FILED

OCT 0 7 2024

# BEFORE THE REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL BOARD STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Real Estate Appraiser Board State of Oklahoma

n the matter of CHRISTOPHER J. ROSSI,	)	
	)	Complaint #23-044
Respondent.	)	

## **CONSENT ORDER**

COMES NOW the Oklahoma Real Estate Appraisal Board (Board), by and through the Prosecuting Attorney, Rex Duncan, and Christopher J. Rossi, (Respondent), represented by Ben Clark, OPTEON U.S. General Counsel, Toledo, Ohio, and enter this Consent Order, pursuant to Oklahoma Statutes, Title 59, Sections 858-700, et seq., and Oklahoma Administrative Code 600:10-1-1, et seq. All sections of this Order are incorporated together.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. In March 2023, Respondent completed an appraisal of the Kiamichi Family Medical Building, 403 South Indian Road, Idabel, Oklahoma 74745. The Appraisal was purportedly performed in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.
- 2. Competency Rule Finding. An appraiser must be competent to perform the Assignment, acquire the necessary competency to perform the assignment, or decline or withdraw from the assignment. In all cases, the appraiser must perform competently when completing the assignment. Board staff claimed Respondent was not licensed in Oklahoma, did not possess an Oklahoma Temporary Practice License and had not applied for such.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. That Respondent has been accused of performing an appraisal without an Oklahoma license or Temporary Practice License.
- 2. Competency Rule of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal
  Practice. An appraiser must: (1) be competent to perform the assignment; (2) acquire the
  necessary competency to perform the assignment; or (3) decline or withdraw from the

assignment. In all cases, the appraiser must perform competently when completing the assignment. An appraiser must determine, prior to agreeing to perform an assignment, that he or she can perform the assignment competently. Competency requires recognition of, and compliance with, laws and regulations that apply to the appraiser or to the assignment. Being licensed, even if temporarily or provisionally, by the State of Oklahoma is a requirement to perform appraisals in Oklahoma.

- 3. That Respondent has been accused of violating Title 59, Oklahoma Statutes, Section 709, for failure to apply to the Board for any type of appraiser license prior to performing the appraisal in question.
- 4. That Respondent has been accused of violating Title 59, Oklahoma Statutes, Section 708, for failure to pay an applicable fee to the Board prior to performing the appraisal in question.

#### **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

The Respondent, by affixing his signatures hereto, acknowledges:

- 1. The Respondent has been advised to seek the advice of counsel prior to signing this document.
  - 2. That Respondent possesses the following rights among others:
    - a) The right to a formal fact-finding hearing before a disciplinary panel of the Board;
    - b) The right to reasonable notice of said hearing;
    - c) The right to be represented by counsel;
    - d) The right to compel the testimony of witnesses;
    - e) The right to cross-examine witnesses against him; and
    - f) The right to obtain judicial review of the final decision of the Board.
- 3. The Respondent stipulates the facts as set forth above and specifically waives his rights to contest these findings in any subsequent proceedings before the Board and his rights to appeal this matter to District Court.
- 4. The Respondent acknowledges that the entry of this Order could affect his professional practice of real estate appraising in Oklahoma.

- 5. The Respondent agrees and consents that this Consent Order shall not be used by him for purposes of defending any other action initiated by the Board, regardless of the date of the Appraisal. The Board agrees that this Consent Order shall not be used by it as admissions by Respondent or to support any claims for appraisals done by Respondent prior to the date of execution of this Agreement.
  - 6. All other allegations, if any, in this matter are dismissed.
- 7. Respondent acknowledges that this Agreement will be placed on the Board's Agenda for its next monthly meeting, after receipt of the executed Order from Respondent, and notice for the Order's placement on that Agenda is accepted.
- 8. This Consent Order may be executed in one or more counterparts, but all such counterparts, taken together, shall constitute only one Consent Order. When delivered to the other parties, facsimile and visual digital reproductions of original signatures shall be as effective as if they were the originals.
- 9. This Consent Order shall be governed by the internal laws of the State of Oklahoma without regard to the conflict of law principles.
- 10. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and all provisions of this Consent Order are contractual and not a mere recital. The parties acknowledge that no presentation or promise not expressly set forth in this Consent Order has been made by any of the parties hereto or any of their agents, employees, representatives, or attorneys. No modification of, or amendment to this Consent Order shall be valid unless it is in writing and signed by the parties hereto. In the event any portion of this Consent Order shall be declared invalid or unenforceable as a matter of law, the remainder of the Consent Order shall remain in full force and effect.
- 11. This Consent Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understanding, discussions, negotiations and commitments, written or oral. This Consent Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed, except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

- 12. The undersigned Respondent agrees that presentation of this Consent Order to the Board without the undersigned Respondent being present shall not constitute an improper *ex parte* communication between Board and its attorney.
- 13. The parties represent and warrant to one another that each party has authority to enter into this binding Consent Order. The Board represents and warrants the undersigned have full authority to execute this Consent Order on behalf of the Board and bind the Board to the terms set forth herein.
- 14. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Consent Order, including PDF and fax signatures shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
  - 15. The parties acknowledge they understand the provisions of this Consent Order.
- 16. Respondent neither admits nor denies the allegations of the Board, the findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth herein and acknowledges that a hearing before the Board could result in disciplinary action and as such, agrees to this Consent Order as a settlement and compromise of the claims herein.

#### CONSENT ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED OR REJECTED BY THE BOARD

The Board will not submit this Consent Order for consideration until its agreement and execution by Respondent. It is hereby agreed between the parties this Consent Order shall be presented to the Board, with recommendation for approval by the Board, at the next scheduled meeting of the Board. The Respondent understands the Board is free to accept or reject this Consent Order, and if rejected by the Board, it shall be regarded as null and void. Admissions by Respondent in the rejected Consent Order will not be regarded as evidence against him at the subsequent disciplinary hearing. Respondent will be free to defend himself and no inferences will be made from his willingness to enter into this Consent Order. It is agreed that neither the presentation of the Consent Order nor the Board's consideration of the Consent Order will be deemed to have unfairly or illegally prejudiced the Board or its individual members and, if therefore, will not be grounds for precluding the Board or any individual member from further participation in proceedings related to the matters set forth in the Consent Order.

## **ORDER**

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is ordered that:

- 1. Respondent shall submit to the Board an Administrative Fine of \$250.00.
- 2. Failure to comply with the preceding paragraph in a timely manner will result in an instanter suspension of Respondent's licenses. For good cause shown, an extension may be granted by the Board. An application for an extension to pay the administrative fine should be filed at least five (5) business days prior to the Board meeting, to be placed on a Board Agenda in advance of the deadline to comply with this Consent Order.

## **DISCLOSURE**

Pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act, Title 51 Oklahoma Statutes, Sections 24-A.1 through 24-A.21, the signed original of this Consent Order shall remain in the custody of the Board as a public record and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

RESPONDENDED WITH ROSSI  706713F4C76A4D5	
CHRISTOPHER J. ROSSI	
September 30, 2024   11:35 AM PDT	
DATE BUN LLANK D771F92725534BC	
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT	
September 30, 2024   1:47 PM EDT	
DATE	

## CERTIFICATE OF BOARD'S PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

I believe this Consent Order to be in the best interest of the Board, the State of Oklahoma, and the Respondent, with regard to the violations alleged in the formal Complaint.

REX DUNCAN, OBA # 12655

Attorney at Law P.O. Box 486

Sand Springs, OK 74063

IT IS SO ORDERED on this 4 day of October, 2024.

**Board Secretary** 

Oklahoma Real Estate Appraiser Board

**OKLAHOMA REAL ESTATE** APPRAISER BOARD:

By:

BRYAN NEAL, OBA # 6590 **Assistant Attorney General** Attorney for the Board 313 N.E. 21<sup>a1</sup> Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** 

I, Kelly Ann Reynolds, hereby certify that on the 1th day of 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Order was mailed by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to:

Ben Clark, Esq. OPTEON U.S. General Counsel 300 Madison Avenue, #900 Toledo, OH 43604 9214 8902 0982 7500 0660 42

By First Class Mail to:

Bryan Neal, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General 313 N.E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Rex Duncan Attorney at Law P.O. Box 486 Sand Springs, OK 74063

KELLY ANN REYNOLDS