

Legislative Ethics Board

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COMPLAINTS 2025 – Nos. 28 & 29

In re Joel McEntire

October 24, 2025

BOARD COUNSEL'S ORDER OF DISMISSAL – LACK OF SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

I. NATURE AND BACKGROUND OF COMPLAINT

Complaints 2025 – Nos. 28 & 29 were received on September 15, 2025. Both complaints allege that Respondent violated the Ethics Act by posting lies and misinformation on his Facebook account, including a picture of a particular person, his business location and a plea for people to stop patronizing this person's business.

On September 29, 2025, Respondent posted on his personal Facebook account that the account was not a legislative page. Underneath this statement, however, Respondent also posted that he was a "state representative at Washington State Legislature."

II. DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION

The Board has previously held that it had no subject matter jurisdiction over a legislator's personal social media accounts. *In re McEntire*, 2023 – Nos. 7, 13 & 14; 2024 – No. 8; 2025 – Nos. 7 & 8 and *In re Kloba*, 2023 – No. 6. The social media account (Facebook) about which these complaints are based is Respondent's personal social media account. While the Board does not condone the demeaning comments made by Respondent, it does not have subject matter jurisdiction to address the issue.

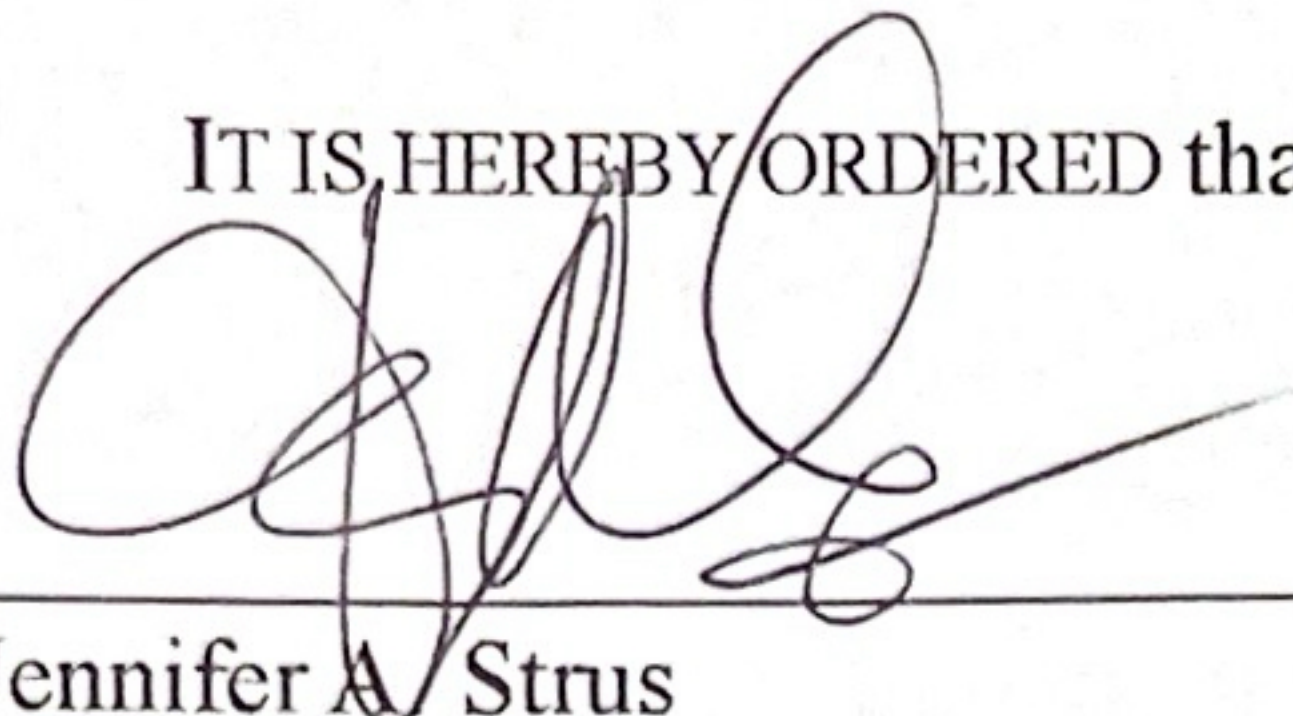
III. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The Board has suggested in several cases that legislators, on their personal social media accounts, should use neither their title nor any reference to legislative position to avoid future complaints. *See e.g. In re Kloba*, 2023 – No. 6. Although Respondent has indicated that his Facebook account is not official, he also includes the fact that he is a current legislator. The inclusion of legislative information in the beginning of his account page confuses the public and has led to ethics complaints. The Board strongly recommends that members discontinue this practice.

Pursuant to RCW 42.52.425 and Legislative Ethics Board Rule 1.D., Board Counsel has the authority to dismiss this complaint. Board Counsel finds that the Board lacks subject matter

jurisdiction over the complaints alleging the inappropriate use of a legislator's personal social media account.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that these complaints be dismissed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer A. Strus', is written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer A. Strus
Board Counsel