

JUDY FASOLA
9555 S RIVER OAKS DRIVE
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
225-366-1068 (home) 225-288-5703 (cell)
jpcoll@cox.net

Delivered Via Fax to: 225-372-8584

February 9, 2015

LOUISIANA AUCTIONEERS LICENSING BOARD
11736 NEWCASTLE AVE
BLD 2 STE C
BATON ROUGE LA 70816-9102

Dear LALB Board Members:

As the Board is aware, considerable conflicting signals were sent at the November 5, 2014 meeting between LALB attorney Anna Dow, Executive Director Sandy Edmonds, and Board Members regarding whether a bond claim will be filed on my behalf entailing Estate Auction Services.

As evidenced by video coverage of that meeting available on the LALB's own website, LALB Chairman Tessa Steinkamp and Vice Chairman James Sims both expressed ignorance of the fact that Executive Director Edmonds had indicated a bond claim would be filed and further instructed me in very exacting procedures I needed to perform in order for the LALB office to file the bond claim. I followed Executive Director Edmonds' instructions to the letter, and delivered to the LALB office everything Ms. Edmonds indicated was required for successfully filing a bond claim. Nevertheless, I was notified soon thereafter that "we will not be filing a bond claim for you." It is readily apparent that all of these discussions transpired between Ms. Dow and Ms. Edmonds to the exclusion of the entire LALB Board, including Chairman Steinkamp and Vice Chairman James Sims. I can only assume that the Board Members have been placed on a "needs to know basis" and Ms. Dow and Ms. Edmonds apparently deemed members to need to know nothing regarding my bond claim, thus leading to the episodes captured on videotape on November 5, 2014 in which ignorance of my status was formally expressed by Chairman Steinkamp and Vice Chairman Sims with it only logical to infer the remainder of the Board was equally in the dark on my situation.

As a result of these contradictions, inconsistencies, and basically internal chaos readily demonstrated within the Board, I seek final action by the Board in terms of a formal vote regarding whether it intends to file a bond claim on my behalf or not. I wish to itemize a non-exhaustive list of falsehoods and/or misinformation readily revealed at the November 5, 2014 LALB meeting regarding my status vs. that of other LALB complainants for whom bond claims have been filed and the complainants compensated by the bond companies.

1. Contrary to LALB Vice Chairman James Sims' repeated statements that Ken Buhler's license restrictions had been lifted prior to my auction, Mr. Buhler's LALB file documents the fact that, not only were those restrictions not lifted but, in reality, the LALB convened an executive session at its January 23, 2012 meeting to consider a non-renewal of Mr. Buhler's license due to extensive problems mirroring those of my auction entailing the "Rist Hotel"

auction conducted on August 13, 2011.

2. The statement by Executive Director Sandy Edmonds that auction complainant Mr. David Swift, victimized by G & R Auction Barn (Gary and Randy Hayes), “received no money,” when video coverage of G & R’s hearing clearly depicts Mr. Swift, responding under oath, to a direct question by attorney Anna Dow of “So, how much money did you receive?” with Mr. Swift’s response being, “One thousand dollars.” Ms. Dow then asked if that amount was received in cash, and Mr. Swift responded in the affirmative. This fact totally and completely negates any rationale the Board expressed that Swift’s claim was filed and mine wasn’t because I got paid and he didn’t. The reality is that both of us were paid, but neither of us felt our payments were of a sufficient amount! This fact also totally and completely repudiates Chairman Steinkamp’s assertion that I was “comparing apples to oranges.”
3. The statement by Chairman Steinkamp that Brant Thompson, alleged victim of deceased auctioneer Bruce Miller, supplied pictures of his consignment items. In sharp contrast, video coverage of Mr. Miller’s hearing clearly depicts LALB Member Darlene Jacobs-Levy indicating, “We have no way to put a value on the items. We don’t have pictures.”
4. Chairman Steinkamp stating that I had to have a contract in writing that specified reserves yet, when Gary and Randy Hayes were questioned under oath as to whether a contract existed between G & R Auction Barn and David Swift, Gary Hayes responded, “We didn’t know nothing about no contracts. I mean, we didn’t even know what that was.” So, while the LALB has indicated that I have to have a written contract with reserves specified in writing, the Board proceeded in filing a bond claim for David Swift even though there was no contract in place at all!
5. LALB Treasurer Darlene Jacobs-Levy indicating that I “have to have a sum certain from a court of law before we can violate the bond.” No such admonition was given to either David Swift or Brant Thompson, yet bond claims were filed for their alleged losses.
6. LALB Vice Chairman James Sims indicating that I had to have “certified appraisals from a certified GPPA appraiser,” when complainant David Swift was permitted to submit a handwritten list which was barely legible with that list being supplied to the bonding company and him ultimately being paid.
7. Regarding complainant Brant Thompson, the fact that Mr. Steele, the LALB’s own investigator stated, under oath, “We have no evidence that Mr. Thompson consigned anything to this auction whatsoever,” yet the LALB proceeded with filing Mr. Thompson’s bond claim.
8. The fact that the investigation into Mr. Miller, the deceased bonded auctioneer alleged to have victimized Mr. Thompson, was closed, only to be “reopened” upon Mr. Thompson drafting a letter to the LALB expressing his dismay and copying that letter to Ms. Holly Robinson, Gov. Jindal’s then-Head of Boards and Commissions.
9. In a telephone conversation on Friday, November 14, 2014 with Roxanne Kasten, Senior Claims Representative for Travelers, who processed the LALB’s bond claim entailing bonded auctioneer Bruce Miller entailing Mr. Thompson’s claim, Ms. Kasten stated that investigator Jim Steele’s investigative report had been withheld from her, a fact that infuriated her upon her receipt of the report and reading of its contents. As the Board is aware, Mr. Steele’s report indicates that the much-more likely scenario entailing Mr. Thompson’s allegedly-consigned items was that they were stolen after Mr. Miller’s death through no fault of Mr. Miller. Had this report been made available to Ms. Kasten, which it should have been, Travelers would have denied Mr. Thompson’s bond claim, yet the report was intentionally

withheld from Ms. Kasten.

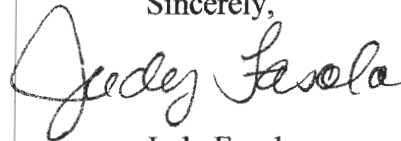
10. With regard to itemization # 9 above, the LALB appears to have engaged in an intentional concealment of a material fact entailing a bond claim, which is tantamount to the fraudulent filing of a bond claim. Given the added circumstances that the LALB had closed the investigation finding "no auctioneer wrongdoing," combined with the fact that the complainant is the son of Louisiana State Senator Francis Thompson, there can be little doubt that the LALB extended preferential treatment to the son of a Louisiana State Senator, even to the point that it would engage in the fraudulent submission of a bond claim in concealing Mr. Steele's report from Ms. Kasten.

In conclusion, I have yet to be provided with any rational explanation as to why my bond claim is not being processed, and I seek a formal LALB vote of whether it is going to file a bond claim on my behalf or not and, if not, that I be provided with a written explanation as to why it is declining to do so in order that my attorney, Mike Davis, and I can proceed accordingly.

Thank you for the time you have taken to read this letter, and I look forward to hearing back from you in short order.

Cc: Mike Davis, Attorney at Law via
fax to 225-757-0624

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Fasola". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Judy Fasola