

**RULES FOR ENFORCEMENT OF LIMITED PRACTICE OFFICER CONDUCT
(ELPOC)**

TITLE 1—SCOPE, JURISDICTION, AND DEFINITIONS

ELPOC 1.1 SCOPE OF RULES

These rules govern the procedure by which a Limited Practice Officer may be subjected to disciplinary sanctions or actions for violation of the Limited Practice Officer Rules of Professional Conduct (LPORPC) adopted by the Washington Supreme Court.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 1.2 JURISDICTION

Any licensed LPO permitted to engage in the limited practice of law in this state is subject to these Rules for Enforcement of Limited Practice Officer Conduct. Jurisdiction exists regardless of the LPO's residency or authority to engage in the limited practice of law in this state.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 1.3 DEFINITIONS

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, terms used in these rules have the following meanings:

- (a) "Association" means the Washington State Bar Association;
- (b) "Public file" means the pleadings, motions, rulings, decisions, and other formal papers filed in a proceeding;
- (c) "Board" when used alone means the Limited Practice Board;
- (d) "Board of Governors" means the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association;
- (e) "Chair" when used alone means the Chair of the Limited Practice Board;
- (f) "Clerk" when used alone means the Association's staff designated to work with the Limited Practice Board and includes the Directory of Regulatory Services and other Association counsel where appropriate;
- (g) "Closing Firm" means any bank, depository institution, escrow agent, title company, law firm, or other business, whether public or private, that employs, or contracts for the services of, an LPO for the purpose of providing real or personal property closing services for a transaction;
- (h) "Court" unless otherwise specified, means the Supreme Court of Washington;
- (i) "Disciplinary action" means sanctions under rule 13.1 and admonitions under rule 13.5;
- (j) "ELC" means the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct;
- (k) "Final" means no review has been sought in a timely fashion or all appeals have been concluded;

(l) “Grievant” means the person or entity who files a grievance (except for a confidential source under rule 5.2);

(m) “Hearing Officer” means the person assigned under rule 10.2(a)(1) or, when a hearing panel has been assigned, the hearing panel chair;

(n) “LPO” means limited practice officer;

(o) “Mental or physical incapacity” includes, but is not limited to, insanity, mental illness, senility, or debilitating use of alcohol or drugs;

(p) “Panel” means a hearing panel under rule 10.2(a)(2);

(q) “Party” means disciplinary counsel or respondent, except in rule 2.3(f) “party” also includes a grievant;

(r) “Respondent” means an LPO against whom a grievance is filed or an LPO investigated by the Clerk or disciplinary counsel;

(s) “APR” means the Admission and Practice Rules;

(t) “CR” means the Superior Court Civil Rules;

(u) “RAP” means the Rules of Appellate Procedure;

(v) “LPORPC” means the Limited Practice Officer Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the Washington Supreme Court.

(w) Words of authority.

(1) “May” means “has discretion to,” “has a right to,” or “is permitted to.”

(2) “Must” means “is required to.”

(3) “Should” means recommended but not required.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective March 1, 2016.]

ELPOC 1.4 NO STATUTE OF LIMITATION

No statute of limitation or other time limitation restricts filing a grievance or bringing a proceeding under these rules, but the passage of time since an act of misconduct occurred may be considered in determining what if any action or sanction is warranted.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 1.5 VIOLATION OF DUTIES IMPOSED BY THESE RULES

An LPO violates LPORPC 1.10 and may be disciplined under these rules for violating duties imposed by these rules, including but not limited to the following duties:

- respond to inquiries or requests about matters under investigation, rule 5.3(e);

- file an answer to a formal complaint or to an amendment to a formal complaint, rule 10.5;
- cooperate with discovery and comply with hearing orders, rules 5.5 and 10.11(g);
- attend a hearing and bring materials requested by Association staff and/or disciplinary counsel, rule 10.13(b) and (c);
- respond to subpoenas and comply with orders enforcing subpoenas, rule 10.13(e);
- notify clients and others of inability to act, rule 14.1;
- discontinue practice, rule 14.2;
- file an affidavit of compliance, rule 14.3;
- maintain confidentiality, rule 3.2;
- cooperate with an examination of books and records, rule 15.2;
- notify the Association of a trust account overdraft, rule 15.4(d);
- file a declaration or questionnaire certifying compliance with LPORPC 1.12A and B, rule 15.5;
- comply with conditions of probation, rule 13.8;
- comply with conditions of a stipulation, rule 9.1;
- pay restitution, rule 13.7; or
- pay costs, rule 5.3(e) or 13.9.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 2—ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

ELPOC 2.1 SUPREME COURT

The Washington Supreme Court has exclusive responsibility in the state to administer the LPO discipline and disability system and has inherent power to maintain appropriate standards of professional conduct and to dispose of individual cases of LPO discipline and disability. Persons carrying out the functions set forth in these rules act under the Supreme Court's authority.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 2.2 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

(a) Function. The Board of Governors of the Association:

- (1) supervises the general functioning of the disciplinary counsel and Association staff; and
- (2) performs other functions and takes other actions provided in these rules, delegated by the Supreme Court, or necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

(b) Limitation of Authority. The Board of Governors has no right or responsibility to review hearing officer, hearing panel, or Limited Practice Board decisions or recommendations in specific cases.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 2.3 LIMITED PRACTICE BOARD

(a) Function for purposes of these rules. The Board performs the functions provided under these rules, delegated by the Supreme Court, or necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

(b) Membership.

(1) *Composition.* The Board is composed as set forth in APR 12(b)(1).

(2) *Voting.* Each member, including the Chair, whether nonlawyer or lawyer, has one vote.

(3) *Quorum.* A majority of the Board members constitutes a quorum. If there is a quorum, the concurrence of a majority of those present and voting constitutes action of the Board, so long as at least five members vote.

(4) *Leave of Absence While Grievance Is Pending.* If a grievance is filed against a member of the Board, the member shall take a leave of absence until the matter is resolved.

(c) Disqualification.

(1) A Board member should self-disqualify from a particular matter in which the member's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, including, but not limited to, instances in which:

(A) the member has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party, or personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the matter;

(B) the member previously served as a lawyer or LPO or was a material witness in the matter in controversy, or a lawyer or LPO with whom the member works serves or has previously served as a lawyer or LPO concerning the matter, or such lawyer or LPO is or has been a material witness concerning the matter;

(C) the member knows that, individually or as a fiduciary, the member or the member's spouse or relative residing in the member's household, has an economic interest in the subject matter in controversy or in a party to the matter, or is an officer, director, or trustee of a party or has any other interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the matter, unless there is a remittal of disqualification under section (d);

(D) the member or the member's spouse or relative residing in the member's household, or the spouse of such a person:

(i) is a party to the matter, or an officer, director, or trustee of a party;

(ii) is acting as a lawyer or LPO in the matter;

(iii) is to the member's knowledge likely to be a material witness in the matter;

(d) Remittal of Disqualification. A member disqualified under subsection (c)(1)(C) or (c)(1)(D) may, instead of withdrawing from consideration of the matter, disclose on the record the basis of the disqualification. If, based on such disclosure, the parties and lawyers, independently of the member's participation, all agree in writing or on the record that the member's relationship is immaterial or that the member's economic interest is de minimis, the member is no longer disqualified, and may participate in the matter. If a party is not immediately available, the member may proceed on the assurance of the party's counsel that the party's consent will be subsequently given.

(e) Counsel and Clerk. The Executive Director of the Association, under the direction of the Association's Board of Governors, may appoint a suitable person or persons to act as counsel and Clerk to the Board, to assist the Board and the discipline committee in carrying out their functions under these rules.

(f) Restriction on Representing Respondents. Former members of the Board are subject to the restrictions on representing respondents in rule 2.11(b).
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 2.4 DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

(a) Function. The discipline committee performs the functions provided under these rules, delegated by the Board or the Chair, or necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

(b) Membership. The Chair appoints a discipline committee of three members from among the Board members. At least one of the members must have substantial experience in the industry. The Chair may change the appointment of members to the discipline committee as necessary for equitable distribution of work or for other reasons. The Chair does not serve on the discipline committee.

(c) Discipline Committee Chair. The Chair of the Limited Practice Board designates one member of the discipline committee with substantial experience in the industry to act as its chair.

(d) Terms of Office. A Limited Practice Board member may serve as a discipline committee member as long as the member is on the Board or for other shorter terms as determined by the Chair of the Limited Practice Board to be appropriate.

(e) Meetings. The discipline committee meets at times and places determined by the discipline committee chair, under the general direction of the Chair of the Limited Practice Board. In the discipline committee chair's discretion, the committee may meet and act through electronic, telephonic, written, or other means of communication.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 2.5 HEARING OFFICER OR PANEL

(a) Function. A hearing officer or panel to whom a case has been assigned for hearing conducts the hearing and performs other functions as provided under these rules.

(b) Qualifications. A hearing officer must be an active hearing officer in the lawyer discipline system as set forth in rule 2.5 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC), preferably with practice or adjudicative experience in law related to real estate transactions.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 2.6 HEARING OFFICER CONDUCT

Conduct of Those on Hearing Officer List. The duties and responsibilities imposed on hearing officers by ELC 2.6 apply to hearing officers for LPO disciplinary proceedings. Additionally, a person on the hearing officer list should not:

(1) testify voluntarily as a character witness in an LPO disciplinary proceeding;

(2) serve as an expert witness related to the professional conduct of LPOs in any proceeding; or

(3) serve as respondent's counsel in LPO disciplinary proceedings.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 2.7 DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Association disciplinary counsel appointed under ELC 2.8, or other designated Association staff who are WSBA members, acts as counsel on the Board's behalf on all matters under these rules, and performs other duties as required by these rules. Special disciplinary counsel may be appointed whenever necessary to conduct an individual investigation or proceeding.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 2.8 REMOVAL OF APPOINTEES

The power granted by these rules to any person, committee, or board to make any appointment includes the power to remove the person appointed whenever that person appears unwilling or unable to perform their duties, or for any other cause, and to fill the resulting vacancy.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 2.9 COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

Compensation and expenses of hearing officers will be as prescribed in ELC 2.11.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 2.10 COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD PRIVILEGED

Communications to the Board, discipline committee, Association, Board of Governors, hearing officer, disciplinary counsel, Association staff, or any other individual acting under authority of these rules, are absolutely privileged, and no lawsuit predicated thereon may be instituted against any grievant, witness, or other person providing information.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 2.11 RESPONDENT LIMITED PRACTICE OFFICER

(a) Right to Representation. An LPO may be represented by counsel during any stage of an investigation or proceeding under these rules.

(b) Restrictions on Representation of Respondent. A former Chair of the Board or Board member cannot represent a respondent LPO in any proceeding under these rules until three years after leaving office.

(c) Restriction on Charging Fee To Respond to Grievance. A respondent LPO may not seek to charge a grievant a fee or recover costs from a grievant for responding to a grievance unless otherwise permitted by these rules.

(d) Medical and Psychological Records. A respondent LPO must furnish written releases or authorizations to permit disciplinary counsel access to medical, psychiatric, or psychological records as may be relevant to the investigation or proceeding, subject to a motion to the chief hearing officer, or the hearing officer if one has been appointed, to limit the scope of the requested releases or authorizations for good cause shown.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 3—ACCESS AND NOTICE

ELPOC 3.1 OPEN MEETINGS AND PUBLIC DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION

(a) Open Meetings. Disciplinary hearings of the Board are public. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, Supreme Court proceedings are public to the same extent as other Supreme Court proceedings. Deliberations of the Board, the discipline committee, a hearing officer, or court, and matters made confidential by other provisions of these rules, are not public.

(b) Public Disciplinary Information. The public has access to the following information subject to these rules:

(1) the record before the discipline committee and the order of the discipline committee in any matter that a discipline committee has ordered to hearing or ordered an admonition be issued;

(2) the record upon distribution to the discipline committee or to the Supreme Court in proceedings based on a conviction of a felony or serious crime, as defined in rule 7.1(a);

(3) the record upon distribution to the discipline committee or to the Supreme Court in proceedings under rule 7.2;

(4) the record and order upon approval of a stipulation for discipline imposing a sanction or admonition, and the order approving a stipulation to dismissal of a matter previously made public under these rules;

(5) the record before a hearing officer;

(6) the record and order before the Board in any matter reviewed under rule 10.9 or Title 11;

(7) the public file and any exhibits and any Board or discipline committee order in any matter that the Board or the discipline committee has ordered to public hearing, or any matter in which disciplinary action has been taken, or any proceeding under rules 7.1-7.6;

(8) in any disciplinary matter referred to the Supreme Court, the file, record, briefs, and argument in the case;

(9) an LPO's voluntary cancellation in lieu of revocation under rule 9.2; and

(10) any sanction or admonition imposed on a respondent.

(c) Regulations. Public access to file materials and proceedings permitted by this rule may be subject to reasonable regulation as to time, place, and manner of access. Certified copies of public file documents will be made available at the same rate as certified copies of superior court records. Uncertified copies of public bar file documents will be made available at a rate to be set by the Executive Director of the Association.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 3.2 CONFIDENTIAL DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION

(a) Scope of Confidentiality. All disciplinary materials that are not public information as defined in rule 3.1(b) are confidential, and are held by the Board under the authority of the Supreme Court, including but not limited to information protected by rule 3.3(b), rule 5.1(c)(3), a protective order under rule 3.2(c), rule 3.2(b), court order, or other applicable law (e.g., medical records, police reports, etc.).

(b) Investigative Confidentiality. During the course of an investigation or proceeding, the Chair may direct that otherwise public information be kept confidential if necessary to further the purposes of the investigation. At the conclusion of the proceeding, those materials become public information unless subject to a protective order.

(c) Protective Orders. To protect a compelling interest of a grievant, witness, third party, respondent LPO, or other participant in an investigation, on motion and for good cause shown, the Board Chair, the chair of the discipline committee to which a matter is assigned, or a hearing officer to whom a matter is assigned may issue a protective order prohibiting the disclosure or release of specific information, documents, or pleadings, and direct that the proceedings be conducted so as to implement the order. Filing a motion for a protective order stays the provisions of this title as to any matter sought to be kept confidential until five days after a ruling is served on the parties. The Board reviews decisions granting or denying a protective order if either the respondent LPO, Clerk or disciplinary counsel requests a review within five days of service of the decision. On review, the Board may affirm, reverse, or modify the protective order. The Board's decision is not subject to further review. A request for review by the Board stays the provisions of this title as to any matter sought to be kept confidential in that request, and the request itself is confidential until a ruling is issued.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 3.3 APPLICATION TO STIPULATIONS, DISABILITY PROCEEDINGS, AND DIVERSION CONTRACTS

(a) Application to Stipulations. A stipulation under rule 9.1 providing for imposition of a disciplinary sanction or admonition is confidential until approved, except that a grievant may be advised concerning a stipulation and its proposed or actual content at any time. An approved stipulation is public, unless:

(1) it is approved before the filing of a formal complaint;

(2) it provides for dismissal of a grievance without a disciplinary sanction or admonition;
and

(3) proceedings have not been instituted for failure to comply with the terms of the stipulation.

(b) Application to Disability Proceedings. Disability proceedings under title 8 are confidential. However, a grievant may be advised that an LPO against whom the grievant has complained is subject to disability proceedings. The following information is public:

(1) that an LPO has been transferred to disability inactive status, or has been reinstated to active status; and

(2) that a disciplinary proceeding is deferred pending supplemental proceedings under title 8.

(c) Diversion Contracts. Diversion contracts and supporting affidavits and declarations under rules 6.5 and 6.6 are confidential, despite rule 3.1(b)(1), unless admitted into evidence in a disciplinary proceeding following termination of the diversion contract for material breach. When a matter that has previously become public under rule 3.1(b) is diverted by a diversion contract, that contract and the supporting documents are confidential but the fact that the matter was diverted from discipline is public information.

ELPOC 3.4 RELEASE OR DISCLOSURE OF OTHERWISE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

(a) Disclosure of Information. Except as provided in rule 3.2(c), the grievant, respondent LPO, or any witness may disclose the existence of proceedings under these rules or any documents or correspondence the person received.

(b) Investigative Disclosure. The Board, Clerk, or other Association staff performing duties under these rules may disclose information as necessary to conduct the investigation or to keep a grievant advised of the status of a matter except as prohibited by rule 3.3(b), or 5.1(c)(3), other court order, or other applicable law.

(c) Release Based upon Limited Practice Officer's Waiver. Upon a written waiver by an LPO, the Board may release the status of otherwise confidential disciplinary proceedings and provide copies of nonpublic information to any agency that an LPO authorizes to investigate the LPO's disciplinary record.

(d) Response to Inquiry or False or Misleading Statement.

(1) The Board, the Chair, the President, the Board of Governors, the Executive Director, or Chief Disciplinary Counsel, or the Director of Regulatory Services or a designee of any of them, may release otherwise confidential information:

(A) to respond to specific inquiries about matters that are in the public domain; or

(B) if necessary to correct a false or misleading public statement.

(2) A respondent must be given notice of a decision to release information under this section unless the Board, the Chair, the President, the Board of Governors, the Executive Director, or the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, or the Director of Regulatory Services finds that notice would jeopardize serious interests of any person or the public or compromise an ongoing investigation.

(e) Discretionary Release. The Chair, the Director of Regulatory Services, the Executive Director or the Chief Disciplinary Counsel may authorize the general or limited release of any confidential information obtained during an investigation when it appears necessary to protect

the interests of clients or other persons, the public, or the integrity of the disciplinary process. A respondent must be given notice of a decision to release information under this section before its release unless the Chair, the Director of Regulatory Services, the Executive Director or the Chief Disciplinary Counsel finds that notice would jeopardize serious interests of any person or the public, or that the delay caused by giving the respondent notice would be detrimental to the integrity of the disciplinary process.

(f) Cooperation with Enforcement Authorities. Except as provided in rule 3.2(c), information or testimony may be released to authorities in any jurisdiction authorized to investigate alleged criminal activity, and to the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions, and to the Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

(g) Release to Practice of Law Board. Information obtained in an investigation relating to possible unauthorized practice of law may be released to the Practice of Law Board. Such information shall remain under the control of the Limited Practice Board and the Practice of Law Board must treat it as confidential unless this title or the Board authorizes release.
[Adoptive effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 3.5 NOTICE OF DISCIPLINE

(a) Notice to Supreme Court. The Clerk must provide the Supreme Court with:

(1) a copy of any decision imposing a disciplinary sanction when that decision becomes final;

(2) a copy of any admonition, together with the order issuing the admonition, when the admonition is accepted or otherwise becomes final.

(b) Notices of Suspension, Revocation, or Disability Inactive Status. The Board must publish a notice of the revocation, suspension, or transfer to disability inactive status of an LPO on the Association web site. For a transfer to disability inactive status, no reference may be made to the specific disability. The Board may adopt formal publishing policies from time to time as consistent with this rule.
[Adoptive effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 3.6 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

(a) Permanent Records. In any matter in which a disciplinary sanction has been imposed, the public file and transcripts of the proceeding are permanent records. Related file materials, including investigative files, may be maintained in the Clerk's or disciplinary counsel's discretion. Exhibits may be returned to the party supplying them, but copies should be retained where possible.

(b) Destruction of Files. In any matter in which a grievance or investigation has been dismissed without the imposition of a disciplinary sanction, whether following a hearing or otherwise, file materials relating to the matter may be destroyed three years after the dismissal first occurred, and must be destroyed at that time on the respondent LPO's request unless the files are being used in an ongoing investigation or unless other good cause exists for retention. However, file materials on a matter concluded with an admonition must be retained at least five years after the admonition was issued. If disciplinary counsel or the Clerk opposes a request by a respondent for destruction of files under this rule, the Board rules on that request.

(c) Retention of Docket. If a file on a matter has been destroyed under section (b), the Board may retain a docket record of the matter for statistical purposes only. That docket record must not include the name or other identification of the respondent.

(d) Deceased Limited Practice Officers. Records and files relating to a deceased LPO, including permanent records, may be destroyed at any time in the Clerk's discretion. [Adoptive effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 4—GENERAL PROCEDURAL RULES

ELPOC 4.1 SERVICE OF PAPERS

(a) Service Required. Every pleading, every paper relating to discovery, every written request or motion other than one which may be heard ex parte, and every similar paper or document issued by the Board, the Clerk, disciplinary counsel or the respondent LPO under these rules must be served on the opposing party. If a hearing is pending and a hearing officer has been assigned, except for discovery, the party also must serve a copy on the hearing officer.

(b) Methods of Service.

(1) *Service by Mail.*

(A) Unless personal service is required or these rules specifically provide otherwise, service may be accomplished by postage prepaid mail. If properly made, service by mail is deemed accomplished on the date of mailing and is effective regardless of whether the person to whom it is addressed actually receives it.

(B) Except as provided below, service by mail must be by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. Service may be by first class mail if:

(i) the parties so agree;

(ii) the document is a notice of dismissal by the Clerk or disciplinary counsel, a notice regarding deferral under rule 5.3(b), or a request for review of any of these notices;

(iii) one or more properly made certified mailings is returned as unclaimed; or

(iv) service is on a hearing officer.

(C) The address for service by mail is as follows:

(i) for the respondent, or their attorney of record, the address in the answer, a notice of appearance, or any subsequent document filed by the respondent or their attorney; or, in the absence of an answer, the respondent's address on file with the Association;

(ii) for the Board, the Clerk or disciplinary counsel, at the address of the Association or other address that disciplinary counsel requests.

(2) *Service by Delivery.* If service by mail is permitted, service may instead be accomplished by leaving the document at the address for service by mail.

(3) *Personal Service.* Personal service on a respondent is accomplished as follows:

(A) if the respondent is found in Washington State, by personal service in the manner required for personal service of a summons in a civil action in the superior court;

(B) if the respondent cannot be found in Washington State, service may be made either by:

(i) leaving a copy at the respondent's place of usual abode in Washington State with a person of suitable age and discretion then resident therein; or

(ii) mailing by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, a copy addressed to the respondent at their last known place of abode, office address maintained for the practice as an LPO, post office address, or address on file with the Association.

(C) if the respondent is found outside of Washington State, then by the methods of service described in (A) or (B) above.

(c) Service Where Question of Mental Capacity. If a guardian or guardian ad litem has been appointed for a respondent who has been judicially declared to be incapacitated or incapable of conducting their own affairs, service under sections (a) and (b) above must also be made on the guardian or guardian ad litem.

(d) Proof of Service. If personal service is required, proof of service may be made by affidavit of service, sheriff's return of service, or a signed acknowledgment of service. In other cases, proof of service may also be made by certificate of a lawyer similar to that allowed by CR 5(b)(2)(B), which certificate must state the form of mail used. Proof of service in all cases must be filed but need not be served on the opposing party.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 4.2 FILING; ORDERS

(a) Filing Originals. Except in matters before the Supreme Court, the original of any pleading, motion, or other paper authorized by these rules, other than discovery, must be filed with the Clerk. Filing may be made by first class mail and is deemed accomplished on the date of mailing. Filing of papers for matters before the Supreme Court is governed by the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

(b) Filing and Service of Orders. Any written order, decision, or ruling, except an order of the Supreme Court or an informal ruling issued under rule 10.8(e), must be filed with the Clerk, and the Clerk serves it on the respondent LPO and disciplinary counsel.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 4.3 PAPERS

All pleadings or other papers must be typewritten or printed, double spaced, on good quality 8-1/2 by 11-inch paper. The use of letter size copies of exhibits is encouraged if it does not impair legibility.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 4.4 COMPUTATION OF TIME

CR 6(a) and (e) govern the computation of time under these rules.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 4.5 STIPULATION TO EXTENSION OR REDUCTION OF TIME

Except for notices of appeal or matters pending before the Supreme Court, the respondent LPO and the Board, the Clerk or disciplinary counsel may stipulate in any proceeding to extension or reduction of the time requirements.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 4.6 ENFORCEMENT OF SUBPOENAS

(a) Authority. To enforce subpoenas issued under these rules, the Supreme Court delegates contempt authority to the Superior Courts as necessary for the Superior Courts to act under this rule.

(b) Procedure.

(1) If a person fails to obey a subpoena, or obeys the subpoena but refuses to testify or produce documents when requested, disciplinary counsel, the respondent LPO or the person issuing the subpoena may petition the Superior Court of the county where the hearing is being conducted, where the subpoenaed person resides or is found, or where the subpoenaed documents are located, for enforcement of the subpoena. The petition must:

(A) be accompanied by a copy of the subpoena and proof of service;

(B) state the specific manner of the lack of compliance; and

(C) request an order compelling compliance.

(2) Upon the filing of the petition, the Superior Court enters an order directing the person to appear before it at a specified time and place to show cause why the person has not obeyed the subpoena or has refused to testify or produce documents. A copy of the Superior Court's show cause order must be served on the person.

(3) At the show cause hearing, if it appears to the Superior Court that the subpoena was properly issued, and that the particular questions the person refused to answer or the requests for production of documents were reasonable and relevant, the Superior Court enters an order requiring the person to appear at a specified time and place and testify or produce the required documents. On failing to obey this order, the person is dealt with as for contempt of court.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 5—GRIEVANCE INVESTIGATIONS AND DISPOSITION

ELPOC 5.1 GRIEVANTS

(a) Filing of Grievance. Any person or entity may file a grievance against an LPO licensed in this state.

(b) Consent to Disclosure. By filing a grievance, the grievant consents to disclosure of the content of the grievance to the respondent LPO or to any other person contacted during the investigation of the grievance, or to any person under rules 3.1 – 3.4, unless a protective order is issued under rule 3.2(c) or the grievance was filed under rule 5.2. By filing a grievance, the grievant also agrees that the respondent may disclose to the Clerk or disciplinary counsel investigating the grievance any information relevant to the investigation, unless a protective order is issued under rule 3.2(c).

(c) Grievant Rights. A grievant has the following rights:

(1) to be advised promptly of the receipt of the grievance, and of the name, address, and office phone number of the person assigned to its investigation if such an assignment is made;

(2) to have a reasonable opportunity to speak with the person assigned to the grievance, by telephone or in person, about the substance of the grievance or its status;

(3) to receive a copy of any response submitted by the respondent, except:

(A) if the response contains information of a personal and private nature about the respondent; or

(B) if the discipline committee determines that the interests of justice would be better served by not releasing the response;

(4) to submit additional supplemental written information or documentation at any time;

(5) to attend any hearing conducted into the grievance, subject to these rules and any protective order issued under rule 3.2(c);

(6) to provide relevant testimony at any hearing conducted into the grievance, subject to these rules and any protective order issued under rule 3.2(c);

(7) to be notified of any proposed decision to refer the respondent to diversion and to be given a reasonable opportunity to submit to the Clerk or disciplinary counsel a written comment thereon;

(8) to be advised of the disposition of the grievance; and

(9) to request reconsideration of a dismissal of the grievance as provided in rule 5.6(b).

(d) Grievant Duties. A grievant must do the following, or the grievance may be dismissed:

(1) give the person assigned to the grievance documents or other evidence in the grievant's possession, and witnesses' names and addresses;

(2) assist in securing relevant evidence; and

(3) appear and testify at any hearing resulting from the grievance.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 5.2 CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

If a person files a grievance or provides information to the Clerk, disciplinary counsel or the Board about an LPO's possible misconduct or disability, and asks to be treated as a confidential source, an investigation may be conducted in the Board's name. The confidential source has neither the rights nor the duties of a grievant. Unless otherwise ordered, the person's identity may not be disclosed, either during the investigation or in subsequent formal proceedings. If the respondent requests disclosure of the person's identity, the Chair, the chair of the discipline committee, or a hearing officer before whom a matter is pending examines disciplinary counsel and any requested documents or file materials in camera without the

presence of the respondent or respondent's counsel and may order disciplinary counsel or the Clerk to reveal the identity to the respondent if doing so appears necessary for the respondent to conduct a proper defense in the proceeding.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 5.3 INVESTIGATION OF GRIEVANCE

(a) Review and Investigation. The chair of the discipline committee or the chair's designee must review and may refer for investigation by the Clerk or disciplinary counsel any alleged or apparent misconduct by an LPO and any alleged or apparent incapacity of an LPO to practice as an LPO whether the chair of the discipline committee learns of the misconduct by grievance or otherwise. If there is no grievant, the chair of the discipline committee may refer the matter to the Board with a request that the Board open a grievance in the Board's name.

(b) Deferral.

(1) An investigation into alleged acts of misconduct by an LPO may be deferred by the chair of the discipline committee or disciplinary counsel, with the approval of the chair of the discipline committee:

(A) if it appears that the allegations are related to pending civil or criminal litigation;

(B) if it appears that the respondent LPO is physically or mentally unable to respond to the investigation; or

(C) for other good cause, if it appears that the deferral will not endanger the public.

(2) The Clerk or disciplinary counsel must inform the grievant and respondent of a decision to defer or a denial of a request to defer and of the procedure for requesting review. A grievant or respondent may request review of a decision on deferral. If review is requested, the Clerk or disciplinary counsel refers the matter to the discipline committee for reconsideration of the decision on deferral. To request review, the grievant or respondent must deliver or deposit in the mail a request for review to the Board no later than 45 days after the Clerk mails the notice regarding deferral.

(c) Dismissal of Grievance Not Required. None of the following alone requires dismissal of a grievance: the unwillingness of a grievant to continue the grievance, the withdrawal of the grievance, a compromise between the grievant and the respondent, or restitution by the respondent.

(d) Duty To Furnish Prompt Response. Any LPO must promptly respond to any inquiry or request made under these rules for information relevant to grievances or matters under investigation. Upon inquiry or request, any LPO must:

(1) furnish in writing, or orally if requested, a full and complete response to inquiries and questions;

(2) permit inspection and copying of the LPO's business records, files, and accounts;

(3) furnish copies of requested records, files, and accounts;

(4) furnish written releases or authorizations if needed to obtain documents or information from third parties; and

(5) comply with discovery conducted under rule 5.5.

(e) Failure To Cooperate.

(1) *Noncooperation Deposition.* If an LPO has not complied with any request made under section (d) or rule 2.11(d) for more than 30 days, the Clerk or disciplinary counsel may notify the LPO that failure to comply within ten days may result in the LPO deposition or subject the LPO to interim suspension under rule 7.2. Ten days after this notice, disciplinary counsel may serve the LPO with a subpoena for a deposition. Any deposition conducted after the ten day period and necessitated by the LPO's continued failure to cooperate may be conducted at any place in Washington State.

(2) *Costs and Expenses.*

(A) Regardless of the underlying grievance's ultimate disposition, an LPO who has been served with a subpoena under this rule is liable for the actual costs of the deposition, including but not limited to service fees, court reporter fees, travel expenses, and the cost of transcribing the deposition, if ordered by disciplinary counsel. In addition, an LPO who has been served with a subpoena for a deposition under this rule is liable for a reasonable attorney fee of \$500.

(B) The procedure for assessing costs and expenses is as follows:

(i) Disciplinary counsel applies to the discipline committee by itemizing the cost and expenses and stating the reasons for the deposition.

(ii) The LPO has ten days to respond to disciplinary counsel's application.

(iii) The discipline committee by order assesses appropriate costs and expenses.

(iv) Rule 13.9(e) governs Board review of the discipline committee order.

(3) *Grounds for Discipline.* An LPO's failure to cooperate fully and promptly with an investigation as required by section (d) or rule 2.11(d) is also grounds for discipline.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 5.4 PRIVILEGES

Privilege Against Self-Incrimination. An LPO's duty to cooperate is subject to the LPO's privilege against self-incrimination, where applicable.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 5.5 DISCOVERY BEFORE FORMAL COMPLAINT

(a) Procedure. Before filing a formal complaint, disciplinary counsel or the Clerk may depose either a respondent LPO or a witness, or issue requests for admission to the respondent. To the extent possible, CR 30 or 31 applies to depositions under this rule. CR 36 governs requests for admission.

(b) Subpoenas for Depositions. Disciplinary counsel or the Clerk may issue subpoenas to compel the respondent's or a witness's attendance, or the production of books, documents, or other evidence, at a deposition. Subpoenas must be served as in civil cases in the superior court and may be enforced under rule 4.6.

(c) Cooperation. Every LPO must promptly respond to discovery requests from disciplinary counsel or the Clerk.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 5.6 DISPOSITION OF GRIEVANCE

(a) Dismissal. The Chair of the discipline committee or disciplinary counsel with the approval of the chair of the discipline committee may dismiss grievances with or without investigation. On dismissal, the Clerk or disciplinary counsel must notify the grievant of the procedure for review in this rule.

(b) Review of Dismissal. A grievant may request review of dismissal of the grievance by delivering or depositing in the mail a request for review to the Clerk no later than 45 days after the Clerk mails the notice of dismissal. Mailing requires postage prepaid first class mail. If review is requested, the chair of the discipline committee may either reopen the matter for investigation or refer it to the discipline committee.

(c) Report in Other Cases. The Clerk or disciplinary counsel must report to the discipline committee the results of investigations except those dismissed or diverted.

(d) Authority on Review. In reviewing grievances under this rule, the discipline committee may:

- (1) affirm the dismissal;
- (2) issue an advisory letter under rule 5.7;
- (3) issue an admonition under rule 13.5;
- (4) order a hearing on the alleged misconduct; or
- (5) order further investigation as may appear appropriate.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 5.7 ADVISORY LETTER

An advisory letter may be issued when a hearing does not appear warranted but it appears appropriate to caution a respondent LPO concerning their conduct. An advisory letter may be issued by the discipline committee but may not be issued when a grievance is dismissed following a hearing. An advisory letter does not constitute a finding of misconduct, is not a sanction, is not disciplinary action, and is not public information.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

TITLE 6—DIVERSION

ELPOC 6.1 REFERRAL TO DIVERSION

In a matter involving less serious misconduct as defined in rule 6.2, before filing a formal complaint, disciplinary counsel or the Clerk may refer a respondent LPO to diversion. Diversion may include

- arbitration;

- mediation;
- psychological and behavioral counseling;
- monitoring;
- restitution;
- continuing education programs; or
- any other program or corrective course of action agreed to by disciplinary counsel and respondent to address respondent's misconduct.

Disciplinary counsel or the Clerk may negotiate and execute diversion contracts, monitor and determine compliance with the terms of diversion contracts, and determine fulfillment or any material breach of diversion contracts, subject to review under rule 6.9.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 6.2 LESS SERIOUS MISCONDUCT

Less serious misconduct is conduct not warranting a sanction restricting the respondent LPO's license to practice as an LPO. Conduct is not ordinarily considered less serious misconduct if any of the following considerations apply:

(A) the misconduct involves the misappropriation of funds;

(B) the misconduct results in or is likely to result in substantial prejudice to a third person, absent adequate provisions for restitution;

(C) the respondent has been sanctioned in the last three years;

(D) the misconduct is of the same nature as misconduct for which the respondent has been sanctioned or admonished in the last five years;

(E) the misconduct involves dishonesty, deceit, fraud, or misrepresentation;

(F) the misconduct constitutes a "serious crime" as defined in rule 7.1(a); or

(G) the misconduct is part of a pattern of similar misconduct.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 6.3 FACTORS FOR DIVERSION

Disciplinary counsel or the Clerk considers the following factors in determining whether to refer a respondent LPO to diversion:

(A) whether participation in diversion is likely to improve the respondent's future professional conduct and accomplish the goals of LPO discipline;

(B) whether aggravating or mitigating factors exist; and

(C) whether diversion was already tried.

ELPOC 6.4 NOTICE TO GRIEVANT

As provided in rule 5.1(c)(7), disciplinary counsel or the Clerk must notify the grievant, if any, of the proposed decision to refer the respondent LPO to diversion, and must give the grievant a reasonable opportunity to submit written comments. The grievant must be notified when the grievance is diverted and when the grievance is dismissed on completion of diversion. Such decisions to divert or dismiss are not appealable.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 6.5 DIVERSION CONTRACT

(a) Negotiation. Disciplinary counsel or the Clerk and the respondent LPO negotiate a diversion contract, the terms of which are tailored to the individual circumstances.

(b) Required Terms. A diversion contract must:

(1) be signed by the respondent and disciplinary counsel or the Clerk;

(2) set forth the terms and conditions of the plan for the respondent and, if appropriate, identify the use of a practice monitor and/or a recovery monitor and the monitor's responsibilities. If a recovery monitor is assigned, the contract must include respondent's limited waiver of confidentiality permitting the recovery monitor to make appropriate disclosures to fulfill the monitor's duties under the contract;

(3) provide for oversight of fulfillment of the contract terms. Oversight includes reporting any alleged breach of the contract to disciplinary counsel or the Clerk;

(4) provide that the respondent will pay all costs incurred in connection with the contract. The contract may also provide that the respondent will pay the costs associated with the grievances to be deferred; and

(5) include a specific acknowledgment that a material violation of a term of the contract renders the respondent's participation in diversion voidable by disciplinary counsel or the Clerk.

(c) Amendment. The contract may be amended on agreement of the respondent and disciplinary counsel or the Clerk.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 6.6 AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING DIVERSION

A diversion contract must be supported by the respondent LPO's affidavit or declaration as approved by disciplinary counsel or the Clerk setting forth the respondent's misconduct related to the grievance or grievances to be deferred under this title. If the diversion contract is terminated due to a material breach, the affidavit or declaration is admissible into evidence in any ensuing disciplinary proceeding. Unless so admitted, the affidavit or declaration is confidential and must not be provided to the grievant or any other individual outside the Clerk and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, but may be provided to the discipline committee or the Board considering the grievance.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 6.7 EFFECT OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN DIVERSION

The respondent LPO has the right to decline the offer to participate in diversion. If the respondent chooses not to participate, the matter proceeds as though no referral to diversion had been made.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 6.8 STATUS OF GRIEVANCE

After a diversion contract is executed by the respondent LPO and disciplinary counsel or the Clerk, the disciplinary grievance is deferred pending successful completion of the contract.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 6.9 TERMINATION OF DIVERSION

(a) Fulfillment of the Contract. The contract terminates when the respondent LPO has fulfilled the terms of the contract and gives disciplinary counsel or the Clerk an affidavit or declaration demonstrating fulfillment. Upon receipt of this affidavit or declaration, disciplinary counsel or the Clerk must acknowledge receipt and either dismiss any grievances deferred pending successful completion of the contract or notify the respondent that fulfillment of the contract is disputed. The grievant cannot appeal the dismissal. Successful completion of the contract is a bar to any further disciplinary proceedings based on the same allegations.

(b) Material Breach. A material breach of the contract is cause for termination of the diversion. After a material breach, disciplinary counsel or the Clerk must notify the respondent of termination from diversion and disciplinary proceedings may be instituted, resumed, or reinstated.

(c) Review by the Chair of Discipline Committee. The chair of the discipline committee may review disputes about fulfillment or material breach of the terms of the contract on the request of the respondent, the Clerk or disciplinary counsel. The request must be filed with the Board within 15 days of notice to the respondent of the determination for which review is sought. Determinations by the chair of the discipline committee under this section are not subject to further review and are not reviewable in any proceeding.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 7—INTERIM PROCEDURES

ELPOC 7.1 INTERIM SUSPENSION FOR CONVICTION OF A CRIME

(a) Definitions.

(1) "Conviction" for the purposes of this rule occurs upon entry of a plea of guilty, unless the defendant affirmatively shows that the plea was not accepted or was withdrawn, or upon entry of a finding or verdict of guilty, unless the defendant affirmatively shows that judgment was arrested or a new trial granted.

(2) "Serious crime" includes any:

(A) felony;

(B) crime a necessary element of which, as determined by its statutory or common law definition, includes any of the following:

- interference with the administration of justice;
- false swearing;
- misrepresentation;
- fraud;
- deceit;
- bribery;
- extortion;
- misappropriation; or
- theft; or

(C) attempt, or a conspiracy, or solicitation of another, to commit a "serious crime."

(b) Procedure upon Conviction.

(1) If an LPO is convicted of a felony, disciplinary counsel must file a formal complaint regarding the conviction. Disciplinary counsel must also petition the Supreme Court for an order suspending the respondent LPO during the pendency of disciplinary proceedings. The petition for suspension may be filed before the formal complaint.

(2) If an LPO is convicted of a crime that is not a felony but that reflects directly on the LPO's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as an LPO in other respects, disciplinary counsel may refer the matter to the discipline committee to determine whether the crime is a serious crime. If so, disciplinary counsel proceeds in the same manner as for a felony.

(3) If an LPO is convicted of a crime that is neither a felony nor a serious crime, the discipline committee considers a report of the conviction in the same manner as any other report of possible misconduct by an LPO.

(c) Petition. A petition to the Supreme Court for suspension under this rule must include a copy of any available document establishing the fact of conviction. If the crime is not a felony, the petition must also include a copy of the discipline committee order finding that the crime is a serious crime. Disciplinary counsel may also include additional facts, statements, arguments, affidavits, and documents in the petition. A copy of the petition must be personally served on the respondent, and proof of service filed with the Court.

(d) Immediate Interim Suspension. Upon the filing of a petition for suspension under this rule, the Court determines whether the crime constitutes a serious crime as defined in section (a).

(1) If the crime is a felony, the Court must enter an order immediately suspending the respondent's LPO license.

(2) If the crime is not a felony, the Court conducts a show cause proceeding under rule 7.2(b) to determine if the crime is a serious crime. If the Court determines the crime is a serious crime, the Court must enter an order immediately suspending the respondent's LPO license. If

the Court determines that the crime is not a serious crime, upon being so advised, the Association processes the matter as it would any other grievance.

(3) If suspended, the respondent must comply with Title 14.

(4) Suspension under this rule occurs:

(A) whether the conviction was under a law of this state, any other state, or the United States;

(B) whether the conviction was after a plea of guilty, nolo contendere, not guilty, or otherwise; and

(C) regardless of the pendency of an appeal.

(e) Duration of Suspension. A suspension under this rule must terminate when the disciplinary proceeding is fully completed, after appeal or otherwise.

(f) Termination of Suspension.

(1) *Petition and Response.* A respondent may at any time petition the Board to recommend termination of an interim suspension. Disciplinary counsel may file a response to the petition. The Chair may direct disciplinary counsel to investigate as appears appropriate.

(2) *Board Recommendation.* If either party requests, the Board must hear oral argument on the petition at a time and place and under terms as the Chair directs. The Board may recommend termination of a suspension only if the Board makes an affirmative finding of good cause to do so. There is no right of appeal from a Board decision declining to recommend termination of a suspension.

(3) *Court Action.* The Court determines the procedure for its consideration of a recommendation to terminate a suspension.

(g) Notice of Dismissal to Supreme Court. If disciplinary counsel has filed a petition for suspension under this rule, and the disciplinary proceedings based on the criminal conviction are dismissed, the Supreme Court must be provided a copy of the decision granting dismissal whether or not the respondent is suspended at the time of dismissal.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 7.2 INTERIM SUSPENSION IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

(a) Types of Interim Suspension.

(1) *Discipline Committee Finding of Risk to Public.* Disciplinary counsel may petition the Supreme Court for an order suspending the respondent LPO during the pendency of any proceeding under these rules if:

(A) it appears that a respondent's continued practice as an LPO poses a substantial threat of serious harm to the public; and

(B) the discipline committee recommends an interim suspension.

(2) *Board Recommendation for Revocation.* When the Board enters a decision recommending revocation, disciplinary counsel must file a petition for the respondent's suspension during the remainder of the proceedings. The respondent must be suspended absent an affirmative showing that the respondent's continued practice as an LPO will not be detrimental to the administration of justice or be contrary to the public interest. If the Board's decision is not appealed and becomes final, the petition need not be filed, or if filed may be withdrawn.

(3) *Failure To Cooperate with Investigation.* When any LPO fails without good cause to comply with a request under rule 5.3(e) for information or documents, or with a subpoena issued under rule 5.3(e), or fails to comply with disability proceedings as specified in rule 8.2(d), disciplinary counsel may petition the Court for an order suspending the LPO pending compliance with the request or subpoena. If the LPO complies with the request or subpoena, the LPO may petition the Court to terminate the suspension on terms the Court deems appropriate.

(b) Procedure.

(1) *Petition.* A petition to the Court under this rule must set forth the acts of the LPO constituting grounds for suspension, and if filed under subsection (a)(2) must include a copy of the Board's decision. The petition may be supported by documents or affidavits. The Board must serve the petition by mail on the day of filing. In addition, a copy of the petition must be personally served on the LPO no later than the date of service of the show cause order.

(2) *Show Cause Order.* Upon filing of the petition, the Chief Justice orders the LPO to appear before the Court on a date set by the Chief Justice, and to show cause why the petition for suspension should not be granted. Disciplinary counsel must have a copy of the order to show cause personally served on the LPO at least ten days before the scheduled show cause hearing. Subsection (b)(5) notification requirements must be included in the show cause order.

(3) *Answer to Petition.* The LPO may answer the petition. An answer may be supported by documents or affidavits. Failure to answer does not result in default or waive the right to appear at the show cause hearing.

(4) *Filing of Answer.* A copy of any answer must be filed with both the Court and disciplinary counsel by the date specified in the show cause order, which will be at least five days before the scheduled show cause hearing.

(5) *Notification.* The LPO must inform the court no less than 7 days prior to the show cause hearing whether the LPO will appear for the show cause hearing, or the hearing will be stricken and the Court will decide the matter without oral argument.

(6) *Application of Other Rules.* If the Court enters an order suspending the LPO, the rules relating to suspended LPOs, including Title 14, apply.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 7.3 AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION WHEN RESPONDENT ASSERTING INCAPACITY

When a respondent LPO asserts incapacity to conduct a proper defense to disciplinary proceedings, upon receipt of appropriate documentation of the assertion, the respondent must be suspended on an interim basis by the Supreme Court pending the conclusion of the disability proceedings. However, if the hearing officer in the supplemental proceeding files a decision that

the respondent is not incapacitated, on petition of either party, the Court may terminate the interim suspension.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 7.4 STIPULATION TO INTERIM SUSPENSION

At any time a respondent LPO and disciplinary counsel may stipulate that the respondent be suspended during the pendency of any investigation or proceeding because of conviction of a serious crime, or a substantial threat of serious harm to the public. A stipulation must state the factual basis for the stipulation and be submitted directly to the Supreme Court for expedited consideration. Stipulations under this rule are public upon filing with the Court, but the Court may order that supporting materials are confidential. Either party may petition the Court to terminate the interim suspension, and on a showing that the cause for the interim suspension no longer exists, the Court may terminate the suspension.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 7.5 INTERIM SUSPENSIONS EXPEDITED

(a) Expedited Review. Petitions seeking interim suspension under this title receive an expedited hearing, ordinarily no later than 14 days from issuance of an order to show cause.

(b) Procedure During Court Recess. When a petition seeking interim suspension under this title is filed during a recess of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice, the Acting Chief Justice, or the Senior Justice under SAR 10, subject to review by the full Court on motion for reconsideration, may rule on the motion for interim suspension.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 7.6 EFFECTIVE DATE OF INTERIM SUSPENSIONS

Interim suspensions become effective on the date of the Supreme Court's order unless the order provides otherwise.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 8—DISABILITY PROCEEDINGS

ELPOC 8.1 ACTION ON ADJUDICATION OF INCAPACITY

(a) Grounds. The Board must automatically transfer an LPO from active to disability inactive membership status upon receipt of a certified copy of the judgment, order, or other appropriate document demonstrating that the LPO:

(1) was found to be incapable of assisting in their own defense in a criminal action;

(2) was acquitted of a crime based on insanity;

(3) had a guardian (but not a limited guardian) appointed for themselves or their estate on a finding of incapacity; or

(b) Notice to LPO. The Board must forthwith notify the disabled LPO and their guardian, if one has been appointed, of the transfer to disability inactive status. The Association must also notify the Supreme Court of the transfer and provide a copy of the judgment, order, or other appropriate document on which the transfer was based.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 8.2 DETERMINATION OF INCAPACITY TO PRACTICE AS AN LPO

(a) Discipline Committee May Order Hearing. The Clerk or disciplinary counsel reports to the discipline committee on investigations into an active, suspended, or inactive respondent LPO's mental or physical capacity to practice as an LPO. The committee orders a hearing if it appears there is reasonable cause to believe that the respondent does not have the mental or physical capacity to practice as an LPO. In other cases, the committee may direct further investigation as appears appropriate or dismiss the matter.

(b) Not Disciplinary Proceedings. Proceedings under this rule are not disciplinary proceedings.

(c) Procedure.

(1) *Applicable Rules.* Proceedings under this rule are conducted under the procedural rules for disciplinary proceedings.

(2) *Appointment of Counsel.* If counsel for the respondent does not appear within the time for filing an answer, the Chair must appoint a member of the Association as counsel for the respondent.

(3) *Health Records.* After a review committee orders a hearing under this rule, disciplinary counsel may require the respondent to furnish written releases and authorizations for medical, psychological, or psychiatric records as may be relevant to the inquiry, subject to a motion to the hearing officer, or if no hearing officer has been appointed, to the chief hearing officer, to limit the scope of the requested releases or authorizations for good cause.

(4) *Examination.* Upon motion, the hearing officer, or if no hearing officer has been appointed, the chief hearing officer as defined in ELC 2.5(f), may order an examination by a physician of the respondent's physical condition or by a mental health professional (as defined by RCW 71.05.020) of the respondent's mental condition to assist in determining the respondent's capacity to practice as an LPO. Unless waived by the parties, the examiner must submit a report of the examination, including the results of any tests administered and any diagnosis, to the hearing officer, disciplinary counsel, and the respondent.

(5) *Hearing Officer Recommendation.* If the hearing officer or panel finds that the respondent does not have the mental or physical capacity to practice as an LPO, the hearing officer or panel must recommend that the respondent be transferred to disability inactive status.

(6) *Appeal Procedure.* The procedures for appeal and review of suspension recommendations apply to recommendations for transfer to disability inactive status.

(7) *Transfer Following Board Review.* If, after review of the decision of the hearing officer or panel, the Board finds that the respondent does not have the mental or physical capacity to practice as an LPO, it must enter an order immediately transferring the respondent to disability inactive status. The transfer is effective upon service of the order under rule 4.1.

(d) Interim Suspension.

(1) When the discipline committee orders a hearing on the capacity of a respondent to practice as an LPO, disciplinary counsel must petition the Supreme Court for the respondent's

interim suspension under rule 7.2(a) unless the respondent is already suspended on an interim basis.

(2) Even if the Court previously denied a petition for interim suspension under subsection (d)(1), disciplinary counsel may petition the Court for the interim suspension of a respondent under rule 7.2(a)(3) if the respondent fails:

(A) to appear for an independent examination under this rule;

(B) to waive health care provider-patient privilege as required by this rule; or

(C) to appear at a hearing under this rule.

(e) Termination of Interim Suspension. If the hearing officer or panel files a decision recommending that a respondent placed on interim suspension under this rule not be transferred to disability inactive status, upon either party's petition, the Court may terminate the interim suspension.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 8.3 DISABILITY PROCEEDINGS DURING THE COURSE OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

(a) Supplemental Proceedings on Capacity To Defend. A hearing officer or hearing panel, or chief hearing officer if no hearing officer has been appointed, must order a supplemental proceeding on the respondent LPO's capacity to defend the disciplinary proceedings if the respondent asserts, or there is reasonable cause to believe, that the respondent is incapable of properly defending the disciplinary proceeding because of mental or physical incapacity.

(b) Purpose of Supplemental Proceedings. In a supplemental proceeding, the hearing officer or panel determines if the respondent:

(1) is incapable of defending themselves in the disciplinary proceedings because of mental or physical incapacity;

(2) is incapable, because of mental or physical incapacity, of defending against the disciplinary charges without the assistance of counsel; or

(3) is currently unable to practice as an LPO because of mental or physical incapacity.

(c) Not Disciplinary Proceedings. Proceedings under this rule are not disciplinary proceedings.

(d) Procedure for Supplemental Proceedings.

(1) *Applicable Rules.* Proceedings under this rule are conducted under the procedural rules for disciplinary proceedings.

(2) *Deferral of Disciplinary Proceedings.* The disciplinary proceedings are deferred pending the outcome of the supplemental proceeding.

(3) *Appointment of Counsel.* If counsel for the respondent does not appear within 20 days of notice to the respondent of the issues to be considered in a supplemental proceeding under this

rule, or within the time for filing an answer, the Chair must appoint a member of the Association as counsel for the respondent in the supplemental proceedings.

(4) *Health Records.* Disciplinary counsel may require the respondent to furnish written releases and authorizations for medical, psychological, or psychiatric records as may be relevant to the determination under section (b), subject to a motion to the hearing officer to limit the scope of the requested releases or authorizations for good cause. If the respondent asserted incapacity, there is a rebuttable presumption that good cause does not exist.

(5) *Examination.* Upon motion, the hearing officer may order an examination by a physician of the respondent's physical condition or by a mental health professional (as defined by RCW 71.05.020) of the respondent's mental condition to assist in the determinations to be made under section (b). Unless waived by the parties, the examiner must submit a report of the examination, including the results of any tests administered and any diagnosis, to the hearing officer, disciplinary counsel, and the respondent.

(6) *Failure To Appear or Cooperate.* If the respondent fails to appear for an independent examination, fails to waive health care provider-patient privilege as required in these rules, or fails to appear at the hearing, the following procedures apply:

(A) If the Association has the burden of proof, the hearing officer must hold a hearing and, if presented with sufficient evidence to determine incapacity, order the respondent transferred to disability inactive status. If there is insufficient evidence to determine incapacity, the hearing officer must enter an order terminating the supplemental proceedings and reinstating the disciplinary proceedings. A respondent who does not appear at the hearing may move to vacate the order of transfer under rule 10.6(c).

(B) If the respondent has the burden of proof, the hearing officer must enter an order terminating the supplemental proceedings and resuming the disciplinary proceedings.

(7) *Hearing Officer Decision.*

(A) *Capacity To Defend and practice as an LPO.* If the hearing officer or panel finds that the respondent is capable of defending themselves and has the mental and physical capacity to practice as an LPO, the disciplinary proceedings resume.

(B) *Capacity To Defend with Counsel.* If the hearing officer or panel finds that the respondent is not capable of defending themselves in the disciplinary proceedings but is capable of adequately assisting counsel in the defense, the supplemental proceedings are dismissed and the disciplinary proceedings resume. If counsel does not appear on behalf of the respondent within 20 days of service of the hearing officer's decision, the Chair must appoint a member of the Association as counsel for the respondent in the disciplinary proceeding.

(C) *Finding of Incapacity.* If the hearing officer or panel finds that the respondent either does not have the mental or physical capacity to practice as an LPO, or is incapable of assisting counsel in properly defending a disciplinary proceeding because of mental or physical incapacity, the hearing officer or panel must recommend that the respondent be transferred to disability inactive status. The procedures for appeal and review of suspension recommendations apply to recommendations for transfer to disability inactive status.

(8) *Transfer Following Board Review.*

(A) The Board must enter an order immediately transferring the respondent to disability inactive status if after review of a hearing officer's or panel's recommendation of transfer to disability inactive status, the Board finds that the respondent:

- (i) does not have the mental or physical capacity to practice as an LPO; or
- (ii) is incapable of assisting counsel in properly defending a disciplinary proceeding because of mental or physical incapacity.

(B) The transfer is effective upon service of the order on the respondent under rule 4.1.

(e) Interim Suspension. When supplemental proceedings have been ordered, disciplinary counsel must petition the Supreme Court for the respondent's interim suspension under rule 7.2(a)(1) or seek automatic suspension under rule 7.3 unless the respondent is already suspended on an interim basis.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 8.4 APPEAL OF TRANSFER TO DISABILITY INACTIVE STATUS

The respondent LPO may appeal an order of transfer to disability inactive status by filing a request for the Court to review the record and order in the same manner as review by the Court under rule 12.1. The Board's order remains in effect, regardless of the pendency of an appeal, unless and until reversed by the Supreme Court.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 8.5 STIPULATED TRANSFER TO DISABILITY INACTIVE STATUS

(a) Requirements. At any time a respondent LPO and disciplinary counsel may stipulate to the transfer of the respondent to disability inactive status under this title. The respondent and disciplinary counsel must sign the stipulation.

(b) Form. The stipulation must:

(1) state with particularity the nature of the respondent's incapacity to practice as an LPO and the nature of any pending disciplinary proceedings that will be deferred as a result of the respondent's transfer to disability inactive status;

(2) state that it is not binding on the Association as a statement of all existing facts relating to the professional conduct of the respondent and that any additional existing facts may be proved in a subsequent disciplinary proceeding; and

(3) fix the amount of costs and expenses to be paid by the respondent.

(c) Approval. The stipulation must be presented to the Board. The Board reviews the stipulation based solely on the record agreed to by the respondent and disciplinary counsel. The Board may either approve the stipulation or reject it. Upon approval, the transfer to disability inactive status is not subject to further review.

(d) Stipulation Not Approved. If the stipulation is rejected by the Board, the stipulation has no force or effect and neither it nor the fact of its execution is admissible in any pending or subsequent disciplinary proceeding or in any civil or criminal action.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 8.6 COSTS IN DISABILITY PROCEEDINGS

When reviewing a matter under this title, the Board may authorize disciplinary counsel to seek assessment of the costs and expenses against the respondent LPO. If the Board authorizes, disciplinary counsel may file a statement of costs within 20 days of service of the Board's order. Rule 13.9 governs assessment of these costs and expenses. The respondent LPO is not required to pay the costs and expenses until 90 days after reinstatement to active status, or as otherwise approved by the Board.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 8.7 BURDEN AND STANDARD OF PROOF

In proceedings under rules 8.2 or 8.3, the party asserting or alleging the incapacity has the burden of establishing it by a preponderance of the evidence. If the issue of incapacity is raised by a hearing officer or panel, the Association has the burden of proof.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 8.8 REINSTATEMENT TO ACTIVE STATUS

(a) Right of Petition and Burden. A respondent LPO transferred to disability inactive status may resume active status only by Board or Supreme Court order. Any respondent transferred to disability inactive status may petition the Board for transfer to active status. The respondent has the burden of showing that the disability has been removed.

(b) Petition. The petition for reinstatement must:

(1) state facts demonstrating that the disability has been removed;

(2) include the name and address of each psychiatrist, psychologist, physician, or other person and each hospital or other institution by whom or in which the respondent has been examined or treated since the transfer to disability inactive status; and

(3) be filed with the Clerk and served on disciplinary counsel.

(c) Waiver of Privilege. The filing of a petition for reinstatement to active status by a respondent transferred to disability inactive status waives any privilege as to treatment of any medical, psychological, or psychiatric condition during the period of disability. The respondent must furnish, if requested by the Board or disciplinary counsel, written consent to each treatment provider to divulge information and records relating to the disability.

(d) Initial Review by Chair. The Chair reviews the petition and any response by disciplinary counsel and directs appropriate action to determine whether the disability has been removed, including investigation by disciplinary counsel or any other person or an examination by a physician of the respondent's physical condition or by a mental health professional (as defined by RCW 71.05.020) of the respondent's mental condition.

(e) Board Review.

(1) The respondent must have a reasonable opportunity to review any reports of investigations or examinations ordered by the Chair and submit additional materials before the matter is submitted to the Board.

(2) On submission, the Board reviews the petition and any reports as expeditiously as possible and takes one or more of the following actions:

(A) grants the petition;

(B) directs additional action as the Board deems necessary to determine whether the disability has been removed;

(C) orders that a hearing be held before a hearing officer or panel under the procedural rules for disciplinary proceedings;

(D) directs the respondent to establish proof of competence and learning in the practice of an LPO, which may include successful completion of the LPO examination;

(E) denies the petition;

(F) directs the respondent to pay the costs of the reinstatement proceedings; or

(G) approves or rejects a stipulation to reinstatement between the respondent and disciplinary counsel.

(3) The petition may be denied without the respondent having an opportunity for a hearing before a hearing officer or panel only if the Board determines that a hearing is not necessary because:

(A) the respondent fails to state a prima facie case for reinstatement in the petition; or

(B) the petition does not indicate a material change of circumstance since a previous denial of a petition for reinstatement.

(f) Petition Granted. If the petition for reinstatement is granted, the Court immediately restores the respondent to the respondent's prior status. If a disciplinary proceeding has been deferred because of the disability transfer, the proceeding resumes upon reinstatement.

(g) Review by Supreme Court. If the petition for reinstatement is not granted, the respondent may appeal the Board's decision to the Supreme Court, by filing a request for the Court to review the record and order in the same manner as review by the court under rule 12.1 within 15 days of service of the Board's decision on the respondent. Title 12 applies to review under this section.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 9—RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT HEARING

ELPOC 9.1 STIPULATIONS

(a) Requirements. Any disciplinary matter or proceeding may be resolved by a stipulation at any time. The stipulation must be signed by the respondent LPO and approved by disciplinary counsel or the Clerk. The stipulation may impose terms and conditions of probation and contain any other appropriate provisions.

(b) Form. A stipulation must:

(1) provide sufficient detail regarding the particular acts or omissions of the respondent to permit the Board or hearing officer to form an opinion as to the propriety of the proposed resolution, and, if approved, to make the stipulation useful in any subsequent disciplinary proceeding against the respondent;

(2) set forth the respondent's prior disciplinary record or its absence;

(3) state that the stipulation is not binding on the Association as a statement of facts about the respondent's conduct, and that additional facts may be proved in a subsequent disciplinary proceeding; and

(4) fix the amount of costs and expenses to be paid by the respondent.

(c) Approval.

(1) *By Hearing Officer.* A hearing officer or panel may approve a stipulation disposing of a matter pending before the officer or panel, unless the stipulation requires the respondent's license suspension or revocation. This approval constitutes a final decision and is not subject to further review.

(2) *By Board.* All other stipulations must be presented to the Board. The Board reviews a stipulation based solely on the record agreed to by the respondent LPO and disciplinary counsel or the Clerk. All parties to the stipulation may jointly ask the Chair to permit them to address the Board regarding a stipulation. Such presentations are at the Chair's discretion. The Board may approve, conditionally approve, or reject a stipulation. Regardless of the provisions of rule 3.3(a), the Board may direct that information or documents considered in reviewing a stipulation be kept confidential.

(d) Conditional Approval. The Board may condition its approval of a stipulation on the agreement by the respondent and disciplinary counsel or the clerk to a different disciplinary action, probation, restitution, or other terms the Board deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of LPO discipline. If the Board conditions approval of a stipulation, the stipulation as conditioned is deemed approved if, within 14 days of service of the order, or within additional time granted by the Chair, all parties to the stipulation serve on the Clerk written consent to the conditional terms in the Board's order.

(e) Reconsideration. Within 14 days of service of an order rejecting or conditionally approving a stipulation, all parties to the stipulation may serve on the Clerk a joint motion for reconsideration and may ask to address the Board on the motion.

(f) Stipulation Rejected. The Board's order rejecting a stipulation must state the reasons for the rejection. A rejected stipulation has no force or effect and neither it nor the fact of its execution is admissible in evidence in any disciplinary, civil, or criminal proceeding.

(g) Failure To Comply. A respondent's failure to comply with the terms of an approved stipulation may be grounds for discipline.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 9.2 VOLUNTARY CANCELLATION IN LIEU OF REVOCATION

(a) Grounds. A respondent LPO who desires not to contest or defend against allegations of misconduct may, at any time before the answer in any disciplinary proceeding is due, voluntarily cancel their certification as an LPO in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings.

(b) Process. The respondent first notifies the Clerk or disciplinary counsel that the respondent intends to submit a voluntary cancellation request and asks the Clerk or disciplinary counsel to prepare a statement of alleged misconduct and to provide a declaration of costs. After receiving the statement and the declaration of costs, if any, the respondent may resign by submitting to disciplinary counsel or the Clerk a signed voluntary cancellation, sworn to or affirmed under oath and notarized, that:

(1) includes disciplinary counsel's or the Clerk's statement of the alleged misconduct and either an admission of that misconduct or a statement that while not admitting the misconduct the respondent agrees that the Board could prove by a clear preponderance of the evidence that the respondent committed violations sufficient to result in the revocation of respondent's LPO certification;

(2) affirmatively acknowledges that the voluntary cancellation is permanent including the statement:

I understand that my voluntary cancellation is permanent and that any future application by me for reinstatement as an LPO 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 whose certification has been revoked 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 voluntary cancellation was based.;

(3) assures that the respondent will:

(A) notify all other professional licensing agencies in any jurisdiction from which the respondent has a professional license of the voluntary cancellation in lieu of revocation;

(B) seek to resign permanently from any such license; and

(C) provide disciplinary counsel or the Clerk with copies of any of these notifications and any responses;

(4) states that when applying for any employment or license the respondent agrees to disclose the voluntary cancellation in lieu of revocation in response to any question regarding disciplinary action or the status of the respondent's limited license to practice law;

(5) states that the respondent agrees to pay any restitution or additional costs and expenses ordered by the discipline committee, and attaches payment for costs as described in section (f) below, or states that the respondent will execute a confession of judgment or deed of trust as described in section (f); and

(6) states that when the voluntary cancellation becomes effective, the respondent will be subject to all restrictions that apply to an LPO whose certification has been revoked.

(c) Public Filing. Upon receipt of a voluntary cancellation meeting the requirements set forth above, and any executed confession of judgment or deed of trust required under section (f), disciplinary counsel promptly causes it to be filed with the Clerk as a public and permanent record of the Board.

(d) Effect. A voluntary cancellation under this rule is effective upon its filing with the Clerk. All disciplinary proceedings against the respondent terminate except the Clerk or

disciplinary counsel has the discretion to continue any investigations deemed appropriate under the circumstances to create a record of the respondent's actions. The Association immediately notifies the Supreme Court of a voluntary cancellation under this rule and the respondent's name is forthwith stricken from the roll of LPOs. Upon filing of the voluntary cancellation, respondent must comply with the same duties under Title 14 as an LPO whose license has been revoked and comply with all restrictions that apply to an LPO whose license has been revoked. Notice is given of the voluntary cancellation in lieu of revocation under rule 3.5.

(e) Voluntary Cancellation is Permanent. Voluntary cancellation under this rule is permanent. A respondent who has voluntarily cancelled under this rule will never be eligible to apply and will not be considered for admission to the practice of law nor will the respondent be eligible for admission or reinstatement for any limited practice of law.

(f) Costs and Expenses.

(A) If a respondent voluntarily cancels under this rule, the expenses under rule 13.9(c) are \$1,000 for any proceedings for which an answer was not due when the respondent notified disciplinary counsel of the respondent's intent to voluntarily cancel under section (b). With the voluntary cancellation, the respondent must pay this \$1,000 expense, plus all actual costs for which disciplinary counsel or the Clerk provides documentation, up to an additional \$1,000. If the respondent demonstrates inability to pay these costs and expenses, instead of paying this amount, the respondent must execute, in disciplinary counsel's or the Clerk's discretion, a confession of judgment or a deed of trust for that amount. Disciplinary counsel may file a claim under section (g) for costs not covered by the payment, confession of judgment, or deed of trust.

(B) If at the time respondent serves the notice of intent to voluntarily cancel, an additional proceeding is pending against the respondent for which an answer has been filed or is due, disciplinary counsel may also file a claim under section (g) for costs and expenses for that proceeding.

(g) Review of Costs, Expenses, and Restitution. Any claims for restitution or for costs and expenses not resolved by agreement between the Clerk or disciplinary counsel and the respondent may be submitted at any time, including after the voluntary cancellation, to the discipline committee in writing for the determination of appropriate restitution or costs and expenses. The discipline committee's order is not subject to further review and is the final assessment of restitution or costs and expenses for the purposes of rule 13.9 and may be enforced as any other order for restitution or costs and expenses. The record before the discipline committee and the discipline committee's order is public information under rule 3.1(b).
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 10—HEARING PROCEDURES

ELPOC 10.1 GENERAL PROCEDURE

(a) Applicability of Civil Rules. The civil rules for the superior courts of the State of Washington serve as guidance in proceedings under this title and, where indicated, apply directly. A party may not move for summary judgment, but either party may move at any time for an order determining the collateral estoppel effect of a judgment in another proceeding. Motions for judgment on the pleadings and motions to dismiss based upon the pleadings are available only to the extent permitted in rule 10.10.

(b) Meaning of Terms in Civil Rules. In applying the civil rules to proceedings under these rules, terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Court" or "judge" means the hearing officer or hearing panel or its chair, as appropriate; and

(2) "Parties" means the respondent LPO and disciplinary counsel.

(c) Hearing Officer Authority. In addition to the powers specifically provided in these rules, the hearing officer may make any ruling that appears necessary and appropriate to insure a fair and orderly proceeding.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.2 HEARING OFFICER OR PANEL

(a) Assignment.

(1) *Hearing Officer.* The chief hearing officer, as defined in ELC 2.5(f), ordinarily assigns a single hearing officer, from those eligible under rule 2.5, to hear a matter ordered to hearing.

(2) *Hearing Panel.* On either party's motion, or when otherwise deemed advisable, the chief hearing officer may assign a hearing panel. In determining whether to assign a hearing panel, the chief hearing officer considers whether public interest in the proceeding or other considerations makes a panel advisable. When a panel is assigned, the chief hearing officer designates one member as panel chair. The chief hearing officer's ruling on assigning a hearing panel is not subject to interim review. The chief hearing officer makes an assignment to fill any hearing officer or panel member vacancy.

(b) Disqualification and Removal.

(1) *Removal Without Cause.* Either party may have an assigned hearing officer or hearing panel member removed, without establishing cause for the removal, by filing a written request with the chief hearing officer within ten days of service on the moving party of that officer or panel member's assignment. A party may only once request removal without cause in any proceeding.

(2) *Disqualification for Cause.* Either party may seek to disqualify any assigned hearing officer or hearing panel member for good cause. A motion under this subsection must be filed promptly after the party knows, or in the exercise of due diligence should have known, of the basis for the disqualification.

(3) *Removal.* The chief hearing officer decides all requests for removal and disqualification motions, except the Chair decides a request to remove or disqualify the chief hearing officer. The decision of the chief hearing officer or Chair on a request for removal or a motion to disqualify is not subject to interim review. Upon removal or disqualification of an assigned hearing officer or hearing panel member, the chief hearing officer assigns a replacement.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.3 COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

(a) Formal Complaint.

(1) *Filing.* After a matter is ordered to hearing, disciplinary counsel files a formal complaint with the Clerk.

timely made under rule 10.6(c) of the Rules for Enforcement of Limited Practice Officer Conduct. The entry of an order of default means that you will receive no further notices regarding these proceedings except those required by rule 10.6(b)(2).

The [hearing officer] [hearing panel] assigned to this proceeding is: [insert name, address, and telephone number of hearing officer, or name, address, and telephone number of each hearing panel member with an indication of the chair of the panel].

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20__.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

By _____

Disciplinary Counsel, Bar No. _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

(b) Notice When Hearing Officer or Panel Not Assigned. If no hearing officer or panel has been assigned when a formal complaint is served, disciplinary counsel serves the formal complaint and a notice to answer as in section (a), but without reference to the hearing officer or panel.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.5 ANSWER

(a) Time to Answer. Within 20 days of service of the formal complaint and notice to answer, the respondent LPO must file and serve an answer. Failure to file an answer as required may be grounds for discipline and for an order of default under rule 10.6. The filing of a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim stays the time for filing an answer during the pendency of the motion.

(b) Content. The answer must contain:

(1) a specific denial or admission of each fact or claim asserted in the formal complaint in accordance with CR 8(b);

(2) a statement of any matter or facts constituting a defense, affirmative defense, or justification, in ordinary and concise language without repetition; and

(3) an address at which all further pleadings, notices, and other documents in the proceeding may be served on the respondent.

(c) Filing and Service. The answer must be filed and served under rules 4.1 and 4.2. If a hearing panel has been assigned to hear a matter, the respondent must serve each member with a copy of the answer.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.6 DEFAULT PROCEEDINGS

(a) Entry of Default.

(1) *Timing.* If a respondent LPO, after being served with a notice to answer as provided in rule 10.4, fails to file an answer to a formal complaint or to an amendment to a formal complaint

within the time provided by these rules, disciplinary counsel may serve the respondent with a written motion for an order of default.

(2) *Motion*. Disciplinary counsel must serve the respondent with a written motion for an order of default and a copy of this rule at least five days before entry of the order of default. The motion for an order of default must include the following:

(A) the dates of filing and service of the notice to answer, formal complaint, and any amendments to the complaint; and

(B) disciplinary counsel's statement that the respondent has not timely filed an answer as required by rule 10.5 and that disciplinary counsel seeks an order of default under this rule.

(3) *Entry of Order of Default*. If the respondent fails to file a written answer with the Clerk within five days of service of the motion for entry of an order of default, the hearing officer, or if no hearing officer or panel has been assigned, the chief hearing officer, on proof of proper service of the motion, enters an order finding the respondent in default.

(4) *Effect of Order of Default*. Upon entry of an order of default, the allegations and violations in the formal complaint and any amendments to the complaint are deemed admitted and established for the purpose of imposing discipline and the respondent may not participate further in the proceedings unless the order of default is vacated under this rule.

(b) Proceedings After Entry of an Order of Default.

(1) *Service*. The Clerk serves the order of default and a copy of this rule under rule 4.2(b).

(2) *No Further Notices*. After entry of an order of default, no further notices must be served on the respondent except for copies of the decisions of the hearing officer or hearing panel and the Board.

(3) *Disciplinary Proceeding*. Within 60 days of the filing of the order of default, the hearing officer must conduct a disciplinary proceeding to recommend disciplinary action based on the allegations and violations established under section (a). At the discretion of the hearing officer or panel, these proceedings may be conducted by formal hearing, written submissions, telephone hearing, or other electronic means. Disciplinary counsel may present additional evidence including, but not limited to, requests for admission under rule 10.11(b), and depositions, affidavits, and declarations regardless of the witness's availability.

(c) Setting Aside Default.

(1) *Motion To Vacate Order of Default*. A respondent may move to vacate the order of default and any decision of the hearing officer or panel or Board arising from the default on the following grounds:

(A) mistake, inadvertence, surprise, excusable neglect, or irregularity in obtaining the default;

(B) erroneous proceedings against a respondent who was, at the time of the default, incapable of conducting a defense;

(C) newly discovered evidence that by due diligence could not have been previously discovered;

(D) fraud, misrepresentation, or other misconduct of an adverse party;

(E) the order of default is void;

(F) unavoidable casualty or misfortune preventing the respondent from defending; or

(G) any other reason justifying relief from the operation of the default.

(2) *Time.* The motion must be made within a reasonable time and for grounds (A) and (C) within one year after entry of the default. If the respondent's motion is based on allegations of incapability of conducting a defense, the motion must be made within one year after the disability ceases.

(3) *Burden of Proof.* The respondent bears the burden of proving the grounds for setting aside the default. If the respondent proves that the default was entered as a result of a disability which made the respondent incapable of conducting a defense, the default must be set aside.

(4) *Service and Contents of Motion.* The motion must be filed and served under rules 4.1 and 4.2 and be accompanied by a copy of respondent's proposed answer to each formal complaint for which an order of default has been entered. The proposed answer must state with specificity the respondent's asserted defenses and any facts that respondent asserts as mitigation. The motion to vacate the order of default must be supported by an affidavit showing:

(A) the date on which the respondent first learned of the entry of the order of default;

(B) the grounds for setting aside the order of default; and

(C) an offer of proof of the facts that the respondent expects to establish if the order of default is vacated.

(5) *Response to Motion.* Within ten days of filing and service of the motion to vacate, disciplinary counsel may file and serve a written response.

(6) *Decision.* The hearing officer or panel decides a motion to vacate the order of default on the written record without oral argument. If the proceedings have been concluded, the chief hearing officer assigns a hearing officer or panel to decide the motion. Pending a ruling on the motion, the hearing officer or panel may order a stay of proceedings not to exceed 30 days. In granting a motion to vacate an order of default, the hearing officer or panel has discretion to order appropriate conditions.

(7) *Appeal of Denial of Motion.* A respondent may appeal to the Chair a denial of a motion to vacate an order of default by filing and serving a written notice of appeal stating the arguments against the hearing officer or panel's decision. The respondent must file the notice of appeal within ten days of service on the respondent of the order denying the motion. The appeal is decided on the written record without oral argument. Pending a ruling on the appeal, the Chair may order a stay of proceedings not to exceed 30 days. In granting a motion to vacate an order of default, the Chair has discretion to order appropriate conditions.

(8) *Decision To Vacate Is Not Subject to Interim Review.* An order setting aside an order of default is not subject to interim review.

(d) Order of Default Not Authorized in Certain Proceedings. The default procedure in this rule does not apply to a proceeding to inquire into an LPO's capacity to practice as an LPO under Title 8 except as provided in that title.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.7 AMENDMENT OF FORMAL COMPLAINT

(a) Right To Amend. Disciplinary counsel may, without discipline committee authorization, amend a formal complaint at any time to add facts or charges that relate to matters in the formal complaint or to the respondent LPO's conduct regarding the pending proceedings.

(b) Amendment with Authorization. Disciplinary counsel must seek discipline committee authorization for amendments other than those under section (a). The discipline committee may authorize the amendment or may require that the additional facts or charges be the subject of a separate formal complaint. The Chair, with the consent of the respondent, and after consultation with the hearing officer on the previously filed matter, may consolidate the hearing on the separate formal complaint with the hearing on the other pending formal complaint against the respondent.

(c) Service and Answer. Disciplinary counsel serves an amendment to a formal complaint on the respondent as provided in rule 4.1 but need not serve a Notice to Answer with the amendment. Rule 10.5 governs the answer to an amendment except that any part of a previous answer may be incorporated by reference.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.8 MOTIONS

(a) Filing and Service. Motions to the hearing officer, except motions which may be made ex parte or motions at hearing, must be in writing and filed and served as required by rules 4.1 and 4.2.

(b) Response. The opposing party has five days from service of a motion to respond, unless the time is shortened by the hearing officer for good cause. A request to shorten time for response to a motion may be made ex parte.

(c) Consideration of Motion. Upon expiration of the time for response, the hearing officer should promptly rule on the motion, with or without argument as may appear appropriate. Argument on a motion may be heard by conference telephone call.

(d) Ruling. A ruling on a written motion must be in writing and filed with the Clerk.

(e) Minor Matters. Alternatively, motions on minor matters may be made by letter to the hearing officer, with a copy to the opposing party and to the Clerk. The provisions of sections (b) and (c) apply to these motions. A ruling on such motion may also be by letter to each party with a copy to the Clerk.

(f) Chief Hearing Officer Authority. Before the assignment of a hearing officer or panel, the chief hearing officer, as defined in ELC 2.5(f), may rule on any prehearing motion.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.9 INTERIM REVIEW

Unless these rules provide otherwise, the Board may review any interim ruling on request for review by either party, if the Chair determines that review is necessary and appropriate and will serve the ends of justice.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.10 PREHEARING DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS

(a) Respondent Motion. A respondent LPO may move for dismissal of all or any portion of one or more counts of a formal complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

(b) Disciplinary Counsel Motion. Disciplinary counsel may move for an order finding misconduct based on the pleadings. In ruling on this motion, the hearing officer or panel may find that all or some of the misconduct as alleged in the formal complaint is established, but will determine the sanction after a hearing.

(c) Time for Motion. A motion under this rule must be filed within 30 days of the filing of the answer to a formal complaint or amended formal complaint. A respondent may, within the time provided for filing an answer, instead file a motion under this rule. If the motion does not result in the dismissal of the entire formal complaint, the respondent must file and serve an answer to the remaining allegations within ten days of service of the ruling on the motion.

(d) Procedure. Rule 10.8 and CR 12 apply to motions under this rule. No factual materials outside the answer and complaint may be presented. If the motion results in dismissal of part but not all of a formal complaint, the Board must hear an interlocutory appeal of the order by either party. The appeal must be filed within 15 days of service of the order.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.11 DISCOVERY AND PREHEARING PROCEDURES

(a) General. The parties should cooperate in mutual informal exchange of relevant non-privileged information to facilitate expeditious, economical, and fair resolution of the case.

(b) Requests for Admission. After a formal complaint is filed, the parties may request admissions under CR 36. Under appropriate circumstances, the hearing officer may apply the sanctions in CR 37(c) for improper denial of requests for admission.

(c) Other Discovery. After a formal complaint is filed, the parties have the right to other discovery under the Superior Court Civil Rules, including under CR 27–31 and 33–35, only on motion and under terms and limitations the hearing officer deems just or on the parties' stipulation.

(d) Limitations on Discovery. The hearing officer may exercise discretion in imposing terms or limitations on the exercise of discovery to assure an expeditious, economical, and fair proceeding, considering all relevant factors including necessity and unavailability by other means, the nature and complexity of the case, seriousness of charges, the formal and informal discovery that has already occurred, the burdens on the party from whom discovery is sought, and the possibility of unfair surprise.

(e) Deposition Procedure.

(1) Subpoenas for depositions may be issued under CR 45. Subpoenas may be enforced under rule 4.6.

(2) For a deposition outside Washington State, a commission need not issue, but a copy of the order of the chief hearing officer or hearing officer, certified by the officer, is sufficient to authorize the deposition.

(f) CR 16 Orders. The hearing officer may enter orders under CR 16.

(g) Duty to Cooperate. A respondent LPO who has been served with a formal complaint must respond to discovery requests and comply with all lawful orders made by the hearing officer. The hearing officer or panel may draw adverse inferences as appear warranted by the failure of either the Board or the respondent to respond to discovery.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.12 SCHEDULING HEARING

(a) Where Held. All disciplinary hearings must be held in Washington State, unless the respondent LPO is not a resident of the state, or cannot be found in the state.

(b) Scheduling of Hearing. If possible, the parties should arrange a date, time, and place for the hearing by agreement among themselves and the hearing officer or panel members. Alternatively, at any time after the respondent has filed an answer to the formal complaint, or after the time to file the answer has expired, either party may move for an order setting a date, time, and place for the hearing. Rule 10.8 applies to this motion. The motion must state:

- the requested date or dates for the hearing;
- other dates that are available to the requesting party;
- the expected duration of the hearing;
- discovery and anything else that must be completed before the hearing; and
- the requested time and place for the hearing.

A response to the motion must contain the same information.

(c) Scheduling Order. The hearing officer must enter an order setting the date and place of the hearing. This order may include any prehearing deadlines the hearing officer deems required by the complexity of the case, and may be in the following form with the following timelines:

IT IS ORDERED that the hearing is set and the parties must comply with prehearing deadlines as follows:

1. *Witnesses.* A list of intended witnesses, including addresses and phone numbers, must be filed and served by [Hearing Date (H)-8 weeks].

2. *Discovery.* Discovery cut-off is [H-6 weeks].

3. *Motions.* Prehearing motions, other than motions to bifurcate, must be served by [H-4 weeks]. An exhibit not ordered or stipulated admitted may not be attached to a motion or otherwise transmitted to the hearing officer unless the motion concerns the exhibit's admissibility. The hearing officer will advise counsel whether oral argument is necessary, and, if

so, the date and time, and whether it will be heard by telephone. (Rule 10.15 provides the deadline for a motion to bifurcate.)

4. *Exhibits.* A list of proposed exhibits must be filed and served by [H-3 weeks].

5. *Service of Exhibits/Summary.* Copies of proposed exhibits and a summary of the expected testimony of each witness must be served on the opposing counsel by [H-2 weeks].

6. *Objections.* Objections to proposed exhibits, including grounds, must be exchanged by [H-1 week].

7. *Briefs.* Any hearing brief must be served and filed by [H-1 week]. Exhibits not ordered or stipulated admitted may not be attached to a hearing brief or otherwise transmitted to the hearing officer before the hearing.

8. *Hearing.* The hearing is set for [H] and each day thereafter until recessed by the hearing officer, at [location].

(d) Motion for Hearing Within 120 Days. A respondent's motion under section (b) for a hearing within 120 days must be granted, unless disciplinary counsel shows good cause for setting the hearing at a later date.

(e) Notice. Service of a copy of an order or ruling of the hearing officer setting a date, time, and place for the hearing constitutes notice of the hearing. The respondent must be given at least ten days notice of the hearing absent consent.

(f) Continuance. Either party may move for a continuance of the hearing date. The hearing officer has discretion to grant the motion for good cause shown.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.13 DISCIPLINARY HEARING

(a) Representation. The Board is represented at the hearing by disciplinary counsel. The respondent LPO may be represented by counsel.

(b) Respondent Must Attend. A respondent given notice of a hearing must attend the hearing. Failure to attend the hearing, without good cause, may be grounds for discipline. If, after proper notice, the respondent fails to attend the hearing, the hearing officer or panel:

(1) may draw an adverse inference from the respondent's failure to attend as to any questions that might have been asked the respondent at the hearing; and

(2) must admit testimony by deposition regardless of the deponent's availability. An affidavit or declaration is also admissible, if:

(A) the facts stated are within the witness's personal knowledge;

(B) the facts are set forth with particularity; and

(C) it shows affirmatively that the witness could testify competently to the stated facts.

(c) Respondent Must Bring Requested Materials. Disciplinary counsel may request in writing, served on the respondent at least three days before the hearing, that the respondent bring

to the hearing any documents, files, records, or other written materials or things. The respondent must comply with this request and failure to bring requested materials, without good cause, may be grounds for discipline.

(d) Witnesses. Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) and rule 10.6, witnesses must testify under oath. Testimony may also be submitted by deposition as permitted by CR 32. Testimony must be recorded by a court reporter or, if allowed by the hearing officer, by tape recording. The parties have the right to cross-examine witnesses who testify and to submit rebuttal evidence.

(e) Subpoenas. The parties may subpoena witnesses, documents, or things under the terms of CR 45. A witness must promptly comply with all subpoenas issued under this rule and with all lawful orders made by the hearing officer under this rule. Subpoenas may be enforced under rule 4.6. The hearing officer or panel may additionally draw adverse inferences as appear warranted by the respondent's failure to respond.

(f) Prior Disciplinary Record. The respondent's record of prior disciplinary action, or the fact that the respondent has no prior disciplinary action, must be made a part of the hearing record before the hearing officer or panel files a decision.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 10.14 EVIDENCE AND BURDEN OF PROOF

(a) Proceedings Not Civil or Criminal. Hearing officers should be guided in their evidentiary and procedural rulings by the principle that disciplinary proceedings are neither civil nor criminal but are sui generis hearings to determine if an LPO's conduct should have an impact on their license to practice as an LPO.

(b) Burden of Proof. Disciplinary counsel has the burden of establishing an act of misconduct by a clear preponderance of the evidence.

(c) Proceeding Based on Criminal Conviction. If a formal complaint charges a respondent LPO with an act of misconduct for which the respondent has been convicted in a criminal proceeding, the court record of the conviction is conclusive evidence at the disciplinary hearing of the respondent's guilt of the crime and violation of the statute on which the conviction was based.

(d) Rules of Evidence. Consistent with section (a) of this rule, the following rules of evidence apply during disciplinary hearings:

(1) evidence, including hearsay evidence, is admissible if in the hearing officer's judgment it is the kind of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of their affairs. The hearing officer may exclude evidence that is irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious;

(2) if not inconsistent with subsection (1), the hearing officer shall refer to the Washington Rules of Evidence as guidelines for evidentiary rulings;

(3) documents may be admitted in the form of copies or excerpts, or by incorporation by reference;

(4) *Official Notice.*

(A) official notice may be taken of:

(i) any judicially cognizable facts;

(ii) technical or scientific facts within the hearing officer's or panel's specialized knowledge; and

(iii) codes or standards adopted by an agency of the United States, of this state, or of another state, or by a nationally recognized organization or association.

(B) the parties shall be notified either before or during hearing, or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise, of the material noticed and the sources thereof, including any staff memoranda and data, and they shall have an opportunity to contest the facts and material noticed. A party proposing that official notice be taken may be required to produce a copy of the material to be noticed.

(e) APA as Guidance. The evidence standards in this rule are based on the evidence provisions of the Washington Administrative Procedures Act, which, when not inconsistent with these standards, should be looked to for guidance. "Shall" has the meaning in this rule ascribed to it in the APA.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 10.15 BIFURCATED HEARINGS

(a) When Allowed. Upon written motion filed no later than 60 days before the scheduled hearing, either party may request that the disciplinary proceeding be bifurcated. The hearing officer or panel must weigh the reasons for bifurcation against any increased cost and delay, inconvenience to participants, duplication of evidence, and any other factors, and may grant the motion only if it appears necessary to insure a fair and orderly hearing because the respondent has a record of prior disciplinary sanction or because either party would suffer significant prejudice or harm.

(b) Procedure.

(1) Violation Hearing.

(A) A bifurcated proceeding begins with an initial hearing to make factual determinations and legal conclusions as to the violations charged, including the mental state necessary for the violations. During this stage of the proceedings, evidence of a prior disciplinary record is not admissible to prove the respondent's character or to impeach the respondent's credibility. However, evidence of prior acts of misconduct may be admitted for other purposes, such as proof of motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or accident.

(B) At the conclusion of that hearing, the hearing officer or panel files findings and conclusions.

(i) If no violation is found, the proceedings are concluded, the findings and conclusions are the decision of the hearing officer or panel, and the sanction hearing is canceled.

(ii) If any violation is found, after the expiration of the time for a motion to amend under rule 10.16(c), or after ruling on that motion, the findings and conclusions as to those violations are not subject to reconsideration by the hearing officer.

(2) *Sanction Hearing.* If any violation is found, a second hearing is held to determine the appropriate sanction recommendation. During the sanction hearing, evidence of the existence or lack of any prior disciplinary record is admissible. No evidence may be admitted to contradict or challenge the findings and conclusions as to the violations. At the conclusion of the sanction hearing, the hearing officer or panel files findings and conclusions as to a sanction recommendation, that, together with the previously filed findings and conclusions, is the decision of the hearing officer or panel.

(3) *Timing.* If a motion for bifurcation is granted, the violation hearing is held on the date previously set for hearing. Upon granting a motion to bifurcate, the hearing officer must set a date and place for the sanction hearing. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the sanction hearing should be held no later than 45 days after the anticipated last day of the violation hearing.

ELPOC 10.16 DECISION OF HEARING OFFICER OR PANEL

(a) Decision. Within 20 days after the proceedings are concluded, unless extended by agreement, the hearing officer should file with the Clerk a decision in the form of findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation.

(b) Preparation of Findings. The hearing officer or hearing panel write their own findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations. At the request of the hearing officer, or without a request, either party may submit proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation.

(c) Amendment.

(1) *Timing of Motion.* Either party may move to modify, amend, or correct the decision as follows:

(A) In a proceeding not bifurcated, within ten days of service of the decision on the respondent LPO;

(B) In a bifurcated proceeding, within five days of service of:

(i) the violation findings of fact and conclusions of law; or

(ii) the sanction recommendation, but this motion may not seek to modify, amend, or correct the violation findings or conclusions.

(C) If a hearing panel member dissents from a decision of the majority, the five or ten day period does not begin until the written dissent is filed or the time to file a dissent has expired, whichever is sooner.

(2) *Procedure.* Rule 10.8 governs this motion, except that all members of a hearing panel must be served with the motion and any response and participate in a decision on the motion. A panel's deliberation may be conducted through telephone conference call. The hearing officer or panel should rule on the motion within 15 days after the filing of a timely response or after the period to file a response under rule 10.8(b) has expired. The ruling may deny the motion or may amend, modify, or correct the decision.

(3) *Effect of Failure To Move.* Failure to move for modification, correction, or amendment does not affect any appeal to the Board or review by the Supreme Court.

(d) Dissent of Panel Member. Any member of a hearing panel who dissents from the decision of the majority of the panel should file a dissent, which may consist of alternative findings, conclusions, or recommendation. A dissent should be filed within ten days of the filing of the majority's decision and becomes part of the record of the proceedings.

(e) Panel Members Unable To Agree. If no two panel members are able to agree on a decision, each panel member files findings, conclusions, and a recommendation, and the Board reviews the matter whether or not an appeal is filed.

(f) When Final. If a hearing officer or panel recommends reprimand or an admonition, or recommends dismissal of the charges, the recommendation becomes the final decision if neither party files an appeal and if the Chair does not refer the matter to the Board for consideration within the time permitted by rule 11.2(b)(3). If the Chair refers the matter to the Board for consideration of a sua sponte review, the decision is final upon entry of an order dismissing sua sponte review under rule 11.3 or upon other Board decision under rule 11.12(g).
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 11—REVIEW BY BOARD

ELPOC 11.1 SCOPE OF TITLE

This title provides the procedure for Board review following a hearing officer or panel's findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation. It does not apply to Board review of interim rulings under rule 10.9.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.2 DECISIONS SUBJECT TO BOARD REVIEW

(a) Decision. For purposes of this title, "Decision" means the hearing officer or panel's findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation, provided that if either party properly files a motion to amend under rule 10.16(c), the "Decision" includes the ruling on the motion, and becomes subject to Board review only upon the ruling on the motion.

(b) Review of Decisions. The Board reviews the following Decisions:

- (1) those recommending suspension or revocation;
- (2) those in which no two members of a hearing panel are able to agree on a Decision; and
- (3) all others if within 15 days of service of the Decision on the respondent:
 - (A) either party files a notice of appeal; or

- (B) the Chair files a notice of referral for sua sponte consideration of the Decision.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.3 SUA SPONTE REVIEW

(a) Procedure. Sua sponte review commences when the Chair files a notice of referral under rule 11.2(b)(3). Upon this filing, the Chair causes a copy to be served on the parties and

schedules the matter for consideration by the Board. On consideration, the Board either issues an order for sua sponte review setting forth the issues to be reviewed or dismisses the sua sponte review. If the Board issues an order for sua sponte review, the procedures of rule 11.9 apply unless otherwise modified by the order, except either party may raise any issue for Board review.

(b) Standards. The Board uses sua sponte review only in extraordinary circumstances to prevent substantial injustice or to correct a clear error. Sua sponte review uses the same standards of review as other cases.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.4 TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

(a) Ordering Transcript. A hearing transcript or partial transcript may be ordered at any time by the hearing officer or panel, respondent LPO, disciplinary counsel, or the Board. Disciplinary counsel must order the entire transcript if the hearing officer or panel recommends suspension or revocation or if no two panel members can agree on a Decision. If a notice of appeal is filed under rule 11.2(b)(1), disciplinary counsel must order the entire transcript unless the parties agree that no transcript or only a partial transcript is necessary for review. For sua sponte review, the Chair determines the procedure for ordering the transcript if not already ordered.

(b) Filing and Service. The original of the transcript is filed with the Clerk. Disciplinary counsel must cause a copy of the transcript to be served on the respondent except if the respondent ordered the transcript.

(c) Proposed Corrections. Within ten days of service of a copy of the transcript on the respondent, or within ten days of filing the transcript if the respondent ordered the transcript, each party may file any proposed corrections to the transcript. Each party has five days after service of the opposing party's proposed corrections to file objections to those proposed corrections.

(d) Settlement of Transcript. If either party files objections to any proposed correction under section (c), the hearing officer, upon review of the proposed corrections and objections, enters an order settling the transcript. Otherwise, the transcript is deemed settled and any proposed corrections deemed incorporated in the transcript.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.5 RECORD ON REVIEW

(a) Generally. The record on review consists of:

- (1) any hearing transcript or partial transcript; and
- (2) public file documents and exhibits designated by the parties.

(b) References to the Record. Briefs filed under rules 11.8 and 11.9 must specifically refer to the record if available, using the designations TR for transcript of hearing, EX for exhibits, and PF for public file documents.

(c) Avoid Duplication. Material appearing in one part of the record on review should not be duplicated in another part of the record on review.

(d) No Additional Evidence. Evidence not presented to the hearing officer or panel must not be presented to the Board.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.6 DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC FILE DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS

The parties designate public file documents and exhibits for Board consideration under the procedure of RAP 9.6 with the following adaptations and modifications:

(a) Public File Documents. The public file documents are considered the clerk's papers.

(b) Limited Practice Board and Clerk. The Limited Practice Board is considered the appellate court and the Clerk to the Limited Practice Board is considered the trial court clerk.

(c) Time for Designation.

(1) *Review of Suspension or Revocation Recommendation.* When review is under rule 11.2(b)(1), the respondent LPO must file and serve the respondent's designation of public file documents and exhibits within 30 days of service of the Decision.

(2) *Review Not Involving Suspension or Revocation Recommendation.* When review is under rule 11.2(b)(3)(A), the party seeking review must file and serve that party's designation of public file documents and exhibits within 15 days of filing the notice of appeal. When review is under rule 11.2(b)(2) or 11.2(b)(3)(B), the respondent is considered the party seeking review for designating public file documents and exhibits.

(d) Hearing Officer Recommendation. The public file documents must include the hearing officer or panel's recommendation.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.7 PREPARATION OF PUBLIC FILE DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS

(a) Preparation. The Clerk prepares the public file documents and exhibits in the format required by RAP 9.7(a) and (b), and distributes them to the Board. The Clerk provides the parties with a copy of the index of the public file documents and the cover sheet listing the exhibits.

(b) Costs. Costs for preparing public file documents and exhibits may be assessed as costs under rule 13.9(b)(9).
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.8 BRIEFS FOR REVIEWS INVOLVING SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION RECOMMENDATION

(a) Caption of Briefs. Parties should caption their briefs as follows:

[Name of Party] Brief [in Support of/in Opposition to] Hearing [Officer's] [Panel's]
Decision
[Name of Party] Reply Brief

(b) Briefs in Support or Opposition. In a matter before the Board under rule 11.2(b)(1), each party may file a brief in support of or in opposition to the Decision, or any part of it.

(c) Time for Filing Briefs. Briefs, if any, must be filed as follows:

(1) The respondent LPO must file a brief within 20 days of service on the respondent of the later of:

(A) a copy of the hearing transcript; or

(B) the Decision.

(2) Disciplinary counsel must file a brief within 15 days of service on disciplinary counsel of the respondent's brief, or, if no brief is filed by the respondent, within 15 days of the expiration of the period for the respondent to file a brief.

(3) The respondent may file a reply to disciplinary counsel's brief within ten days of service of that brief on the respondent.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.9 BRIEFS FOR REVIEWS NOT INVOLVING SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION RECOMMENDATION

(a) Caption of Briefs. The parties should caption briefs as follows:

[Name of Party] Brief in Opposition to Hearing [Officer's] [Panel's] Decision

[Name of Party] Response

[Name of Party] Reply

(b) Brief in Opposition.

(1) The party seeking review must file a brief in opposition to the Decision within 20 days of the later of:

(A) service on the respondent LPO of a copy of the transcript, unless the parties have agreed that no transcript is necessary; or

(B) filing of the notice of appeal.

(2) Failure to file a brief within the required period constitutes an abandonment of the appeal.

(c) Response. The opposing party has 15 days from service of the statement of the party seeking review to file a brief responding to the issues raised on appeal.

(d) Reply. The party seeking review may file a reply to the response within ten days of service of the response.

(e) Procedure when Both Parties Seek Review or When No Two Panel Members Can Agree. When both parties file notices of appeal under rule 11.2(b)(3)(A) or when no two panel members are able to agree on a Decision, the respondent is considered the party seeking review and disciplinary counsel is considered the opposing party. In that case, disciplinary counsel's response may raise any issue for Board review, and the respondent has an additional five days to file the reply permitted by section (d).

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.10 SUPPLEMENTING RECORD ON REVIEW

The record on review may be supplemented under the procedures of RAP 9.6 except that leave to supplement is freely granted. The Board may direct that the record be supplemented with any portion of the record before the hearing officer, including any public file documents and exhibits.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.11 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PROCEEDINGS

In any brief permitted in rules 11.8 and 11.9, either party may request that an additional hearing be held before the hearing officer or panel to take additional evidence based on newly discovered evidence. A request for an additional hearing must be supported by affidavit describing in detail the additional evidence sought to be admitted and any reasons why it was not presented at the previous hearing. The Board may grant or deny the request in its discretion.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 11.12 DECISION OF BOARD

(a) Basis for Review. Board review is based on the hearing officer or panel's Decision, any hearing panel member's dissent, the parties' briefs filed under rule 11.8 or 11.9, and the record on review.

(b) Standards of Review. The Board reviews findings of fact for substantial evidence. The Board reviews conclusions of law and recommendation de novo. Evidence not presented to the hearing officer or panel cannot be considered by the Board.

(c) Oral Argument. The Board hears oral argument if requested by either party or the Chair. A party's request must be filed no later than the deadline for that party to file their last brief, including a response or reply, under rule 11.8 or 11.9. The Chair's notice of oral argument must be filed and served on the parties no later than 14 days before the oral argument. The Chair sets the time, place, and terms for oral argument.

(d) Action by Board. Neither the Chair nor any members of the Board who also serve on the Discipline Committee are, by virtue of that office or service, disqualified from participating in the review before the Board or from participating in the Board's vote on a matter. On review, the Board may adopt, modify, or reverse the findings, conclusions, or recommendation of the hearing officer or panel. The Board may also direct that the hearing officer or panel hold an additional hearing on any issue, on its own motion, or on either party's request.

(e) Order or Opinion. The Board must issue a written order or opinion. If the Board amends, modifies, or reverses any finding, conclusion, or recommendation of the hearing officer or panel, the Board must state the reasons for its decision in a written order or opinion. A Board member agreeing with the majority's order or opinion may file separate concurring reasons. A Board member dissenting from the majority's order or opinion may set forth in writing the reasons for that dissent. The decision should be prepared as expeditiously as possible and consists of the majority's opinion or order together with any concurring or dissenting opinions. None of the opinions or orders may be filed until all opinions are filed. A copy of the complete decision is served by the Clerk on the parties.

(f) Procedure to Amend, Modify, or Reverse if No Appeal.

(1) If the Board intends to amend, modify, or reverse the hearing officer or panel's recommendation in a matter that has not been appealed to the Board by either party, the Board issues a notice of intended decision.

(2) Either party may, within 15 days of service of this notice, file a request that the Board reconsider the intended decision.

(3) If a request is filed, the Board reconsiders its intended decision and the intended decision has no force or effect. The Chair determines the procedure for the Board's reconsideration, including whether to grant requests for oral argument.

(4) If no timely request for reconsideration is filed, the Board forthwith issues an order adopting the intended decision effective on the date of the order. If a party files a timely request for reconsideration, the Board issues an order or opinion after reconsideration under section (e).

(g) Decision Ordering Dismissal, Admonition or Reprimand Final Unless Review Granted. The Board's decision of dismissal, admonition or reprimand is final if neither party files a petition for review within the time permitted by title 12 or upon the Supreme Court's denial of a petition for discretionary review.

(h) Decision Requiring Supreme Court Action. After the time for filing a petition for review has expired or a petition has been denied, if the recommendation of the Board is that the respondent LPO's certification be suspended or revoked, that recommendation along with the record shall be transmitted to the Supreme Court for entry of an appropriate order or other action as the Court deems appropriate under Title 12.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 11.13 CHAIR MAY MODIFY REQUIREMENTS

Upon written motion filed with the Clerk by either party, for good cause shown, the Chair may modify the time periods in Title 11, and make other orders as appear appropriate to assure fair and orderly Board review. However, the time period for filing a notice of appeal in rule 11.2(b)(3)(A) may not be extended or altered.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 12—REVIEW BY SUPREME COURT

ELPOC 12.1 APPLICABILITY OF RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

The Rules of Appellate Procedure serve as guidance for review under this title except as to matters specifically dealt with in these rules.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 12.2 METHODS OF SEEKING REVIEW

(a) Two Methods for Seeking Review of Board Decisions. The methods for seeking Supreme Court review of Board decisions entered under rule 11.12(e) are: review as a matter of right, called "appeal," and review with Court permission, called "discretionary review." Both "appeal" and "discretionary review" are called "review."

(b) Power of Court Not Affected. This rule does not affect the Court's power to review any Board decision recommending suspension or revocation and to exercise its inherent and exclusive jurisdiction over the LPO discipline and disability system. The Court notifies the

respondent LPO and disciplinary counsel of the Court's intent to exercise sua sponte review within 90 days of the Court receiving notice of the decision under rule 3.5(a), rule 7.1(h), or otherwise.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 12.3 APPEAL

(a) Respondent's Right to Appeal. The respondent LPO has the right to appeal a Board decision recommending suspension or revocation. There is no other right of appeal.

(b) Notice of Appeal. To appeal, the respondent must file a notice of appeal with the Clerk within 15 days of service of the Board's decision on the respondent.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 12.4 DISCRETIONARY REVIEW

(a) Decisions Subject to Discretionary Review. Board decisions under rule 11.12(e) not subject to appeal under ELPOC 12.3 are subject to Supreme Court review only through discretionary review. The Court accepts discretionary review only if:

(1) the Board's decision is in conflict with a Supreme Court decision;

(2) a significant question of law is involved;

(3) there is no substantial evidence in the record to support a material finding of fact on which the Board's decision is based; or

(4) the petition involves an issue of substantial public interest that the Court should determine.

(b) Petition for Review. Either party may seek discretionary review by filing a petition for review with the Court within 25 days of service of the Board's decision.

(c) Content of Petition; Answer; Service; Decision. A petition for review should be substantially in the form prescribed by RAP 13.4(c) for petitions for Supreme Court review of Court of Appeals decisions. References in that rule to the Court of Appeals are considered references to the Board. The appendix to the petition or an appendix to an answer or reply may additionally contain any part of the record, including portions of the transcript or exhibits, to which the party refers. RAP 13.4(d) - (h) govern answers and replies to petitions for review and related matters including service and decision by the Court.

(d) Acceptance of Review. The Court accepts discretionary review of a Board decision by granting a petition for review. Upon acceptance of review, the same procedures apply to matters subject to appeal and matters subject to discretionary review.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 12.5 RECORD TO SUPREME COURT

(a) Transmittal. The Clerk should transmit the record to the Supreme Court within 30 days of the filing of the notice of appeal, service of the order accepting review, or filing of the transcript of oral argument before the Board, if any.

(b) Content. The record transmitted to the Court consists of:

- (1) the notice of appeal, if any;
- (2) the Board's decision;
- (3) the record before the Board;
- (4) the transcript of any oral argument before the Board; and
- (5) any other portions of the record before the hearing officer, including any public file documents or exhibits, that the Court deems necessary for full review.

(c) Notice to Parties. The Clerk serves each party with a list of the portions of the record transmitted.

(d) Transmittal of Cost Orders. Within ten days of entry of an order assessing costs under rule 13.9(e), the Clerk should transmit it to the Court as a separate part of the record, together with the supporting statements of costs and expenses and any exceptions or reply filed under rule 13.9(d).

(e) Additions to Record. Either party may at any time move the Court for an order directing the transmittal of additional portions of the record to the Court.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 12.6 BRIEFS

(a) Brief Required. The party seeking review must file a brief stating their objections to the Board's decision.

(b) Time for Filing. The brief of the party seeking review should be filed with the Supreme Court within 30 days of service under rule 12.5(c) of the list of portions of the record transmitted to the Court.

(c) Answering Brief. The answering brief of the other party should be filed with the Court within 30 days after service of the brief of the party seeking review.

(d) Reply Brief. A reply brief of a party seeking review should be filed with the Court within the sooner of 20 days after service of the answering brief or 14 days before oral argument. A reply brief should be limited to a response to the issues in the brief to which the reply brief is directed.

(e) Briefs When Both Parties Seek Review. When both the respondent LPO and disciplinary counsel seek review of a Board decision, the respondent is deemed the party seeking review for the purposes of this rule. In that case, disciplinary counsel may file a brief in reply to any response the respondent has made to the issues presented by disciplinary counsel, to be filed with the Court the sooner of 20 days after service of the respondent's reply brief or 14 days before oral argument.

(f) Form of Briefs. Briefs filed under this rule must conform as nearly as possible to the requirements of RAP 10.3 and 10.4. Public file documents should be abbreviated PF, the transcript or partial transcript of the hearing should be abbreviated TR, and exhibits should be abbreviated EX.

(g) Reproduction and Service of Briefs by Clerk. The Supreme Court Clerk reproduces and distributes briefs as provided in RAP 10.5.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 12.7 ARGUMENT

(a) Rules Applicable. Oral argument before the Supreme Court is conducted under title 11 of the Rules of Appellate Procedure, unless the Court directs otherwise.

(b) Priority. Disciplinary proceedings have priority and are set upon compliance with the above rules.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 12.8 EFFECTIVE DATE OF OPINION

(a) Effective when Filed. An opinion in a disciplinary proceeding takes effect when filed unless the Court specifically provides otherwise.

(b) Motion for Reconsideration. A motion for reconsideration may be filed as provided in RAP 12.4, but the motion does not stay the judgment unless the Court enters a stay.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 12.9 VIOLATION OF RULES

Sanctions for violation of these rules may be imposed on a party under RAP 18.9. Upon dismissal under that rule of a review sought by a respondent LPO and expiration of the period to file objections under RAP 17.7, or upon dismissal of review by the Court if timely objections are filed, the Board's decision is final.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 13—SANCTIONS AND REMEDIES

ELPOC 13.1 SANCTIONS AND REMEDIES

Upon a finding that an LPO has committed an act of misconduct, one or more of the following may be imposed:

(a) Sanctions.

- (1) Revocation;
- (2) Suspension under rule 13.3; or
- (3) Reprimand.

(b) Admonition. An admonition under rule 13.5.

(c) Remedies.

- (1) Restitution;
- (2) Probation;

(3) Limitation on practice as an LPO;

(4) Requirement that the LPO attend continuing education courses;

(5) Assessment of costs; or

(6) Other requirements consistent with the purposes of LPO discipline.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 13.2 EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS

Suspensions and revocations are effective on the date set by the Supreme Court's order, which will ordinarily be seven days after the date of the order. If no date is set, the suspension or revocation is effective on the date of the Court's order.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 13.3 SUSPENSION

(a) Term of Suspension. A suspension must be for a fixed period of time not exceeding one year.

(b) Reinstatement.

(1) After the period of suspension, the Clerk may submit to the Court a recommendation that the respondent LPO be returned to the respondent's status before the suspension upon:

(A) the respondent's compliance with all current licensing requirements; and

(B) certification by the Clerk or disciplinary counsel that the respondent has complied with any specific conditions ordered, and has paid any costs or restitution ordered or is current with any costs or restitution payment plan.

(2) A respondent may ask the Chair to review an adverse determination by disciplinary counsel regarding compliance with the conditions for reinstatement, payment of costs or restitution, or compliance with a costs or restitution payment plan. On review, the Chair may modify the terms of the payment plan if warranted. The Chair determines the procedure for this review. The Chair's ruling is not subject to further review. If the Chair determines that the Board should review the matter, the Chair directs the procedure for Board review and the Board's decision is not subject to further review.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 13.4 REPRIMAND

(a) Administration. The Board administers a reprimand to a respondent LPO by written statement signed by the Chair.

(b) Notice and Review of Contents. The Clerk must serve the respondent with a copy of the proposed reprimand. Within five days of service of the proposed reprimand, the respondent may file a request for review of the content of the proposed reprimand. This request stays the administration of the reprimand. When timely requested, the Board reviews the proposed reprimand in light of the decision or stipulation imposing the reprimand and may take any appropriate action. The Board's action is final and not subject to further review. If no request is received, the content of the reprimand is final, and the reprimand is administered.

ELPOC 13.5 ADMONITION

(a) By the Discipline Committee.

(1) The discipline committee may issue an admonition when investigation of a grievance shows misconduct.

(2) A respondent LPO may protest either the discipline committee's or the Board's prehearing issuance of an admonition by filing a notice to that effect with the Clerk within 30 days of service of the admonition. Upon receipt of a timely protest, the admonition is rescinded, and the grievance is deemed ordered to hearing.

(b) Following a Hearing. A hearing officer or panel may recommend that a respondent receive an admonition following a hearing.

(c) By Stipulation. The parties may stipulate to an admonition under rule 9.1.

(d) Effect. An admonition is admissible in subsequent disciplinary or disability proceedings involving the respondent. Rule 3.6(b) governs destruction of file materials relating to an investigation or hearing concluded with an admonition, including the admonition.

(e) Action on Board Review. Upon review under Title 11, the Board may dismiss, issue an admonition, or impose sanctions or other remedies under rule 13.1.

(f) Signing of Admonition. The discipline committee chair signs an admonition issued by the discipline committee. The Board Chair or the Chair's designee signs all other admonitions.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 13.6 DISCIPLINE FOR CUMULATIVE ADMONITIONS

(a) Grounds. An LPO may be subject to sanction or other remedy under rule 13.1 if the LPO receives three admonitions within a five year period.

(b) Procedure. Upon being presented with evidence that a respondent LPO has received three admonitions within a five year period, the discipline committee may authorize the filing of a formal complaint based solely on the provisions of this rule. A proceeding under this rule is conducted in the same manner as any disciplinary proceeding. The issues in the proceeding are whether the respondent has received three admonitions within a five year period and, if so, what sanction or other remedy should be recommended.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 13.7 RESTITUTION

(a) Restitution May Be Required. A respondent LPO who has been sanctioned under rule 13.1 or admonished under rule 13.5(b) may be ordered to make restitution to persons financially injured by the respondent's conduct.

(b) Payment of Restitution.

(1) A respondent ordered to make restitution must do so within 30 days of the date on which the decision requiring restitution becomes final, unless the decision provides otherwise or the respondent enters into a periodic payment plan with the Clerk or disciplinary counsel.

(2) The Clerk or disciplinary counsel may enter into an agreement with a respondent for a reasonable periodic payment plan if:

(A) the respondent demonstrates in writing present inability to pay restitution and

(B) the Clerk or disciplinary counsel consults with the persons owed restitution.

(3) A respondent may ask the Chair to review an adverse determination by the Clerk or disciplinary counsel of the reasonableness of a proposed periodic payment plan for restitution. The Chair directs the procedure for this review. The Chair's ruling is not subject to further review. If the Chair determines that the Board should review the matter, the Chair directs the procedure for Board review and the Board's decision is not subject to further review.

(c) Failure To Comply. A respondent's failure to make restitution when ordered to do so, or to comply with the terms of a periodic payment plan may be grounds for discipline.
[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 13.8 PROBATION

(a) Conditions of Probation. A respondent LPO who has been sanctioned under rule 13.1 or admonished under rule 13.5(b) may be placed on probation for a fixed period of two years or less.

(1) Conditions of probation may include, but are not limited to requiring:

(A) alcohol or drug treatment;

(B) medical care;

(C) psychological or psychiatric care;

(D) professional office practice or management counseling; or

(E) periodic audits or reports.

(2) Upon the Clerk or disciplinary counsel's request, the Chair may appoint a suitable person to supervise the probation. Cooperation with a person so appointed is a condition of the probation.

(b) Failure To Comply. Failure to comply with a condition of probation may be grounds for discipline and any sanction imposed must take into account the misconduct leading to the probation.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 13.9 COSTS AND EXPENSES

(a) Assessment. The Board's and the Association's costs and expenses may be assessed as provided in this rule against any respondent LPO who is ordered sanctioned or admonished.

(b) Costs Defined. The term "costs" for the purposes of this rule includes all monetary obligations, except attorney fees, reasonably and necessarily incurred by the Board or the Association in the complete performance of its duties under these rules, whether incurred before or after the filing of a formal complaint. Costs include, by way of illustration and not limitation:

- (1) court reporter charges for attending and transcribing depositions or hearings;
- (2) process server charges;
- (3) necessary travel expenses of hearing officers, hearing panel members, disciplinary counsel, the Clerk, investigators, or witnesses;
- (4) expert witness charges;
- (5) costs of conducting an examination of books and records or an audit under Title 15;
- (6) costs incurred in supervising probation imposed under rule 13.8;
- (7) telephone toll charges;
- (8) fees, costs, and expenses of a lawyer appointed under rule 8.2 or rule 8.3;
- (9) costs of copying materials for submission to the discipline committee, a hearing officer or panel, or the Board; and
- (10) compensation provided to hearing officers or panel members under rule 2.9.

(c) Expenses Defined. "Expenses" for the purposes of this rule means a reasonable charge for attorney fees and administrative costs. Expenses assessed under this rule may equal the actual expenses incurred by the Board or the Association, but in any case cannot be less than the following amounts:

- (1) for an admonition that is accepted under rule 13.5(a), \$750;
- (2) for a matter that becomes final without review by the Board, \$1,500;
- (3) for a matter that becomes final following Board review, without review by the Supreme Court, a total of \$2,000;
- (4) for a matter reviewed by the Supreme Court but not requiring briefing, a total of \$2,500; and
- (5) for a matter reviewed by the Supreme Court in which briefing is required, a total of \$3,000.

(d) Statement of Costs and Expenses, Exceptions, and Reply.

(1) *Timing.* Disciplinary counsel or the Clerk must file a statement of costs and expenses with the Clerk within 20 days from any of the following events:

- (A) an admonition is accepted;

(B) the decision of a hearing officer or panel or the Board imposing an admonition or a sanction becomes final;

(C) a notice of appeal from a Board decision is filed and served; or

(D) the Supreme Court enters an order requiring briefing in a matter it is reviewing.

(2) *Content.* A statement of costs and expenses must state with particularity the nature and amount of the costs claimed and also state the expenses requested. The Clerk or disciplinary counsel must sign the statement, and this signature constitutes a certification that all reasonable attempts have been made to insure the statement's accuracy.

(3) *Service.* The Clerk serves a copy of the statement on the respondent.

(4) *Exceptions.* The respondent may file exceptions no later than 20 days from service of the statement of costs and expenses.

(5) *Reply.* Disciplinary counsel may file a reply no later than ten days from service of any exceptions.

(e) Assessment. The Chair enters an order assessing costs and expenses in favor of the Association after the expiration of the time for filing exceptions or replies.

(f) Review of Chair's Decision.

(1) *Matters Reviewed by Court.* In matters reviewed by the Supreme Court, the Chair's decision is subject to review only by the Court.

(2) *All Other Matters.* In all other matters, the following procedures apply:

(A) Request for Review by Board. Within 20 days of service on the respondent of the order assessing costs and expenses, either party may file a request for Board review of the order.

(B) Board Action. Upon the timely filing of a request, the Board reviews the order assessing costs and expenses, based on disciplinary counsel's statement of costs and expenses and any exceptions or reply, the decision of the hearing officer or panel or of the Board, and any written statement submitted by either party within the time directed by the Chair. The Board may approve or modify the order assessing costs and expenses. The Board's decision is final when filed and not subject to further review.

(g) Assessment in Matters Reviewed by the Court. When a matter is reviewed by the Court, any order assessing costs and expenses entered by the Chair under section (e) and the statement of costs and expenses and any exceptions or reply filed in the proceeding are included in the record transmitted to the Court. Upon filing of an opinion by the Court imposing a sanction or admonition, costs and expenses may be assessed in favor of the Association under the procedures of RAP Title 14, except that "costs" as used in that title means any costs and expenses allowable under this rule.

(h) Assessment Discretionary. Assessment of any or all costs and expenses may be denied if it appears in the interests of justice to do so.

(i) Payment of Costs and Expenses.

(1) A respondent ordered to pay costs and expenses must do so within 30 days of the date on which the assessment becomes final, unless the order assessing costs and expenses provides otherwise or the respondent enters into a periodic payment plan with disciplinary counsel.

(2) The respondent must pay interest on any amount not paid within 30 days of the date the assessment is final at the maximum rate permitted under RCW 19.52.020.

(3) Disciplinary counsel or the Clerk may enter into an agreement with a respondent for a reasonable periodic payment plan if the respondent demonstrates in writing present inability to pay assessed costs and expenses.

(A) Any payment plan entered into under this rule must provide for interest at the maximum rate permitted under RCW 19.52.020.

(B) A respondent may ask the Chair to review an adverse determination by disciplinary counsel regarding specific conditions for a periodic payment plan. The Chair directs the procedure for this review. The Chair's ruling is not subject to further review. If the Chair determines that the Board should review the matter, the Chair directs the procedure for Board review, and the Board's decision is not subject to further review.

(j) Failure To Comply. A respondent's failure to pay costs and expenses when ordered to do so or to comply with the terms of a periodic payment plan may be grounds for discipline.

(k) Costs in Other Cases. Rule 9.1 governs costs and expenses in cases resolved by stipulation. Rule 8.6 governs assessment of costs and expenses in disability proceedings.

(l) Money Judgment for Costs and Expenses. After the assessment of costs and expenses is final, upon application by the Association, the Supreme Court commissioner or clerk may enter a money judgment on the order for costs and expenses if the respondent has failed to pay the costs and expenses as provided by this rule. The Association must serve the application for a money judgment on the respondent under rule 4.1. The respondent may file an objection with the commissioner or clerk within 20 days of service of the application. The sole issue to be determined by the commissioner or clerk is whether the respondent has complied with the duty to pay costs and expenses under this rule. The commissioner or clerk may enter a money judgment in compliance with RCW 4.64.030 and notify the Association and the respondent of the judgment. On application, the commissioner or clerk transmits the judgment to the clerk of the superior court in any county selected by the Association and notifies the respondent of the transmittal. The clerk of the superior court files the judgment as a judgment in that court without payment of a filing fee.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

TITLE 14—DUTIES ON SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION

ELPOC 14.1 NOTICE TO CLIENTS IN WHICH LPO IS PROVIDING SERVICES; PROVIDING PROPERTY BELONGING TO CLIENTS IN WHICH LPO IS PROVIDING SERVICES

(a) Providing Clients' Property. An LPO who has been suspended, revoked, or transferred to disability inactive status must provide each client to a transaction in which the LPO is providing services with the client's assets, files, and other documents in the LPO's possession.

(b) Notice if Suspended for 60 Days or Less. An LPO who has been suspended for 60 days or less under rule 13.3 must within ten days of the effective date of the suspension:

(1) notify every client to a transaction in which the LPO is providing services, of the suspension, the reason therefor, and of the LPO's consequent inability to act as an LPO after the effective date of the suspension, and advise each of these clients to seek prompt substitution of another LPO; and

(2) notify the LPO's employer and all others seeking to employ the LPO of the suspension, the reason therefor, and consequent inability to act during the suspension.

(c) Notice if Otherwise Suspended or Revoked. An LPO whose license has been revoked, or suspended for more than 60 days as a disciplinary sanction, suspended for nonpayment of fees or under Title 7 or APR 12 must within 10 days of the effective date of the revocation or suspension notify every client to a transaction in which the LPO is providing services of the LPO's inability to act as the LPO for the transaction and the reason therefor, and advise the client to seek LPO services elsewhere.

(d) Notice if Transferred to Disability Inactive Status. An LPO transferred to disability inactive status, or their guardian if one has been appointed, must give all notices required by section (c), except that the notices need not refer to disability.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 14.2 LPO TO DISCONTINUE PRACTICE AS AN LPO

A revoked or suspended LPO, or an LPO transferred to disability inactive status, must not practice as an LPO after the effective date of the revocation, suspension, or transfer to disability inactive status, and also must take whatever steps are necessary to avoid any reasonable likelihood that anyone will rely on them as an LPO. This rule does not preclude a revoked or suspended LPO, or an LPO transferred to disability inactive status, from disbursing assets held by the LPO to parties to transactions or other persons.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 14.3 AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE

Within 10 days of the effective date of an LPO's revocation, suspension, or transfer to disability inactive status, the LPO must serve on the Clerk an affidavit stating that the LPO has fully complied with the provisions of this title. The affidavit must also provide a mailing address where communications to the LPO may thereafter be directed. The LPO must attach to the affidavit copies of the form letters of notification sent to the parties to transactions in which the LPO was providing services together with a list of names and addresses of all persons, entities or parties to whom notices were sent. The affidavit is a confidential document except the LPO's mailing address is treated as a change of mailing address.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 14.4 LPO TO KEEP RECORDS OF COMPLIANCE

When an LPO's certification has been revoked, suspended, or transferred to disability inactive status the LPO must maintain written records of the various steps they have taken under this title, so that proof of compliance will be available in any subsequent proceeding.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009. Amended effective January 1, 2023.]

ELPOC 15.1 AUDIT AND INVESTIGATION OF BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Board and its Chair have the following authority to examine, investigate, and audit the books and records of any LPO and Closing Firm to ascertain and obtain reports on whether the LPO or Closing Firm has been and is complying with LPORPC 1.12A and B:

(a) Random Examination. The Board may authorize examinations of the books and records of any LPO or Closing Firm selected at random. Only the books and records of transactions in which an LPO participated may be examined in an examination under this section.

(b) Particular Examination. Upon receipt of information that a particular LPO or Closing Firm may not be in compliance with LPORPC 1.12A and B the Chair may authorize an examination limited to the LPO or Closing Firm's books and records. Information may be presented to the Chair without notice to the LPO or Closing Firm. Disclosure of this information is subject to rules 3.1-3.4.

(c) Audit. After an examination under section (a) or (b), if the Chair determines that further examination is warranted, the Chair may order an appropriate audit of the LPO's or Closing Firm's books and records, including verification of the information in those records from available sources.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 15.2 COOPERATION OF LPO

Any LPO or Closing Firm who is subject to examination, investigation, or audit under rule 15.1 must cooperate with the person conducting the examination, investigation, or audit, subject only to the proper exercise of any privilege against self-incrimination, by:

(a) producing forthwith all evidence, books, records, and papers requested for the examination, investigation, or audit;

(b) furnishing forthwith any explanations required for the examination, investigation, or audit;

(c) producing written authorization, directed to any bank or depository, for the person to examine, investigate, or audit trust and general accounts, safe deposit boxes, and other forms of maintaining trust property by the LPO or Closing Firm in the bank or depository.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 15.3 DISCLOSURE

The examination and audit report are only available to the Board, Clerk, disciplinary counsel, and the LPO or Closing Firm examined, investigated, or audited, and to the Supreme Court on its request, unless a disciplinary proceeding is commenced in which case the disclosure provisions of Title 3 apply.

[Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 15.4 TRUST ACCOUNT OVERDRAFT NOTIFICATION

(a) Overdraft Notification Agreement Required. To be authorized as a depository for LPO trust accounts, a bank, credit union, savings and loan association, or qualified public depository must file with the Legal Foundation of Washington (Legal Foundation) an agreement as provided for under ELC 15.4(a) and (b). The Legal Foundation maintains a list of financial institutions authorized to establish LPO trust accounts and publishes the list on a web site maintained by the Legal Foundation for public information.

(b) Costs. Nothing in these rules precludes a financial institution from charging a particular LPO or Closing Firm for the reasonable cost of producing the reports and records required by this rule, but those charges may not be a transaction cost charged against funds payable to the Legal Foundation of Washington under LPORPC 1.12A(i)(1).

(c) Notification by LPO. Every LPO or Closing Firm who receives notification that any instrument presented against the LPO's or Closing Firm's trust account was presented against insufficient funds, whether or not the instrument was honored, must promptly notify the Clerk of the Limited Practice Board of the following information:

- (A) the identity of the financial institution;
- (B) the identity of the LPO or Closing Firm;
- (C) the account number; and
- (D) either:
 - (i) the amount of overdraft and date created; or
 - (ii) the amount of the returned instrument(s) and the date returned.

The LPO or Closing Firm must include a full explanation of the cause of the overdraft. [Adopted effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective December 1, 2009.]

ELPOC 15.5 DECLARATION

(a) Declaration. Each active LPO must file a trust account declaration as required by APR 12.

(b) Noncompliance. Failure to file the declaration may subject an active LPO to suspension from practice pursuant to APR 17. [Adopted effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective March 1, 2016; September 1, 2017; December 5, 2017.]

ELPOC 15.6 REGULATIONS

The Board may adopt regulations regarding the powers in this title subject to the approval of the Supreme Court. [Adopted effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective March 1, 2016.]

TITLE 16—EFFECT OF THESE RULES ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS

ELPOC 16.1 EFFECT ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS

These rules and any subsequent amendments will apply in their entirety, on the effective date as ordered by the Supreme Court, to any pending matter or investigation that has not yet been ordered to hearing. They will apply to other pending matters except as would not be feasible or would work an injustice. The hearing officer or panel chair assigned to hear a matter, or the Chair in a matter pending before the Board, may rule on the appropriate procedure with a view to insuring a fair and orderly proceeding.

- [Adopted effective January 1, 2009.]