

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
MINUTES
April 4, 2025

The Board of Ethics met on April 4, 2025 at 9:02 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 Amato, Baños, Bryant, Colomb, Crigler, Grand, Grimley, Huval, Roberts, Scott, Speer and Whipple present. Board Members Nowlin was absent. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, David Bordelon; Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel Tracy Barker, Jessica Meiners, Suzanne Mooney and Charles Reeves.

Mark E. Milligan, an unsuccessful candidate for East Baton Rouge Sheriff in the October 12, 2019 election, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 24-971 requesting that the Board waive the \$800 campaign finance late fee assessed against him for filing the 2023 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure report 8 days late. In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure and after hearing from Mr. Milligan, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered the untimely waiver. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board moved to suspend the campaign finance late fee based on future compliance.

Pride Justin Doran, former member of the Central St. Landry Economic Development District, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 25-020 regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2020 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 257 days late and a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2021 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 257 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee.

Bruce Harrell, Certified Public Accountant, and staff member Maggie Madden appeared before the Board representing Richard L. Wales, Walker City Council / at Large / Livingston

Parish, in Docket No. 24-945 regarding a \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2023 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 27 days late. After hearing from Mr. Harrell and Ms. Madden, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$250 based on future compliance with the Code of Governmental Ethics. The \$250 is payable within 20 days and if payment is not received within 20 days, the full amount of the late fee becomes due and owing.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 24-969 regarding an employee of the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, Lacey Harris, contracting with the Authority. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter for a future meeting.

Melanie M. Washington, former member of the Children's Trust Fund Board, appeared before the Board in Docket 24-978 regarding a \$950 late fee assessed for filing her 2022 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 19 days late. After hearing from Ms. Washington, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all of the late fee based on future compliance.

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President for St John the Baptist Parish was unable to appear before the Board in Docket No. 25-158 seeking clarification on the application of Sections 1141.4K and 1141.4L of the Code of Governmental Ethics. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until next month.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items G4-G19 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-G19, taking the following action:

Board Member Whipple recused herself from voting on Docket No. 24-914.

The Board declined to render an approval of a Disqualification Plan in Docket No. 24-914 involving the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government because staff has not received the following information that they requested: a proposed flow chart with the new positions, a copy of Brian Boquet's job description and a copy of Amber LaBauve's job description.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 24-920 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Chris Martin and/or his father's company from transacting with Downsville Community Charter School while Chris Martin is an employee of the charter school. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Mr. Chris Martin's father's business cannot enter into any contract, subcontract, or transaction under the supervision or jurisdiction of the transportation staff of Downsville Community Charter School.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-009 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Celizlu Creations LLC from selling custom t-shirts and mugs, along with other craft items, to David Wade Correctional Center while the owner, Mr. Trupiano, is a part-time employee at David Wade Correctional Center. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Section 1113 of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Celizlu Creations LLC from entering into contracts to sell merchandise to David Wade Correctional Center Facility Maintenance Division while Mr. Trupiano is employed at David Wade Correctional Center in Facility Maintenance Division. However, the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Celizlu Creations LLC from

entering into contracts to sell merchandise to other agencies with the David Wade Correctional Center as long as it is not part of the Facility Maintenance Division.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-030 from the Sheriff of Rapides Parish, Mark Wood, regarding whether employees of the Sheriff's Office may purchase department property at auction. Staff requested additional information but none has been provided. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to render an opinion due to lack of information.

The Board considered a Disqualification Plan in Docket No. 25-042 submitted by DeSota Parish Waterworks District #1 relating to District Superintendent David Ryals. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the Disqualification Plan as it complies with the criteria set forth in Chapter 14 of the Rules for the Board of Ethics.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-047 for Keith Burton, Superintendent of Caddo Parish School Board related to Sarah Burton, his daughter-in-law's, employment with a service provider Corebridge Financial. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Section 1113A(1)(a) of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Burton from selling 403(b) retirement plans to School Board employees because the transactions are under the jurisdiction of Keith Burton's agency, the School Board.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-048 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits an employee of the Downtown Development District of New Orleans from also providing clerical services to the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that no provision of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits an individual's continued employment

with the Downtown Development District while also serving as an employee of the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office. However, the individual's employment with both state agencies may present an issue addressed by the Louisiana Dual Office-Holding laws, which are under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. A copy of the request and opinion has been forwarded to the Attorney General's Office.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-063 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the Village of Forest from contracting with VOLTEC while the Mayor's nephew, Randy Denmon, is employed with VOLTEC. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that based on the facts presented, the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Mr. Denmon's employer, VOLTEC, from contracting with the Village since a nephew is not an immediate family member.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-073 regarding as to whether the post-employment restrictions in the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ronald Scott Harrington, the Operations Manager of Mosquito Control with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, following retirement, from working with a private company Azelis AE&S, which previously was a vendor of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Azelis AE&S from continuing business with Calcasieu Parish if Mr. Harrington has no dealings with procurement, bidding, etc., on transactions between the parish and the company.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-074 from Lisa Smothers, Head of Office of Human Resources at East Baton Rouge School Board (the "School Board"), as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Helix, a non-profit organization she operates, to provide services to a charter school, Dream Keepers Academy, operating under a

charter with the School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Dream Keepers from contracting with Helix to provide tutoring services to students. Further, Ms. Smothers is not prohibited from receiving compensation from Dream Keepers, and Dream Keepers is not prohibited from receiving compensation from Helix.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-076 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Ronny Doucett and/or his company from transacting with first responders in Sulphur, Louisiana. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Section 1113A of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Doucett and/or his uniform business from bidding on or entering into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the Sulphur Fire Department. Therefore, Mr. Doucett cannot sell uniforms to the Sulphur Fire Department and he may not sell uniforms to employees of the Sulphur Fire Department since that would violate Section 1111C(2)(d) of the Code of Governmental Ethics. He may sell to other Fire Departments and employees of other Fire Departments.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-077 from Jim Craft, Executive Director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (the "Commission"), relating to potential service on a non-profit board, the Community Foundation of Acadiana ("CFA"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Craft from serving as a director of CFA, and does not prohibit CFA from receiving grants administered by the Commission. The Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Craft from participating in matters relating to CFA.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-078 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits a former board member's spouse, Zabina Pitre, from bidding on a contract with the Denham Springs Parks and Recreation District #3 ("District"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Zabina Pitre from bidding on contracts with the District.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-110 regarding whether the LaSalle Parish School Board is prohibited by the Code of Governmental Ethics from hiring Josh Lindsey as a part-time coach at Jena High School while his wife, Rae Lindsey, is employed at Jena High School. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Section 1113 of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Josh Lindsey from being compensated \$400 to Coach at Jena High School. However, Section 1113A(1)(a) of the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Lindsey from accepting compensation from the LaSalle Parish School Board to continue coaching at LaSalle High School.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-111 from Desmond LeBlanc relating to post-employment restrictions after serving as board member on the Lakeshore Villages Master Community Development District ("CDD"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. LeBlanc from being appointed to the position of district manager by the CDD for a period of two years following the termination of his service as a CDD board member. Further, the company Mr. Leblanc owns and operates, Special District Management Solutions LLC ("Company") is prohibited from entering into transactions with the CDD while he serves as a board member, and he is prohibited from assisting the Company for compensation in any

transaction with the CDD for a period of two years following the termination of his service as a CDD board member.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

Board Member Roberts left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Board Member Whipple recused herself from voting on the minutes.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of the March 6th and March 7th, 2025 meeting.

Board Member Roberts returned to the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-064 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Dr. Roderick Clark to receive a stipend as the President of the Board of Governors for the Louisiana State Medical Society ("LSMS") while also serving as the Governor-appointed President of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter.

David Bordelon made the following announcements:

- The Labelle room is scheduled for renovations July and August.
- Staff filed no *Objection to Candidacy* lawsuits following the qualifying period that ended on March 14, 2025 for the special election.
- Staff presented the Board's proposed legislation, proposed campaign finance complaint rule, and the Campaign Finance Best Practices Report at a hearing on March 19th before the Joint Committee on Governmental Affairs.
- Jerrolyn Brees has been appointed as IT Manager effective March 3, 2025.
- The following Ethics staff members reached work anniversaries during the first three months of 2025:
 - Jerrolyn Brees - IT - 16 years
 - Andrea Millet - Lobbying - 12 years
 - Katrina Freeman - IT - 10 years
 - Tammy Frazier - Disclosures - 9 years
 - Jennifer Yoho - Campaign Finance - 6 years
 - Arielle Martin - Investigation -5 years
 - Terrica Jackson - Paralegal - 1 year
- Tier 2 Personal Financial Disclosures Due May 15th; contact Ashley Wimberley, Disclosures Director, for assistance.

The Board unanimously agreed to take action on the requests for “good cause” waivers of personal financial disclosure late fees assessed against individuals contained in item G23 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 in G23, except for Docket Nos. 24-927, 24-946, 24-947, 24-949, 24-950 and 24-984; taking the following action:

The Board unanimously declined to waive all of the personal financial disclosure late fees for the following:

Docket 24-924 Bobby L. Madison, 2023 Tier 3, 33 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 24-928 Curtis L. Shepard, 2019 Tier 2.1, 1289 days late of a \$1500 late fee;
Docket 24-929 Terry Alan James, 2023 Tier 3, 20 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 24-931 Christian D. Lapeyre, 2020 Tier 2.1, 1017 days late of a \$1500 late fee;
Docket 24-944 Tiffany Harvil, 2021 Tier 3, 33 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 24-947 Sammy Chisolm, 2023 Tier 3, 71 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 24-976 Cynthia D. G. Perry, Amend 2023 Tier 2, 33 days late of a \$2500 late fee;
Docket 24-977 Tina Shows Johnson, 2023 Tier 3, 58 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 24-979 Dickie A. Doughty, 2020 Tier 3, 74 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 24-982 Paul Ogden Johnson, 2022 Tier 2.1, 159 days late of a \$1500 late fee;
Docket 24-983 Gerry Wayne Lummus, Amend 2022 Tier 3, 27 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 24-985 Marcie Sheree Davis, 2022 Tier 3, 450 days late of a \$500 late fee; and,
Docket 25-014 Stacy McLarrin Sharp, 2021 Tier 3, 21 days late of a \$500 late fee;

The Board unanimously suspended all of the personal financial disclosure late fees based on future compliance for the following:

Docket 24-925 Belinda B. Brown Hazel, 2023 Tier 2, 84 days late of a \$2500 late fee;
Docket 24-930 Dacoda Bartels, 2022 Tier 2.1, 90 days late of a \$1500 late fee;
Docket 24-943 Carrie Jennings Wheeler, 2020 Tier 2, 7 days late of \$700 late fee;
Docket 24-948 Andrew O. Kuyoro, Sr., Amend 2021 Tier 2.1, 8 days late of \$400 late fee;
Docket 24-981 Vincent J. Pierre, 2023 Tier 2, 4 days late of \$400 late fee;
Docket 25-019 Joaquin “Junior” Matheu, Jr., 2023 Tier 2, 111 days late of \$2500 late fee;
and,
Docket 25-021 Barry E. “Buck” McGee, Jr., 2021 Tier 3, 28 days late of a \$500 late fee.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 24-927 regarding David A. Johnson, Rapides Parish Police Juror/ District H / Rapides Parish, regarding a \$2,500 late fee

assessed for filing his 2023 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 76 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until the June meeting.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 24-946 regarding Nathanaela “Nate” Andrew Alexander, candidate for Alderman / Town of Livingston / Livingston Parish in the November 5, 2024 election, regarding a \$500 late fee assessed for filing his 2023 Tier 3 Candidate personal financial disclosure 98 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 24-949 submitted by Davondra Brown, former member of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf / Designee, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing her 2022 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 26 days late and a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing her 2023 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 26 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee for the 2022 Tier 2.1 and suspended all based on future compliance for the 2023 Tier 2.1.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 24-950 submitted by Ashley J. Argrave, Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, regarding a \$900 late fee assessed for filing her 2022 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 18 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 24-984 submitted by Ernest E. Garrett, III, Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2021 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 91 days late and a \$100 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2022 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 2 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-017 submitted John "Robert" Johnson, Jr., Morehouse Parish School Board, regarding a \$350 late fee assessed for filing his 2024 School Board Disclosure 7 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee since filer failed to state good cause which is outside the control of the filer, as required under Section 1157(A)(1)(b) of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered an untimely waiver request in Docket No. 24-980 submitted by Henry A. Schumacher, former member of the Tangipahoa / St. Helena Soil & Water Conservation District, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2022 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 196 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance since this is his first late filing with an assessed late fee and he is no longer a member of the board.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered an untimely waiver request in Docket No. 25-018 submitted by Ritchie L. Fraychineaud, former member of the Commission for the Deaf, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2019 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 1,289 days late and a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his 20120 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 1,022 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance since Mr. Fraychineaud was appointed on August 15, 2019 and resigned on February 13, 2020 where the Commission only met twice and he did not attend either meeting.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered an untimely waiver request in Docket No. 25-022 submitted by Walter Thomas Tillery, former member of the Regional Transit Authority, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2022 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 188 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously

passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance.

The Board considered the following items on the General Supplemental Agenda.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 23-662 regarding a GEO Academies East Baton Rouge Charter School board member being paid by GEO Foundation for services rendered to the charter schools. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted and published the consent opinion and dismissed the charges before the Ethics Adjudicatory Board since Dr. Fontenot has signed the consent opinion with a \$5000 civil penalty, payable through a payment plan, and signed a Confession of Judgement.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman