



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70809-1592  
MAY 31, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

At 10:00 a.m. on May 31, 2024, Kevin J. Singh called the meeting to order at the board office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members present:

Kevin J. Singh, President  
David K. Brossett, Secretary  
John Cardone Jr.  
Michael F. Holly  
Kristine A. Kobila  
Christian R. Elberson  
Ronald B. Blicht

Also present: Tyson J. Ducote, Executive Director  
Justin G. Owens, Deputy Director  
Paul H. Spaht, Board Legal Counsel  
Lindsay Stewart, Board Licensing Advisor

President Singh welcomed everyone to the meeting, reviewed the agenda, and recognized public comment time. Mr. Cardone presented a plaque to Mr. Blicht in recognition of and in thankful appreciation for his 25+ years of service to the board and the citizens of Louisiana.

### Minutes

The board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Holly, seconded by Mr. Blicht, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2024, board meeting.

### Legal Counsel Report

#### Rule §307, Meetings amendment update:

Spaht reported that the Occupational Licensing Review Commission (OLRC) had granted its initial approval for this proposed rule change in early December and that a Notice of Intent was published in the December 20, 2023, issue of the *Louisiana Register*. No comments to the proposed amendment were received, and the comment period has long since expired. Although the next step would normally be the obtaining of final approval from the OLRC, the OLRC has not met since the new administration took office in early January of 2024; no meetings are scheduled; legislation was introduced in the 2024 Regular Session to abolish the OLRC, and it appears likely that that legislation will pass. In view of all of these developments, Spaht conferred with staff at the *Louisiana Register* as to what other state agencies were doing with their rule-making. The response was that, if the proposed rule was non-controversial, some other state agencies were moving forward with their rule-making and adopting the proposed rule(s). Since this proposed rule has been mandated by the legislature and is non-controversial, and since it appears probable that the OLRC will not meet again, Spaht suggested that the board proceed with the adoption of this proposed rule.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by Ms. Koblia, seconded by Mr. Holly, to adopt the proposed changes to LAC 46:I: Chapter 3. §307 Meetings, subject to publication of these rules in the July 20, 2024, issue of the *Louisiana Register*.

#### Rule §1907, General Disciplinary Guidelines amendment update:

Spaht reported that a Notice of Intent for the proposed amendment of this rule was published in the November 20, 2023 issue of the *Louisiana Register*. No comments to the proposed amendment were received, and the comment period has expired several months ago. Spaht repeated his comments concerning the OLRC and its likely abolishment, and he suggested that the board proceed with the adoption of this proposed rule.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Blicht, seconded by Ms. Kobila, to adopt the proposed changes to LAC 46:I: Chapter 11. §1107 General Disciplinary Guidelines, subject to publication of these rules in the July 20, 2024, issue of the *Louisiana Register*.

#### Legislative update:

Spaht reported that SB #396 of 2024, modifying the civil engineer exemption contained in the architect licensing law will become effective July 1, 2025. SB #60, providing for the universal licensure of architects will become effective August 1, 2024. Other bills which appear likely of becoming law and impacting the board include those seeking to abolish the OLRC (SB #332), seeking to prohibit certain terminology in licensing laws and board rules (such as “good character” and “moral turpitude”) (HB #954), and increasing the authority of the governor over licensing boards (SB #462). The 2024 regular session will end in a few days (June 3, 2024). Thereafter, the board will need to review whatever legislation may have passed and act accordingly.

Licensing Laws and Rules revision update:

The L&R Committee met for several hours on May 30, 2024, focusing on the policy and board provisions of the licensing law, R.S. 37:141 – 145. The committee is in the process of finalizing its rewrite of these sections of the licensing law, and it will then direct its attention to the rules relating to these sections. The board decided to call a special board meeting in September or October for the full board to review the work of the L&R Committee and its work thus far.

**Strategic Planning Review**

Ducote updated the board on several fields of focus from the LSBAE Action Plan. The first field of focus was **Service - Commit to Excellence**. Ducote presented the results of the 2024 LSBAE Licensee Satisfaction Survey. The board reviewed the survey's outcome and discussed the responses to the open-ended questions.

The next field of focus was **Leadership - Influence Change and Grow Talent**. Ducote noted that he had been re-elected as the MBE representative on the NCARB Region 3 board, and that Singh had been campaigning for the at-large board member positions on the NCARB board. Ducote also discussed movement on two of the LSBAE Strategic Plan main goals, **Laws and Rules**, and **Communication**, noting that Spaht had given an update on the status of the laws and rules re-write and that Stewart would shortly give an update on her outreach and communication efforts with licensure candidates.

**Complaint Review Committee Report**

Kobila and Owens presented the report of the Complaint Review Committee (“CRC”) consisting of Kobila, Holly, and Brossett.

**Case #2022-33** - Owens reported on a case involving an individual who practiced architecture in Louisiana without proper licensure. The CRC proposed a resolution of the matter via a consent order. The Respondent signed and returned the proposed consent order, which contained the following sanctions:

1. Respondent to pay a fine of \$1,500,
2. Respondent to pay costs of \$722.82,
3. Publication of this disciplinary action on the board’s website and a summary of this matter to be printed in the board’s newsletter, both identifying Respondent by name and
4. Report this matter to the NCARB Disciplinary Database identifying the Respondent by name.

**After discussion, the board unanimously approved the motion made by the CRC, seconded by Mr. Blich, to accept the consent order as presented. After the motion passed, the Respondent was identified as Zulay M. Babineaux.**

**Case #2023-09** - Owens reported on a case involving an architect for making material misstatements on several license renewal applications and for conviction of a felony. The CRC proposed a resolution of the matter via a consent order. The Respondent signed and returned the proposed consent order, which contained the following sanctions:

1. Respondent’s Louisiana architect license will be voluntarily and permanently surrendered,
2. Respondent to return his Louisiana architect license certificate and seals/stamps to the Board,
3. Publication of this disciplinary action on the board’s website and a summary of this matter to be printed in the board’s newsletter, both identifying Respondent by name and
4. Report this matter to the NCARB Disciplinary Database identifying the Respondent by name.

**After discussion, the board unanimously approved the motion made by CRC, seconded by Mr. Cardone, to accept the consent order as presented. After the motion passed, the Respondent was identified as John M. Parnon.**

**Case #2023-24** – Owens reported on a case involving an architect firm for practicing architecture in Louisiana while its firm certificate of authority was expired. The CRC proposed a resolution of the matter via a consent order. The Respondent signed and returned the proposed consent order, which contained the following sanctions:

1. Respondent to pay a fine of \$2,000,
2. Respondent to pay administrative costs of \$339.12,
3. Respondent to successfully complete, with a minimum score of 80% and with no continuing education credit being awarded, the board's online Laws & Rules Quiz,
4. Publication of this disciplinary action on the board's website and a summary of this matter to be printed in the board's newsletter, both identifying Respondent by name and
5. Report this matter to the NCARB Disciplinary Database identifying the Respondent by name.

After discussion, the board unanimously approved the motion made by CRC, seconded by Mr. Cardone, to accept the consent order as presented. After the motion passed, the Respondent was identified as J. A. Modinger Architect, LLC.

Owens then reported on his efforts to enlist building officials in all 64 Louisiana parishes to assist the Board in its mission by identifying those **(a)** architects who are engaged in affixing their Louisiana architect seal to architectural documents that were not prepared by them or under their supervision, an act commonly referred to as “plan stamping,” and **(b)** individuals who are engaged in the unlicensed practice of architecture in Louisiana.

In closing, Owens provided an update on current enforcement statistics, noting that, since the February meeting, there were 33 open cases, 12 cases closed, 27 cases opened, 11 pending cases, and 5 letters of caution issued.

#### **Licenses/Certificates Issued for Ratification**

Ducote reported that the following licenses/certificates had been issued from February 9, 2024, to May 21, 2024:

- 7 Initial architect licenses
- 57 Reciprocal architect licenses
- 17 Architect license reinstatements
- 25 Initial firm certificates
- 3 Firm certificate reinstatements

License/Certificate statistics as of May 21:

Individual Licenses:

- In-state active – 1,286
- In-state emeritus – 52
- Out-of-state active – 2,212
- Out-of-state emeritus – 46

Total – Individual Licenses: 3,596

Firm Certificates of Authority as of May 21:

- Architectural Firms
  - In-state – 156
  - Out-of-state – 221
- Professional Architectural Corporations
  - In-state – 53
  - Out-of-state – 65
- Architectural-Engineering Corporations
  - In-state – 5
  - Out-of-state – 54
- Firms due to renew
  - In-state – 250
  - Out-of-state - 444

Total – Firm Certifications: 1,248

The board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Brossett, seconded by Mr. Holly, to acknowledge and approve the list of licenses and certificates issued for the period February 9, 2024, through May 21, 2024.

Ms. Stewart entered the meeting.

Ducote reported on the April 2024 data provided by NCARB on Louisiana architectural candidates, transmittal requests, and NCARB record holders:

- Number of exam candidates - 381
- Number of Louisiana licensed architects who are NCARB record-holders - 2,676

**Data from February 1, 2024, to April 30, 2024**

- Exam divisions administered – 296
- Number of candidates completing core requirements – 20
- Number of initial transmittal requests to NCARB – 20
- Number of reciprocal transmittal requests to NCARB – 192
- New NCARB records opened – 76
- NCARB records renewed – 214

**Licensing Advisor Update**

Ms. Stewart updated the board on her outreach to license candidates and the means and methods she uses. She then discussed the Louisiana architect school visits she attended as part of the NCARB outreach in April.

The board meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. and resumed at 12:40 p.m.

**Executive Director's Report**

Ducote gave a quick update on the District 2 board member replacement and noted that the Governor's office has requested a total of three names from which the Governor will select Mr. Blich's replacement.

**Financials**

Ducote reported on the April financial numbers. With two months left in the fiscal year, income was approximately 100% of the FY24 budgeted amount, and expenses were approximately 70% of the budgeted amount.

**Miscellaneous**

Ducote updated the board on the CD laddering investment strategy and presented the FY24 staff telework metrics.

**Executive Director Performance review**

Ducote, Owens, Spaht, and Stewart exited the meeting. The board discussed Ducote's performance review. Ducote then returned to the meeting, and the board reviewed its review with him. Ducote then discussed converting the Licensing Advisor position to a When Actually Employed (WAE) civil service position with the board.

**The board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Holly, seconded by Mr. Elberson, for Mr. Ducote to move forward with creating the Licensing Advisor position as a WAE position with an hourly rate of \$25.00.**

Owens, Spaht, and Stewart re-entered the meeting.

**FY25 Budget review**

Ducote presented the FY25 LSBAE budget. Ducote discussed some key considerations of the FY25 budget and presented the budget for review and discussion. Ducote advised that the proposed budget included mandated yearly salary increases for the board's two classified employees but did not include increases for the two unclassified employees.

**The Board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Blich, seconded by Mr. Holly, to approve the FY25 budget with the following amendments: update the AERF line to mirror what the board approves; adjust the prior year's surplus; increase in salaries for unclassified employees, and inclusion of pay for the Licensing Advisor position.**

**Legal Contract**

Ducote presented the FY25 legal services contract for board review and discussion. No changes were made this year to the contract.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Cardone, seconded by Mr. Holly, to approve the FY25 legal services contract.

#### Discussion Items

##### 2025 Architecture Education Research Fund applications review

Ducote stated that invitations had been forwarded to all four NAAB-accredited architecture schools and that he received an application from Louisiana Tech University and two applications from ULL for the FY25 award.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Blich, seconded by Mr. Holly; to award \$15,000 in funds from the AERF to Louisiana Tech University, where façade and structural professionals will serve as consultants to the comprehensive design studio, as well as implement the use of a digital smart board to interact with said consultants when they are not visiting in person.

The Board also unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Blich, seconded by Mr. Holly, to award \$15,000 to ULL for a symposium on systems integration, NCARB record fees for an estimated 50 students, and the funding of a student architecture license advisor.

The board instructed Ducote to respond to the second ULL applicant, urging them to hone their application and re-submit next year.

##### Louisiana Architects Selection Board Nominations

Ducote presented the candidates for Districts 2, 4, and 5 for the 2024-25 Louisiana Architects Selection Board ("LASB") to the board. No objections to the candidates were made.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by Ms. Kobila, seconded by Mr. Elberson, to accept the nominations of the following individuals for election and service on the LASB from September 15, 2024, through September 14, 2025:

- District 2 – Peter J. Spera III
- District 4 – Ashlie B. Boelkins
- District 5 – Robert Michael Brooks

The remaining members will be confirmed at the next board meeting.

##### New Licensee Survey and Celebration

Ducote gave an update on the survey sent to new licensees regarding the celebration and benchmarks. Ducote noted that the responses support the board's decision to move the celebrations to a local level and that AIA chapters would still be involved.

##### NCARB 2024 Draft Resolutions

The board briefly discussed each of the eight draft resolutions upon which the jurisdictions will vote at the NCARB Annual Business Meeting in June.


##### Miscellaneous

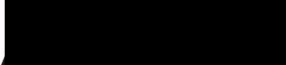
There was a brief discussion on NCARB's at large candidates for the NCARB board. Mr. Singh gave an update on his campaign. Ducote reminded the funded delegates where to submit their expenses and discussed the agenda. The board discussed action items they would work on between now and the August meeting.

##### Adjournment

The board unanimously approved the motion by Ms. Kobila, seconded by Mr. Elberson, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kevin J. Singh, Board President

  
David K. Brossett, Board Secretary

Initial Licenses Issued			
License #	Name	City	State
10092	Mr. Alex Barthel	New Orleans	LA
10100	Ms. Andrea Thigpen	New Orleans	LA
10105	Mr. Calvin Gallion III	New Orleans	LA
10111	Lisa K. Peddy	Bossier City	LA
10130	Mrs. Shelby Mills Lynn	New Orleans	LA
10135	Mr. Nicholas Dubuc	Metairie	LA
10144	Alyssa Paige Favrot	New Orleans	LA
Reciprocal Licenses Issued			
License #	Name	City	State
10081	Mr. Travis Christopher Bryan	Highlands Ranch	CO
10082	Mr. Gregory William Croft	Idaho Falls	ID
10083	Mr. Mark A. Bixler	Nashville	TN
10084	Mr. Gregory Steinbeck	Little Rock	AR
10085	Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Mohsen	Atlanta	GA
10086	Miss Katie Pitre	Crandall	TX
10087	Mr. Joseph M. Ghobrial	Woodstock	GA
10088	Mr. Mark E. Timbrook	Oklahoma City	OK
10089	Mr. Brian Michael Sullivan	Newport	KY
10090	Fat-Seng Lao	Pearland	TX
10091	Mr. Daniel Delk	Madison	WI
10093	Mr. Daniel Louis Gardner	Hoover	AL
10094	Mr. Louis F. Ray III	Chicago	IL
10095	David Nash	Naperville	IL
10096	Robert K. Fritz	Monroe	NJ
10097	Mark Alden Johnson	Orlando	FL
10098	Justin Paul Luebbering	Leawood	KS
10099	Mr. Richard Lee Root Jr	Bel Air	MD
10101	Stephen Helgren	St Louis	MO
10102	Richard Gardner	New Orleans	LA
10103	Ted Eleftherios Moudis	New York	NY
10104	Tomoo Fujikawa	Chicago	IL
10106	Mr. Paul Garafola	Charlotte	NC
10107	Mr. Jason Dolan	Columbus	OH
10108	Alan Gray Burcope	Orlando	FL
10109	Lewis Dean Griffin	Hattiesburg	MS
10110	Andrew Sternad	New Orleans	LA
10112	Richard Bret Flory	Plano	TX
10113	Jennifer Leigh Thorington-Hines	Huntsville	AL
10114	David M. Pugh	Novato	CA
10115	Mr. Mark F. Jones	Orlando	FL
10116	Ryan Fronick	Weldon Spring	MO
10117	Sean Christopher Guth	Lascassas	TN
10118	Brian Hertz	O Fallon	MO
10119	Derek Wojcikowski	Cincinnati	OH
10120	Michael Leland Smith	Lexington	KY
10121	Ricardo Alvarez-Diaz	San Juan	PR
10122	Cody Ian Pless	Sharpsburg	GA
10123	Kyle Lyndley Kish	Biloxi	MS
10124	Jeffrey Webster Somerlot	Summit	NJ
10125	Marc Allan Bellamy	Houston	TX
10126	Natasha MacDougall Bailey	Akron	OH
10127	Melanie R. Friedman	Fairlawn	OH
10128	Thomas Edward-Anthony Keri	Travelers Rest	SC
10129	Jose Felipe Perez	Winter Park	FL
10131	Mr. Donald Wayne Alexander	Cleveland	OH
10132	Jacob William Wimsatt	Nashville	TN
10133	Mr. Johnny Hembree	Gainesville	GA
10134	Ryan James Hullinger	Columbus	OH

10136	Mr. Kenneth Schoenfeld	Cape Coral	FL
10137	Jason Lee Coats	Fort Mill	SC
10138	David Machicao	St Louis	MO
10139	James Blair Korndorffer	Houston	TX
10140	Joshua B. Pranger	Fort Wayne	IN
10141	Christopher James Novelli	Hopedale	MA
10142	Kristin A. Hopkins-Clegg	Jersey City	NJ
10143	Mr. Jonathan Mallie	New York	NY

**Reinstatement Licenses Issued**

License #	Name	City	State
1931	Mr. Coleman D. Brown	Baton Rouge	LA
3429	Ms. Cecilia Sogin	New Orleans	LA
3991	Mr. Herman Joseph Gesser III	New Iberia	LA
4631	Mr. J. Keith Sharp	Hopkinsville	KY
6678	Mr. William J. Stanley III	Atlanta	GA
6689	William E. Cox	Atlanta	GA
6956	Mr. Mark Frederick Williams	Bradenton	FL
6975	David W. Goldberg	Seattle	WA
8034	Jason Duke Sooter	Baton Rouge	LA
8308	Mr. Donald J. Scheible	Pleasant Ridge	MI
8384	Mr. Jason Weyland	New Orleans	LA
8648	Mr. John Dauer	New Orleans	LA
8983	Ms. Mia L. Blanchett	Minneapolis	MN
9275	Mr. Evan Randolph Conroy	New Orleans	LA
9543	Mr. Nelson Algaze	Culver City	CA
9610	Mr. Guy Christian Brignac	Metairie	LA
9823	Mr. Jose Gonzalez	Miami	FL

**Total Individual Licenses Issued In Reporting Period**

Initial	7
Reciprocal	57
Reinstatement	17

**Total Individual Licenses**

In-State	1,286
In-State Emeritus	52
Out-of-State	2,212
Out-of-State Emeritus	46

**Total Architect Licenses**

**3,596**

**FIRM CERTIFICATES**

**Architectural Firm Certificates Issued**

Certificate #	Firm Name	City	State
AF1015	Frankfurt-Short-Bruza Associates, P.C. A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION	Oklahoma City	OK
AF1016	COLLECTIVE OFFICE PC.	Chicago	IL
AF1017	Karsen Architecture L.L.C.	New Orleans	LA
AF1018	HELIOPHILIA LLC	New Orleans	LA
AF1019	Fujikawa Johnson Gobel Architects, Inc.	Chicago	IL
AF1020	OneFourTwo Architecture, P.C.	Atlanta	GA
AF1021	HDA Design LLC	Saint Louis	MO
AF1022	Assemble Design Studio, PLLC	Traverse City	MI
AF1023	Thompson Greene Architects, LLC	Roswell	GA
AF1024	Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects	Lexington	KY
AF1025	Farmer Payne Architects	Shreveport	LA
AF1026	LOMA Architecture, LLC	Houston	TX
AF1027	EDT-THA Architecture, LLC	Huntsville	AL
AF1028	Canizaro Cawthon Davis, A Professional Association, Inc.	Jackson	MS
AF1029	Stengel Hill Architects, LLC	Louisville	KY
AF1030	Studio Matthew Voelkel, LLC dba studioMV	Covington	LA
AF1031	FMD Architects, Inc.	Fairlawn	OH

AF1032	Clements Wimsatt Architects PLLC	Nashville	TN
AF1033	Sparc Plus LLC	Atlanta	GA
AF1034	PDS Architecture Inc.	Fort Myers	FL
AF1035	McKee Architecture L.L.C.	Baton Rouge	LA
AF1036	Modern Design, Inc. Optometric Architects	Janesville	IA
AF1037	Diamond Development Group	Houston, TX	TX
AF1038	N3 Architecture	Hopedale	MA
<b>Architectural Firm Certificates Reinstated</b>			
<b>Certificate #</b>	<b>Firm Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
AF0767	Shlemmer+Algaze+Associates Interiors & Architecture, Inc.	Culver City	CA
AF0820	Charles Taylor Engineering Technical Services, LLC	Golden	CO
<b>Professional Architectural Corporation Certificates Issued</b>			
<b>Certificate #</b>	<b>Firm Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
AC0900	WG Architecture, P.C.	Denver	CO
<b>Professional Architectural Corporation Certificates Reinstated</b>			
<b>Certificate #</b>	<b>Firm Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
AC0204	Hayes Architects	Metairie	LA
<b>Architectural-Engineering Corporation Certificates Issued</b>			
<b>Certificate #</b>	<b>Firm Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>Architectural-Engineering Corporation Certificates Reinstated</b>			
<b>Certificate #</b>	<b>Firm Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>Total FIRM Certificates Issued In Reporting Period</b>			
	Architectural Firm - In-State		5
	Architectural Firm - Out of State		19
	Professional Architectural Corporation - In-State		0
	Professional Architectural Corporation - Out-of-State		1
	Architectural Engineering Corporation - In-State		0
	Architectural Engineering Corporation - Out-of-State		0
			<b>25</b>
<b>Total FIRM Reinstatements In Reporting Period</b>			
	Architectural Firm - In-State		0
	Architectural Firm - Out of State		2
	Professional Architectural Corporation - In-State		1
	Professional Architectural Corporation - Out-of-State		0
	Architectural Engineering Corporation - In-State		0
	Architectural Engineering Corporation - Out-of-State		0
			<b>3</b>
<b>Total Active Firm Certificates</b>			
	Architectural Firm - In State		156
	Architectural Firm - Out of State		221
	Professional Architectural Corporation - In-State		53
	Professional Architectural Corporation - Out-of-State		65
	Architectural Engineering Corporation - In-State		5
	Architectural Engineering Corporation - Out-of-State		54
	<b>Total In-State</b>		<b>214</b>
	<b>Total Out-of-State</b>		<b>340</b>
	<b>Total In-State Due</b>		<b>250</b>
	<b>Total Out-of-State Due</b>		<b>444</b>
	<b>Total Firm Certificates</b>		<b>1,248</b>