

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS  
MINUTES  
May 2, 2025

The Board of Ethics met on May 2, 2025 at 9:03 a.m. in the LaBelle Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the LaSalle Building located at 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Board Members Amato, Colomb, Crigler, Grand, Grimley, Huval, Nowlin, Scott, Speer and Whipple present. Board Members Baños, Bryant and Roberts 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.

Eileen Carter, NoLaToya (Recall)'s committee chairperson, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 24-830 requesting that the Board waive two campaign finance late fees of \$40 and \$880 for a total of \$920 assessed against NoLaToya (Recall), a recall effort, for the August 26, 2022 election, whose 200-P and 135-P campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 1 day and 22 days late, respectively. In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure and after hearing from Ms. Carter, a motion to defer the matter was made and seconded and failed with a vote of 3 yeas by Board Members Colomb, Grimley and Huval and 7 nays by Board Members Amato, Crigler, Grand, Nowlin, Scott, Speer and Whipple. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fees.

Ashton M. Jackson appeared before the Board in Docket No. 24-317 representing Patrice Sentino, an unsuccessful candidate for Member of School Board, District 1, Orleans Parish in the November 3, 2020 election, requesting that the Board reconsider its decision to reduce the \$2000 original late fee to \$600 for filing the 2022 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure report 387 days late. In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure and

after hearing from Mr. Jackson, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board reaffirmed the decision to reduce to \$600, and declined to waive.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 24-969 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Lacey Herring, an employee of the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, from contracting with the Authority following the termination of her employment. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Lacey Herring from contracting with the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority to be the Multi-Systemic Therapy Program Expert for a period of two years from the date of her retirement as the Mental Health Program Director of the Multi-Systemic Therapy Program.

Tambra “Tammy” Cook, an unsuccessful candidate for Mayor-President, Metro Council, City of Baton Rouge in the November 5, 2024 election, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 24-972 regarding a request that the Board waive the two \$400 campaign finance late fees for a total of \$800 assessed against her for filing her 90-P and 30-P campaign finance disclosure reports 6 & 5 days late, respectively. After hearing from Ms. Cook, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance.

Christopher J. Tyson, former member of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 25-040 regarding a request that the Board waive the \$1500 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2020 Tier 2.1 annual personal financial disclosure 478 days late. After hearing from Mr. Tyson, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$250 of the 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. 25-097 regarding the waiver of four \$3000 for a total of \$12,000 campaign finance late fees assessed against Lafayette Republican Parish Executive Committee, a political action committee, its committee's chairperson, Tim M. Breaux, and treasurer, Charles Buckles, in the October 14, 2023 election whose, 30-P and 10-P have not been filed and 10-G and 40-G campaign finance disclosure reports were inaccurately filed. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until the June meeting.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-228 regarding a \$2500 campaign finance late fee assessed against Nathaniel Jones, an unsuccessful candidate for Mayor, City of New Orleans in the November 13, 2021 election, whose 10-G campaign finance disclosure report was filed 54 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items G8-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 G8-G19, excluding item G19, taking the following action:

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-109 regarding whether the post-employment provisions in the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Jay Efferson, the Vice President of Avexon, LLC, from soliciting the Office of Technology Services (“OTS”) with sales and service opportunities within two years of his prior service as Director 3 in the OTS End User Computing (“EUC”), Field Operations Section. On motion made, seconded

and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the post-employment restriction of the Code of Governmental Ethics will not prohibit Mr. Efferson from attempting to contract with any OTS department or section head except OTS/EUC field operations section provided that contracted services are not rendered to or for the OTS/EUC field operations section.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-112 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Maurice Keen, a former Livingston Parish Council member, to be employed by the Parish President's Administration following termination of his term as council member. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Keen from being employed by the executive branch of government, the Livingston Parish President's Administration, as an assistant to the Livingston Parish President, following the end of his term as a council member.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-116 regarding post-employment restrictions from Damon Carter, a former employee of the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal ("SFM"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the post-employment restrictions contained in the Code of Governmental Ethics applies to Mr. Carter and DBSysgraph, Inc. for two years following the date Mr. Carter retired from his public employment with the SFM in April 2024. The Board instructed staff to advise Mr. Carter that should a specific situation arise that may present a violation of the Code's post-employment restrictions, Mr. Carter should seek an updated advisory opinion.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-117 as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Carter Ledbetter Prejean from continuing fulfilling her contract with the City of Jennings since her father, Wayne Ledbetter, has been elected to the Jennings City Council. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board

concluded that once Wayne Ledbetter assumes the office of City Councilman in Jennings, Carter Ledbetter is prohibited from renewing her contract to provide services to the City of Jennings, however she is not prohibited from fulfilling her current contract to provide services with the City of Jennings.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-120 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Jason Shelton, the brother-in-law of Christopher Smith, to the position of Chief of the Bossier City Fire Department while Christopher Smith serves as Councilman at Large for Bossier City. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Jason Shelton from being appointed and promoted to the position of Fire Chief for the Bossier City Fire Department while Mr. Smith serves as Councilman at Large for Bossier City since Jason Shelton is not an immediate family member as defined by Section 1102(13) of the Code of Governmental of Ethics.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-121 from Sankeeth Cholleti, employee of the Department of Public Safety (“DPS”), related to post-employment restrictions. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Mr. Cholleti from assisting Optima in a transaction involving DPS in which he participated while he was employed by DPS.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-126 regarding post-employment restrictions from Rachel Zaunbrecher, an Assistant Principal at Iowa High/Middle School for the Calcasieu Parish School District. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the two-year post-employment restrictions contained in the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Ms. Zaunbrecher or her business, Rachel’s

Stitches, LLC, from providing embroidery and sewing services to Iowa High/Middle School, the Calcasieu Parish School District, or any other school within the Calcasieu Parish School District for compensation immediately following her retirement on June 25, 2025.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-127 as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Pamela Lewandowski, a former Louisiana Housing Corporation (“LHC”) employee, from serving as an instructor for the LHC Energy Auditor curriculum. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Section 1121B(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Lewandowski until December 3, 2026 from instructing the LHC Energy Auditor Curriculum on a contractual basis.

The Board considered a request for an advisory opinion in Docket No. 25-128 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits members of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority (“ADRA”) from being members of the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselor and Trainers, Inc. (“LASACT”) while the ADRA leases office space from LASACT. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit members of the ADRA from being members of LASACT while LASACT seeks to or enters into a lease agreement with ADRA; nor, prohibits the ADRA members from participating in a vote involving the lease agreement between the ADRA and LASACT.

The Board considered a request for an advisory opinion in Docket No. 25-134 regarding whether the post-employment provisions in the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibit Jacob Fusilier, an employee of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (“DOTD”), from working in the private sector following termination of his employment. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the post-employment

restrictions of the Code of Governmental Ethics will not prohibit Mr. Fusilier from seeking employment to work on road design projects that he has not participated in during his public employment with DOTD, provided his employer does not transact on any project that Mr. Fusilier participated in during his employment at DOTD.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-145 from Joshua Welch, Councilman of the Village of Mooringsport, as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits the Village of Mooringsport to compensate an employee of the Town of Blanchard under a proposed contract for services. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Welch from approving and providing compensation to Mr. Fuller under the proposed contract.

Board member Scott left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

The Board considered a request for an advisory opinion in Docket No. 25-164 on behalf of the Livingston Parish Fire Protection District No. 10 ("Fire District") as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits BFA of Louisiana, Inc., ("BFA") to continue to contract for goods and services with the Fire District while Dale Hayden serves on the Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit BFA from bidding on, entering into, or having a substantial economic interest in any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the Fire District; however, BFA is prohibited from paying Mr. Hayden compensation for services he renders to BFA while Mr. Hayden serves on the Board of the Fire District and BFA is seeking to or has a contractual, financial or business relationship with the Fire District.

Board Member Scott returned to the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

The Board considered a Personal Financial Disclosure answer in Docket No. 24-926 submitted by Lynne Marie Owens Gomez, former member of the Commission for the Deaf, regarding a Notice of Delinquency received requesting she file her 2023 Tier 2.1 annual personal financial disclosure. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board instructed staff to advise Ms. Gomez she is required to file a 2023 Tier 2.1 personal financial disclosure and that such disclosure be filed within 7 business days of receipt of the notice responding to her personal financial disclosure answer.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of the April 3, 2025 and April 4, 2025 meetings.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 22-698 regarding Aimee Riviere, a former employee of the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, related to charges filed against her for violating Section 1111A(1)(a) of the Code of Governmental Ethics. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted for and publication the consent opinion for Ms. Riviere regarding restitution paid and dismissed the charges filed with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 23-201 regarding Charles Williams entering into prohibited transactions at Carroll High School in Monroe. Mr. Williams executed the consent opinion admitting to a violation of Section 1113A of the Code of Governmental Ethics with a \$2,000 civil penalty, entered into a payment plan, and signed a Confession of Judgment. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted for publication the consent opinion and dismissed the charges filed with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

Board Member Judge Whipple recused herself from voting on Docket No. 23-954.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 23-954 regarding a company owned by Ms. Hebert, a member of the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission d/b/a Louisiana Cajun Bayou, submitted to the Commission an application for a grant. Ms. Hebert and her company executed the consent opinion admitting to a violation of Sections 1111C(2)(d) and 1111E(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics and paid a civil penalty of \$5000. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted for publication of the consent opinion.

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 ("LSBME"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Roderick Clark is prohibited from receiving a thing of economic value for services rendered as President of LSMS while LSMS has a business relationship with LSBME.

Ethics Administrator, David Bordelon, announced the following notes:

1. Staff provided Ethics Training for the members of House of Representatives on April 15th and for members of the Senate on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
2. Tier 2 Personal Financial Disclosures are Due May 15th; For assistance, contact Ashley Wimberley, Disclosures Director.
3. Annual Training Requirements due December 31st: Ethics Training and Preventing Sexual Harassment Training (Civil Service will perform in-person training at the August or September meeting; awaiting confirmation.)
4. New board members: Brandon Fremin, Judge Joel Davis

Chairman Amato thanked David and Ms. Wimberly for their service during this time.

The Board deferred Docket No. 3125-02 until the end of the meeting.

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 G28, 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 G28, excluding Docket Nos. 25-096, 25-146 and 25-147, 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 No. 25-051 from Altice USA Louisiana PAC, 40-G of a \$3,000 late fee;  
Docket No. 25-149 from Invest in Louisiana PAC, 10-P of a \$3,000 late fee; and,  
Docket No. 25-149 from Invest in Louisiana PAC, 10-G of a \$3,000 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously reduced to \$600 based on Section 1205C of the Rules for the Board of Ethics and declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 25-167 from Aylin Maklansky, 2017 election report of a \$2,000 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously reduced to \$1,000 based on Section 1205C of the Rules for the Board of Ethics and declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 25-167 from Aylin Maklansky, 2020 election report of a \$2,500 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-096 regarding the \$200 campaign finance late fee assessed against LA Association of Health Underwriters PAC Corporation, a political action committee, its committee’s chairperson, Jack Duvernay, and treasurer, Amanda Hamilton, whose November 2024 Monthly campaign finance disclosure report was filed 1 day late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-146 regarding the \$60 campaign finance late fee assessed against Tia Mills, an unsuccessful candidate for Council Member, East Baton Rouge Metro District 2 in the November 5, 2024 election, whose 10-P campaign finance disclosure report was filed 1 day late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-147 regarding the \$300.00 and \$60.00 campaign finance late fees for a total of \$360.00 assessed against Eric Smith, Sr., an unsuccessful candidate for Councilmember, East Baton Rouge Metro District 1 in the November 5, 2024 election, whose 30-P and 40-G campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 8 days late and 1 day late, respectively. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-122 regarding the \$500 late fee assessed against Chaila Scott for the late filing of the December 2024 Lobbying Expenditure Report. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board waived the late fee.

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 G30 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 G30, taking the following action:

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

Docket 25-027 Brian Hammons, Amend 2022 Tier 2, 27 days late of a \$2500 late fee;

Docket 25-028 Zelda Harrison Baines, Amend 2021 Tier 3, 75 days late of a \$500 late fee;  
Docket 25-046 Jarrod Keith Shaw, 2023 Tier 3, 11 days late of a \$275 late fee;  
Docket 25-091 Stephen G. Roberts, 2023 Tier 3, 42 days late of a \$500 late fee;  
Docket 25-094 Angela Ann Cleveland, 2023 Tier 3, 143 days late of a \$500 late fee; and,  
Docket 25-095 Laura O'Brien, 2023 Tier 3, 97 days late of a \$500 late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all of the personal financial disclosure late fees based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics for the following:

Docket 25-049 Desi M. Vega, 2023 Tier 2.1, 12 days late of a \$600 late fee;  
Docket 25-052 Leslie Scott Bickham, 2023 Tier 2.1, 1 day late of a \$50 late fee; and,  
Docket 25-093 Lena Fontenot Charles, 2023 Tier 2.1, 15 days late of a \$750 late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all of the late fees but \$250 based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics and payable within 20 days against the following:

Docket 25-050 Jimmy Lynn Phillips, Jr., 2023 Tier 3, 9 days late of a \$500 late fee.

The Board took no action with the General Supplemental Agenda items.

David Bordelon provided an update on proposed legislation introduced for consideration during the 2025 Regular Legislative Session. The Board took no action.

Board member Colomb left the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Board member Scott left the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Board member Grimley left the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Secretary

APPROVED:

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Chairman