

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
General Meeting Minutes
July 3, 2025

The Board of Ethics met on July 3, 2025 at 9:04 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, Bryant, Colomb, Crigler, Fremin, Grand, Grimley, Huval, Nowlin, Roberts, Scott, Speer and Whipple present. Board Members Baños and Davis were absent. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, David Bordelon; the Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel Tracy Barker, Jessica Meiners, Suzanne Mooney and Charles Reeves.

Mr. John Lane Ewing, Jr., former member of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 24-824 requesting that the Board reconsider its decision to decline to suspend all but \$1,050 of a \$1,500 late fee assessed against him for filing his 2022 Tier 2.1 annual personal financial disclosure 77 days late. After hearing from Mr. Ewing, on motion made, seconded and passed with a vote of ten yeas by Board Members Amato, Colomb, Crigler, Fremin, Grand, Grimley, Huval, Nowlin, Scott and Whipple and three nays by Board Members, Bryant, Roberts, and Speer, the Board suspended all but \$200 based on future compliance with the Code of Governmental Ethics.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items G2-G17 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 G2-G17, excluding item G9 and G17, taking the following action:

The Board considered a request by the Office of Motor Vehicles in Docket No. 24-794 asking the Board to reconsider an Advisory Opinion issued to Tamara Hingle as to whether the

Code of Governmental Ethics permits Ms. Hingle to open a Louisiana Driving School after her retirement from the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board affirmed its prior Advisory Opinion that Ms. Hingle was prohibited, for two years following March 4, 2024, from assisting any person for compensation involving a transaction with the Office of Motor Vehicles-New Orleans East Office of Motor Vehicles to obtain a license.

The Board considered the withdrawal of an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-232 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Jeray Jambon Jarreau's appointment to the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District Board while her husband, Jordan Anthony Jarreau, is employed with Sealevel Construction, Inc. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board allowed Ms. Jarreau to withdraw her advisory opinion request since the matter is moot as Ms. Jarreau no longer seeks to serve on the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District Board.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-233 from Clint J. Daigrepoint regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits his towing company, Pop's Towing, from contracting with the Avoyelles Parish School Board Maintenance Department while he serves as a school bus driver with the Avoyelles Parish School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to render an opinion since additional information necessary for a proper opinion was not provided by the correspondent.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-255 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits an employee of a publicly funded Senior Center from accepting gifts on behalf of her baby from clients at the Senior Center. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that based on the facts presented,

Section 1117 of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the Senior Center's Manager from accepting gifts given to her baby by clients at the Senior Center.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-259 from Vermilion Charter Foundation, Inc. ("VCF"), regarding whether Kona Ice of Acadiana, a business owned by a member of the VCF Board of Trustees, is permitted to operate on the Vermilion Charter Academy campus. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Kona Ice of Acadiana from entering into any agreement with the Vermilion Charter Academy to sell snow cones on its campus, even if a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to the school and there is no other snow cone business that offers comparable services in the area. However, Kona Ice of Acadiana is not prohibited from donating snow cones to the Vermilion Charter Academy.

The Board considered a disqualification plan in Docket No. 25-267 submitted on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources and Office of Management and Finance employees Valerie Campbell and Kayla Williams. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the proposed disqualification plan since it is pursuant to Section 1112C of the Code of Governmental Ethics allowing Ms. Campbell to avoid violation of Section 1112B(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics since she will not participate in any issue in which her daughter may have a substantial economic interest.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-269 regarding Tyres Burise, employee of the Finance and Accounting Department (the "Department") in the City of Alexandria (the "City") as to whether his company, Tybeaux's Xterior Solutions, LLC (the "Company") can transact with departments of the City. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that, as Mr. Burise owns a controlling interest in the

Company, both he and the Company are prohibited from entering into transactions with the Department. However, the Company is not prohibited from entering into transactions with other City departments that are not under supervision or jurisdiction of the Department.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-297 regarding whether an elected official is required to file a disclosure statement when they do not receive compensation or a thing of economic value for assisting a person in a transaction involving their governmental entity. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that if Senator Luneau receives or agrees to receive a thing of economic value to assist a client in a transaction or in an appearance in connection with a transaction involving the State, the Code of Governmental Ethics requires him to file a disclosure statement pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1111E(2) within ten (10) days of any contact, including any pre-litigation settlement negotiations or other discussions with the State of Louisiana, through one of its departments, agencies, boards, or commissions, (the State) directly or through its counsel; (2) within 10 days when Senator Luneau, on behalf of his client, files suit against the State; or, (3) within 10 days of the date he is retained if the client currently has a suit pending against the State.

The Board considered a disqualification plan in Docket No. 25-307 submitted on behalf of the St. Charles Parish School Board concerning Dr. Kenneth Oertling and Kelli Oertling, a married couple employed by the St. Charles Parish School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the proposed disqualification plan since it is sufficient to prevent violations under Section 1112 of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered a request for an advisory opinion in Docket No. 25-309 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Jared Marcell, a New Orleans Public Library employee, from starting a video podcast. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed,

the Board concluded that under the facts as stated no provision of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Marcell from starting his own video podcast.

The Board considered a request for an advisory opinion in Docket No. 25-324 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Atley Walker, a West Baton Rouge Parish Councilmember, from writing a letter of support for a resident of West Baton Rouge. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that there are no provisions in the Code of Governmental Ethics which prohibit Mr. Walker from writing a letter on behalf of Ms. Hawkins.

The Board considered advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-326 from Clinton Patrick regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits his employer from bidding on projects with the Office of Facility Planning and Control while his step-father is employed by the Office of Facility Planning and Control. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Patrick's employer from bidding on projects with the Office of Facility Planning and Control in which he could potentially be involved while his step-father is employed with the Office of Facility

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-327 from Jarod Martin, Superintendent of the Lafourche Parish School Board (the "School Board"), related to issues in contracting with his father's employer. His father, Phillip Martin, is currently employed by D.A. Davidson & Co., Inc. (the "Company"). Phillip Martin does not own any interest in the Company. The School Board is considering entering into a contract with the Company (the "Subject Contract"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit the Company from entering into the

Subject Contract with the School Board and does not prohibit Jarod Martin from participating in the Subject Contract. Also, for compensation Phillip Martin receives from the Company, he is required to file disclosure reports annually disclosing his income from the Company. The forms for such financial disclosure can be found on the Board's website at www.ethics.la.gov.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-328 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Shawanda Robinson, a Probation/Parole Officer for the Office of Juvenile Justice, from holding a dual commission as a Reserve Deputy Marshal for the City of Abbeville's Marshal's Office. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that no provision of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Robinson from being employed with the Office of Juvenile Justice while also serving as a reserve deputy with the Abbeville Marshal's Office as long as she is not being paid for the same hours while working both positions. However, being a public employee and working as a reserve officer may present an issue concerning Louisiana Dual Office-holding and Dual Employment prohibitions, which are not under the jurisdiction of the Board but are under the Attorney General's jurisdiction. The Board suggested that Ms. Robinson contact that office regarding the application of those laws. A copy of her request and this opinion will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office.

Board Member Whipple recused herself from voting on Docket No. 25-295.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-295 from Robert Page regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the renewal of insurance policies with the Bayou Cane Fire Protection District while Mr. Page serves as a member of the Bayou Cane Fire Protection District. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until next month.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-366 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Michael Thomas, a Department of Public Safety employee, from receiving a license to open a driving school. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that no provision of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Thomas from being a licensed owner of a driving school while employed as the building supervisor for the Office of Motor Vehicles for the Department of Public Safety.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

Board Members Roberts and Whipple recused themselves from voting on the June minutes, as they were not present at the June 5th and June 6th, 2025 meetings.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of the June 5th and June 6th, 2025 meetings.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 22-452 regarding Tequilla Douglas receiving St. Helena Sheriff's Office funds that she was not duly entitled to receive for the performance of her job duties as an employee of the Sheriff's Office. Ms. Douglas has signed the consent opinion admitting a violation of Section 1111A of the Code of Governmental Ethics. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication and dismissed charges pending before the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 23-398 regarding Gabriel Diaz and his father Michael Diaz, the Director of Technology for Tangipahoa Parish School Board, violating Section 1119A of the Code of Governmental Ethics by virtue of the son being employed in his father's agency. The Diaz's executed a consent opinion for the violation and paid a civil penalty of \$7,500. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication.

The Board considered Administrator's Notes Mr. Bordelon in Docket No. 3125-01:

1. Ethics Board Meeting scheduled August 7th and 8th, 2025 may be moved to the Louisiana Purchase Room at the Claiborne Building if updates to the LaBelle Room are not complete.
2. Ethics staff members recognized for their service as follows:
 - Tracy Barker - June 20 - 20 years
 - Lierica Boutte - May 30 - 3 years
 - Dianne Calmes - April 19 - 4 years
 - Wil Giron - June 27 - 3 years
 - Mallory Guillot - June 15 - 3 years
 - Joel Manuel - May 17 - 26 years
 - Angela Newsom - May 17 - 15 years
 - Charles Reeves - April 27 - 5 years
 - Melanie Sanchez - June 1 - 5 years
 - Dina Schwarzenbach - April 22 - 1 year
3. Civil Service will conduct an in-person Preventing Sexual Harassment Training at 11 AM on Friday August 8th, 2025.
4. Objection to Candidacy letters were sent to all individuals with outstanding late fees in advance of the qualifying period of July 9 – 11, 2025 for the fall elections.

David Bordelon provided a chart of all ongoing changes due to new legislation filed for the 2025 Legislative Session as it pertained to the laws administered by the Louisiana Board of Ethics. The Legislative session ended on June 12, 2025. No action was taken.

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 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 the items in G23, excluding Docket No. 25-277, taking the following action:

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket 25-263 from Adonic C. Expose', 2024 SUPP of a \$360 late fee;

Docket 25-278 from Barbara Norton, 2023 SUPP of a \$2,000 late fee;
Docket 25-278 from Barbara Norton, 2024 SUPP of a \$60 late fee; and
Docket 25-280 from UAW Region 8 Southwestern States PAC, 2024 Annual of a \$1,400 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-277 regarding the \$100 campaign finance late fee assessed against Sandra Cabrina Jenkins, an unsuccessful candidate for Associate Justice, Supreme Court, 7th Supreme Court District in the November 3, 2020 election, whose 2024 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure report was filed 1 day late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all of the late fee based on future compliance.

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 G24 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 G24, excluding Docket No. 25-298, taking the following action:

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

Docket 25-150 Dr. James “Jack” P. Digangi, 2023 Tier 2.1, 3 days late of a \$150 late fee;
Docket 25-243 Meredith A. Warner, 2018 Tier 2.1, 50 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 25-281 Tyra Duhe-Griffin, 2023 Tier 2, 34 days late of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 25-286 Yvonne Lewis, 2023 Tier 2.1, 14 days late of a \$700 late fee;
Docket 25-320 Christine Bryson Tharpe, Amend 2022 Tier 2, 101 days late of a \$2,500 late fee; and
Docket 25-320 Christine Bryson Tharpe, Amend 2023 Tier 2, 101 days late of a \$2,500 late fee.

The Board unanimously rescinded the late fee for the following personal financial disclosure late fees:

Docket 25-268 Christopher Collins Smith, Amend 2023 Tier 2, of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 25-285 Michael D. Vicari, 2022 Tier 2.1, 103 days late of a \$1,500 late fee; and,
Docket 25-285 Michael D. Vicari, all disclosures from 2019 through 2023.

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

Docket 25-282 James D. Thornton, Amend 2022 Tier 2.1, 5 days late of a \$250 late fee;
Docket 25-300 Nina T. Jones, 2023 Tier 2.1, 141 days late of a \$1,500 late fee; and,
Docket 25-308 Logan A. Davis, 2022 Tier 2.1, 300 days late of a \$1,500 late fee.

Board Member Fremin recused himself from voting on Docket No. 25-276.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-276 submitted by Julie Quinn, candidate for PSC / District 2 in the November 5, 2024 election, regarding a \$2500 late fee assessed for filing her 2023 Tier 2 Candidate personal financial disclosure 32 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee since this is her second late filing and the filer fails to state good cause which is outside of the control of filer, as required under Section 1157(A)(1)(b) of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-298 submitted by Michael Rheams, Jr., unsuccessful candidate for Councilman / District 2, City of Walker / Livingston Parish in the November 5, 2024 election, regarding a \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2023 Tier 2 Candidate personal financial disclosure 182 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board reduced the late fee to \$500 based on future compliance.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-266 regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed against Mildred Jeane Greer, Board Member of Hospital Service District No. 1-A of Richland Parish, whose 2024 Hospital Disclosure report was filed 372 days late and a \$300 late fee assessed for filing her 2025 Hospital Disclosure 6 days late. On motion made, seconded and

unanimously passed, the Board suspended the 2024 disclosure report late fee based on future compliance and declined to waive the 2025 disclosure report late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered two requests in Docket No. 25-265, the first, an untimely request that the Board waive the \$500 campaign finance late fee assessed against Todd Istre, an unsuccessful candidate for Council Member, Division D, City of Youngsville, Lafayette Parish, in the November 5, 2024 election, whose 10-G campaign finance disclosure report was filed 60 days late; and a timely request that the Board waive the \$80 campaign finance late fee assessed against Mr. Istre, for the same election, whose 40-G campaign finance disclosure report was filed 10 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered the untimely request as to the 10-G report but declined to waive the late fees for both reports.

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

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items GS1-GS3 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 GS1-GS3, excluding item GS2, taking the following action:

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-270 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits John Diez, the former Chief Administrative Officer of Ascension Parish, from being employed by the Ascension Economic Development Corporation (“AEDC”) within two years from the termination of his public service. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Diez, a former agency head, from receiving compensation from AEDC for

participating in public appearances in Ascension Parish until August 11, 2025, two years from the termination of his public service.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-397 from Galen Wilson, employee of the Office of Facility Planning and Control ("FPC"), as to whether his company may complete work on a contract with the Louisiana Military Department ("LMD"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Wilson's company from performing work for LMD pursuant to the Subject Contract.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-330 concerning whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Robert L. Judge, a member of the Lafayette Library Board of Control, from participating in discussions regarding settlement of a lawsuit where all members of the board in their official capacity are defendants and where Mr. Judge is also a defendant in his individual capacity. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until a future meeting.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman