FILED
STATE OF LOUISIANA
MAR 16 2017
DIVISION OF ADMINSTRATIVE LAW

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**
**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

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| **LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS** | * | |
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| | * | **DOCKET NO.** |
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| **IN THE MATTER OF** | * | |
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| | * | **AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2016-017** |
| **JEANINE BLANEY** | * | |
| | * | |

## CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on February 16, 2017 to and does hereby file the following charge:

**1.**

Jeanine Blaney was hired by the Lake Charles Police Department (LCPD) as a police records clerk on August 23, 1999 and she was subsequently transferred to the LCPD's Detectives Division on September 9, 2013 where she also served as a clerk.

**2.**

Thomas Bell was hired by the LCPD on August 17, 1987, and he was subsequently promoted to the Deputy Chief of Police for the LCPD's Detectives Division on May 26, 2011.

**3.**

Jeanine Blaney was directly supervised by Thomas Bell after her transfer to the LCPD Detectives Division and, beginning in 2014, she was additionally supervised by Capitan Arnold Bellow.

**4.**

Due to her enrollment as a student at McNeese State University (McNeese) in 2007, Jeanine Blaney maintained an adjusted work schedule with the LCPD in which she would continue working after normal business hours in order to complete a full eight hour work day on the days she attended classes at McNeese. Her student schedule required her to attend classes during her normal working hours for LCPD.

**5.**

Thomas Bell and Jeanine Blaney attended McNeese concurrently; however, they were not enrolled in the same classes.

**6.**

At the request of Thomas Bell and during his normal working hours for the LCPD, Jeanine Blaney completed McNeese coursework, including typing homework and taking online tests, on Mr. Bell's behalf during her regularly scheduled work hours for the LCPD. Mr. Bell received credit from McNeese for completion of coursework by Jeanine Blaney.

**7.**

Attendance logs, from March 5, 2015 until April 2, 2015, indicate that Jeanine Blaney worked from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the days she attended class at McNeese from 9:30 a.m. until 12:20 p.m.

**8.**

In order to complete an eight hour work day on the days Jeanine Blaney attended class at McNeese, Ms. Blaney would continue working past 4:00 p.m. However, Thomas Bell or Arnold Bellow would allow Jeanine Blaney to leave work without completing the necessary eight hours

for which she was being compensated when Ms. Blaney was the sole person remaining in the Lake Charles Police Department building.

**9.**

From March 5, 2015 until April 2, 2015, Jeanine Blaney was compensated EIGHT HUNDERED TWELVE DOLLARS AND FORTY-SEVEN CENTS ($812.47) for fifty-six and one half (56.5) hours of work of which she did not perform any services for the LCPD. During the same time period, Ms. Blaney was compensated THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE DOLLARS AND FORTY-EIGHT CENTS for seventeen (17) hours of overtime work of which she did not perform any services for the Lake Charles Police Department.

**10.**

**La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)** provides that no public servant shall receive anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position.

**11.**

**La. R.S. 42:1161F** provides that every agency head shall constantly screen all employees under his supervision to ascertain that such employees are needed to perform the work of the agency and shall promptly take the necessary steps to reduce the number of the employees of the agency to a sufficient or satisfactory number required. Knowingly having one or more employees on the payroll who are not rendering service for which they are being paid or having one or more employees on the payroll that violate the provisions of R.S. 42:1119 shall subject the agency head, a public employee having the authority to hire and fire the employee, and the immediate supervisor of the employee, as well as such employee, to the disciplinary action and penalties provided by this Chapter.

**12.**

**La. R.S. 42:1117** provides that no public servant or other person shall give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver or offer to give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver, directly or indirectly, to any public servant or other person any thing of economic value which such public servant or other person would be prohibited from receiving by any provision of this Part.

**13.**

Based on the foregoing facts, Jeanine Blaney, in her capacity as a clerk within the Detectives Division of the Lake Charles Police Department, violated La. R.S. 42:1111(A)(1) by receiving compensation from the Lake Charles Police Department for which she was not duly entitled to receive for hours in which she provided no services on behalf of the Lake Charles Police Department, but was listed on the attendance log as providing her clerk related services.

**14.**

Based on the foregoing facts, Jeanine Blaney, in her capacity as a clerk within the Detectives Division of the Lake Charles Police Department, violated La. R.S. 42:1161 by indicating that she was present and performing services for the Lake Charles Police Department and knowingly receiving regular and overtime compensation from the Lake Charles Police Department for hours in which she provided no services to the Lake Charles Police Department or she was not present in any Lake Charles Police Department building.

**15.**

Based on the foregoing facts, Jeanine Blaney, in her capacity as a clerk within the Detectives Division of the Lake Charles Police Department, violated La. R.S. 42:1117 by providing educational assistance to Thomas Bell, for which he received course credit, regarding his coursework for classes at McNeese State University during Thomas Bell's normal working

hours to which he was not duly entitled to receive during such working hours for the performance of his job duties and responsibilities.

**16.**

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C (3)(b)(iv), the Board designates Brett A. Robinson and Tracy M. Barker as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

**WHEREFORE**, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (a) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charges; (b) determine that Jeanine Blaney violated La. R.S. 42:1111A(1), La. R.S. 42:1117 and La. R.S. 42:1161F; and (c) assess appropriate penalties in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted at the hearing.

Bob McAnelly
Chairman, Louisiana Board of Ethics
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Baton Rouge, LA 70821
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**CERTIFICATE:**

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondents by registered/certified mail in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141E(1)(a), on this 16th day of March, 2017.

Ms. Jeanine Blaney
904 Shady Lane
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601-8300

Brett Robinson
Trial Attorney