



Louisiana Board of Ethics

**LaSalle Building
First Floor - LaBelle Room
NOVEMBER 2, 2023
2:30 PM
617 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Note: Meetings begin on November 2, 2023 and continue to November 3, 2023.

Executive Session

Consideration of complaints and reports deemed confidential pursuant to Section 1141 of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

Discussion in Executive Session of litigation involving charges issued against Greg Gachassin and The Cartesian Company in Docket No. 2011-835.

Discussion in Executive Session regarding Charges issued against George Carraway and Terry Campbell in Docket No. 2018-1180.

Discussion in Executive Session regarding charges issued against Terry Hoof, Denise Epps-Hoof, Jimmie Thomas and Floydean White in Docket No. 2021-701.

Discussion in Executive Session of charges against Michael Arthur in Docket No. 2022-413.

Louisiana Board of Ethics

**LaSalle Building
First Floor - LaBelle Room
NOVEMBER 3, 2023
9:00 AM
617 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

GENERAL

Public Hearings

G1. Docket No. 23-435

Public Hearing on Application for Declaratory Opinion, submitted on behalf of the Jefferson Parish Fire Fighters Association - Local 1374 - International Association of Fire Fighters ("Union"), regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the Union from paying for legal services in connection with the representation of its members in matters before the Jefferson Parish Fire Civil Service Board while one of its Officers or Trustee serves as the elected member of the Civil Service Board.

Appearances**G2. Docket No. 23-581**

Advisory Opinion request as to whether Thecla, LLC is prohibited from submitting a proposal to design, implement, manage, maintain, and supervise a single remittance system for the Louisiana Uniform Local Sales Tax Board ("LULSTB").

G3. Docket No. 23-722

Waiver request submitted by Kimberly Thomas, former member of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for failing to file her 2017 Tier 2.1 annual pfd.

G4. Docket No. 23-772

Waiver request submitted by Daniel J. Walker, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, regarding a \$1000 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2021 Tier 2.1 annual pfd 20 days late.

Consent Agenda and Consent Opinions**G5. Docket No. 23-734**

Advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") prohibits Neal Poche, II, a St. James Parish Councilman, from continuing his employment as a salesman for Green Point AG, a vendor of St. James Parish Government.

G6. Docket No. 23-784

Advisory opinion from the Cameron Parish Coroner as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") relies on actual population rather than estimated population when determining which tier level an elected official must file under pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.2 and La. R.S. 42:1124.3.

G7. Docket No. 23-785

Advisory Opinion Request from David Blake Fruge, member of Eunice Municipal Civil Service Board and Reserve Deputy Marshal for the City of Eunice Marshal's Office, related to the provision of security detail at local high schools.

G8. Docket No. 23-786

Request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") permits Dannie P. Garrett III to serve on the Office of Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board due to his past representation of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

G9. Docket No. 23-787

Advisory Opinion request from Michael Morganti, an employee of the East Baton Rouge Parish Mosquito Abatement and Rodent Control District No. 1, regarding the purchase of surplus Parish vehicles.

G10. Docket No. 23-788

Request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") prohibits Jackie Marve from providing environmental consulting services and/or legal services to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans ("SWBNO").

G11. Docket No. 23-812

Advisory Opinion request from Wade Rousse, Executive Vice President of McNeese Foundation, regarding a potential contract between Lake Charles Toyota, owned by Rep. Phillip Tarver, and the McNeese Foundation.

G12. Docket No. 23-813

Advisory Opinion request from John M. Spain, a member of Southern Rail Commission, regarding potential conflicts of interest if he works on passenger rail projects with the State of Louisiana or other consulting firms.

G13. Docket No. 23-814

Request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") prohibits a former Louisiana State Senator from being employed by and acting as a legislative liaison for a state department in the executive branch.

G14. Docket No. 23-815

Request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") permits Nelwyn McInnis to participate in discussions and vote on matters involving the permit application submitted by Money Hill Plantation ("Money Hill").

G15. Docket No. 23-816

Proposed disqualification plan concerning Dr. Darcey Wayment, the Department Head of the Department of Chemistry and Physical Sciences at Nicholls State University, and his spouse, Xue-hui Wayment, an employee in the Department.

G16. Docket No. 23-818

An advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") requires members of a committee created by the Garden District Security District to file annual personal financial disclosure statements pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.2.1.

G17. Docket No. 23-819

Request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") prohibits Mark Becnel from doing business with Ponchatoula High School.

G18. Docket No. 23-820

Advisory Opinion Request from James Doherty, on behalf of the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District (the "District"), as to what restrictions apply to an employee of the District who was recently elected as a member of the St. Landry Parish Council.

G19. Docket No. 23-902

Advisory Opinion request from Pam Diez, LDH Undersecretary, regarding the potential hiring of Kerry Diez, her spouse's sibling, within the Bureau of Health Services Financing.

Regular Business

G20. Docket No. MINUTES

October 2023 Board Minutes

- G21. Docket No. 21-767**
Consideration of a consent opinion regarding Patricia Reeves, an employee of Caddo Magnet High School, for receiving payments for acting classes while she served as a drama teacher.
- G22. Docket No. 22-563**
Consideration of a Consent Opinion regarding Charles Wise, and Charles Wise d/b/a Elegant Landscaping, contracting with the Washington Parish Fire Protection District #7 to provide lawn care services while he was employed by the District.
- G23. Docket No. 22-637**
Consent opinions arising from alleged violation of R.S. 42:1112 by a member and employee of the Livingston Parish Gravity Drainage District No. 5.
- G24. Docket No. 22-825**
Consideration of the assessment of the enhanced penalty pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(a) and (b) for Reginald Merchant, candidate for Mayor, City of New Orleans, in the November 13, 2021 election, for his failure to file 30-P, 10-P and 10-G campaign finance disclosure reports.
- G25. Docket No. 23-817**
Advisory opinion request concerning Senator Michael Fesi selling property to the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government when the parish will use federal funds administered by the Louisiana Office of Community Development.
- G26. Docket No. 23-912**
Consideration of the assessment of the enhanced penalty pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(b) for Donald "D.T." Thompson, a candidate for Chief of Police, City of Opelousas, in the November 6, 2018 election, for his failure to file a 2020 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report.
- G27. Docket No. 23-914**
Consideration of the assessment of the enhanced penalty pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(b) for G. Denise Dupree, candidate for Council Member, City of Grambling, in the November 6, 2018 election, for her failure to file a 2021 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report.
- G28. WAIVER REQUESTS - CAMPAIGN FINANCE**
- Docket No. 23-252**
Request that the Board waive the \$280 campaign finance late fee assessed against Darlene Lirette Cheramie, a successful candidate for Constable, 4th Justice of the Peace Court, LaFourche Parish, in the November 3, 2020 election, whose 10-P campaign finance disclosure report was filed 7 days late.
- Docket No. 23-317**
Request that the Board waive the \$480 campaign finance late fee assessed against Martin McLendon, an unsuccessful candidate for Chief of Police, City of Opelousas in the November 8, 2022 election, whose Special campaign finance disclosure report was filed 12 days late, respectively.
- Docket No. 23-554**
Request that the Board waive the \$1,260, \$120 and \$2,000 campaign finance late fees (for a total of \$3,380) assessed against Miguel Marie Roche Romar, an unsuccessful candidate for Jefferson Parish School Board, District 1, in the November 8, 2022 election, whose 30-P and 10-P campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 21 and 2 days late, respectively. The 10-G report has not

been filed.

Docket No. 23-701

Request that the Board waive the three (3) \$1,000 campaign finance late fees (\$3,000 total) assessed against John L. Barthelemy, Jr., an unsuccessful candidate for Plaquemines Parish School Board, District 1, in the November 8, 2022 election, whose 2019, 2020 and 2021 Annual campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 980, 630 & 245 days late, respectively.

Docket No. 23-715

Request that the Board waive the two \$3,000 campaign finance late fees (\$6,000 total) assessed against Let's Do More, Terrebonne, Inc., a political committee; chairman, Edgar E. Bice, IV; and, treasurer, Michael Bergeron, whose 2021 and 2022 campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 24 and 26 days late, respectively.

Docket No. 23-763

Request that the Board waive the \$800.00 campaign finance late fees assessed against Gerry Cvitanovich, an unopposed candidate for Coroner, Jefferson Parish, in the October 14, 2023 election, whose 180-P campaign finance disclosure reports was filed 8 days late.

Docket No. 23-764

Request that the Board waive the four (4) \$1,000 campaign finance late fees (\$4,000 total) assessed against Erick Falting, a successful candidate for Member of School Board, District 12, Bossier Parish in the November 8, 2022 election, whose 30-P, 10-P, 10-G and 2022 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 175, 155, 125 and 57 days late, respectively.

Docket No. 23-765

Request that the Board waive the \$1,000.00 and \$400.00 in campaign finance late fees (\$1,400 total) assessed against Gregory Gauthier, an unsuccessful candidate for Member of School Board, District 14, Calcasieu Parish, in the November 8, 2022 election, whose 30-P and 10-P campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 30 and 10 days late, respectively.

Docket No. 23-766

Request that the Board waive the \$60.00 campaign finance late fee assessed against Steven Kennedy, an unsuccessful candidate for State Representative, 93rd Representative District, Orleans Parish, in the February 18, 2023 election, whose 10-G campaign finance disclosure report was filed 1 day late.

Docket No. 23-767

Request that the Board waive the \$540.00, \$120.00 and \$960.00 campaign finance late fees (\$1,620 total) assessed against Dadrius "D20" Lanus, a successful candidate for Member of School Board, District 2, East Baton Rouge Parish, in the November 8, 2022 election, whose 30-P, 10-P and 10-G campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 9, 2 and 16 days late, respectively.

Docket No. 23-768

Request that the Board waive the \$1,080.00 campaign finance late fee assessed against Tenaj "Naj" Wallace, an unsuccessful candidate for State Representative, 93rd Representative District in the February 18, 2023 election, whose 30-P campaign finance disclosure report was filed 18 days late.

Docket No. 23-769

Request that the Board waive the \$700.00 campaign finance late fee assessed against Lenar L. Whitney, in her capacity as a candidate for Lt. Governor in the

October 14, 2023 election, whose 180-P campaign finance disclosure report was filed 7 days late.

Docket No. 23-798

Request that the Board waive the \$1,140.00, \$2,000.00 and \$1,740.00 campaign finance late fees (\$4,880 total) assessed against Daryl Joy Walters, an unsuccessful candidate for State Representative, 3rd Representative District in the October 12, 2019 election, whose 40-G, 2020 Supplemental and 2021 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 19, 391 and 29 days late, respectively.

G29. WAIVER REQUESTS - LOBBYING

Docket No. 23-800

Request to waive the \$150 late fee assessed against Loren Lampert for the late filing of the July 2023 Lobbying Expenditure Report.

G30. WAIVER REQUESTS - PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Docket No. 23-624

Waiver request submitted by Joseph "Jay" Castille, former member of the Lafayette City-Parish Council, regarding a \$1400 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2019 Tier 2 annual pfd 233 days late.

Docket No. 23-710

Waiver request submitted by Dennis Switzer, former member of the Lafourche Parish Water District #1, regarding a \$1500 late fee assessed for filing his 2020 Tier 2.1 annual pfd 420 days late.

Docket No. 23-711

Waiver request submitted by John Russell Dumes, former Constable / Justice of the Peace / District 9 / St. Landry Parish, regarding a \$1500 late fee assessed for filing his 2019 Tier 3 annual pfd 779 days late and a \$500 late fee assessed for filing his 2020 Tier 3 annual pfd 82 days late.

Docket No. 23-712

Waiver request submitted by Kathryn "Kate" Yowell Wendel, Local Workforce Development Board/Jefferson Parish, regarding a \$150 late fee assessed for filing her amended 2020 Tier 2.1 annual pfd 3 days late.

Docket No. 23-770

Waiver request submitted by Carolyn G. McCall, former member of the New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy Charter School Board, regarding a \$400 late fee assessed for filing her 2021 Tier 3 annual pfd 16 days late.

Docket No. 23-771

Waiver request submitted by Leroy "Roy" Scott, Franklin Parish Police Jury / District 5 / Franklin, regarding a \$500 late fee assessed for failing to file his 2020 Tier 3 annual pfd.

Docket No. 23-790

Waiver request submitted by Maureen Joseph, former member of the Milestone SABIS Academy of New Orleans, regarding a \$1500 late fee assessed for filing her 2016 Tier 3 annual pfd 169 days late and regarding a \$500 late fee assessed for filing her 2020 Tier 3 annual pfd 453 days late.

Docket No. 23-791

Waiver request submitted by LaTonya S. Charles, former member of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, regarding a \$400 late fee

assessed for filing her amended 2019 Tier 2.1 annual pfd 8 days late.

Docket No. 23-793

Waiver request submitted by Erika L. Green, former member of the Metro Council / District 5 / East Baton Rouge Parish, regarding a \$2500 late fee assessed for filing her 2021 Tier 2 annual pfd 35 days late.

Docket No. 23-794

Waiver request submitted by Charles Laverne Hodnett Jr., successful candidate for Sterlington Board of Aldermen / Ouachita Parish, in the November 8, 2022 election, regarding a \$500 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2021 Tier 3 candidate pfd 305 days late.

Docket No. 23-802

Waiver request submitted by James Norsworthy, III, Mayor of Jackson (Pop. 3,990) / East Feliciana, regarding a \$325 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2021 Tier 3 annual pfd 13 days late.

Docket No. 23-803

Waiver request submitted by Jodi Jacobs Aamodt, former member of the KIPP New Orleans Charter School, regarding a \$1500 late fee assessed for filing her 2019 Tier 3 annual pfd 99 days late.

G31. WAIVER REQUESTS - OTHER DISCLOSURE

Docket No. 23-396

Request submitted by Fisher Investments/Liz Dhillon to waive a \$2500 late fee assessed for filing their 2022 Retirement Systems Financial Disclosure Statement 164 days late.

G32. WAIVER REQUESTS - UNTIMELY

Docket No. 23-762

Untimely request that the Board waive the \$2,500 campaign finance late fee assessed against Willie L. Jones, Jr., an unsuccessful candidate for Lieutenant Governor in the October 12, 2019 election, whose 2019 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure report was filed 387 days late.

Docket No. 23-799

Untimely request that the Board waive the \$1,600 campaign finance late fee assessed against Women on the Move, a political committee, and its chairperson, Roberta Brown, for the March 24, 2018 Election, whose 10-P campaign finance report was filed 8 days late.