

Legislative Ethics Board

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COMPLAINTS 2025 – Nos. 17, 18 & 19

In re Jim Walsh
September 16, 2025

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

I. NATURE AND BACKGROUND OF COMPLAINT

Complaint 2025 – Nos. 17, 18 & 19 were received on July 7, 2025. All three complaints allege that Respondent violated the Ethics Act by posting on his personal Facebook account a comparison of far left extremists to a cancerous tumor needing to be removed from the culture. The Complainants further allege that a comment like this is a threat and an incitement to violence.

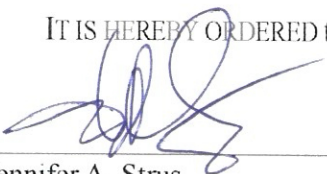
II. DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION

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

Pursuant to RCW 42.52.425 and Legislative Ethics Board Rule I.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.



Jennifer A. Strus
Board Counsel