

ROBERT EDWIN BURNS
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January 28, 2014

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD
ATTN: ERIC R MCCLENDON
4000 S SHERWOOD FOREST BLVD
STE 607
BATON ROUGE LA 70816-4374

Dear Mr. McClendon:

This letter will acknowledge the fact that you sent me a letter dated January 27, 2014 in which your office indicated that it will **not** be opening a formal investigation into Mr. Larry S. Bankston for unethical conduct despite the following facts made known to you in my complaint of January 10, 2014:

1. Mr. Bankston convened an Administrative Hearing to pursue disciplinary action against my then-active auctioneer's license for my having reported suspected payroll fraud on the part of the Louisiana Auctioneer's Licensing Board (LALB)'s Executive Director, Sandy Edmonds, to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office (LAO) which, upon my providing substantial evidence to back up the allegation, issued a damning report in that regard which is available at http://www.auctioneer-la.org/LAO_lalb_id.pdf. As I informed you in my complaint, the LAO forwarded the matter on to EBRP District Attorney Hillar Moore for potential criminal prosecution of Ms. Edmonds, a fact which Legislative Auditor Daryl Purpera personally informed me of on Monday, November 4, 2013. In turn, Mr. Moore transferred the matter over to the State Office of Inspector General.
2. The **VERY DAY** after Mr. Bankston was hired to pursue my license, May 24, 2012, Ms. Edmonds committed yet more payroll fraud as clearly identified by a report of the Louisiana Office of Inspector General released on **December 9, 2013**. That report was provided to you in hard-copy format in my complaint dated January 10, 2014 and is available for review at (or by visiting the homepage of the OIG's website: www.oig.louisiana.gov): <http://oig.louisiana.gov/assets/Auctioneer's%20Board%20-%20Edmonds.pdf>.
3. Instead of doing what an attorney **ought** to do and seek from Ms. Edmonds whether she was engaging in payroll fraud, Mr. Bankston aided and abetted Ms. Edmonds in committing that payroll fraud by seeking to intimidate anyone who

may uncover evidence of payroll fraud by threatening disciplinary action against his or her license, which I have contended to you is unethical conduct of the highest order.

4. You provided **no explanation whatsoever as to why you refuse to open an investigation into this matter and are instead permitting a licensee of your Office to engage carte blanche in such unethical behavior** notwithstanding a prior felony conviction on the part of that licensee and the notwithstanding the fact that at least one Member of the Attorney Disciplinary Board, Richard Gerard, Jr., clearly expressed concerns that Mr. Bankston would engage in the type of unethical conduct outlined above in stating: "I am sorry I cannot agree with the Panel's Recommendation. I do not know Mr. Bankston personally, and know nothing of him other than what I have read in newspaper accounts. He is a convicted felon. The public, apparently, has a general perception that all lawyers are crooks and shysters. We have made monumental strides in the last few years toward policing our profession and ridding it of individuals who are, indeed, crooks and shysters. To readmit a disbarred, convicted felon to the practice of law sends the wrong message to the public and, for that matter, to other law abiding members of the bar. I am not impressed with the recitation of testimony from his contemporaries, the fact that he got one hundred people to write letters of recommendation for him, or that he now expresses remorse for his actions. If those are the criteria, Edwin Edwards should be released from prison and readmitted immediately. I respectfully dissent."

Mr. McClendon, if you meant what you said in your letter to me dated January 27, 2014 wherein you stated, "The ODC appreciates your concern for the maintenance of professional standards by all attorneys practicing in our state," you would not have dismissed my complaint to you in the cavalier manner in which you have.

Cc: Mr. Richard E. Gerard, Jr.;
Louisiana Supreme Court;
Walter Green, Acting U. S. Attorney,
Middle District of Louisiana;
Baton Rouge FBI Office;

Sincerely,


Robert Edwin Burns