

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. 2023-46
)
JONES DESIGN/BUILDERS, LLC)
)
RESPONDENT)
)
)
)
_____)

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 *Jones Design/Builders, LLC*, (hereinafter "Respondent"), represented herein by its duly authorized manager and member, Kenneth W. Jones hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was not licensed in the State of Louisiana as an architectural firm, however Respondent subsequently received its certificate of authority from the Board, number AF0985.

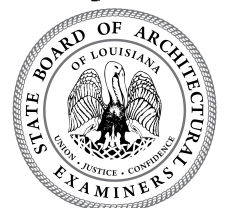
An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information which suggested that Respondent had practiced and/or offered to practice architecture in Louisiana prior to obtaining a certificate of authority from the Board. Respondent was registered by the Louisiana Secretary of State in 1997 as a limited liability company. Board alleges that from 2019 until September 28, 2023 when Respondent received its certificate of authority from the Board, Respondent practiced architecture in Louisiana without obtaining a certificate of authority from the



Board, submitting at least six (6) construction projects to the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office for review and permitting from 2019 until September 28, 2023. The project drawings submitted bear the logo of Respondent. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent's manager was licensed with this Board and Respondent's manager individually electronically sealed the plans noted herein in his personal capacity as a licensed architect, with his personal license number. Respondent did not seal the plans. Respondent submits that it did not knowingly or intentionally practice architecture in violation of the requirements of Louisiana law.

La. R.S. 37:145(A) provides that no person shall practice architecture in this state or use the title "architect," or any term derived therefrom, or display or use any title, sign, advertisement, or other device to indicate that such person practices or offers to practice architecture, or renders architectural services, or is an architect, unless such person shall have secured from the board a certificate of registration and license. La. R.S. 37:153(A)(6) authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action for violations of the Chapter, upon a finding of guilt following notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:158 prohibits all firms from practicing architecture in this state prior to obtaining from the Board a certificate of registration. La. R.S. 37:154 (A) and (C) permit the Board to issue fines and penalties for violations of this Chapter. La. R.S. 37:145(A), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(6), La. R.S. 37:154(A) and (C), and La. R.S. 37:158 were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that Respondent was registered by the Louisiana Secretary of State in 1997 as an LLC. Respondent disputes that it practiced architecture as alleged by the Board but admits that its manager, Kenneth W. Jones, who is licensed with this Board, did provide electronically sealed drawings in his personal capacity to the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office. The drawings



submitted bear the logo of Respondent. Respondent is engaged in the business of construction contracting and does not hold itself out as an architectural firm. Respondent does not intend to operate in the future as an architectural firm

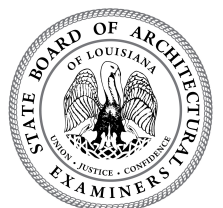
By letter dated June 18, 2024, the Committee gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against it on the grounds that it may have violated La. R.S. 37:145(A), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(6), and La. R.S. 37:154(A) relative to practicing architecture in Louisiana prior to obtaining from the Board a certificate of authority.

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 one thousand five hundred and no/100 (\$1,500.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of two hundred and 12/100 dollars (\$200.12), (c) the immediate suspension of Respondent's Louisiana architectural firm certificate of authority; (d) 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, "*Jones Design/Builders LLC (hereinafter 'Respondent'), an architectural firm (license #AF0958), was subject to disciplinary action by the Board for practicing architecture in Louisiana prior to obtaining from the Board a certificate of authority in violation of La. R.S. 37:145(A), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(6), La. R.S. 37:154(A) and (C), and La. R.S. 37:158. An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information which suggested that Respondent had practiced and/or offered to practice architecture in Louisiana prior to obtaining a certificate of authority from the Board. Respondent was registered by the Louisiana Secretary of State in 1997 as a limited liability company. At least six (6) projects were submitted*



to the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office for review and permitting from 2019 until September 28, 2023 bearing Respondent's logo. Respondent has entered into a Consent Order with the Board wherein it pled "No Contest" to an unknowing and unintentional violation of La. R.S. 37:158 and agreed to pay a fine of \$1,500; to pay administrative costs of \$200.12; to the immediate suspension of its Louisiana architectural firm certificate of authority; to the publication of this 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 Respondent 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 (e) to the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards ("NCARB") Disciplinary Database, identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent enters a plea of "No Contest" to the alleged violation of La. R.S. 37:158 as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order constitutes a disciplinary action by the Board against it and its Louisiana certificate of authority to practice architecture. Respondent also 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 on its own behalf; it hereby waives these rights 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.

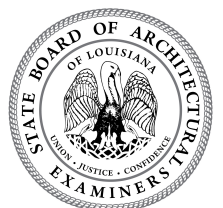


Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive its right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses on its behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent 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 one thousand five hundred and no/100 (\$1,500.00) 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 12/100 dollars (\$200.12), 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's Louisiana architectural firm certificate of authority shall be immediately suspended; and



4. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website, and a summary of this matter shall be printed in the official newsletter of the Board, *Louisiana Architect*, and reported to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards ("NCARB") Disciplinary Database, 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: 2/21/2025

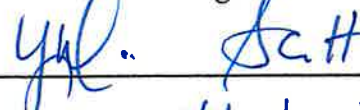
BY: 
TYSON J. DUCOTE, Executive Director


JONES DESIGN/BUILDERS LLC

DATE: 19 February 2025

BY: 
Kenneth W. Jones, Manager and Member

Witnesses to the signature of Kenneth W. Jones


Printed Name: Yolanda Scott


Printed Name: Tiana McKeel

