No. LF25#00001

ODC File No. LT25-00004

STIPULATION TO NINE-MONTH
SUSPENSION

Under Rule 9.1 of the Washington Supreme Court's Rules for Enforcement of Limited License Legal Technician Conduct (ELLLTC), the following Stipulation to Suspension is entered into by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) of the Washington State Bar Association (Association) through Disciplinary Counsel Thea Jennings, Respondent's Counsel Leland G. Ripley, and Respondent Limited License Legal Technician Karina Alejandra Gomez-Silva.

Respondent understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELLLTC 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 ELLLTC to appeal the outcome of a hearing to the Limited License Legal Technician Board, and, in certain cases, the Supreme Court. Respondent further understands that

Stipulation to Discipline
Page 1

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL
OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539
(206) 727-8207

1 a hearing and appeal could result in an outcome more favorable or less favorable to Respondent.
2 Respondent chooses to resolve this proceeding now by entering into the following stipulation to
3 facts, misconduct, and sanction to avoid the risk, time, and expense attendant to further
4 proceedings.

5 I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

6 1. Respondent Karina Alejandra Gomez-Silva was admitted as an LLLT in the State of
7 Washington on May 19, 2022.

8 2. As an LLLT, Respondent is authorized to provide limited legal services within the
9 scope of Admission and Practice Rule (APR) 28.

10 3. Respondent's license number is 183LLLT.

11 II. STIPULATED FACTS

12 4. In 2024, Respondent represented Christopher Oehlerich in Kittitas County Superior
13 Court No. 12-3-00220-3.

14 5. On December 30, 2024, Respondent filed a Motion for Order to Refinance the Home.

15 6. Respondent signed the motion under the signature line, "Prepared by: Karina A.
16 Gomez-Silva, WSBA No. 183."

17 7. On January 13, 2025, the court held a hearing on the motion.

18 8. Oehlerich was present via telephone.

19 9. During the hearing, Respondent did not identify as an LLLT or otherwise inform the
20 court of Respondent's LLLT status.

21 10. When the court asked whether Respondent had filed a notice of appearance, the
22 following exchange took place:

23 THE COURT: Gomez. Did you file a notice in this?

24 RESPONDENT: There should be one in there, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Let me take a look. Maybe it hasn't caught up. When did you file
it?

2 RESPONDENT: A little bit over a month ago.

3 THE COURT: All right. I'm seeing the notice of hearing with you on it, but I'm
not seeing a notice of appearance on the --

4 RESPONDENT: I apologize, Your Honor. I will have to check with our office.

5 11. Respondent never filed a notice of appearance with the court.

6 12. LLLTs provide limited representation to *pro se* clients and do not enter a notice of
appearance.

7 13. After both parties presented argument, the court ordered that the home be refinanced
8 within 120 days.

9 14. The court said to Respondent, "Counsel, if you'll prepare an order, I'll sign it."

10 15. Respondent replied, "Will do, your honor. Thank you."

11 16. Respondent's knew or should have known that Respondent's failure to identify as an
12 LLLT was misleading to the court.

13 17. On February 4, 2025, Respondent filed a Motion to Excuse Respondent from HUD
14 Debt Obligation.

15 18. Respondent signed the motion under the signature line, "Prepared by: Karina A.
16 Gomez-Silva, WSBA No. 183."

17 19. On February 11, 2025, the court held a hearing on the motion.

18 20. At the hearing, Respondent identified as an LLLT.

19 21. In May 2025, the opposing party in the litigation filed a grievance against Respondent.

20 22. In a June 2, 2025, letter in response to the grievance, Respondent wrote:

21 I have never represented myself as an attorney. Contrary to the allegations
22 contained in the grievance, I did not file a Notice of Appearance or make any claim
that I was authorized to represent clients in court proceedings.

23 23. Respondent's response to ODC was misleading because at the January hearing,

1 Respondent told the court that a Notice of Appearance "should" have been in the court file.

2 24. After the grievance was filed, Respondent began writing Respondent's correct license
3 number on pleadings.

4 III. STIPULATION TO MISCONDUCT

5 25. By omitting "LLLT" on pleadings filed in Superior Court and by failing to identify as
6 an LLLT during the January 13, 2025, hearing, Respondent violated LLLT RPC 7.1(a), LLLT
7 RPC 7.1(b), and LLLT RPC 8.4(d).

8 IV. PRIOR DISCIPLINE

9 26. Respondent has no prior discipline.

10 V. APPLICATION OF ABA STANDARDS

11 27. The following American Bar Association Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions
12 (1991 ed. & Feb. 1992 Supp.) apply by analogy to this case:

13 6.1 *False Statements, Fraud, and Misrepresentation*

14 6.11 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer, with the intent to
15 deceive the court, makes a false statement, submits a false document, or
16 improperly withholds material information, and causes serious or
17 potentially serious injury to a party, or causes a significant or potentially
18 significant adverse effect on the legal proceeding.

16 6.12 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knows that false
17 statements or documents are being submitted to the court or that material
18 information is improperly being withheld, and takes no remedial action,
19 and causes injury or potential injury to a party to the legal proceeding, or
20 causes an adverse or potentially adverse effect on the legal proceeding.

19 6.13 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent either in
20 determining whether statements or documents are false or in taking
21 remedial action when material information is being withheld, and causes
22 injury or potential injury to a party to the legal proceeding, or causes an
23 adverse or potentially adverse effect on the legal proceeding.

21 6.14 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in an isolated
22 instance of neglect in determining whether submitted statements or
23 documents are false or in failing to disclose material information upon
24 learning of its falsity, and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a
25 party, or causes little or no adverse or potentially adverse effect on the legal
26 proceeding.

1
2 **7.0 Violations of Duties Owed as a Professional**

- 3 7.1 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in
4 conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional with the intent
5 to obtain a benefit for the lawyer or another, and causes serious or
6 potentially serious injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.
7 7.2 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in
8 conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional and causes
9 injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.
10 7.3 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer negligently engages in
11 conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional and causes
12 injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.
13 7.4 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in an isolated
14 instance of negligence that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional,
15 and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a client, the public, or
16 the legal system.

17 28. Respondent acted knowingly in failing to identify as an LLLT on pleadings and during
18 the January 13, 2025, hearing.

19 29. Respondent caused injury to the legal profession and potential injury to the legal
20 proceeding because the legal profession and the court system depend on LLLTs to be forthright
21 in identifying themselves.

22 30. The presumptive sanction is suspension.

23 31. The following aggravating factor applies under ABA Standard 9.22 (by analogy):

24 (f) submission of false evidence, false statements, or other deceptive practices during the
disciplinary process.

32. The following mitigating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.32 (by analogy):

(a) absence of prior disciplinary record;

(f) inexperience in LLLT practice [Respondent was admitted as an LLLT in May 2022];

(g) character or reputation; and,

(h) remorse.

33. It is an additional mitigating factor that Respondent has agreed to resolve this matter

1 at an early stage of the proceedings.

2 34. On balance the aggravating and mitigating factors do not require a departure from the
3 presumptive sanction.

4 **VI. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE**

5 35. The parties stipulate that Respondent shall receive a nine-month suspension.

6 **VII. CONDITIONS OF REINSTATEMENT**

7 36. Reinstatement from suspension is conditioned on payment of costs and expenses, as
8 provided below.

9 **VIII. COSTS AND EXPENSES**

10 37. Respondent shall pay attorney fees and administrative costs of \$1,793.50 in
11 accordance with ELLLTC 13.9(k). The Association will seek a money judgment under ELLLTC
12 13.9(l) if these costs are not paid within 30 days of approval of this stipulation.

13 38. Reinstatement from suspension is conditioned on payment of costs

14 **IX. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT**

15 39. Respondent states that prior to entering into this Stipulation, Respondent has consulted
16 independent legal counsel regarding this Stipulation, that Respondent is entering into this
17 Stipulation voluntarily, and that no promises or threats have been made by ODC, the Association,
18 nor by any representative thereof, to induce the Respondent to enter into this Stipulation except
19 as provided herein.

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

22 **X. LIMITATIONS**

23 41. This Stipulation is a compromise agreement intended to resolve this matter in

1 accordance with the purposes of LLLT discipline while avoiding further proceedings and the
2 expenditure of additional resources by the Respondent and ODC. Both the Respondent and ODC
3 acknowledge that the result after further proceedings in this matter might differ from the result
4 agreed to herein.

5 42. This Stipulation is not binding upon ODC or the Respondent as a statement of all
6 existing facts relating to the professional conduct of the Respondent, and any additional existing
7 facts may be proven in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

8 43. This Stipulation results from the consideration of various factors by both parties,
9 including the benefits to both by promptly resolving this matter without the time and expense of
10 hearings, Limited License Legal Technician Board appeals, and Supreme Court appeals or
11 petitions for review. As such, approval of this Stipulation will not constitute precedent in
12 determining the appropriate sanction to be imposed in other cases; but, if approved, this
13 Stipulation will be admissible in subsequent proceedings against Respondent to the same extent
14 as any other approved Stipulation.

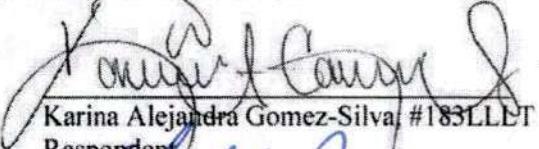
15 44. Under ELLLC 9.1(c)(2), the Limited License Legal Technician Board reviews a
16 stipulation based solely on the record agreed to by the parties. Under ELLLC 3.1(a)(4), all
17 documents that form the record before the Board for its review become public information on
18 approval of the Stipulation by the Board, unless disclosure is restricted by order or rule of law.

19 45. If this Stipulation is approved by the Limited License Legal Technician Board and
20 Supreme Court, it will be followed by the disciplinary action agreed to in this Stipulation. All
21 notices required in the ELLLC will be made.

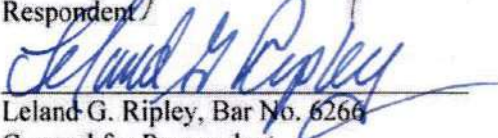
22 46. If this Stipulation is not approved by the Limited License Legal Technician Board and
23 Supreme Court, this Stipulation will have no force or effect, and neither it nor the fact of its

1 execution will be admissible as evidence in the pending disciplinary proceeding, in any
2 subsequent disciplinary proceeding, or in any civil or criminal action.

3 WHEREFORE the undersigned being fully advised, adopt and agree to this Stipulation to
4 Suspension as set forth above.

5 
6 Karina Alejandra Gomez-Silva, #183LLET
7 Respondent

Dated: 03/24/2026

8 
9 Leland G. Ripley, Bar No. 6266
10 Counsel for Respondent

Dated: 3/24/2026

11 _____
12 Thea Jennings, Bar No. 58255
13 Disciplinary Counsel

Dated: _____

1 execution will be admissible as evidence in the pending disciplinary proceeding, in any
2 subsequent disciplinary proceeding, or in any civil or criminal action.


3 WHEREFORE the undersigned being fully advised, adopt and agree to this Stipulation to
4 Suspension as set forth above.

5
6 _____
Karina Alejandra Gomez-Silva, #183LLL
Respondent

Dated: _____

7
8 _____
Leland G. Ripley, Bar No. 6266
Counsel for Respondent

Dated: _____

9
10 
11 _____
Thea Jennings, Bar No. 58255
Disciplinary Counsel

Dated: 03/25/2026