

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
MINUTES
February 7, 2020

The Board of Ethics met on February 7, 2020 at 9:11 a.m. in the LaBelle Room on the 1st floor of the LaSalle Building located at 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Board Members Bruneau, Colomb, Couvillon, Dittmer, Grand, Lavastida, McAnelly, and Smith present. Board Member Roberts was not present at 9:11 roll call. Absent were Board Members Leggio and Meinert. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, Kathleen Allen; the Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel David Bordelon, Matthew Deville, Latoya Jordan, Jennifer Land, and Greg Thibodeaux.

In connection with request in Docket No. 19-1127, submitted by Sybil Haydel Morial, with the New Orleans Science and Mathematics Charter School, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for failing to file her 2018 Tier 3 Annual personal financial disclosure statement. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred to the March meeting.

Board Member Roberts arrived to the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Ms. Julie Miramon Knight, candidate for Judge, 22nd Judicial District Court, appeared before the Board in connection with a request in Docket No. 19-1263 to waive \$2,500 and \$400 campaign finance late fees assessed for filing 2018 Annual and 90-P campaign finance disclosure reports 157 and 4 days late, respectively. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$500 based on future compliance for 2018 Annual and waived all based on future compliance of the 90-P.

Mr. Jeff Everson, Caddo Parish Council Clerk Appointee, appeared before the Board, in connection with a request in Docket No. 20-009 for an advisory opinion, regarding a non-profit organization that employs his wife. Board Member Roberts steps out at 9:50 a.m. and returns at

9:52 a.m. during discussion. Board member Grand requested to be recused. After hearing from Mr. Everson, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the proposed opinion that the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Mr. Everson from receiving any thing of economic value, through the salary of his wife, for services rendered to Robinson's Rescue while it has a financial and business relationship with the Parish and since Mr. Everson serves as their clerk. Section 1111C(2)(d) of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits public employees from receiving any thing of economic value for or in consideration of services rendered to or for any person that has or is seeking to have a business, financial or contractual relationship with their agency.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered General Supplemental 2.

Chairman McAnelly recused himself from consideration of Docket No. 20-056 and vacated the Chair. Board Member Dittmer assumed the Chair.

Mr. Benjamin Riggs, appeared before the Board and requested an advisory opinion in Docket No. 20-056 from the Office of the City Attorney for the City of Shreveport relative to five city employees being awarded compensation for their appearance and participation in CBS' Undercover Boss. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the Board propose to issue an advisory opinion which concluded that there was no violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

Board Member Dittmer vacated the Chair and Chairman McAnelly stepped resumed the Chair.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items G4-G20 en globo subject to any items being removed from the en globo listing for further

discussion.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendations on items G4-G20, excluding items G6, and G13, taking the following action:

Allowed the withdrawal of the advisory opinion request in Docket No. 19-1105 submitted by Ricardo Mekdessie, regarding his ability to bid on a request for a proposal from the Louisiana Uniform Local Sales Tax Board.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1235 concluding that no provision of the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit state employees from accepting discounts through the Blue 365 discount program because the discounts are associated with the benefits of their state employment and not given as a gift or gratuity.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1241 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit West Baton Rouge Museum from transferring artifacts to the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. The Board further advises that the West Baton Rouge Museum should consult with the Office of the Attorney General regarding the transfer of public property to a non-profit corporation.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1244 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Mr. Clayton Harmson from providing vendor services to the Parish of Rapides after he was appointed to sit on the Buckeye Recreation District by the Rapides Parish Police Jury. However, the Code would prohibit Mr. Harmson from being a vendor for or providing any other services to the Buckeye Recreation Board.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1270 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Joshua O'Quin to serve on the East Feliciana Planning and Zoning Commission since Mr. O'Quin was appointed by the East Feliciana Police Jury prior

to his mother, Chrissie O'Quin, being sworn in as a police juror. The Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Mr. O'Quin's reappointment once his term expires if his mother is on the police jury as the appointment would be considered to be a transaction with the police jury.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1271 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit the continued employment of Megan Marino, MD as the Director of Pediatric Prehospital Education at Ochsner Hospital of Children since Dr. Marino was recently hired as the Deputy Medical Director for the New Orleans EMS. The Board cautions that Section 1111C(2)(d) creates certain prohibited sources of compensation for Dr. Marino. In the event Ochsner seeks to have a contractual, business, or financial relationship with one of Dr. Marino's public agencies, or becomes regulated by one of the agencies, or has substantial economic interests which can be affected by Dr. Marino's public service, Dr. Marino should seek an additional advisory opinion.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1272 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Carolyn Dragseth from pursuing outside employment as an adjunct faculty member with public colleges and universities while Ms. Dragseth is employed with the Department of Children and Family Services. If Ms. Dragseth is considering being employed with a private college or university, the Board advises Ms. Dragseth to seek another advisory opinion. The Board further concluded that generally Ms. Dragseth would not be prohibited from opening her private law practice provided she does not assist persons in connection with a transaction at Department of Children and Family Services or handle legal matters for persons who (1) have or seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationship with DCFS; (2) conducts operations or activities which are regulated by DCFS; and (3) has substantial economic interests which may be substantially affected by the performance or

nonperformance of MS. Dragseth's official duty at DCFS. Additionally, Ms. Dragseth would be prohibited from entering into a contract or other transaction with her agency at Department of Children and Family Services.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1273 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit David L.E. Camardelle from working as an intern for Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc., a company that has previously performed work for the Town of Grand Isle where David's father is the Mayor. However, Section 1113(A)(1)(a) of the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit David L. E. Camardelle from working on any project that involves the Town of Grand Isle. Lastly, Section 1114 of the Code of Governmental Ethics requires Mr. Camardelle to file the financial disclosures if Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc. has any contract with the Town of Grand Isle.

Declined to render an opinion in Docket No. 19-1287 as the matter does not present an issue under the Code of Governmental Ethics and to refer David Cook, an employee for a charter school in New Orleans, to the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1302 concluding that Section 1121B of the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Megan K. Terrell, former Deputy Director for the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, for a period of two years from the termination of Ms. Terrell's public employment, from assisting Plauche & Carr for compensation in any transaction Ms. Terrell participates in at any time during employment and involving the State of Louisiana. However, Ms. Terrell would not be prohibited from assisting Plauche & Carr in transactions in which she did not participate or in new transactions involving the State of Louisiana. Section 1121B of the Code of Governmental Ethics would also prohibit Ms. Terrell for a period of two years from the termination of her public employment, from rendering legal services to, for, or on

behalf of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities. However, the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Ms. Terrell from rendering legal services to CPRA on any matters in which Ms. Terrell did not participate or on any new matters, as CPRA is not her former public agency. Finally, the Board concluded that Plauche & Carr would be prohibited by Section 1121C of the Code of Governmental Ethics from assisting individual clients, for compensation, in a transaction in which Ms. Terrell participated while employed with the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities and involving Ms. Terrell's former agency. However, Plauche & Carr is not prohibited from providing contractual services to CPRA, as CPRA is not a "person" for purposes of the Code of Governmental Ethics and is not Ms. Terrell's former agency.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 20-003 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit the employment of the grandchild of Cameron Parish Clerk of Court Susan Racca in the Cameron Parish Clerk of Court office since grandchildren are not considered immediate family members under Section 1102(13) of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 20-004 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Jacob Dilehay, the Allen Parish Administrator, and his construction company, Priola and Dilehay Development, from submitting an application for a building permit to the Allen Parish Building Maintenance and Solid Waste Supervisor. However, if the building permit sought is being issued pursuant to the provisions of the State Uniform Construction Code, then Section 1123(40) of the Code of Governmental Ethics would provide a narrow exception that would allow Mr. Dilehay and his construction company to apply for building permits in Allen Parish.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 20-005 concluding that the Code of

Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Mr. Briton J. Myer from continuing his employment with Clary, Suba, and Neale if the City of Central enters into a contract with Exmarx, LLC because Mr. Myer would not be providing compensated services to Exmarx, LLC.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 20-006 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Many Police Department Chief Roger Freeman from hiring Kyle Cook as the Assistant Chief of Police while Kyle's father, Stanley Cook, continues to be employed since neither Stanley Cook nor Kyle Cook are agency heads. Should Kyle Cook become an agency head, Section 1119(C)(2) provides an exception which allows the continued employment of the public servant if he was employed with the agency for at least one year. However, Section 1112(B)(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Kyle Cook participating in a transaction involving the Many Police Department, in which Stanley Cook has a substantial economic interest. As a result of the prohibition, prior to any potential participation on Kyle Cooks' part, a disqualification plan should be submitted and approved by the Board, pursuant Section 1112(C) of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1236 concluding that no violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics would be presented by the wife of a parole officer to provide sex offender counseling to parolees under the supervision of the Office of Probation and Parole provided that the parolees are not supervised and regulated by the Tallulah District Office. Because parolees are supervised by the Tallulah District Office and pay supervision fees, Chris Cagnolatti's wife would be prohibited from receiving anything of economic value from them since her husband's agency is the Tallulah District Office. Since counselors do not enter into a contracts or transactions with the Office of Probation and Parole to provide services and the counselors are chosen by the parolees and are paid by the parolees, there would be no violation for Pam Cagnolatti

to counsel parolees outside of the Tallulah District Office. Because all certified licensed counselors are placed on a list of providers and the list is not determined by the Office of Probation and Parole, there is no ethical violation for participation, however, Chris Cagnolatti should be cautioned about not recommending a counselor to parolees.

Adopted an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1274 concluding that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Kristina Martel, a legislative assistant with the Louisiana House of Representatives, from opening and operating a driving school outside of business hours since Ms. Martel's position presents no conflict under the Code of Governmental Ethics and there is no direct relationship.

The Board took a recess at 10:48 a.m. and resumed at 11:05 a.m.

Ethics Administrator, Kathleen Allen introduced Michelle Fontenot as the new Clerk for the House of Representatives and Ron Smith as the Assistant Clerk for the House of Representatives. Also present were Legislative Analyst, Patricia Lowrey, Committee Administrative Assistant, Rosalie Ammersbach, and Attorney, Lorrienne Lucas.

Ms. Allen provided an overview of suggestions to propose legislation for consideration during the 2020 Regular Legislative Session. Following discussion of the suggested proposals, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board instructed staff to send a letter to Governor Edwards, President Cortez, Speaker Schexnayder, Senator Hewitt, and Representative Dwight noting the unanimously adopted recommendations and suggestions:

1. Special Reports –the Board recommended the increase of the threshold in the following amounts:
 - Contributions in excess of:
 - \$750 for a district candidate or a political committee participating in an election thereof;
 - \$500 for any other office candidate or a political committee participating in an election thereof;

- Expenditure in excess of \$500 made to a candidate, committee, or person required to file reports, who makes endorsements.
2. Special Reports - The Board suggested that the 48-hour filing requirement be changed to “within 2 business days after the occurrence” of the above transactions.
 3. The Board discussed whether there was a utility to these reports as these expenditures are also reported on the comprehensive report that covers the time period in which the expenditure was made. Based on this fact, the Board recommends to the Legislature that consideration be given to deleting the requirement to file Election Day Expenditure Reports pursuant to R.S. 18:1532.
 4. The Board suggested that the amount of the penalty with respect to Tier 3 filers be lowered to \$25 a day, with a maximum of \$500 per report.
 5. The Board suggests that the mandatory language of “shall” used in these sections with respect to the assessment of penalties for all PFD filers be changed to “may.”
 6. The Board suggests that the burden of proof in R.S. 42:1130.4 include “know, or should be reasonably expected to know,” rather than only the standard of having to provide actual knowledge.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of the December 19, 2019 meeting.

The Board considered a proposed consent opinion in Docket No. 19-377 regarding misappropriation of funds by Brandon Lewis, a former employee of Caddo Parish School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted for publication the consent opinion in which Brandon Lewis agrees that a violation of Sections 1111A and 1112A of the Code of Governmental Ethics occurred by his use of Caddo Parish School Board vendor accounts and a purchasing card to make unauthorized charges for Mr. Lewis’ personal gain and the Board agreed to resolve the matter with Mr. Lewis by allowing him to sign a consent opinion for violations of Sections 1111A and 1112A assessing a suspended penalty of \$159,683.73 based on the repayment of his ordered restitution.

The Board considered a proposed consent opinion in Docket No. 19-377 regarding the misappropriation of funds by Tracy Wood, a former employee of the Caddo Parish School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted for publication the consent opinion in which Tracy Wood agrees that a violation of Sections 1111A and 1112A of the Code of Governmental Ethics occurred by misappropriating school funds for her personal gain while she was employed Office Clerk at University Elementary School in Caddo Parish and the Board agreed to resolve the matter with Ms. Wood by allowing her to sign a consent opinion for violations of Sections 1111A and 1112A of the Code of Governmental Ethics assessing a penalty of \$2,000.

The Board considered a request for an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 19-1245 Concluding that 1) The Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Dr. Riggs-Cook from providing services through CSUSA to an LCF school or other school systems. Such an arrangement would constitute a prohibited source under Section 1111C(2)(d) of the Code of Governmental Ethics, which prevents public servants from receiving any thing of economic value for or in consideration of services rendered, or to be rendered, to or for any person during his public services unless such services are neither performed for nor compensated by any person from whom the public servant would be prohibited by Sections 1115A(1) or 1115(B) of the Code of Governmental Ethics from receiving a gift. Section 1115A(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics restricts public servants from receiving any thing of economic value as a gift from a person who has or is seeking to obtain a contractual or other business or financial relationship with the public servant's agency. Dr. Riggs-Cook's agency is the LCF, which has such a contractual relationship with CSUSA; therefore, she is prohibited from receiving any thing of economic value for services rendered to CSUSA, regardless of whether the services would be provided to an LCF school or other school systems. 2) Under Section 1121A(2) of

the Code of Governmental Ethics, Nancy Gomez would be prohibited from being employed by CSUSA to provide educational services to an LCF school for a period of two years after termination of her public service if she was to resign from the board. 3) The Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Nancy Gomez from providing services through CSUSA to a non-LCF school. Such an arrangement would constitute a prohibited source under Section 1111C(2)(d) of the Code of Governmental Ethics, which prevents public servants from receiving any thing of economic value for or in consideration of services rendered, or to be rendered, to or for any person during his public services unless such services are neither performed for nor compensated by any person from whom the public servant would be prohibited Sections 1115A(1) or 1115(B) of the Code of Governmental Ethics from receiving a gift. Section 1115A(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics restricts public servants from receiving any thing of economic value as a gift from a person who has or is seeking to obtain a contractual or other business or financial relationship with the public servant's agency. Ms. Gomez's agency is the LCF, which has such a contractual relationship with CSUSA; therefore, she is prohibited from receiving any thing of economic value for services rendered to CSUSA, regardless of whether the services would be provided to an LCF school or other school systems. 4) Section 1121B(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics would prevent Kim Vavasseur from rendering any service to LCF that she rendered to LCF during her term of public employment on a contractual basis or appearing in connection with a transaction in which she participated during her employment with LCF. In the event serving on the board involved any of the services she provided to LCF, she would be prevented from serving on the board; however, if there is no overlapping of services between her prior position at an LCF school and the LCF board, there is no prohibition to her serving on the board. 5) If Ms.

Vavasseur serves on the LCF Board, she will be unable to return to employment with CSUSA at an LCF school for a period of two years following the termination of her public service as a board member pursuant to Section 1121A(2) of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered a request for an advisory opinion in Docket No. 19-1286 regarding the propriety of using campaign funds to purchase a truck bed cover for campaign use. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act prohibits Mark Garber, Lafayette Parish Sheriff, from using campaign funds to purchase a truck bed cover since there will be personal use during the time Mr. Garber will own the truck.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously agreed to take action on the requests for “good cause” waivers of late fees assessed against candidates and committees included in the Campaign Finance Waiver Chart en globo subject to any items being removed from the en globo listing for further discussion.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendations on the items in the Campaign Finance Waiver Chart, excluding Docket Nos. 19-1262, 19-1264, 19-1290, and 19-1301 taking the following action:

The Board unanimously waived the late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 19-1133 from Stormy Gage Watts 30-P of a \$440 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1268 from Chris Tidwell 30-P of a \$300 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1292 from John Robin Free 30-P of a \$480 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1299 from Gerald ‘Jerry’ Longlois 10-P of a \$600 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1299 from Gerald ‘Jerry’ Longlois 10-G of a \$840 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1300 from Mattie Preston 30-P of a \$600 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1300 from Mattie Preston 10-P of a \$420 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1300 from Mattie Preston 10-G of a \$420 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1312 from Carl ‘Doug’ Sias 30-P of a \$600 late fee; and,
Docket No. 19-1313 from Manuel Russell Leach 30-P of a \$800 late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all but \$100 based on future compliance the late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 19-1133 from Stormy Gage Watts 2018 SUPP of a \$400 late fee; and,
Docket No. 19-1307 from Tommy Sanders 10-P of a \$280 late fee.

The Board unanimously voted to waive and to not reassess late fee for 10-G report for the late fee assessed against the following:

Docket No. 19-1199 from Betty Robinson 40-G of a \$1,000 late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all based on future compliance the late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 19-1265 from Ted A. Richard 30-P of a \$60 late fee & 10-G of a \$540 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1266 from Heath Pastor 30-P of a \$60 late fee; (Couvillon recused)
Docket No. 19-1269 from Herbert A. Nesom, Jr. 30-P of a \$240 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1289 from Cynthia 'Cindy' Fontenot 30-P of a \$780 late fee; and,
Docket No. 19-1306 from Michael 'Mike' Zito 30-P of a \$660 late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all but \$200 based on future compliance the late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 19-1291 from Thomas St. Clair Williams, Sr. 30-P of a \$480 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1293 from Denis Mulvihill 10-G of a \$600 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1294 from James E. Grace 30-P of a \$480 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1295 from Pat McGaully 30-P of a \$600 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1296 from Shawn P Granger 30-P of a \$600 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1297 from Carl M. Ditch 30-P of a \$600 late fee; and,
Docket No. 19-1309 from Tina Douglas 10P of a \$600 late fee & 10-G of a \$420 late fee.

The Board unanimously declined to waive the late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 19-1293 from Denis Mulvihill 30-P of a \$60 late fee & 10-P of a \$540 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1298 from Lucien J. Gauff, III 30-P of a \$600 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1309 from Tina Douglas 30- P of a \$480 late fee;
Docket No. 19-1310 from Max Hayden Chiz Special of a \$240 late fee; and,
Docket No. 19-1311 from David M. Poirier 30-P of a \$560 late fee.

The Board unanimously rescinded the late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 19-1308 from Denise Carpenter 30-P of a \$800 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-1262 for a waiver of the \$300 campaign finance fee assessed against Abraham Rubin, Jr., Lafayette Parish Council, District 5, in the October 12, 2019 election, for filing the 30-P campaign finance disclosure report 5 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all of the \$300 late fee based on future compliance.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-1264 for a waiver of the \$300 campaign finance late fee assessed against Brian Anthony Salvatore, a candidate for State Representative, 5th District, in the October 12, 2019 election, for filing the 30-P campaign finance disclosure report 5 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board waived the \$300 late fee based on a software issue in the office.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-539 for a waiver of the \$400 campaign finance late fee assessed against Kristy Hebert, a candidate for Vermilion Parish School Board, District H, in the November 6, 2018 election, for filing the 10-G campaign finance disclosure report 50 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board waived the \$400 late fee based on financial documentation to support Ms. Hebert's claim of financial hardship.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-1290 for a waiver of the \$700 campaign finance late fee assessed against Karen S. Kovach, a candidate for Judge, 22nd Judicial District Court, in the October 12, 2019 election, for filing the 10-G campaign finance disclosure report 7 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all of the \$700 late fee based on future compliance.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a request in Docket No.19-1301 for a waiver of the \$280 campaign finance late fees assessed against Deborah Vincent, a candidate for “other person”, in the October 12, 2019 election, for filing the 30-E campaign finance disclosure report 7 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all of the \$280 late fee reports based on future compliance.

The Board unanimously agreed to take action on the requests for “good cause” waivers of late fees assessed against individuals contained in the Personal Financial Disclosure Waiver Chart en globo subject to any items being removed from the en globo listing for further discussion.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendations on the items in the Personal Financial Disclosure waiver chart taking the following action:

The Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-1019 for a waiver of the \$1,500 late fee assessed against Joe Walker, Jr., former member of the Natchez Board of Alderman, for filing his 2017 Tier 3 Annual personal financial disclosure statement 90 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the \$1,500 late fee and to offer a payment plan.

The Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-1020 for a waiver of two \$1,500 late fees assessed against Arlis Williamson, Jr., member of the Georgetown Board of Alderman, for filing his 2016 and 2017 Tier 3 Annual personal financial disclosure statements 602 and 353 days late, respectively. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive both \$1,500 late fees for 2016 and 2017 and to offer a payment plan.

The Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-1029 for a waiver of the \$1,500 late fee assessed against Jessie Kenneth Edwards, member of the Winnfield City Council, for filing his 2016 Tier 3 Annual personal financial disclosure statement 152 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the \$1,500 late fee and to offer a payment plan.

The Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-1049 for a waiver of the \$700 late fee assessed against Kenyetta Nelson Smith., member of the East Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation Commission District 3, for filing his 2018 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure statement 7 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered a request in Docket No. 19-1084 for a waiver of the \$1,500 late fee assessed against Stacy Bush Morales, member of the Capital Area Human Services District, for filing her 2016 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure statement 376 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the \$1,500 late fee.

An untimely request in Docket No. 19-1128 was submitted for a waiver of the two \$650 late fees and a \$1500 late fee assessed against Rose Thompson, with the Morehouse Parish School Board, District 7, for filing both her amended 2016 and amended 2017 Tier 3 Annual personal financial disclosure statement 13 days late; and for filing her 2018 Tier 3 Annual personal financial disclosure statement 80 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to consider the waiver request. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive all the late fees.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 19-1219 regarding the employment of a former East Feliciana Police Jury manager. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendation noting that Section 1111C(2)(d) of the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Sonya Crowe from receiving any thing of economic value from Landmark Bank while serving as an employee of East Feliciana Police Jury.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 20-058 regarding Michael Echols, State Representative, District 14 and his employment or ownership in Vantage Health Plan, Inc. Staff did not prepare a draft opinion because there were several discussion points for Board advice on how the request relates to Sections 1111C(2)(d), 1111E, 1113C and 1113D of the Code of Governmental Ethics. Board member Roberts stepped out at 1:28 p.m. and returned at 1:30 p.m. Board member Smith requested to be recused. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board requested the staff to obtain more information and to prepare a draft for the March meeting.

The Board unanimously resolved into executive session at 1:38 p.m. to consider complaints and reports deemed confidential pursuant to Section 1141 of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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The Board unanimously resolved into general business session at 1:41 p.m.

The Board considered charges pending against Ronnie Remedies in Docket No. 2016-829. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board dismissed the charges and recommended staff to send a cautionary letter.

The Board considered charges pending against Jared Charpentier in Docket No. 2016-1177. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board dismissed the charges.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board unanimously adjourned at 1:44 P.M.

Secretary

Chairman