l SEP 1 9 2017 2 DISCIPLINARY 3 4 5 6 **BEFORE THE** 7 **DISCIPLINARY BOARD** OF THE 8 WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION 9 Proceeding No.16#00011 In re 10 ODC File No(s). 14-01546, 15-00536, 15-HOLLY JOY JOHNSON, 11 01639 Lawyer (Bar No. 32784)... RESIGNATION FORM OF Holly Joy 12 Johnson (ELC 9.3(b)) 13 14 Holly Joy Johnson, being duly sworn, hereby attests to the following: 15 I am over the age of eighteen years and am competent. I make the statements in -1. 16 this affidavit from personal knowledge. 17 I was admitted to practice law in the State of Washington on November 4, 2002. 2. 18 I was served with a Formal Complaint and Notice to Answer in this matter on July 3. 19 26, 2016. 20 I have voluntarily decided to resign from the Washington State Bar Association (the 21 Association) in Lieu of Discipline under Rule 9.3 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer 22 Conduct (ELC). 23 OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL Affidavit of Respondent 24 OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION Page I 1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600 Seattle, WA 98101-2539 (206) 727-8207

09/15/2017

12:47PM (GMT-04:00)

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- 5. 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.
- G. I consent to entry of an order under ELC 13.9(e) assessing expenses of \$1,500 in this matter.
- 7. I agree to pay restitution in the amount of \$430,000 plus interest of 12 percent per annum from October 1, 2015 to Daniel Ragussis.
- I agree to pay any additional costs or restitution that may be ordered by a Review
 Committee under ELC 9.3(g).
- 9. I understand that my resignation is permanent and that any future application by me for reinstatement as a member of the Association is currently barred. If the Supreme Court changes this rule or an application is otherwise permitted in the future, it will be treated as an application by one who has been disbarred for ethical misconduct, and that, if I file an application, I will not be entitled to a reconsideration or reexamination of the facts, complaints, allegations, or instances of alleged misconduct on which this resignation was based.
- 10. I agree to (a) notify all other states and jurisdictions in which I am admitted of this resignation in lieu of discipline; (b) seek to resign permanently from any such license; and (c) provide disciplinary counsel with copies of this notification and any response(s). I acknowledge that this resignation could be treated as a disbarment by all other jurisdictions.
- 11. I agree to (a) notify all other professional licensing agencies in any jurisdiction from which I have a professional license that is predicated on my admission to practice law of this resignation in lieu of discipline; (b) seek to resign permanently from any such license; and (c)

Affidavit of Respondent Page 2

1	provide disciplinary counsel with copies of any of these notifications and any responses.	
2	12. I agree that when applying for any employment, I will disclose the resignation in	
3	lieu of discipline in response to any question regarding disciplinary action or the status of my	İ
4	license to practice law.	
5	13. I understand that my resignation becomes effective on disciplinary counsel's	
6	endorsement and filing of this document with the Clerk, and that under ELC 9.3(c) disciplinary	
7	counsel must do so promptly following receipt of this document and payment of costs and	
8	expenses.	
9	14. When my resignation becomes effective, I agree to be subject to all restrictions that	
10	apply to a disbarred lawyer.	
11	15. Upon filing of my resignation, I agree to comply with the same duties as a disbarred	
12	lawyer under ELC 14.1 through ELC 14.4.	
13	16. I understand that, after my resignation becomes effective, it is permanent. I will	
14	never be eligible to apply and will not be considered for admission or reinstatement to the practice	ا:
15	of law nor will I be eligible for admission for any limited practice of law.	
16	17. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the	3
17	foregoing is true and correct.	
18	9/15/2017 Seattle Wit Collym-32789	4
19	Date and Place Holly Joy Johnson, Bar No. 32784	
20	ENDORSED BY:	
21	Korslala	
22	Kathy Jo Blake, Managing Disciplinary Counsel Bar No. 29235	
23		
ည 24	Affidevit of Respondent OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	
-rr]]	Affidavit of Respondent Page 3 OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION 1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600 Senttle, WA 98101-2539	I

(206) 727-8207

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EXHIBIT A

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7	1	DRE THE JARY BOARD
8	OI	THE
9	WASHINGTON STA	TE BAR ASSOCIATION
10	In re	Proceeding No. 16#00011
11	HOLLY JOY JOHNSON,	ODC File No(s). 14-01546, 15-00536, 15-01639
12	Lawyer (Bar No. 32784).	STATEMENT OF ALLEGED
13		MISCONDUCT UNDER ELC 9.3(b)(1)
14		
15	The attached formal complaint, filed	on July 7, 2016 in Proceeding No. 16#00011,
16	constitutes Disciplinary Counsel's statement of	of alleged misconduct under Rule 9.3(b)(1) of the
17	Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct.	
18		
19	DATED this 15th day of Septen	<u>Mu</u> , 2017.
20		Land to
21		Kathy Jo Blake, Bar No. 29235
22		Disciplinary Counsel
23		
24	Statement of Alleged Misconduct Page 1	OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION 1325 4 th Avenue, Suite 600 Seattle, WA 98101-2539 (206) 727-8207

FILED

JUL 07 2016

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

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HOLLY JOY JOHNSON,

Lawyer (Bar No. 32784).

Proceeding No. 16#00011

FORMAL COMPLAINT

Under Rule 10.3 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC), the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) of the Washington State Bar Association charges the above-named lawyer with acts of misconduct under the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) as set forth below.

ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

- 1. Respondent Holly Joy Johnson was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Washington on November 4, 2002.
- 2. On May 3, 2016, Respondent's license to practice law was suspended on an interim basis under ELC 7.2(a)(1) because her continued practice of law posed a substantial threat of serious harm to the public.

Formal Complaint Page 1

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION 1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600 Scattle, WA 98101-2539 (206) 727-8207 1

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1	PROPERTY SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE PARTY WHO PROVIDED THE FUNDS OR
2	DOCUMENTS UPON REQUEST." (Capitalization in original.)
3	52. Under the escrow agreement, "All notices, requests, demands, and other
4	communications under this escrow shall be either in writing or sent by facsimile transmission
5	with written confirmation mailed."
6	53. Almost immediately upon receipt of the funds, with no financing guarantee in
7	place, Respondent began disbursing the funds to herself and others.
8	54. Respondent never sent Mr. Veira any written notice that she was disbursing the
9	funds held in escrow.
10	55. Lighthouse Partners never provided the financing guarantee from an institution
11	acceptable to Mr. Veira.
12	56. On June 9, 2014, Lighthouse Partners secured a financing guarantee from an
13	institution that Mr. Veira considered unacceptable.
14	57. By June 9, 2014, Respondent had disbursed all but \$200 of the \$304,000 she held
15	in escrow.
16	58. Respondent disbursed at least \$8000 to herself to which she was not entitled.
17	59. In June 2014, Mr. Veira began requesting that Respondent return the \$304,000 to
18	him.
19	60. Mr. Veira has made multiple requests to Respondent to return the \$304,000 to him.
20	61. Respondent has not returned the funds to Mr. Veira.
21	62. In October 2014, JVI filed an action for breach of contract and to compel
22	arbitration and interpleader in King County Superior Court against Respondent and Lighthouse.
22	

1	J.V. INC., B.V., v. Lighthouse Partners, et ano, King County Superior Court Cause Number 14-	
2	2-27880-2.	
3	63. On November 26, 2014, the court ordered Respondent to deposit \$300,000 into the	
4	court registry by December 2, 2014.	
5	64. Respondent was aware of the court's November 26, 2014, order.	
6	65. Respondent did not deposit the funds in the court registry.	
7	66. Instead, Respondent made excuses for not depositing the funds, including that she	
8	did not know how.	
9	67. On January 16, 2015, the court found Respondent in contempt for her failure to	
10	deposit the funds.	
11	68. On February 2, 2015, the court issued an order to show cause for February 17,	
12	2015, requiring Respondent to appear and show cause why a pre-judgment writ of attachment	
13	should not issue.	
14	69. Respondent was aware of the court's February 2, 2015, order.	
15	70. On February 17, 2015, Respondent failed to appear and show cause why a pre-	
16	judgment writ of attachment should not issue.	
17	71. On February 17, 2015, the court issued a Writ of Attachment against Respondent's	
18	Chase Bank account XXXXX1001.	
19	72. On March 24, 2015, Jerrel Veira filed a grievance against Respondent.	
20	73. On March 25, 2015, ODC sent Respondent a request for her response.	
21	74. On May 3, 2015, Respondent sent ODC an e-mail stating that she had hired a	
22	lawyer (but did not identify the lawyer) and requested contact information for Mr. Veira.	
23	Respondent did not respond substantively to the grievance.	

141. On October 20, 2015, ODC sent Respondent a "10-day letter," reminding her of
the obligation to provide the requested documents by November 2, 2015, and notifying her that
her failure to do so could result in her being deposed, disciplined, and subject to interim
suspension.
142. On October 26, 2015, Respondent failed to appear for the deposition.
143. On October 28, 2015, Respondent sent an e-mail to ODC in which she stated: "I
will get my response out tomorrow no later than Friday hopefully. I am been really [sic] these
few weeks and can't kick it. Just letting you know."
144. On November 2, 2015, Respondent provided her written response.
145. In her response, Respondent denied any involvement in the transaction.
146. In her response, Respondent stated that her signature on the escrow agreement was
forged.
147. In her response, Respondent denied receiving any funds sent on behalf of Atomic
Features.
148. These statements are false.
149. Respondent has not provided a client file or the billing/trust records as requested.
150. Respondent acted intentionally in committing the violations alleged in counts 10
15.
151. Respondent's conduct in committing the violations alleged in counts 10-13 caused
actual injury to Mr. Ragussis and/or Atomic Features.
152. Respondent's conduct in committing the violations alleged in counts 14-15 caused
actual injury to the lawyer discipline system.

1	153. Respondent's conduct in committing the violations alleged in counts 10-15 caused
2	actual injury to the image of the legal profession.
3	COUNT 10
4	154. By disbursing the funds she held for Mr. Ragussis in escrow, including disbursing
5	at least \$17,0505 to herself, without authorization, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(b) (by
6	violating RCW 9A.56.030), RPC 8.4(c), RPC 8.4(i), RPC 1.15A(b) and/or RPC 1.15A(c)).
7	COUNT 11
8	155. By failing to deposit the funds received from Mr. Ragussis into a trust account and
9	instead comingling them with her own in her business account, Respondent violated RPC
10	1.15A(c).
11	COUNT 12
12	156. By failing to provide Mr. Ragussis with a written accounting when she disbursed
13	the funds she held for him from escrow, Respondent violated RPC 1.15A(e).
14	COUNT 13
15	157. By failing to return the escrow funds to Mr. Ragussis, Respondent violated RPC
16	8.4(c), RPC 8.4(i), and/or RPC 1.15A(f).
17	COUNT 14
18	158. By failing to promptly comply with an inquiry, request, and/or investigatory
19	subpoena, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(1), ELC 5.3(f), ELC 5.3(g), and/or ELC 5.5(d).
20	COUNT 15
21	159. By providing false information in response to an inquiry, request, and/or
22	investigatory subpoena, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(1), ELC 5.3(f), ELC 5.3(g), and/or ELC
23	5.5(d).
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Formal Complaint
Page 16

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

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2	THEREFORE, Disciplinary Counsel requests that a hearing be held under the Rules for
3	Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct. Possible dispositions include disciplinary action, probation,
4	restitution, and assessment of the costs and expenses of these proceedings.
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6	Dated this
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8	Sachia Stonefeld Powell, Bar No. 21166
9	Disciplinary Counsel
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