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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:) CASE NO. 2021-12
MICHAEL W. LEBLANC, SR.)
RESPONDENT)
_____)

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners [hereinafter the "Board"], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and Michael W. LeBlanc, Sr. [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as an architect, number 3140, however, his license has been in an inactive status since January 1, 2020.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's possession of information and documents which suggested that Respondent had been convicted of a felony under the laws of the United States. The investigation disclosed that on August 6, 2019, Respondent pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, a violation of 18 U.S Code §371, a felony, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi (Docket No. 3:18-cr-00182-HTW-LGI).

La. R.S. 37:153(A)(4) authorizes the Board to discipline any registrant who has been convicted of a felony. La. R.S. 37:153 authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:153(A)(4) 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 and La. R.S. 37:153(A)(4) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that Respondent was convicted of a felony under the laws of the United States.

By letter dated September 29, 2021, 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. 37:153(A)(4) relative to being convicted of a felony.

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 Settlement Agreement, in which Respondent of his own free will consents to (a) voluntarily surrender his Louisiana architect license, (b) immediately cease and desist from practicing and/or offering to practice architecture in Louisiana, (c) return his Louisiana certificate of architectural licensure and any and all architectural seals to the Board, and (d) publication of this

Settlement Agreement 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 a violation of the above-referenced law. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said law 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 in his own behalf; he hereby waives these rights and his right to appeal, and he states affirmatively that he has been afforded all administrative remedies afforded him under the law. Respondent further acknowledges awareness of the fact that the signed original of this Settlement Agreement 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 Settlement Agreement, Respondent does hereby waive his rights to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in his behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Settlement Agreement.

Respondent hereby acknowledges that (a) he fully understands the meaning and intent of this Settlement Agreement, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) he has voluntarily entered into this Settlement Agreement, 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 Settlement Agreement do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Settlement Agreement.

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

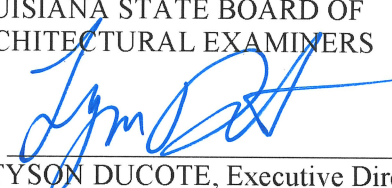
1. Respondent voluntarily surrenders his Louisiana architect license, number 3140; and
2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from practicing and/or offering to practice architecture in Louisiana; and
3. Respondent shall return his Louisiana certificate of architectural licensure and any and all architectural seals to the Board within ten (10) business days of the effective date of this Settlement Agreement; and
4. This Settlement Agreement 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 Settlement Agreement 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 Settlement Agreement, 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

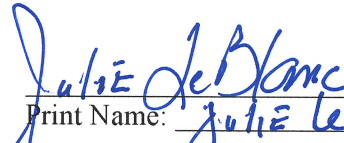
DATE: 3/18/2022

BY: 
TYSON DUCOTE, Executive Director

DATE: 01/19/22

BY: 
MICHAEL W. LEBLANC, SR., Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of
Michael W. LeBlanc, Sr.


Print Name: Julie LeBlanc


Print Name: Michael LeBlanc Jr.