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Board on Professional Responsibility

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS
BOARD ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the Matter of	:	
	:	
Thomas H. Queen, ESQUIRE,	:	**DDN 2023-D158**
Respondent	:	
	:	
A Member of the Bar of the District of	:	
Columbia Court of Appeals	:	
Bar Number: 146340	:	
Date of Admission: 1/28/1968	:	

RESPONSE OF RESPONDENT TO DRAFT SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

COMES NOW Respondent Thomas H. Queen, by and through undersigned counsel, to respond to the Specification of Charges in the above captioned matter.

1. Respondent was admitted as a member of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on or about January 29, 1968 and later assigned the Unified Bar No. 146340 by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

2. Charles A. Queen served in an "of counsel" capacity in the 1990's. Respondent denies that Charles Queen operated a separate law firm at that time. Respondent admits the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 2.

3. Respondent admits that an IOLTA account at PNC Bank bearing xxxx8453 exists. Respondent is not sure whether the IOLTA account xxxx5562 was opened by Charles Queen, Esq. at Riggs Bank in 2000.

4. Respondent admits that he did not maintain an IOLTA account in his name and that he used the IOLTA account established by Charles Queen, Esq. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 4.

5. Respondent admits that at some point in time Charles Queen ceased to make deposits in the IOLTA account. Respondent admits that he deposited money in the IOLTA account some of which belonged to Respondent, his clients and third parties. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 5.

6. Admitted.

7. Respondent denies that he maintained dominion and control over the IOLTA account. Respondent admits that he made deposits or caused deposits to be made to the IOLTA account. Respondent denies that he controlled the transfer of funds out of the account. Respondent admits that he had access to the checkbook for the IOLTA account. Respondent admits that Charles Queen signed blank checks for proper use of the IOLTA account. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 7.

8. Respondent admits that bank statements for the IOLTA account were received from PNC Bank. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 8.

9. Respondent denies any and all intentional commingling of funds and denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 9.

10. Respondent denies the allegations contained in paragraph numbered 10 including subparts a, b, and c.

11. Respondent admits that in September 2018, Barbara Mann, Esq. initiated a wire transfer of funds, $128,655.84, into the IOLTA account during the representation of Tonja Bennett. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 11.

12. Respondent denies any and all intentional commingling of funds that violates the Rules of Professional Responsibility. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 12.

13. Respondent denies that he deposited money in the IOLTA account for Tonja Bennett. Respondent admits that he deposited a check for $85,000 in the IOLTA account from the Estate of Turpin and that the distribution of such funds were to be $64,565.55 to Calvin Holloway and the remainder to the Respondent as fess and costs. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 13.

14. Admitted.

15. Respondent admits that checks were written for the remaining funds from the Turpin estate. To the extent that checks bearing the Turpin estate in the

memo line exceeded $20,434.45, the withdrawals should have reflected the names of other clients. In other words, an error may have been reflected in the memo line. No misappropriation of funds occurred. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 15.

16. Respondent admits that a check for $34,933.35 was deposited in the IOLTA account from the Estate of Maudia Patterson. The check was for attorney's fees, accounting fees, tax preparation fees and unpaid estate taxes. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 16.

17. Respondent admits that check nos. 1699 and 1701 had been written. Respondent relies on the response to paragraph 16 above.

18. Respondent deposited a check for $24,005.52 which covered attorney's fees and additional court costs from the Estate of Gantt. Attorney's fees and costs were approved by the court. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 18.

19. Respondent admits to have written checks from the Estate of Oscar Gantt. An error may have been reflected in the memo line of some of the checks written. No commingling or misappropriation of funds occurred. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 19.

20. Admitted.

21. Admitted.

22. Respondent denies the allegations contained in paragraph numbered 22. All available statements were produced. Respondent did not maintain records is the fashion demanded on the IOLTA account that belonged to Charles Queen.

23. Respondent cooperated with the inquiries of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and provided bank statements that were available and that were in his possession. Respondent further responded to all of the requested information in the Charles Queen letter.

24. Respondent admits the first sentence. Respondent was not made aware of any failure to respond to Disciplinary Counsel's written questions.

25. Respondent admits the first sentence. Respondent produced all bank statements and records that were available to him. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 25.

26. Respondent provided an explanation for check no. 1865 which appeared on the face of the check itself. Respondent denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph numbered 26.

27. Respondent denies the allegations contained in paragraph numbered 27.

28. Respondent denies the allegations contained in paragraph numbered 28.

Further responding to the Specification of Charges, Respondent denies having committed any violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct and denies any and all charges not specifically admitted or otherwise answered.

Respectfully submitted,
HOUSTON & HOWARD

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July 23, 2025

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Response to Specification of Charges was served by electronic mail on Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Jerri Dunston, 515 - 5th Street, NW, Building A, Room 117, Washington, DC 20001 and James T. Phalen, Esquire, Executive Attorney, Board on Professional Responsibility, 430 E Street, NW, Suite 138 Washington, DC 20001, this 23rd day of July 2025.

/s/ Johnny M. Howard