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Sep 17 2018

Disciplinary  
Board

Docket # 001

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BEFORE THE  
DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

In re

**PAUL H. WILLIAMS,**  
Lawyer (Bar No. 31684).

ODC File Nos. 18-00822 and 18-00257

Resignation Form of Paul H. Williams (ELC 9.3(b))

I, Paul H. Williams, 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 November 19, 2001.
- 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

1 permanently resign from membership in the Association.

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

4 6. I agree to pay restitution of \$73,571.98 to Jaspal Sohi.

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

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

13 9. I agree to notify all other states and jurisdictions in which I am admitted of this  
14 resignation in lieu of discipline and provide Disciplinary Counsel with copies of this notification  
15 and any responses. I acknowledge that this resignation could be treated as a disbarment by all  
16 other jurisdictions.

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

21 11. 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 12. I understand that my resignation becomes effective on Disciplinary Counsel's  
2 endorsement and filing of this document with the Clerk, and that under ELC 9.3(c) Disciplinary  
3 Counsel must do so promptly following receipt of this document.

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

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


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

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

13 9/14/18 Seattle, WA  
14 Date and Place

Paul H Williams  
Paul H. Williams, Bar No. 31684

15 ENDORSED BY:

16   
17 Francesca D'Angelo, Disciplinary Counsel  
Bar No. 22979

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

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

**I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE**

1. Respondent Paul H. Williams was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Washington on November 19, 2001.

**II. ALLEGED FACTS**

2. In January 2012, Jaspal Sohi hired Respondent to represent him and his business, TA Properties, in a Debtor/Creditor matter which led to a filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy for TA Properties in October 2012.

3. On September 2, 2015, a Plan of Reorganization (the Plan) was approved by the

**EXHIBIT**

A

1 bankruptcy court.

2 4. Pursuant to the Plan, Mr. Sohi was obligated to make monthly payments to certain  
3 creditors. One of the creditors was Yakima County, which was owed delinquent real property  
4 taxes for tax years 2010 through 2013. The Plan provided that Yakima County was to be paid  
5 \$1,500 per month through November 2021.

6 5. Other creditors included RH Smith Distributing, Byrnes Oil, and City of Granger.  
7 Under the Plan, these creditors were to receive varying payments each month. The Plan of  
8 reorganization required that these creditors would be paid \$1,250 to \$5,000.

9 6. Mr. Sohi began making payments to Respondent's trust account in May 2013 with  
10 the understanding that Respondent would pay the creditors as required by the Plan. Between  
11 May 2013 and April 2018, Mr. Sohi paid over \$223,310.60 to Respondent.

12 7. Respondent failed to provide an accounting to Mr. Sohi for the funds that he  
13 received and disbursed. Mr. Sohi repeatedly asked for an accounting from Respondent.  
14 Respondent ignored these requests or provided false information.

15 8. Between May 2013 and April 2018, Respondent made only two payments to  
16 Yakima County totaling \$18,647.58. TA Properties' Yakima County property became at risk of  
17 foreclosure.

18 9. Mr. Sohi subsequently learned that Respondent had not paid any money to the City  
19 of Granger or Wells Fargo.

20 10. Respondent also told Mr. Sohi that he had paid Yakima County enough to cover  
21 the 2010, 2011, and 2012 delinquencies. This statement was false.

22 11. On March 8, 2018, Respondent emailed Mr. Sohi and told him that he had paid  
23 \$7,000 each to Byrnes Oil and City of Granger. These statements were false.

1 12. On March 30, 2018, Respondent emailed Mr. Sohi and told him that the 2010-2012  
2 taxes had been paid. This statement was false.

3 13. Mr. Sohi hired lawyer James Berg to assist him. On April 26, 2018, Mr. Berg  
4 wrote to Respondent to request a full accounting.

5 14. On May 14, 2018, Respondent emailed Mr. Berg with a list of payments that he  
6 had received and funds that he had paid out on behalf of Mr. Sohi. Among the payments that  
7 Respondent made was a \$13,954 payment to himself for "fees earned." Respondent did not  
8 notify the bankruptcy court or Mr. Sohi that he would be taking these fees. The accounting  
9 provided did not include all deposits made from Mr. Sohi.

10 15. Respondent's trust account was overdrawn on February 6, 2018. At the end of  
11 May 2018, Respondent only had \$2,140 in his trust account.

12 16. Respondent took at least \$73,571.98 of Mr. Sohi's funds without entitlement.  
13 Respondent used the funds for his own benefit.

14 17. To date, Respondent has made no refund to Mr. Sohi.

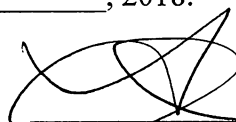
15 **III. ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.**

16 18. By converting Mr. Sohi's funds, Respondent violated RPC 1.15A(b).

17 19. By making false statements to Mr. Sohi, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(c).

18 20. By failing to provide prompt accountings to Mr. Sohi, Respondent violated RPC  
19 1.15A(e).

20  
21 DATED this 19 day of September, 2018.

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Francesca D'Angelo, Bar No. 22979  
Senior Disciplinary Counsel