

FILED

Oct 8, 2025

Disciplinary
Board

Docket # 001

DISCIPLINARY BOARD
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

MARION E. KNAUSS,

Lawyer (Bar No. 9668).

Proceeding No. 25#00058

ODC File No. 24-01233

Resignation Form of Marion E. Knauss (ELC
9.3(b))

I, Marion E. Knauss, 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 January 25, 1980.

3. After consulting with my counsel, Leland G Ripley, 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 \$164,745.64, plus interest at 6% per annum accruing
5 from January 1, 2012, to the Rendean Mattern Trust. I agree that payment of restitution will be
6 sent to Brandy Boyd, trustee of the Rendean Mattern Trust.

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

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

15 9. I agree to (a) notify all other states and jurisdictions in which I am admitted, of this
16 resignation in lieu of discipline; (b) seek to resign permanently from the practice of law in any
17 other state or jurisdiction in which I am admitted; and (c) provide Disciplinary Counsel with
18 copies of this notification and any response(s). I acknowledge that this resignation could be
19 treated as a disbarment by all other jurisdictions.

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

1 11. I agree that when applying for any employment, I will disclose the resignation in
2 lieu of discipline in response to any question regarding disciplinary action or the status of my
3 license to practice law.

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

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

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

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

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

16
17 October 6, 2025
18 Date and Place Port Hadlock
WA 98339

Ted Knauss
Marion E. Knauss, Bar No. 9668

19 ENDORSED BY:

20 Benjamin J. Attanasio
21 Benjamin J. Attanasio
22 Managing Disciplinary Counsel
23 Bar No. 43032

EXHIBIT A

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7 DISCIPLINARY BOARD
8 WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

9 In re

10 **MARION E. KNAUSS,**

11 Lawyer (Bar No. 9668).

Proceeding No. _____

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

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

16 **I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE**

17 1. Respondent Marion E. Knauss was admitted to the practice of law in the State of
18 Washington on January 25, 1980.

19 **II. ALLEGED FACTS**

20 2. In or around 2006, Rendean Mattern received funds in excess of \$200,000 under the
21 White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act.

22 3. Mattern hired Respondent to create a trust in which the funds would be held.

23 4. In April 2006, Respondent created the Rendean Mattern Trust (the "Trust") and
24

1 named Respondent as the trustee.

2 5. Between 2008 and 2011, Respondent withdrew at least \$164,745.64 from the Trust
3 for Respondent's own use.

4 6. On or around January 1, 2012, Respondent executed promissory notes for
5 \$164,745.64 owed to the Trust. The notes provided that interest would accrue at 6% per annum.

6 7. In February 2012, Respondent drafted a restatement of the Trust that named Brandy
7 Boyd as trustee and Respondent as trust protector.

8 8. Mattern died on April 7, 2012.

9 9. Following Mattern's death, Respondent recorded deeds of trust in Jefferson and
10 Stevens Counties securing a debt of \$164,745.64 owed by Lukent LLC, an entity created and
11 controlled by Respondent, to the Trust.

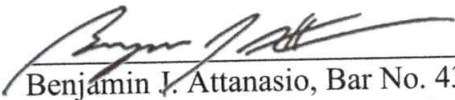
12 10. Between 2017 and 2022, Boyd repeatedly contacted Respondent seeking to establish
13 a plan under which Respondent would repay the debt owed to the Trust.

14 11. Despite responding to Boyd, Respondent never made any payments towards the
15 debt.

16 III. ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.

17 12. By taking funds from the Rendeau Mattern Trust for Respondent's own purposes,
18 Respondent violated RPC 1.15A(b) and/or RPC 8.4(b) and/or RPC 8.4(c).

19
20 DATED this 28th day of July, 2025.

21
22 
23 Benjamin J. Attanasio, Bar No. 43032
24 Managing Disciplinary Counsel - Audit