

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS
9625 FENWAY AVENUE, SUITE B
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1592
(225) 925-4802**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	CASE NO. 2019-8
)	
C.M. OLIVER ARCHITECTS, L.L.C.)	
)	
RESPONDENT)	
)	
)	
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CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners [hereinafter the “Board”], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and C.M. Oliver Architects, L.L.C. [hereinafter “Respondent”], by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, hereby agree to the following:

Prior to July 1, 2015, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a limited liability company, number LL0238; however, its license was in an expired status from July 1, 2015, through August 21, 2019, when Respondent with the permission of the Board renewed its license which was designated number AF 0661.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board’s receipt of information and documents which suggested that Respondent may have practiced and/or offered to practice architecture in Louisiana during which time its license was expired. The investigation disclosed that (a) between January 10, 2017, and August 21, 2019, Respondent practiced and/or offered to practice architecture on approximately ten (10) projects that required Louisiana State Fire Marshal plan approval, (b) between August 1, 2015, and August 21, 2019, Respondent offered to provide architectural services through its *Facebook* and *houzz* profile pages and its website (*cmoliverarchitects.com*) and (c) between at least September 9, 2016, and August 21, 2019, Respondent offered to provide architectural services through its *Instagram* page.

La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) prohibits licensees from practicing architecture in Louisiana without proper licensure. La. R.S. 37:154(A) prohibits any person from practicing, or offering to practice, architecture in Louisiana without being properly certified. La. R.S. 37:153 and La. R.S. 37:154(A) authorize the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) and La. R.S.37:154(A) upon finding of guilt following notice and hearing and a

majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) and La. R.S. 37:154(A) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that Respondent's license to practice and/or offer to practice architecture in Louisiana was in an expired status from July 1, 2015, through August 21, 2019, and during this time period Respondent practiced and offered to practice architecture in Louisiana.

By letter dated August 8, 2019, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that it may have violated La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) and La. R.S. 37:154(A) relative to practicing and/or offering to practice architecture in Louisiana with an expired license.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, and for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of its own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to **(a)** pay a fine of four thousand and no/100 (\$4,000.00) dollars within ninety (90) days of the ratification of the Consent Order, **(b)** pay administrative costs of four hundred forty-one and 48/100 (\$441.48) dollars within ninety (90) days of the ratification of the Consent Order, **(c)** the suspension of its Louisiana architectural firm license if it fails to make the payments to the Board, **(d)** the publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary of this matter in the Board's official newsletter, *Louisiana Architect*, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), all identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits that its conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above-referenced laws and/or rules as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that it will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of its right to be represented by counsel before the Board and/or to appear at any hearing personally or by counsel and present witnesses and evidence in its own behalf, it hereby waives this right and its right to appeal, and it states affirmatively that it has been afforded all administrative remedies due it under the law. Respondent further acknowledges awareness of the fact that the signed original of this Consent Order will remain in

the custody of the Board as a public record and will be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive its right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in its behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents that **(a)** it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, **(b)** it has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with it by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument, and **(c)** the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners and Respondent agree that:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine of four thousand and no/100 (\$4,000.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Treasurer, State of Louisiana, no later than ninety (90) days from the ratification of this Consent Order; and

2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of four hundred forty-one and 48/100 (\$441.48) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, no later than ninety (90) days from the ratification of this Consent Order; and

3. If Respondent fails to make either of the payments by the ninety (90) day deadline, then its Louisiana architectural firm license, number AF0661, shall be automatically and immediately suspended, with said suspension continuing until it complies with the payments; and

4. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website and a summary of this matter shall be published in the official newsletter of the Board, *Louisiana Architect*, and reported to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), all identifying Respondent by name; and

5. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members, staff, attorneys or representatives from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

DATE: 9/12/19

BY: 
KATHERINE E. BILLEGAS, Executive Director


DATE: 9/30/2019

C.M. OLIVER ARCHITECTS, L.L.C., Respondent

BY: 
Charles M. Oliver, Member

Witnesses to the signature of
C.M. Oliver Architects, L.L.C.


Print Name: TYSON DUCOTE


Print Name: G. Paulette James