

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
JEREMIAH BELL SR. d/b/a)
3JMS DRAFTING SERVICES)
)
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 Jeremiah Bell Sr. d/b/a 3JMS Drafting Services [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, (a) Respondent was not licensed in the State of Louisiana as an architect and, therefore, was not authorized to practice and/or offer to practice architecture in the State of Louisiana or use the title "architect," or any term derived therefrom, or display or use any title, sign, advertisement, or any other device to indicate that he practiced or offered to practice architecture, or rendered architectural services, in Louisiana, and (b) Respondent was not employed by Michael B. Wilson, architect (license #2997).

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of a complaint and additional information and documents which suggested that Respondent may have (a) engaged in the unlicensed practice of and/or offered to practice architecture in Louisiana; (b) used the terms "architect," "architectural," and/or "architecture" to indicate that he practiced and/or offered to practice architecture in Louisiana; (c) presented or attempted to use as his own the seal of another; and (d) falsely impersonated another registrant or certificate holder of like or different name.

The investigation disclosed that (a) since at least April 10, 2017, Respondent has represented on the 3JMS Drafting Services *Instagram* page that his firm is an "architectural design firm" and used the word "architect" to indicate that he practices and/or offers to practice architecture, (b) since at least April 11, 2017, Respondent has represented on the 3JMS Drafting Services *Facebook* page that his firm is an "architectural designer" and used the word "architect" to indicate that he practices and/or offers to practice architecture, (c) since at least February 2019, Respondent has represented on his *LinkedIn* page that he is an "Architectural Designer at 3JMS Design Services" and listed his top skill as "Architecture," (d) in October 2018, Respondent prepared, affixed the seal and signature of architect Michael B. Wilson (#2997) to, and issued the plans for the build-out of an existing building for Wrookies LLC in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (e) on or about February 11, 2019, Respondent submitted the Wrookies LLC plans to the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's office for plan



review, and (f) Mr. Wilson had no part in the development or design of these plans and had no knowledge of their existence.

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. 37:154(A) prohibits any person from practicing, or offering to practice, architecture in Louisiana without being certified, presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or the seal of another, or falsely impersonating any other registrant or certificate holder of like or different name. La. R.S. 37:154(A) *to wit* LAC Title 46: I§1527 prohibits an unlicensed person from using the terms "architect," "architectural," "architecture" or anything confusingly similar to indicate that such person practices or offers to practice architecture. La. R.S. 37:154(A) authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:145(A), La. R.S. 37:154(A), and LAC Title 46: I§1527, 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(A), La. R.S. 37:154(A), and LAC Title 46: I§1527 were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that (a) Respondent has never been licensed to practice and/or offer to practice architecture in Louisiana, (b) since at least April 10, 2017, until the present, Respondent has used the words "architect," "architectural," "architecture" or anything confusingly similar to describe himself and his business activities and services in Louisiana without proper licensure, (c) in October 2018, Respondent prepared, affixed the seal and signature of architect Michael B. Wilson (#2997) to and issued the plans for a building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and (e) on or about February 11, 2019, Respondent submitted such plans to the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's office for plan review.

By letter dated September 4, 2019, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against him on the grounds that he may have violated La. R.S. 37:145, La. R.S. 37:154(A), and LAC Title 46: I §1527, relative to the practicing of and/or offering to practice architecture, using the terms "architect," "architectural," "architecture," or anything confusingly similar to indicate that he practiced or offered to practice architecture in Louisiana without proper licensure, presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or the seal of another, or falsely impersonating any other registrant or certificate holder of like or different name.

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 his own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to (a) pay a fine of three thousand five hundred and no/100 (\$3,500.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of seven hundred fifty-three and 61/100



(\$753.61) dollars, and (c) immediately cease and desist from practicing and/or offering to practice architecture, from using the terms "architect," "architectural," "architecture" or anything confusingly similar in referring to himself or in describing or promoting his business or activities in Louisiana until such time as he is duly licensed by the Board, from presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or the seal of another, or from falsely impersonating any other registrant or certificate holder of like or different name, and (d) the publication of this matter 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 his conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above-referenced laws and/or rule as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rule and states that he will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of his 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 his own behalf. Respondent hereby waives this right and his right to appeal, and he states affirmatively that he has been afforded all administrative remedies due him 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 his right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses on his 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) he fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) he has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with him 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 three thousand five hundred and no/100 (\$3,500.00) 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 seven hundred fifty-three and 61/100 (\$753.61) dollars, 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 immediately cease and desist from practicing and/or offering to



practice architecture; from using the terms "architect," "architectural," "architecture" or anything confusingly similar in referring to himself, or in describing or promoting his business or activities in Louisiana until such time as he is duly licensed by the Board; from presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or the seal of another, and from falsely impersonating any other registrant or certificate holder of like or different name; 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), 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: 2/20/2021

BY: K E Hilligas
KATHERINE E. HILLIGAS, Executive Director

DATE: 10-16-19

J Bell Sr
JEREMIAH BELL, SR., Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of
Jeremiah Bell, Sr.

Regan Bennie
Print Name: Regan Bennie

Morgan Cavalier
Print Name: MORGAN CAVALIER



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

VERSUS

JEREMIAH BELL, SR. D/B/A
3JMS DRAFTING SERVICES

* CIVIL DOCKET NO. **C-710501**

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*

* DIVISION /SECTION: **24**

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* 19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

*

* EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

JUDGMENT

On October 21, 2021, this matter came on for hearing for confirmation of preliminary default. Present: Paul H. Spaht, attorney for plaintiff, Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners ("LSBAE"), and Tyson J. Ducote, Deputy Director of the LSBAE. The Court finding that the defendant, Jeremiah Bell, Sr. ("Bell"), was personally served with citation and a certified copy of the Petition to Enforce Consent Order on August 17, 2021; that a preliminary default was entered against Bell on October 4, 2021, and the Court finding the law and evidence in favor of the plaintiff, LSBAE, and against the defendant, Bell for oral reasons assigned:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that there be judgment in favor of the plaintiff, Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, and against the defendant, Jeremiah Bell, Sr., filing the Consent Order signed by Jeremiah Bell, Sr. on October 16, 2019, and the LSBAE on February 26, 2021, and making such Consent Order the judgment of the Court. In accordance with such Consent Order:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that there be judgment by the Court in favor of the LSBAE, plaintiff, and against Jeremiah Bell, Sr., defendant, as follows:

1. Jeremiah Bell, Sr. shall pay a fine of three thousand five hundred and no/100 (\$3,500.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the LSBAE by certified check payable to the Treasurer, State of Louisiana, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

2. Jeremiah Bell, Sr. shall pay administrative costs of seven hundred fifty-three one and 61/100 (\$753.61) dollars, which shall be tendered to the LSBAE by certified check payable to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

3. Jeremiah Bell, Sr. shall immediately cease and desist from practicing and/or offering to practice architecture; from using the terms "architect," "architectural," "architecture" or anything confusingly similar in referring to himself, or in describing or promoting his business or

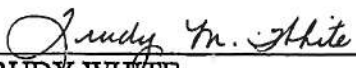
activities in Louisiana until such time as he is duly licensed by the LSBAE; from presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or the seal of another, and from falsely impersonating any other registrant or certificate holder of like or different name; and

4. This Consent Order shall be published on the LSBAE'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), all identifying Jeremiah Bell, Sr. by name.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that there be judgment in favor of the plaintiff, Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, and against the defendant, Jeremiah Bell, Sr., awarding the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners a civil penalty against Jeremiah Bell, Sr. in the amount of fifteen hundred (\$1,500.00) dollars.

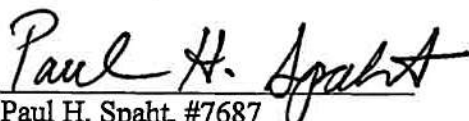
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that all costs of these proceedings shall be paid by the defendant, Jeremiah Bell, Sr.

JUDGMENT READ, RENDERED, AND SIGNED in open court in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 21st day of October, 2021.



JUDGE TRUDY WHITE
JUDGE, NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Submitted by:



Paul H. Spaht, #7687
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Attorney for plaintiff, Louisiana State
Board of Architectural Examiners

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON THIS DAY A COPY OF
THE WRITTEN REASONS FOR JUDGMENT /
JUDGMENT / ORDER / COMMISSIONER'S
RECOMMENDATION WAS MAILED BY ME WITH
SUFFICIENT POSTAGE AFFIXED.
SEE ATTACHED LETTER FOR LIST OF RECIPIENTS.**

DONE AND MAILED ON October 22, 2021



DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT