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LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEERS

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**To:** Ms. Deborah Steinmetz,  
Chairman, Louisiana State  
Board of Examiners of Interior  
Designers      **From:** Robert Burns, Vice President,  
Louisiana Association of  
Professional Auctioneers

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ 225-304-6655      **Pages:** 3 (including cover)

**Phone:** 225-295-8425      **Date:** March 13, 2013

**Re:** S. Edmonds Employment Contact  
Discussion and Executive Session      **CC:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Thereof

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

Ms. Steinmetz:

Provided for your consideration regarding tomorrow's Interior Design Board Meeting.

Thanks.



LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEERS

March 13, 2013

Ms. Deborah Steinmetz, Chairman  
Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Interior Designers  
11736 Newcastle Ave., Bld 2 Ste C  
Baton Rouge LA 70816-8933

**DELIVERED VIA FAX TO 225-304-6655**  
**AND EMAIL TO [ADMIN@LSBID.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@LSBID.ORG)**

Dear Ms. Steinmetz:

I have reviewed the agenda for tomorrow's IDB meeting which was uploaded moments ago. Regarding item d) under "New Business," namely the "Revision of work contract of S. Edmonds" which is stated to transpire in Executive Session "pursuant to LA RS 42:17(A)(1) at the request of Ms. Edmonds," the item, as stated on the agenda, does NOT provide grounds for Executive Session. I discussed a similar proposal regarding the LALB with Ms. Catherine Green at the Louisiana Attorney General's Office on Monday, March 4, 2013. Ms. Green indicated there was nothing the AG's Office could do **before** the meeting but rather that either the AG's Office or any attendees at the meeting could file an open meetings violation lawsuit after the meeting. Ms. Edmonds' employment is a matter of public policy; furthermore, the terms and conditions under which she works are subject to public scrutiny. Therefore, Ms. Edmonds' request for this item to be discussed in Executive Session "at her request" further denies the public the ability to scrutinize her working conditions. If the present situation is not addressed regarding the deficiencies of the current agenda and rationale for convening an Executive Session for discussion of the work agreement, it's a virtual 100% certainty that an open meetings violation lawsuit will be initiated by myself and one or more attendees of the meeting tomorrow. I'm sure you probably saw the Saturday Advocate wherein the LALB was sued yet again for another open meetings law violation for Mr. Bankston, the attorney whom you're contemplating hiring tomorrow, having blatantly denied myself and Rev. Phillips the opportunity to speak on items clearly posted on the agenda and calling for votes. We will decide before the prescription period is up whether or not to initiate yet even another lawsuit regarding the March 5, 2013 meeting entailing Ms. Edmonds' work agreement with the LALB.

Ms. Green stated that we should make our concerns known before the meeting, which I did with Mr. Bankston and the LALB immediately before the LALB convenience Executive Session; however, Mr. Bankston stated I would not be permitted to speak, but I got our objection into the record with a video camera rolling. By way of this letter, I am expressing my concerns in a more formal manner and providing you with the opportunity to fix a presently-deficient agenda and rationale for convening an Executive Session. In so doing, you may avoid a lawsuit such as the one that the LALB has already set itself up for by its action of March 5, 2013.



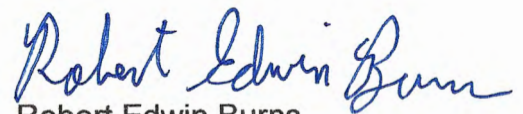
LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEERS

Lastly, given the interesting timing of Mr. Bankston's hiring (and the fact that presumably no other attorney was even considered for the position), I will be making **monthly** public record requests for his billings to ensure they are for legitimate Interior Design Board matters. When the LALB considered Mr. Bankston's hiring, one then-LALB Board Member, Lamar Little, expressed "reservations" over Mr. Bankston's "baggage." He was authoritatively shot down by another Board Member, Darlene Jacobs-Levy, a New Orleans attorney with 43 years of practicing law in Louisiana. Ms. Jacobs-Levy stated, "I don't know of any baggage for Mr. Bankston..... He's never been censured by any court that I'm aware of and, as I said, I've been practicing for 42 years, so if he had been I think I'd be aware of it." Since you're from New Orleans, Ms. Steinmetz, perhaps you'll recall the Federal trial in the mid 1990s in which Mr. Bankston was convicted of accepting a bribe as a State Senator and sentenced to 41 months in prison (of which he served 33 months) and was fined \$20,000. Mr. Jacobs-Levy, despite having approximate 25 years of practicing law at the time and despite the fact that she too is from New Orleans, apparently either "wasn't aware" of his high-profile trial or perhaps forgot all about it (giving her the benefit of the doubt that she wouldn't knowingly permit such a falsehood as "he's never been censured by any court ..." to be presented to the LALB).

At any rate, all of the above is presented for your consideration prior to tomorrow's meeting. We will decide regarding a public meetings lawsuit based on what unfolds. As I'm sure you've been made aware, individual Board Members are personally liable for knowingly and willfully violating Title 42. This letter is provided in order that it may be used as an exhibit in such a lawsuit should one become necessary.

Cc: Catherine Green, Louisiana Attorney General's Office  
(via Email)

Sincerely

  
Robert Edwin Burns