

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. 2022-25  
 )  
JOSEPH S. PARTAIN, ARCHITECT, LLC )  
 )  
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 Joseph S. Partain, Architect, LLC [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as an architectural firm, number AF0199.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information which suggested that Respondent had practiced architecture in Louisiana during a time that its architectural certificate of authority was expired and that it may have made a material misstatement in applying for a renewal certificate. The investigation disclosed that Respondent's certificate of authority expired on September 30, 2020, and remained in an "expired" status until Respondent applied for reinstatement on June 14, 2021. On the application, Respondent answered "No" to the question relative to practicing architecture in Louisiana without a current firm license in the last five years. Information subsequently received from the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office ("SFMO") indicated Respondent submitted sixteen (16) projects for review between October 1, 2020 and June 14, 2021.

La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) prohibits an architect from practicing architecture when his current renewal has not been obtained. La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7) prohibits an architect from making any material misstatement in applying for a renewal certificate. La. R.S. 37:154(A) prohibits all persons, including firms, from practicing architecture in this state with an



expired certificate of registration. La. R.S. 37:153(A)(6) authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7), and La. R.S. 37:154(A), 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. 37:153(A)(3), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(6), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7), and La. R.S. 37:154(A) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that (a) on September 30, 2020, Respondent's certificate of authority to practice architecture expired and was not reinstated until June 14, 2021, and (b) during that time, Respondent submitted sixteen (16) projects to the SFMO for review.

By letter dated June 28, 2023, 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. 37:153(A)(3), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(6), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7), and La. R.S. 37:154(A) relative to practicing architecture in Louisiana with an expired certificate of authority and making a material misstatement in applying for a renewal certificate.

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 one thousand five hundred and no/100 (\$1,500.00) dollars, remitted in three (3) equal payments of five hundred and no/100 (\$500.00) dollars each over three (3) consecutive months, to be postmarked no later than the first business day of each month; (b) pay administrative costs of seven hundred fifty-six and 04/100 dollars (\$756.04), due in full upon Respondent's signing of this Consent Order; (c) the automatic and immediate suspension of Respondent's license if a scheduled payment is not made as per the terms in item "(a)" above, with said suspension continuing until all payments have been made; (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, "*Joseph S. Partain, Architects, LLC (hereinafter 'Respondent'), an architectural firm*



(license #AF0199), was subject to disciplinary action by the Board for practicing architecture in Louisiana with an expired certificate of authority in violation of La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(6), La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7), and La. R.S. 37:154(A). On September 30, 2020, Respondent's certificate of authority to practice architecture expired. On June 14, 2021, Respondent submitted to the Board an application for reinstatement of its certificate of authority to practice architecture, certifying thereon that it had not practiced architecture in Louisiana without a current license during the last five years. Information received from the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office, however, indicated that Respondent had submitted sixteen (16) projects for review between October 1, 2020 and June 14, 2021. Respondent has entered into a Consent Order with the Board wherein it admitted to the referenced violation of the above laws and agreed to pay a fine of \$1,500.00 dollars, remitted in three equal payments of \$500.00 dollars each over three consecutive months, to be postmarked no later than the first business day of each month; to pay administrative costs of \$756.04 due in full upon the signing of this Consent Order; to the automatic and immediate suspension of Respondent's license if a scheduled payment is not made as per the terms in item "(a)" above, which will continue until all payments have been made; 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 (f) to the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards ("NCARB") Disciplinary Database, 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 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, remitted in three (3) equal payments of five hundred and no/100 (\$500.00) dollars each over three (3) consecutive months, to be postmarked no later than the first business day of each month; and
2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of seven hundred fifty-six and 04/100 dollars (\$756.04), 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 architecture firm license, #AF0199, shall be automatically and immediately suspended if Respondent fails to make a payment as per the



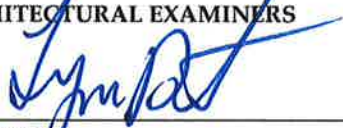
terms of item "1" above, with said suspension continuing until all payments have been made; and

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

4. 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.

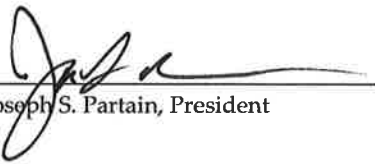
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

DATE: 12/1/2023

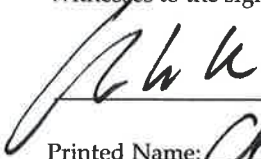
BY:   
TYSON J. DUCOTE, Executive Director


JOSEPH S. PARTAIN, ARCHITECT, LLC

DATE: 10/17/23

BY:   
Joseph S. Partain, President

Witnesses to the signature of Joseph S. Partain:

  
Printed Name: CHRISTOPHER W. COE

  
Printed Name: TOKAYNA TAYLOR

