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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
CLAIRE E. CORNETT)
)
RESPONDENT)
)
)
)
)
)

CASE NO. 2024-20

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 Claire E. Cornett [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as an architect, number 9104.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information which suggested that Respondent may have failed to satisfy the Board's requirements for continuing education [hereinafter "CE"] and may have made a material misstatement in applying for a renewal certificate.

In October 2023, the Continuing Education Committee ("Committee") of the Board notified Respondent that an audit of her 2022 CE records was being conducted and requested that she submit those records to the Committee for review. Respondent replied to that request on October 24, 2023 by submitting documentation for one (1) HSW CE hour obtained during 2022. No other CE documentation for 2022 was received. A review of the Board's licensure records disclosed that at all times material hereto Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as an architect, number 9104.

The investigation further disclosed that on or about January 5, 2023, Respondent submitted to the Board her Louisiana architect license late renewal application for 2023, certifying thereon that she had completed twelve (12) CE hours in Health, Safety and Welfare [hereinafter "HSW"] subjects during CY2022, completion of which was a condition for the renewal of her Louisiana architect license for CY2023.

La. R.S. 37:145(B), *to wit* LAC Title 46: I §1315(D)(1), (2) and (3), requires architect licensees to obtain a minimum of twelve (12) CEH in HSW subjects each calendar year. La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7) prohibits licensees from making any material misstatement in applying for any renewal certificate. La. R.S. 37:153 authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:145(B), *to wit* LAC Title 46: I §1315(D)(1), (2) and (3), and La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7), 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. 37:145(B), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7), and LAC Title 46: I §1315(D)(2) and (3) were in effect at all times material hereto.



It is undisputed that **(a)** on or about January 5, 2023, Respondent submitted to the Board her Louisiana architect license late renewal application for CY2023, which certified that she had completed the Board's CE requirements for CY2022, completion of which was a condition for the renewal of Respondent's Louisiana architect license for CY2023; and **(b)** Respondent failed to earn (and misstated that she had earned) the required CE hours for CY2022.

By letter dated June 21, 2024, the Committee gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the referral of charges against her on the grounds that she may have violated **(a)** La. R.S. 37:145(B), *to wit* LAC Title 46: I §1315(D)(1), (2) and (3), relative to the Board's CE requirements, and **(b)** La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7) relative to material misstatement in applying for a renewal certificate with the Board.

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 her own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to **(a)** pay a fine of seven-hundred fifty and no/100 (\$750.00) dollars, **(b)** pay administrative costs of two-hundred and 42/100 dollars (\$200.42), **(c)** within sixty (60) days of the ratification of this Consent Order by the Board, earn 12 HSW CE hours for CY 2022 and forward proof of earning such to the Board; **(d)** the auditing of her CE records for the next three (3) consecutive renewal cycles; **(e)** the automatic and immediate suspension of her Louisiana architect license in the event she fails to comply with any sanction contained within this Consent Order, which suspension will continue until all such sanctions are satisfied; **(f)** publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary of this matter in the Board's official newsletter, *Louisiana Architect*, to read, "*Claire E. Cornett, an architect (license #9104), was subject to disciplinary action by the Board for (a) failing to comply with the Board's continuing education [hereinafter "CE"] requirements in violation of La. R.S. 37:145(B), to wit LAC Title 46: I §1315(D)(1), (2) and (3), and (b) making a material misstatement in applying for a renewal certificate with the Board in violation of La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7). In November of 2022, Ms. Cornett submitted to the Board her renewal application for CY2023, certifying thereon that she had completed 12 CE hours in Health, Safety, and Welfare [hereinafter "HSW"] subjects during CY2022. In October 2023, the Continuing Education Committee of the Board audited Ms. Cornett's CE records for CY2022. In responding to this CE records audit, Ms. Cornett provided documentation for only one (1) HSW CE hour obtained during 2022. Ms. Cornett has entered into a Consent Order with the Board wherein she admitted to the referenced violations of the above laws/rules and agreed to pay a fine of \$750; to pay administrative costs of \$200.42; to earn twelve HSW CEHs for CY2022 and forward proof of such to the Board within 60 days of the ratification of the Consent Order by the Board; to the audit of her CE records for the next three consecutive renewal cycles; to the immediate and automatic suspension of her Louisiana architect license in the event she fails to comply with any sanction contained within the Consent Order, which suspension will continue until all sanctions are*



satisfied; to the publication of the Consent Order on the Board's website; to the printing of a summary of this matter in the official newsletter of the Board, *Louisiana Architect*, identifying Ms. Cornett by name, and to the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Disciplinary Database, identifying Respondent by name.”; and (g) to the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Disciplinary Database, identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits that her conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above-referenced laws and/or rules as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order constitutes a disciplinary action by the Board against herself and her Louisiana architect license. Respondent also acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that she will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of her 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 on her own behalf; she hereby waives this right and her right to appeal, and she states affirmatively that she has been afforded all administrative remedies due her 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 her right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses on her 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) she fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) she has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order, and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with her 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 seven-hundred fifty and no/100 (\$750.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Treasurer, State of Louisiana, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and
2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of two-hundred and 42/100 dollars (\$200.42), which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and
3. Respondent shall, within sixty (60) days of the ratification of this Consent Order by the Board, earn twelve (12) HSW CE hours for CY2022, and forward proof of earning such to the Board; and



4. Respondent agrees to the audit of her CE records for the next three (3) consecutive renewal cycles; and

5. In the event Respondent fails to comply with any sanction contained within this Consent Order, her Louisiana architect license shall be immediately and automatically suspended until all such sanctions are satisfied; and

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

7. 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

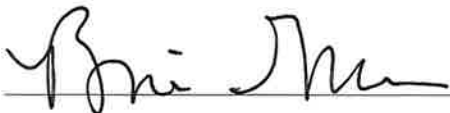
DATE: 8-30-2024

BY: 
TYSON J. DUCOTE, Executive Director

DATE: 7/2/2024

BY: 
CLAIRE E. CORNETT, Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of
Claire E. Cornett



Print Name: BRIAN GREEN



Print Name: GRADY BELL

