

ROBERT BURNS, REV. FREDDIE LEE
PHILLIPS

NUMBER 631669 DOCKET: 24
19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

VERSUS

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

LOUISIANA AUCTIONEER'S LICENSING BAORD
CHARLES "HAL" McMILLIN, JAMES M SIMS,
DARLENE JACOBS-LEVY, JEFFREY HENDERSON,
TESSA STEINKAMP, CHARLES "CLAYTON" BRISTER

STATE OF LOUISIANA

**AMENDMENT TO PETITION FOR DAMAGES, DECLARATORY JUDGMENT,
AND WRIT OF MANDAMUS**

NOW UNTO COURT come Plaintiffs, Robert Edwin Burns and Rev. Freddie Lee Phillips, in proper person, who amend their Petition for Damages, Declaratory Judgment and Writ of Mandamus as follows, itemized by title and paragraph:

The title of the Petition is amended to read "Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Writ of Mandamus." Thus, the Damages portion of the Petition is no longer applicable.

1. [No amendment].

2. [Amended to read as follows to remove Board Members as Defendants].

Made Defendant in this Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Writ of Mandamus is:

LOUISIANA AUCTIONEER'S LICENSING BOARD (LALB), an executive agency of the State of Louisiana and a body corporate with the power to sue and be sued whose office at all times pertinent herein is located in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, and whose Chairman and representative for Service of Process is Ms. Tessa Steinkamp, LALB Member and Chairman, 116 Rue Aries Road, Slidell, LA 70461-5226.

Accordingly, all subsequent references to "Defendants" in the original Petition, to the extent such references included individual Board Members, now only apply in the context of Defendant LALB and references to "Defendants" is amended to mean "Board Members" rather than Defendant Board Members.

3. 4. 5. [No amendments].

6. 7. 8. Deleted in their entirety.

FILED
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LA
2014 NOV -3 PM 1:33
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

9. [Now 6, Amended to read as follows as well as Exhibit P-2 replaced with Exhibit P-2 attached to these amended pleadings as being the up-to-date board rules].

At Defendant LALB's January 23, 2012 meeting, Board Members proposed and approved a set of "board meeting management and open meetings rules" ostensibly under the authority of LA R. S. 42:23(B), which provides for maintenance of proper decorum in a meeting. Those proposed and approved rules are attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit P-2.

10. [Now 7, Amended to read as follows.]

Petitioners contend that certain of these rules, namely rules two (2), six (6), seven (7), and ten (10) have absolutely nothing to do with "maintaining decorum" and instead were proposed and approved for the sole purpose of inhibiting Petitioners' ability to obtain and distribute video coverage of meetings to Louisiana licensees and other interested parties.

11. [Now 8, only change is rule # 5 to # 6 entailing tripod prohibition].

12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18.

[Now 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 no amendments except changing paragraph reference from # 13 to # 10 in original paragraph 14 (now 11), changing rule # 5 to rule # 6 in paragraph 16 (now 13), changing rule # 9 to rule # 10 in paragraph 17 (now 14)].

19. [Now 16, changing rule # 5 to rule # 6, changing rule # 9 to rule # 10].

Newly inserted paragraphs 17, 18, & 19 to read as follow:

17.

At a hearing on October 14, 2014 before this Honorable Court regarding Defendant LALB's Peremptory Exception of No Cause of Action, this Honorable Court admonished Plaintiffs that they had an obligation to provide Defendant LALB with an opportunity to "reconsider" its position on the board rules.

18.

In accordance with this Honorable Court's admonition to Plaintiffs, Plaintiff Robert Burns submitted a request to the LALB, on the LALB's officially prescribed form, a request for such reconsideration at the LALB's next Board Meeting of November

5, 2014. A copy of the emailed request and the request itself are attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit P-5.

19.

On October 22, 2014, Defendant LALB, through attorney Larry S. Bankston, responded to Plaintiff Burns' request, and that response is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit P-6. As Mr. Bankston so customarily does, he altered the wording of Plaintiff Burns' email and request form, and he indicated that "there was no admonishment by the judge for the board to take any action." The attached email and request, Exhibit P-5, clearly state, "In accordance with Judge Caldwell's admonition that the Board be afforded the opportunity to reconsider the "board meeting rules." That is exactly what this Honorable Court **repeatedly** inquired of Plaintiffs on October 14, 2014 as to whether they had provided that opportunity to the LALB. This Honorable Court repeatedly asked of Plaintiffs, "Have you ever provided the LALB with the opportunity to reconsider these board rules?" Even though Plaintiffs believe that they have provided such opportunities, Plaintiffs have adhered to this Honorable Court's admonishment to them (not to the LALB as Mr. Bankston conveniently relays to his LALB client) and provide that opportunity to reconsider the rules. As is evidenced by Mr. Bankston's response, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit P-7, "I have advised LALB that until your suit is fully resolved, no additional consideration should be given to your request. The Chairperson has agreed with this recommendation." The reality is that Defendant LALB is not going to do **anything** Plaintiffs request short of Plaintiff's taking court action (and that's true in numerous other instances for which lawsuits have been filed). Instead, they merely say, "Take us to court!" So, if this Honorable Court dismisses the case, they're back emboldened in saying, "We'll do whatever we want to do," and know that the Courts back their actions. That's why Plaintiffs have repeatedly stressed the horrible signal this Honorable Court would send to other members of the public about public agency transparency. It is laughable to suggest these rules were initiated to "maintain decorum;" furthermore, Defendant LALB has failed miserably to demonstrate how permitting such minor latitudes to Plaintiffs (which had been the case for 16 months without complaint) somehow does cause decorum problems but for LALB-employed videographers being permitted far more liberal latitudes it does not. At any

rate, the emphatic and dogmatic stance taken by the LALB, and reinforced even when provided the opportunity which this Honorable Court admonished Plaintiffs to provide Defendant LALB, go straight to the heart of why Plaintiffs are in need of the Declaratory Judgment referenced in Paragraph 16 of this Petition.

20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. Deleted in their entirety.

[Paragraphs 31 – 43, as well as Plaintiff’s prayer for relief, are deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following new paragraphs beginning with Paragraph 20 in accordance with the above deletions.]

20.

Defendant LALB maintains a link on the agency’s website for the Louisiana Auctioneer’s Association (LAA), a trade association for which Mr. Wiley Collins serves as President. On January 8, 2013, Petitioner Phillips requested that a similar link be provided for the Louisiana Association of Professional Auctioneers (LAPA). Petitioner Phillips serves as President and Founder of LAPA, and Petitioner Burns serves as Vice President. Despite Petitioner Phillips’ attempts to have a link added at the LALB meetings of March 5, 2013; July 9, 2013 (during which, despite not being on the agenda, Defendant LALB permitted LAA President Collins to lambast LAPA); September 10, 2013; and November 5, 2013; Defendant LALB has remained steadfast that no such link will be added. Upon information and belief, Defendant LALB’s stand is based upon the advice of its attorney, Larry S. Bankston, who stated at the March 5, 2013 meeting of LALB that he would not recommend adding a LAPA link based on LAPA “not being a substantial organization” and having “few members.”

21.

On November 8, 2013, Petitioner Phillips submitted a complaint to the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office alleging that both discrimination and a violation of his First Amendment right to free speech had transpired through Defendant LALB’s action of permitting the LAA’s website link (as well as that of the National Auctioneer’s Association – NAA) to be present on Defendant LALB’s website, yet denying that same privilege for LAPA. That complaint was attached to and made a part of Plaintiffs’ original Petition as Exhibit P-3.

22.

Exhibit P-3 has the following emphatic statement (see paragraph two, line four) regarding Plaintiff Rev. Freddie Phillips: “I assert the LALB has: #1) blatantly discriminated against me based on my race as I am the only African American auctioneer in Louisiana’s history.”

23.

Plaintiff Phillips firmly asserts to this Honorable Court that he is a member of a minority protected class, namely the African American race.

24.

As stated to the Attorney General’s Office in the complaint dated November 8, 2013, Rev. Phillips firmly and emphatically states to this Honorable Court through these amended pleadings that **the LALB’s denial of the LAPA link is motivated exclusively by racial discrimination against his race, that being African American.**

25.

The denial of the LAPA link is one of a long list of discriminatory acts of blatant racism Defendant LALB has demonstrated against Plaintiff Phillips.

26.

A September 20, 2012 “hearing” was set by Defendant LALB entailing Plaintiff Robert Burns “going after” its sole employee for potential payroll fraud. Unbeknownst to Defendant LALB, an active criminal investigation was transpiring behind-the-scenes even during the timeframe of the hearing. Defendant LALB’s Darlene Jacobs chastised Plaintiff Burns for reporting the payroll fraud to Civil Service Head of Accountability Patrick Lowery. Ms. Jacobs indicated that the Board, in an illegal Executive Session, which is the subject of another 19th JDC action (Docket #616916 tried before Judge Fields on April 9, 2014 and presently on appeal with the First Circuit Court of Appeal), that the Board voted 3-2 to revoke Plaintiff Burns’ auction license over the matter. Ironically, on December 9, 2013, the Louisiana Office of Inspector General, who’d been conducting the behind-the-scenes investigation (and who insisted Burns remain silent about it during Defendant LALB’s so-called “hearing”), issued a damning report

confirming that the employee was in fact committing payroll fraud and had in fact lied to Inspector General investigators about her activities.

27.

Upon having spent \$4,100 in legal fees to attorney Robert Loren Kleinpeter of the matter referenced in Paragraph 26, Plaintiff Burns made a firm decision that he considers holding the title of auctioneer in Louisiana to be an extreme embarrassment and therefore opted not to renew his license for 2013 and beyond and has no intention of ever holding an auction license in Louisiana again.

28.

Having relayed all that transpired with the LALB to Mr. Tom Aswell, Editor of Louisiana Voice, a blog dedicated to exposing political corruption in Louisiana, Mr. Aswell asked Plaintiff Burns to join his publication as an investigative reporter. Mr. Aswell asked Plaintiff Burns to draft an article relaying the blatant racism demonstrated by Defendant LALB toward Plaintiff Phillips.

29.

Mr. Burns drafted the article for Louisiana Voice, and it was published on March 21, 2014. The article is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit P-7. The article speaks for itself (as do the reader comments) regarding the obvious incidents of blatant racism exhibited by Defendant LALB toward Plaintiff Phillips. Significantly, the article contains 13 links to audio or video files of actual LALB meeting excerpts demonstrating Defendant LALB's blatant racism. Editor Aswell, a well-respected investigative reporter with whom Plaintiff Burns worked closely in exposing the much-publicized "Edmonson Amendment" resulting in a unconstitutional declaratory judgment by Judge Clark, having read, listened to, and watched the videos, had no qualms in providing the following headline which he (Aswell) drafted: "Former Auctioneer Board member provides more insider peeks at board turf protection through secrecy and racism." Hence, the assessment of LALB racism is not merely one by Plaintiff Phillips or Burns, but rather a wide audience of Louisiana Voice readers who had ready access to read, listen to, and watch the videos contained in the article contained in Exhibit P-7

Admittedly, Plaintiff Burns, especially given his role as a writer for Louisiana Voice, was particularly disheartened by this Honorable Court's indifference to what Plaintiff Burns feels strongly is a denial of a First Amendment Right to have Rev. Phillips' LAPA link added to the LALB website. Plaintiff Burns, who won awards for his journalistic efforts in high school, believes strongly in the right of a free press, and that belief motivates him for pursuit of the Declaratory Judgment regarding the Board Rules. Upon the breaking of the "Edmonson Amendment scandal" by Louisiana Voice, Burns has maintained a website, www.lspripoff.com, which chronicled the entire episode, complete with videos of the haphazard Louisiana House passage, videos of Louisiana State Police Retirement Board Meetings, etc. With the type of arbitrary and capricious restrictions Defendant LALB place upon Plaintiffs, Louisiana Voice readers' ability to be provided with the evidence of the rampant corruption within Defendant LALB is unquestionably curtailed. While Plaintiff Burns is disheartened that he effectively is no longer a Plaintiff in the Writ of Mandamus portion of this lawsuit since he has no ability to assert that he is a member of a protected class, he is nevertheless more than happy to buttress and confirm Plaintiff Phillips' declared statements in these amended pleadings that he has been discriminated against based upon his race. The evidence of that fact is clear, unequivocal, and inexcusable for the any American citizen, much less those who have been selected for the privilege of serving on a public regulatory body. It is also inexcusable for Defendant LALB's legal counsel, Larry S. Bankston, who depended so heavily upon members of the African American community for his previous position as a Louisiana State Senator, to provide his guidance to deny Plaintiff Phillips' request for the LAPA link. Mr. Bankston did not hesitate for one moment to call on Rev. Phillips to assist in his elections efforts by seeking his backing and support for those election efforts.

As evidenced by Exhibit P-4, which was attached to and made a part of Plaintiff's original petition, on February 18, 2014, Attorney General James D. "Buddy" Caldwell's Office, via a letter drafted by Ms. Trinicia Bryant of the Consumer Protection Division, relayed to Defendant LALB that, "please find an inquiry recently received by the Office

of the Attorney General. Because it appears to fall within the purview of your agency, it is forwarded for disposition as you deem appropriate.”

32.

Defendant LALB has been unwilling to budge on its position of refusing to add a link for LAPA to its webpage of auction trade association links.

33.

Since Petitioner Phillips has availed himself of all remedies at his disposal (including filing a complaint with Louisiana Attorney General James D. “Buddy” Caldwell’s Office alleging racial discrimination just as he pleads in this Amended Petition), and realizing that Courts are reluctant to issue a Writ of Mandamus unless all other avenues have failed, Petitioner Phillips is compelled to seek a Writ of Mandamus from this Honorable Court directing Defendant LALB to place a website link for LAPA’s website on Defendant LALB’s website to remedy the blatant racial discrimination which has transpired in this instance, in continuance of a long-line of such discrimination and racist acts as evidenced by Exhibit P-7.

WHEREFORE, petitioners, ROBERT EDWIN BURNS and REV. FREDDIE LEE PHILLIPS, pray that Defendant, LOUISIANA AUCTIONEER’S LICENSING BOARD, having been duly served with a copy of the original petition and these amended petition pleadings, be cited to appear and answer same and, after all legal delays and due proceedings had, there be a judgment herein in favor of Petitioners, ROBERT EDWIN BURNS and REV. FREDDIE LEE PHILLIPS, and against Defendant, LOUISIANA AUCTIONEER’S LICENSING BOARD, granting Petitioners a Declaratory Judgment of this Honorable Court rendering “Board Rules Numbers 2, 6, and 7” of Exhibit P-2 unenforceable and thereby void given that they are clearly intended to impede and obstruct transparency of open meetings, which is both contrary to the letter and spirit of LA R. S. 42:23(A). Petitioners further seek that “Board Rule Number 10” be amended by this Honorable Court to specify that probable cause must exist before Defendant LALB can initiate a search of anyone attending Defendant LALB’s meetings. Plaintiff Phillips further seeks a Writ of Mandamus to be issued by this Honorable Court directing Defendant LALB to add a link to its website which directs visitors to the website of the Louisiana Association of Professional Auctioneers (LAPA), for which Petitioner Phillips

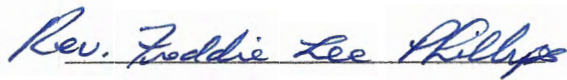
serves as Founder and President, just as Defendant LALB presently does for the Louisiana Auctioneer Association (LAA) and National Auctioneers Association (NAA). Such issuance of a Writ of Mandamus will cure the blatant racial discrimination against Plaintiff Phillips, which is the continuation of a long-standing pattern of such discrimination and acts of racism as evidenced by Exhibit P-7.

Respectfully Submitted,

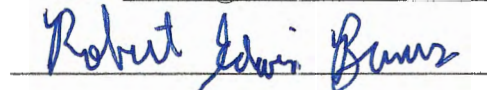
Rev. Freddie Lee Phillips, in proper person
8055 Hanks Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70812-4122
(225) 358-4463 (home)
(225) 229-3341 (cell)
E-mail: freddiephillips@bellsouth.net

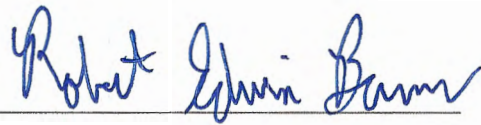

Certificate of Service:

We hereby certify, on this 3rd day of November, 2014, that a copy of the foregoing has been served upon counsel for all parties to this proceeding by submitting a copy of same via electronic mail, facsimile, or First Class United States Mail, properly addressed and postage prepaid.



Robert Edwin Burns, in proper person
4155 Essen Lane, Apt 228
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-2152
(225) 636-5506 (home)
(225) 235-4346 (cell)
E-mail: Robert@AuctionSellsFast.com





AUCTIONEERS LICENSING BOARD
BOARD MEETING MANAGEMENT AND OPEN MEETINGS RULES- adopted
January 23, 2012

1. All parties attending the meeting should remain seated while in the meeting room. If chairs are not available, then those without chairs may remain standing until a chair becomes available.
2. Those videotaping the meeting may do so while seated.
3. Meeting attendees may not approach the board members or the conference table unless permission is requested and then granted by the Board chairman.
4. Those who wish to speak must raise your hand and be recognized by the Chairman. Those speaking may stand while speaking.
5. Once recognized to speak, attendees are limited to three minutes on each agenda item.
6. The use of tripods for cameras is prohibited.
7. Those taping and otherwise needing power for equipment must provide their own source of electricity. No electrical cords are allowed.
8. Credentialed members of the media may ask for the above rules to be waived. Those requests should be made prior to the beginning of the meeting. Once the meeting has started, the rules cannot be waived without Board approval.
9. Should more than 16 people be in the room for a meeting, the conference room table will be removed or turned on its side, so that more individuals can be in the room.
10. All attending the meeting are subject to search.

Authority:

LSA-R.S. 42:23(B)

LSA-R.S. 37:3112

P-2 (replaces previous P-2)

Robert Burns

From: Robert Burns <robert@auctionsellsfast.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 1:34 PM
To: 'admin@lalb.org'
Subject: Agenda Request for 11/05/14: Reconsideration of Board Meeting Rules
Attachments: Agenda_Rules_Reconsideration_Signed.pdf

Sandy:

In light of Judge Caldwell's admonitions, commentary, and instructions at the court hearing of October 14, 2014, I request that the attached agenda item be added to the LALB's agenda for November 5, 2014. I am placing the original in the mail.

I ask that I be notified in writing of the LALB's decision regarding the placement of my requested item on the agenda.

Thanks, and I look forward to hearing back from the LALB on this matter.

Sincerely,



LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEERS

Robert Edwin Burns, Vice President
LA Association of Professional Auctioneers (LAPA)
4155 Essen Lane, Ste 228
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-2152
(225) 636-5506 (land-line) (225) 235-4346 (cell phone)
www.auctioneer-la.org



Is this New Business or related to a prior agenda item (Old Business)? New _____ Old X

Do you have any supporting documentation to present with this agenda item? If so, please attach it to this form.

Please read the following statement prior to signing.

I have requested the Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board to consider the aforementioned item to be placed on the agenda for the following Board Meeting:

November 5, 2014

(Please state date of intended meeting)

Board meeting dates are posted on the Board Meeting page of www.lalib.org

Requests are due 7 days prior to the Board meeting date.

Robert Edwin Bann
Signature / Title

10/21/14
Date



BANKSTON & ASSOCIATES
A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Larry S. Bankston
larry@bblawyers.net

Jenna H. Linn
jlinn@bblawyers.net

October 22, 2014

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL &
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: Robert@AuctionSellsFast.com

Robert Edwin Burns
4155 Essen Lane, Apartment 228
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

RE: Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board
Agenda Request

Dear Mr. Burns,

Our office has been assigned to handle your request to place an item on the agenda for the Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board's (LALB) upcoming meeting in November. I have been provided a copy of your agenda request. You have requested the following:

"Reconsideration of LALB meeting rules in light of court hearing in Judge Caldwell's courtroom of Tuesday October 14, 2014."

This issue is presently pending in the 19th Judicial District Court, Suit # 631,669. You have incorrectly described the comments by the judge. There was no admonishment by the judge for the board to take any action. I have advised LALB that until your suit is fully resolved, no additional consideration should be given to your request. The Chairperson has agreed with this recommendation.

Sincerely,

BANKSTON & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.

By: 
Larry S. Bankston

c.c. Tessa Steinkamp, Chairperson



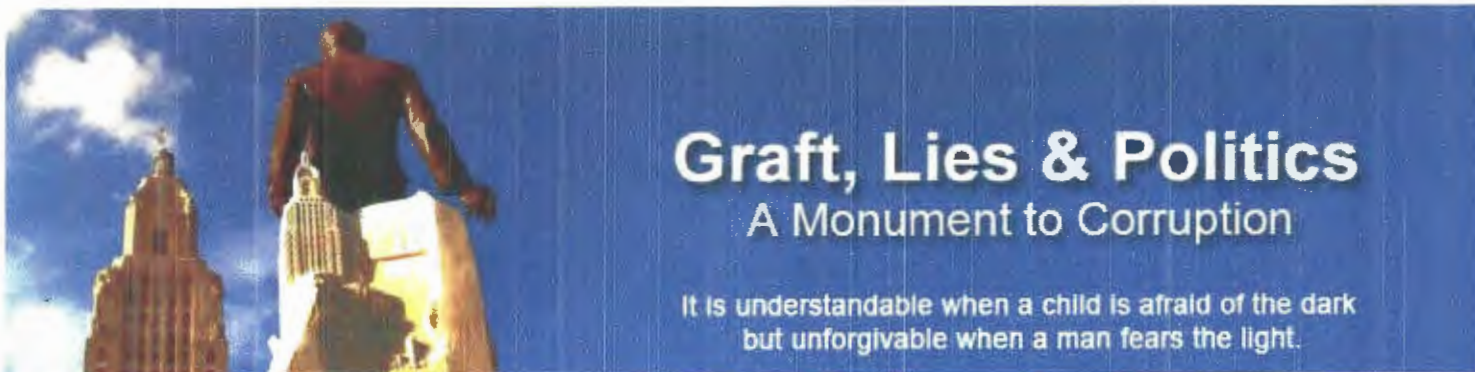
Sandy Edmonds, Exec. Director

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Former Auctioneer Board member provides more insider peeks at board turf protection through secrecy and racism

March 21, 2014 by tomaswell

By Robert Burns

LouisianaVoice writer

Following up our recent post regarding shill bidding and the Louisiana Auctioneer Licensing Board (LALB) turning a blind eye to the illegal practice, I'll now shift to another alarming aspect: **racism**. To get the true tone and tenor of that racism, I would encourage readers to click on the audio links supplied in this post and merely listen to (or watch) what is said.

As mentioned in our first installment, Rev. Freddie Phillips was appointed to the LALB in early 2008. He is the first and, to date, only African American auctioneer in Louisiana's history. Rev. Phillips attended the 2008 National Auctioneer's Association (NAA) convention soon after he joined the LALB. He wasn't aware that, as an LALB Member, he was entitled to have his trip paid for by the LALB. Upon his return and learning that fact, he applied for reimbursement. His request, however, became engulfed in an ocean of technicalities (most notably reimbursement being sought after the closeout of a fiscal year), so Rev. Phillips ultimately ceased pursuit of the reimbursement. Instead, he informed me that he would seek approval to attend the 2010 NAA Convention as an LALB representative instead.

Accordingly, at the May, 2010 LALB meeting, Rev. Phillips made what he thought would be a simple request to attend the Convention. He quickly got a surprise, however, when I was the only other LALB member voting to approve his request. He thus became the first LALB member to be denied the privilege of attending as a Board representative. Many board members, in explaining why

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Thank you.

Tom Aswell, Publisher

Follow

P-7

they opted not to approve his attendance, were rude and mean-spirited in their assessment of Rev. Phillips. Those assessments included former long-time LALB chairman Delmar "Buster" Gay's saying that Rev. Phillips may be an embarrassment at the convention. Then-Vice Chairman (now Chairman) Tessa Steinkamp also said that she wouldn't want Rev. Phillips to represent the LALB.

Frustrated in his efforts, Rev. Phillips began seeking historical LALB travel records, only to face demands by then-Chairman James Comer and former long-time Chairman Gay as to why he wanted the records. **(Editor's note: Louisiana's public records laws expressly prohibit any inquiry into why a citizen would want to see any public record.)** The badgering reached an apex when Comer told Rev. Phillips to get an attorney and sue the LALB. As evidenced by the preceding audio clip, Comer also indicated that Rev. Phillips and I may end up "by themselves (sic)," implying that Gov. Jindal may soon remove one or both of us from the LALB (a prophetic statement as I was subsequently terminated). Rev. Phillips finally spoke up, saying, "I don't have to take this." Others also spoke up in his behalf. First, I defended him. Also, audience member (and then-auctioneer) Nell Stuart expressed her displeasure with comments made regarding Rev. Phillips. Finally, Rev. Phillips' then-Representative, Rep. Regina Barrow, whom Rev. Phillips and I invited so she could witness first-hand the relentless attacks, voiced her own observations of "underlying issues" that she'd witnessed.

All of the audios in the preceding paragraph transpired at one meeting (which would turn out to be my last): August 2, 2010. I sent all of these audios clips (and others) to Gov. Bobby Jindal's office and relayed my sentiments that the kind of conduct being exhibited by Chairman Comer, former long-time Chairman Buster Gay, then-Vice Chairman (now Chairman) Steinkamp, and others was completely unacceptable and that I expected either changes or that other more professional board members would be recruited to serve. I also made it clear to the Jindal administration that I intended to provide these audio clips to anyone who requested them or may have interest in them. I was given my walking papers (I believe the term is teagued) by Gov. Jindal 39 days later. What Gov. Jindal nor the Board counted on was that my ouster would leave me free me video subsequent meetings.

The August 2, 2010, LALB meeting prompted Rep. Barrow to address board and commission appointments in general at a special meeting of the Joint Committee on Governmental Affairs on November 17, 2010. She requested that a representative from the LALB attend to answer any questions the panel may pose but only Rev. Phillips and Ms. Steinkamp attended.

Rev. Phillips never received a check for his attendance at that legislative hearing even though the LALB had no qualms about issuing Ms. Steinkamp a check for her \$97 per diem for her attendance. When Rev. Phillips inquired why he didn't receive a per diem payment, Executive Director, Sandy Edmonds, said that since Rev. Phillips was "suing the board" (Rev. Phillips filed a Writ of Mandamus to obtain travel records which Chairman Comer was refusing to provide), he "should not be a representative of the board."

Following is a list of a few of the events involving Rev. Phillips that have transpired since my ouster from the LALB:

1. **1/10/11:** Rev. Phillips repeatedly threatened with lawsuits for questioning the fact the LALB didn't vote to approve its attorney charging for time attending an

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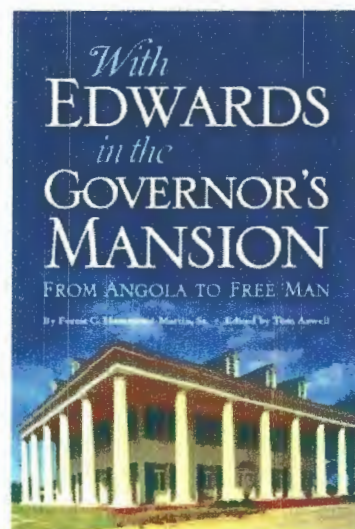
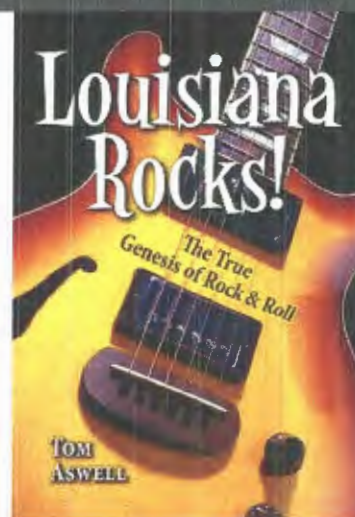
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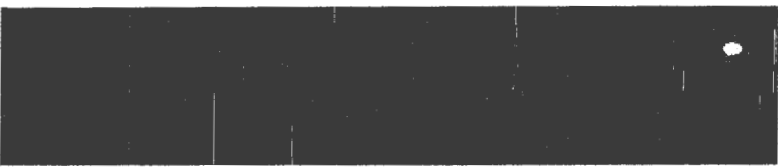
NAA Convention (the same one he was denied being able to attend). The threats begin [at the 3:09 mark of this video](#). The lawsuit treat was [followed up in writing soon thereafter](#). (Note: By the time of that meeting, former long-time Chairman Buster Gay's LALB membership had been severed. Also the 1/10/11 meeting turned out to be Chairman Comer's last meeting as his membership was severed days after the meeting).

2. **7/17/11:** Rev. Phillips' license is threatened for attempting to bring up issues at New Orleans Auction Galleries (NOAG), which filed bankruptcy on 4/1/11 and employed LALB Chairman Steinkamp as its "Vice President, Director, and Treasurer." Chairman Steinkamp begins her threat at the [1:33 mark of this video](#). At the time of bankruptcy, NOAG had over \$600,000 in unpaid consignors and had been paying company operating expenses with consignor escrowed funds, yet Chairman Steinkamp, her position with NOAG notwithstanding, never alerted the LALB to any problems at NOAG and the LALB instead learned of them via the bankruptcy filing.

3. **9/17/11:** Rev. Phillips is [asked four times within a two-minute span if he is "carrying a weapon."](#) There's no way to know if there's a correlation, but [Board Attorney Anna Dow sent then-Chairman Comer this letter dated July 25, 2010](#) relaying that the females feel a need for security in light of "events over the last few years." From the August 2, 2010 meeting on, the LALB has employed an EBRP Deputy (Ronald Landry) at all its meeting at a cost of \$160/meeting. Rev. Phillips told me that the "are you carrying a weapon" inquiry was the proverbial "last straw" and that he informed Gov. Jindal's administration hat he would not agree to serve another concurrent term and that Jindal needed to begin searching for a replacement for his second term. Gov. Jindal did appoint a replacement days after he began serving his second term.

4. **11/05/12:** At the first LALB meeting that Phillips missed in more than four years, [LALB Vice Chairman James Sims and Consumer Member Greg Bordelon respond to the roll call with "I's here."](#) Rev. Phillips requested that I submit that audio clip to Gov. Jindal's Office, so I did. Accordingly, knowing that [an article in The Advocate was pending](#) about the incident, Gov. Jindal's office requested that the Inspector General's Office investigate the matter. The IG's Office issued [this report](#) in which Sims attributed his response to his "diabetes and dentures." Bordelon, meanwhile, denied answering the roll call in that manner in the *Advocate* article but ultimately admitted he did make the roll call response but said he was "merely mocking Sims, a North Louisiana redneck." Shortly after release of the IG report, [The Advocate published this article of the report's findings](#). Bordelon's LALB membership was severed about three months later. Mr. Sims continues to serve as LALB Vice Chairman.

Rev. Phillips decided that it would be a good idea for the LAPA website to have an "embarrassment index" which was alphabetized by board member or affiliate. It was an excellent suggestion, and [here's that alphabetized link of embarrassments](#) for anyone who'd like to see it. Perhaps future LALB meetings will provide additional material.



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February 7, 2013

You may want to check out the latest LouisianaVoice post about how false accusations against Murphy Painter may have cost him his job as head of the Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Tobacco Control simply because he refused to go along with Gov. Bobby Jindal's attempt to circumvent state law in order to

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Boards, Commissions, Corruption, Ethics, Guest Columnist

4 Responses

David Ambrose66

March 21, 2014 at 8:40 pm | Reply

Amazing how utterly stupid and racist these moronic clowns are. I'd say more, but it would be in "Marine Corps" speak and most likely offend many other readers. This racist crap is beyond belief and has NO place in this country or the state of Louisiana. I have to stop now before my language becomes too foul for this site.



Bob N

March 21, 2014 at 9:15 pm | Reply

These people sound horrible. I wish Rev. Phillips would have sued these jerks, as well as the state for racial discrimination. He would have been justified in his actions, and I have no doubt a jury would agree.



Bob N

March 22, 2014 at 5:33 am | Reply

These state contracted attorneys should be sanctioned for misconduct. They go along with this garbage for lucrative paydays. They are there to protect the interest of the board and ultimately the state. But their efforts to join in illegal activity, protectionism, racism, and turf wars should come with a



price.

Randy T.

March 22, 2014 at 12:38 pm | Reply

Actually I think that's been attempted for a few of these boards and commissions, but the State Office of Disciplinary Counsel has refused to consider the matters. From what an attorney friend of mine has relayed to me, that agency's plate is loaded with problems like attorneys absconding with clients' escrowed funds, cocaine addictions, and the like.



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