

**STATE OF ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**

IN THE MATTER OF:

William H. Laurence
Laurence and Associates LLC
3600 Springhill Business Park # 200
Mobile, Alabama 36608

Respondent



Case No. 2013-20-B

CONSENT ORDER

William H. Laurence, a licensed professional engineer (hereinafter referred to as “Respondent”) hereby stipulates and agrees, subject to approval of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) as follows:

STIPULATED FACTS

Respondent stipulates on January 23, 1999 the Board issued him certificate of licensure number 22748 authorizing him to practice as a professional engineer in the State of Alabama.

Respondent stipulates on May 1, 2013 the Board received a complaint alleging he placed his professional engineer seal on the design plans for a post frame building to be constructed at [REDACTED] for Skipper Howell that were submitted to Mobile County Public Works for review. A consultant and Mobile County staff reviewed the documents and noted the following primary concerns: (1) the assumed design floor live load, (2) the capacity of the floor system at the beam to interior post connection, (3) the capacity of the shear wall assembly and documentation thereof, (4) the cantilever lateral capacity of the unrestrained posts, (5) the capacity of this structure to transfer shear from the roof diaphragm to

the end shear walls under transverse loads without wall to roof blocking.”

Respondent stipulates he placed his professional engineer seal on design plans dated February 8, 2013 for a post frame building to be constructed at 7133 Westchester Drive, Mobile Alabama for Skipper Howell.

Respondent stipulates the drawings containing his professional engineer seal prepared for Skipper Howell were reviewed by a Board Technical Advisor who provided a report that stated in summary: “Based on the results of our RISA model, our calculations and our code review, it is apparent that the structure, as shown on the EOR’s plans, is not adequate and does not conform to the requirements of the IBC. It is also apparent that the EOR did not accurately convey the design intent of the design calculations to the construction documents. Further, the EOR omitted numerous details from the plans that could easily result with a contractor making assumptions that would further exacerbate the inadequacy of the structure.”

STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent admits he is subject to the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 11, Code of Alabama 1975, § 34-11-11 and the jurisdiction of the Board.

Respondent stipulates his conduct as set forth in the foregoing “Stipulated Facts” constitutes violations of Title 34, Chapter 11, Code of Alabama 1975, § 34-11-11(a)(2) and the Rules and Regulations of the Board’s *Administrative Code* § 330-X-14-.05(g) and § 330-X-14-.06(a)(1).

Respondent stipulates his conduct as set forth in the “Stipulated Facts” is a violation of those statutes set forth above, and it is subject to disciplinary action under Title 34, Chapter 11, Code of Alabama 1975, § 34-11-11.

STIPULATED DISPOSITION

Respondent shall not in the future violate the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 11, Code of Alabama 1975, or the Rules and Regulations of the Administrative Code and the Rules of Professional Conduct promulgated together.

Respondent understands this Consent Order and subsequent Final Order will become a matter of public record.

Respondent shall submit to the Board via a certified check made payable to PE/PLS Fund a fine in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) with this signed Consent Order.

Respondent understands his Alabama professional engineer license shall be subject to a two (2) year probationary period commencing immediately upon the date of the Final Order. Respondent understands during this probationary period he is permitted to engage in the practice of engineering without limitation. This probationary period is un-supervised and compliance with the terms of the consent order will cause the probation period to automatically cease at the end of the specified time period.

Respondent understands that failure to comply with any term of this consent order shall cause his professional engineer license to be *revoked* pending ratification by the Board. Respondent further understands this matter would be presented to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting at which he could attend and present evidence on his behalf.

Respondent understands this Consent Order is subject to the approval of the Board and has no force and effect until a Final Order based upon it is rendered by the Board.

Respondent agrees to comply with the terms of this Consent Order and understands failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Order may result in additional charges or discipline.

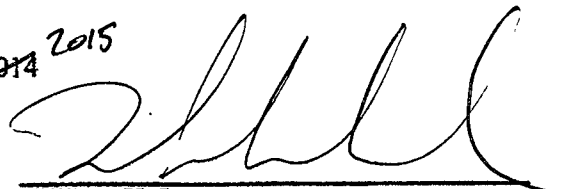
Respondent understands in order to make a decision relative to approving this Consent Order discussions must take place between Board Members, Board Staff and Board Counsel. Respondent understands that this discussion will take place at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

Respondent understands he has the right to seek the advice of legal counsel. Respondent also understands he has the right to a formal fact finding hearing before the Board, to compel the testimony of witnesses, to cross-examine witnesses against him, and to obtain judicial review of the Board's decision in said formal hearing but expressly waives these rights with execution of this Consent Order and Final Order of the Board.

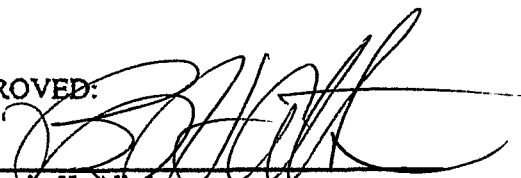
Respondent expressly waives all further procedural steps, and expressly waives all rights to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of the Consent Order, the stipulated facts, conclusions of law and imposition of administrative action contained herein, and the Final Order of the Board incorporating said Consent Order.

Respondent, for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this cause executes this Consent Order. Should the Consent Order not be accepted by the Board, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of the Consent Order by the Board shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation in or resolution of these proceedings. Likewise, if this Consent Order is not accepted, the Board shall not take into consideration the contents of this Order as evidence of an admission.

SIGNED this the 10th day of JANUARY, ~~2014~~ ²⁰¹⁵



William H. Laurence

APPROVED: 

Benjamin H. Albritton
Assistant Attorney General

STATE OF ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

IN THE MATTER OF:)

William H. Laurence)
Laurence and Associates LLC)
210 State Street)
Mobile, AL 36603)

Respondent)
_____)



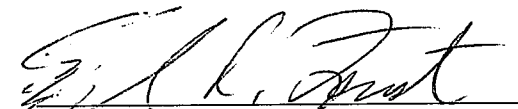
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FINAL ORDER

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors having considered the consent order signed by William H. Laurence, Professional Engineer, license number 22748, in which he stipulated he violated the Code of Alabama 1975, §34-11-11(a)2, and the Rules and Regulations of the Board's Administrative Code § 330-X-14-.05(g), and § 330-X-14-.06(a)(1), hereby adopts the Consent Order and issues this Final Order.

The Consent Order and Final Order take immediate effect upon the signing of this Final Order and the Respondent is **ORDERED** to abide by the Consent Order and Final Order as approved by the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

ENTERED this the 5th day of February 5, 2015



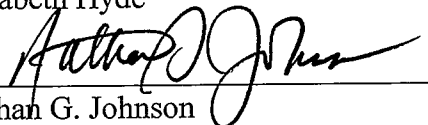
Earl R. Foust

RECUSED

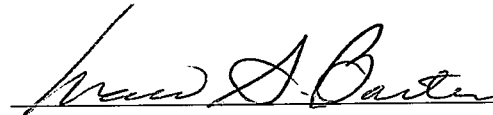
Frazier Christy

DID NOT ATTEND

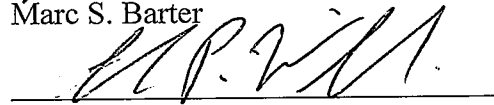
Elisabeth Hyde



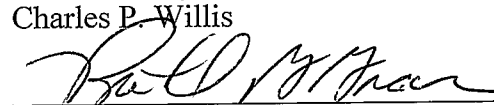
Nathan G. Johnson



Marc S. Barter



Charles P. Willis



Richard G. Grace