

Legislative Ethics Board

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223 SID SNYDER AVE. SW, ROOM 215
OLYMPIA, WA 98501

PO BOX 40500
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0500
360-786-7343
www.leg.wa.gov/leb

JENNIFER STRUS - COUNSEL
Jennifer.Strus@leg.wa.gov

COMPLAINTS 2025 – Nos. 13, 14 & 15

In re Joel McEntire

June 25, 2025

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

I. NATURE AND BACKGROUND OF COMPLAINT

Complaint 2025 – No. 13 was received on May 2, 2025 and Complaints 2025 – Nos. 14 & 15 were received on May 4, 2025. All three complaints allege that Respondent violated the Ethics Act by posting demeaning and insulting comments about various people including constituents on his personal Facebook account.

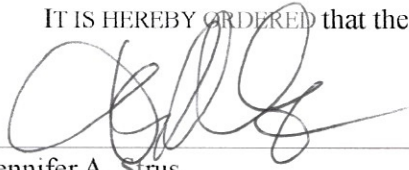
II. DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION

In *In re McEntire*, 2023 – Nos. 7, 13 & 14; 2024 – No. 8; 2025 – Nos. 7 & 8 and *In re Kloba*, 2023 – No. 6, the Board held that it had no subject matter jurisdiction over a legislator's personal social media accounts. 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 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.


Jennifer A. Strus
Board Counsel