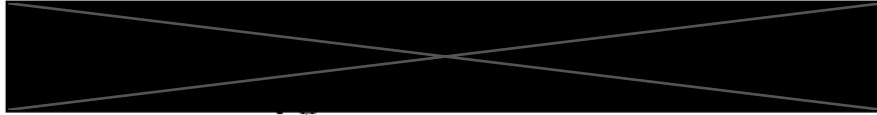




Anne M. van Leynseele
Domicile Address Present Residence




August 3, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

 Disciplinary Counsel
Washington State Bar Association
Office of Disciplinary Counsel
1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600
Seattle, Washington 98101



Re: Grievant's Request for Review of ODC File No. 

Dear Mr.  and the OCD Disciplinary Review Board:

In response to your letter dated June 19, 2020, I timely exercise my right to a review of the Dismissal of Grievance of Anne van Leynseele against Aaron Pelley ODC File No.  as allowed under ELC 5.7(b) for the reasons enumerated below.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2013 after serving the first Obama Administration in Washington DC, I returned to Washington State and started a solo practice under the mentorship of a small corporate law office in Lynnwood. My election of a transactional cannabis law practice became a problem for the conservative office such that I relocated to a rented space in Seattle. I struggled with the lack of support from Washington lawyers, and became so desperate for mentorship, I asked Charity Anastasio of the Washington State Bar Association for a list of lawyers that I might pay to answer some questions on process and operations.

Spring of 2016, I went into partnership with Aaron A. Pelley ("Respondent"), who was seven years into operating a solo practice specializing in criminal cases and civil forfeitures related to cannabis. Over the two-year partnership there were struggles navigating our swift growth and the nascent cannabis industry, but we pushed through by employing a Practice Manager, building and enforcing extensive procedures for retention of client records, creating a client onboarding process, multi-partner verification of each invoice, and documenting all cash and check financial transactions. In addition to internal systems, we engaged outside bookkeepers, accountants, and a business coach; sought corporate counsel from ; retained  for on-going advice; and appointed our senior litigator as the ethics lawyer for our tiny firm. We held partner meetings every other week with written agenda to keep each other informed, address client and firm needs, make mutual decisions, and document any changes. We required weekly emails on