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February 3, 2014

Anna E. Dow  
Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board  
11736 Newcastle Avenue  
Bldg. 2, Suite C  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Re: Licensee Bruce Miller

Ms. Dow,

I am in receipt of your correspondence dated January 16, 2014, wherein you inform me that the investigation arising from a complaint filed by me early last year is being closed. Your letter states that "we have been unable to determine if any violation of the Louisiana Auctioneer Licensing Board laws or regulations has occurred." I take exception with this determination as I have regularly communicated with Executive Assistant Edmonds and Mr. Steele, who is the investigator assigned to this case. Mr. Steele has informed me that Mr. Miller, who is the subject of this complaint, failed to properly deposit auction funds into an escrow account, as required by law.

I understand that the purpose of the Auctioneer Licensing Board is to regulate the auction industry and to protect the public through the licensure process. I would submit that the licensure process is designed to instill confidence in those wishing to market their goods through this medium.

In this case, I selected a Louisiana licensed auctioneer to market antiques for which I had a substantial investment. As part of my complaint I have produced documents reflecting those items delivered to Bruce Miller for sale at auction. While I did not expect a wind-fall from my investment, I did expect a moderate return. In this case, I received nothing from the sale of my antiques and I feel that the system designed to protect me, failed.

Immediately before his untimely death, Mr. Miller explained to me, by phone, that he had sold a few items, but had withheld the majority of my items for an upcoming, well-advertised, fine antique auction. I understand that that auction did in fact occur and that my antiques were sold at that auction. Mr. Massey, who was at one time in partnership with Mr. Miller, has confirmed that he personally witnessed many of my items sell at Mr. Miller's final auction. Furthermore, Investigator Steele has interviewed Mr. Massey and documented the same.

Based upon the foregoing, I feel that I should receive that protection afforded by law when dealing with a Louisiana licensed auctioneer. The fact that Mr. Miller is now deceased should be of no consequence as it relates to my claim. It is my understanding that Mr. Miller did in fact have a proper bond in place at the time of our contract and I feel that I am entitled to the protections afforded by this bond. While I take no pleasure in seeking compensation from parties having little control over Mr. Miller's misdeeds, they did, in fact, assume that risk.

I respectfully request reconsideration of this matter and urge that the board use their statutory authority to bring about a fair resolution in this matter. If you require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Brant L. Thompson

cc: Ms. Holly Robinson