STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
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July 17, 2020

VIA SHAREPOINT

The Division of Administrative Law
1020 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: *In the Matter of Dr. Rebekah E. Gee*
Agency Tracking No.: 2019-690

Dear Ms. Duhon:

On behalf of the Louisiana Board of Ethics, please file the attached *Charges* in the referenced matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 225-219-5619, and thank you.

Kindest regards,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Elizabeth W. Barrouquere

Elizabeth Barrouquere
Staff Paralegal

Enclosures
cc: Dr. Rebekah E. Gee (via certified mail no. 70191120000179772804)

STATE OF LOUISIANA

THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

IN THE MATTER OF	*	**DOCKET NO. 2020-_____-ETHICS__**
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	*	
DR. REBEKAH E. GEE, M.D.	*	**AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2019-690**

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CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics ("BOE") voted on July 2, 2020 to and **DOES HEREBY** file the following charge:

1.

Dr. Rebekah E. Gee, M.D. ("Dr. Gee") was employed as the Secretary of Louisiana Department of Health ("LDH") from January 2016 until January 2020.

2.

Dr. Gee is married to David Lee Patron ("Mr. Patron"). The wedding ceremony occurred on October 2, 2010. Dr. Gee and Mr. Patron maintain a community property regime.

3.

Mr. Patron is a general/domestic partner and attorney with the law firm, Phelps Dunbar LLP ("Phelps"). He specializes in intellectual property.

4.

Phelps was retained by the Ruby Slipper Cafe, LLC ("Ruby Slipper") and, as a part of that representation, filed a breach of fiduciary duty lawsuit on behalf of the Ruby Slipper against a former employee. Mr. Patron was the signatory on the pleadings filed in the litigation in the United States District for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

5.

In 2018 and 2019, Mr. Patron handled three (3) matters for the Ruby Slipper on behalf of Phelps. In 2018, Mr. Patron personally billed the Ruby Slipper $157,142 in 2018 and $133,528 in 2019. Neither Phelps nor Mr. Patron handled any matters related to the Ruby Slipper in 2016 and 2017. For compensation, Mr. Patron received his percentage of Phelps' net revenue after Phelps' debts were paid.

6.

The Ruby Slipper is a restaurant that is regulated by the LDH, where Dr. Gee was the agency head. Neither Phelps nor Mr. Paton have represented the Ruby Slipper on any matters concerning the LDH. Between January 2016 and February 2020, the LDH has conducted 106 inspections of the Ruby Slipper.

7.

La. R.S. 1111(C)(2)(d) provides that no public servant and no legal entity in which the public servant exercises control or owns an interest in excess of twenty-five percent (25 %), shall receive anything of economic value for or in consideration of services rendered, or to be rendered, to or for any person during his public service unless such services are neither preformed nor compensated by any person from whom such public servant would be prohibited by La. R.S. 42:1115(A)(l) or (B) from receiving a gift.

8..

La. R.S. 42:1115(A)(1) prohibits a public servant from soliciting or accepting, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person or from any officer, director, agent, or employee of such person, if such public servant knows or reasonably should know that such person has or is seeking to have a contractual, business, or financial relationship

with the public servant's agency. **La. R.S. 42:1115(B)(1)** prohibits a public employee from soliciting or accepting, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person or from any officer, director, agent, or employee of such person, if such public servant knows or reasonably should know that such person conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the public employees' agency.

13.

Based on the foregoing facts, Dr. Gee violated La. R.S. 42:1111(C)(2)(d) by virtue of her receipt of a thing of economic value (Mr. Patron's compensation from Phelps as a part of their community property regime), for services provided to Ruby Slipper, at a time when Dr. Gee was the Secretary and agency head of the LDH. The Ruby Slipper conducted operations or activities that are regulated by the LDH.

14.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141(C)(3)(b)(iv), the BOE designates LaToya D. Jordan and Tracy M. Barker as the BOE's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics respectfully requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board: (1) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charge; (2) determine that Dr. Rebekah E. Gee, M.D. violated La. R.S. 42:1111(C)(2)(d); and, (3) assess the appropriate penalties in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted during the public hearing on this matter or at another time deemed appropriated by the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Robert V. McAnelly, Chairman
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821
Telephone: (225) 219-5600
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing *Charges* have been served on the Respondent by U.S. Registered or Certified Mail this 17th day of July 2020.

RESPONDENT:	Dr. Rebekah E. Gee, M.D. 1715 Napoleon Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70115
ATTORNEY:	None at this time.

LATOYA D. JORDAN
Trial Attorney