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To: Mr. Tyson Ducote
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From: Farra Mughal
Louisiana Department of Justice
Occupational Licensing Review Program

Date: March 11, 2026

Subject: Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners
Proposed Amendments to LAC 46:I.1501 *et seq.*
Titles, Firm Names, and Assumed Names

I. SUMMARY

The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners (the “**Board**”) proposes amending LAC 46:I.1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, and 1539 (the “**Proposed Amendments**”) relative to titles, firm names, and assumed names.

The Board published a Notice of Intent to promulgate the Proposed Amendments on January 20, 2026.¹ The Notice invited public comment through February 13, 2026, and no comments were received.²

Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:260, the Board submitted the Proposed Amendments to the Louisiana Department of Justice’s Occupational Licensing Review Program (“**OLRP**”) on February 25, 2026. The OLRP invited public comments on the Proposed Amendments February 26, 2026 through March 11, 2026 and received no comments.

The OLRP has the statutory authority to review the substance of each proposed occupational regulation submitted to ensure compliance with clearly articulated state policy and adherence to applicable state law.³ An Occupational Regulation is a “rule defined in the Administrative Procedure Act (“**APA**”) that has reasonably foreseeable anti-competitive effects. Any license, permit, or regulation established by a ... board not composed of a controlling number of active market participants is excluded.”⁴ Anti-Competitive behavior is an act, or series of acts, that have

¹ Louisiana Register Vol. 52, No.1 pg. 95-98

² Id. at 98

³ LSA-R.S. 49:260 (D)(2)

⁴ LSA-R.S. 49:260 (G)(4)

the effect of harming the market or the process of competition among businesses, or a tendency to reduce or eliminate competition, with no legitimate business purpose.⁵

The Louisiana APA defines a rule as any agency statement, guide, or requirement of general applicability that implements or interprets substantive law or policy, or that prescribes agency procedures or practices, excluding statements governing only internal agency management, declaratory rulings or orders, and provisions adopting, increasing, or decreasing fees.⁶ The term includes provisions establishing fines, penalties, preferential status, or licensure or certification criteria, as well as the amendment of an existing rule. A rule may be generally applicable, even if it applies only to an identifiable class or a limited geographical area.

As set forth below, the OLRP has determined the Board's Proposed Amendments merely clarify and remove obsolete language and terminology used throughout Chapter 15 and therefore, do not constitute occupational regulations with anticompetitive effects within the meaning of La. R.S. 49:260. Accordingly, the Board may promulgate the Proposed Amendments without further input from the OLRP.

II. ANALYSIS

The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners is authorized to adopt and amend rules and regulations as necessary to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare in the regulation of the practice of architecture.⁷

The Board proposes amendments to Rules 1501, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, and 1539, as well as the repeal of Rules 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, and 1515. The Proposed Amendments (i) consolidate the rules prohibiting misleading or confusing names, (ii) eliminate, for clarity, the "Allowed" and "Not Allowed" charts contained in many of the existing rules throughout Chapter 15, and (iii) repeal unnecessary and obsolete terms

As the Board is statutorily authorized to adopt and amend rules and regulations concerning the practice of architecture,⁸ it is within the Board's authority to remove confusing or outdated terminology and charts to improve clarity and organization of the rules.

While the Proposed Amendments clarify and streamline the language and organization of the rules, they do not establish, modify, or eliminate licensure qualifications, scope of practice requirements, fees, renewal standards, disciplinary criteria, or enforcement thresholds applicable to regulated individuals or entities.

Accordingly, the Proposed Amendments do not constitute occupational regulations as defined by La. R.S. 49:260 and do not restrict entry into a profession or occupation. There are no reasonably foreseeable anticompetitive effects, as the Proposed Amendments do not limit competition, reduce consumer choice, or create barriers to market participation. Therefore, the Board may proceed with

⁵ Black's Law Dictionary, 12th Edition p. 116

⁶ LSA-R.S. 49:951 (8)

⁷ LSA-R.S. 37:141; LA R.S. 37:144

⁸ Id.

promulgation of the Proposed Amendments in accordance with the Louisiana APA without further input from the OLRP.

III. DETERMINATION

The Board is a state regulatory and disciplinary body created to regulate the practice of architecture.⁹ The Board holds the statutory authority to adopt and amend rules and regulations as necessary to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare.¹⁰ The Proposed Amendments are within the Board's statutory authority and adhere to clearly articulated state policy. However, the Proposed Amendments do not constitute occupational regulations with reasonably foreseeable anticompetitive effects within the meaning of La R.S. 49:260. Therefore, the Board may proceed with promulgation of the Proposed Amendments in accordance with the Louisiana APA without further input from the OLRP.

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⁹ LSA-R.S. 37:141; LA R.S. 37:144, LA R.S. 37:153

¹⁰ LSA-R.S. 37:141; LA R.S. 37:144