

NOV 14 2014

**BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF  
REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**IN RE: ANTHONY LAURO, JR.**

**C2014-20**

**CONSENT ORDER**

Comes now the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers by Edward L. Robinson, P.E., its President, (hereinafter "the Board") for the purpose of agreeing to resolve a Complaint seeking disciplinary action against Anthony Lauro, Jr. (hereinafter "Respondent"). As reflected in this document, the parties have reached an agreement concerning the proper disposition of this matter, and the Board, upon approval of such agreement, does hereby **FIND** the following:

1. The matters set forth herein are within the jurisdiction of the Board, which is the state entity with the power and duty to regulate the practice of engineering in the State of West Virginia.
2. Respondent holds a professional engineering license in Ohio, but has never held a West Virginia professional engineering license.
3. The complaint involves engineering plans for a two-tenant retail facility at the mall in Barboursville, West Virginia, a project in which both the Complainant and Respondent were involved.
4. The Complainant, an engineer with an Ohio firm who is also licensed in West Virginia, filed a complaint on May 30, 2014, alleging as follows:
  - a. While doing work for an architectural firm working on the same project, Complainant was provided a copy of Respondent's drawings which had been stamped with Respondent's Ohio seal;
  - b. Complainant was advised the developers/owners said that city personnel were aware that the engineer was not licensed in West Virginia and did not have a problem with this; and

- c. The drawings allegedly had code compliance issues, lacked coordination between the written specifications and drawings, and generally lacked the level of detail expected for a completed design.
5. C2014-20 was served on June 10, 2014, and Respondent provided the following timely response:
  - a. Respondent admits he performed this West Virginia job without being licensed in West Virginia;
  - b. Respondent states that he informed the city of his non-licensure in West Virginia and asked if he could co-author plans with a West Virginia professional engineer, but Respondent did all the engineering work on the shell of the structure but for the steel design;
  - c. The drawings were submitted to the city and the Complainant's firm with his Ohio seal, and the city accepted same;
  - d. Respondent has provided electric drawings for at least one other project in West Virginia which was not sealed; and
  - e. If there were code compliance issues with the work at issue, the city would have addressed those issues.
6. The Board notes that Respondent also did not have the Certificate of Authorization required by this Board to lawfully offer engineering services in this state.
7. Respondent's practice of engineering in West Virginia without a license, and offer to practice same, and his placement of another state's seal on a West Virginia engineering report violate West Virginia engineering law.
8. Respondent admits that he practiced engineering in West Virginia, and offered to practice same, without a license, in violation of West Virginia engineering law.
9. Respondent admits that he knew or should have known that using his Ohio seal on a report prepared for a project in West Virginia did not meet the requirements of West Virginia law regarding the affixing of a PE seal.
10. The Board has taken into account the following factors in reaching this settlement: Respondent has a lengthy work history as an engineer for a political subdivision;

Respondent was certified as a building official and master plans examiner from 1999 until 2014, at which time he chose not to renew; Respondent cooperated in the prompt resolution of this Complaint; and the violation did not pose any risk of harm to the public.

11. The Board, in its discretion, will not assess administrative costs although it is within its power to assess such costs and administrative costs were incurred in the investigation, initiation and resolution of this complaint.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

12. The Board is the state entity with the power and duty to regulate the practice of engineering in the State of West Virginia, and matters related to such practice are within the jurisdiction of the Board. W. Va. Code § 30-13-1 et seq.
13. It is unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice engineering, as defined by West Virginia Code § 30-13-1 et seq., in the State of West Virginia unless that person is duly registered under the provisions of West Virginia engineering law. W. Va. Code § 30-13-2.
14. West Virginia engineering law allows a firm to practice or offer to practice engineering only upon the issuance of a certificate of authorization by the Board. W. Va. Code § 30-13-17.
15. A registrant's seal is used to identify his or her professional work. West Virginia Code § 30-13-16(c).
16. A registrant's seal and signature shall appear on the first or title page of all final and/or record documents presented to a client or any public or governmental agency to certify that the work was done by a registrant or under the control of a registrant. West Virginia Code R § 7-1-7.3(a).

17. Only a West Virginia seal issued in accordance with West Virginia Code § 30-13-16(c) may be used to meet the seal requirements set forth in West Virginia engineering law.
18. The Board is authorized to "assess civil penalties against any person who violates any provision of this article or any rule promulgated by the board for each offense in an amount determined by the board." W. Va. Code § 30-13-21(b); see also W. Va. Code § 30-13-21(d)(4).
19. Practicing or offering to practice engineering, as defined by W. Va. § 30-13-1 et seq., without a license is an action that may subject a person to discipline by the Board, including a civil penalty up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). W. Va. Code R. § 7-1-15.1.
20. Practicing or offering to practice engineering, as defined by W. Va. § 30-13-1 et seq., without a valid Certificate of Authorization is an action that may subject a firm to discipline by the Board, including a civil penalty up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). W. Va. Code R. § 7-1-15.1.
21. In determining the amount of a civil penalty to be assessed, the Board may consider such factors as the circumstances leading to the violation; the nature and severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public; the extent to which the cited person or firm has cooperated with the Board and the Board's investigation; and other matters as may be appropriate. W. Va. Code R. § 7-1-15.4.
22. The assessment of administrative costs is within the Board's sole discretion. W. Va. Code § 30-13-21(d) (4) and W. Va. Code R § 7-1-14.4.

#### **CONSENT OF RESPONDENT**

Anthony Lauro, Jr., by affixing his signature hereon, agrees to the following:

23. Respondent is aware of his right to be represented by counsel and to pursue this matter through appropriate administrative and/or court procedures, including his right to a formal hearing before the Board, and Respondent intelligently and voluntarily waives these rights provided the Board accepts the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Order.
24. Respondent admits that he did not have a license to practice engineering services in the State of West Virginia at the time he practiced engineering in West Virginia, in violation of West Virginia engineering law.
25. Respondent admits that he knew or should have known that the use of his Ohio engineering seal did not comply with West Virginia engineering law requirements concerning the sealing of West Virginia engineering documents.
26. Respondent accepts the findings set forth above and consents to the entry of this Consent Order freely and voluntarily and not under duress, restraint or compulsion.
27. Respondent acknowledges that entering into the negotiation of this Consent Order constitutes a waiver of any and all objections regarding the timeliness of Board action on Complaint Number C2014-20. This paragraph is binding upon Respondent even in the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Order.
28. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order is being executed for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to the above-styled matter. In this regard, Respondent authorizes the Board to review and examine all investigative file materials concerning Respondent's activities in West Virginia in consideration of this Consent Order.
29. Should the Board not approve this Consent Order, Respondent waives any objections to the Board or any of its members participating in the adjudication of this matter. This paragraph is binding on the Respondent even if the Board does not approve this Consent Order.

30. Respondent acknowledges that the Board may reject this proposal, notice and hold a hearing, and, upon adjudication, impose such sanctions of a disciplinary nature as it deems appropriate.
31. Respondent understands that this Consent Order constitutes a full and final settlement of this matter, and nothing in this Consent Order or the circumstances giving rise to the same may be the subject of any appeal or other civil or administrative actions except an action by the Board to enforce the terms of this Consent Order, but that nothing in this Consent Order prohibits the Board from considering this disciplinary action or the circumstances giving rise to same with regard to any future disciplinary matter involving Respondent which may be before this Board.
32. Respondent understands that the complaint, documents submitted to the Board by Respondent, and this Consent Order, together with other public documents which may be in the file, are public records which must be made available upon legal request in accordance with the state's Freedom of Information Act.
33. Respondent agrees that the sum and substance of the Complaint and this agreement in part or in their entirety will be set forth in Board publications and on the Board website, as well as other appropriate placements, including the non-public enforcement exchange database administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).
34. Respondent acknowledges that non-compliance with this Consent Order may result in the rescission of this agreement, the reinstatement of the Complaint, the summary revocation of any license or certification issued to Respondent by the Board, and the addition of any other charges which may arise or ensue from Respondent's non-compliance with this Consent Order.
35. Respondent acknowledges that proof of any material misstatement or misrepresentation made in connection with this matter will result in the rescission of this agreement, the


reinstatement of the Complaint, the summary revocation of any license or certification issued to Respondent by the Board, and the addition of any other charges which may arise or ensue from providing false information to the Board in violation of West Virginia engineering law.

### **ORDER**

1. On the basis of the foregoing, and upon entry of this Consent Order, the Board hereby **ORDERS** that this Consent Order shall serve as settlement of Complaint number C2014-20 pursuant to West Virginia Code § 30-13-22(b).
2. The Board **REPRIMANDS** Respondent for not making reasonable efforts to ensure that he adhered to the engineering laws of the State of West Virginia, for practicing engineering in West Virginia without a license or certificate of authorization and for affixing a seal from another jurisdiction to drawings for which a West Virginia seal was required.
3. The Board **ORDERS** Respondent to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for practicing engineering in West Virginia without a license and Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for practicing engineering in West Virginia without a COA.
4. The civil penalties imposed herein totaling Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) must be paid within thirty (30) days of the date of entry set forth below, such amount to be made payable to the W. Va. P.E. Board for transfer to the general fund of the State of West Virginia upon receipt.
5. The sum and substance of the Complaint and this agreement in part or in their entirety shall be set forth in Board publications and on the Board website, as well as other appropriate placements, including the non-public enforcement exchange database administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

6. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order shall be immediate cause for further disciplinary action by the Board.
7. If the civil penalties imposed herein are not timely paid, this Consent Order may be summarily enforced in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County without further notice to Respondent upon application by the Board for the entry of a Judgment Order for the total amount of payment agreed to herein (\$500.00), together with pre-judgment interest from the date of the President's signature hereon, post-judgment interest from the date of entry of the Judgment Order and all costs of any enforcement action(s), which judgment shall be fully executable in accordance with applicable law.
8. This matter shall be closed upon execution of this Consent Order by both parties and the full payment of the civil penalties agreed to herein.
9. This Consent Order constitutes a full and final settlement of this matter, and nothing in this Consent Order or the circumstances giving rise to same may be the subject of any appeal or other civil or administrative actions except an action by the Board to enforce the terms of this Consent Order. This shall not prohibit the Board from considering this disciplinary action or the circumstances giving rise to the same with regard to any future disciplinary matter involving Respondent which may come before this Board.
10. This Consent Order relates solely to matters set forth in West Virginia engineering law and does not evidence compliance with any other laws of the State of West Virginia or its political subdivisions, nor should any such compliance be implied.

**AGREED TO BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY LAURO, JR.

10-22-14  
DATE



ENTERED into the records of the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers this 27 day of November, 2014.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
EDWARD L. ROBINSON, P.E.  
BOARD PRESIDENT