

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NEW ORLEANS - BATON ROUGE
STEAMSHIP PILOTS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024
COMMENCING AT 2:00 P.M.

At the offices of the Board of
Examiners for New Orleans - Baton Rouge
Steamship Pilots for the Mississippi River, 3421
North Causeway Boulevard, Suite 103, Metairie,
Louisiana 70002.

REPORTED BY:
LESLIE L. NICOSIA
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

1	I N D E X	
2		PAGE
3	Title.....	1
4	Index.....	2
5	Appearances.....	3
6	Proceedings.....	4
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2

3 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

4 CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON

5 CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO

6 CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTNER, JR.

7

8

SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FOR NEW ORLEANS - BATON ROUGE STEAMSHIP PILOTS
FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER:

9

RICK WARD, ESQUIRE

10

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CONSULTANT FOR THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NEW
ORLEANS - BATON ROUGE STEAMSHIP PILOTS FOR THE
MISSISSIPPI RIVER:

12

MICHAEL THOMAS, ESQUIRE

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16

ALSO PRESENT:

17

Brian Eiselen

18

George Burkley

19

Casey Clayton

20

Art Lentini

21

Phil Robinson

22

McClain Schonekas

23

David Shirah

24

Marty Gould

25

Kyle Rittner

Sharon Geraci

Robert Barnett

1 *****

2 Leslie L. Nicosia, a Certified Court Reporter in
3 and for the State of Louisiana,
4 did report the following:

5 BY MR. RICK WARD:

6 We call this meeting to order.
7 We will start with the roll call.

8 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

9 Lee Jackson.

10 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

11 Kevin Alario, present.

12 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

13 Chris Rittiner, present.

14 BY MR. RICK WARD:

15 Item No. 3 on the agenda would
16 be the adoption of minutes.

17 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

18 I reviewed the minutes. They
19 all seem to be in order. I think in
20 this case, Kevin and I are going to
21 make a motion to adopt.

22 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

23 Second.

24 BY MR. RICK WARD:

25 The motion to adopt minutes is

1 adopted.

2 Item 4 would be public
3 comments. Do we have anyone present
4 from the public? I did see that. I
5 also saw that was listed under
6 executive session. So, I'm not sure
7 if you wanted to make your comments
8 now.

9 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

10 It's your right, whether you
11 want to do it in executive session or
12 you want to do it now pertaining to
13 the reorientation.

14 BY MS. CASEY CLAYTON:

15 I just wanted to make a few
16 comments about that. I addressed some
17 of it in an e-mail to y'all. I
18 thought it should be said in a public
19 meeting.

20 First, I want to congratulate
21 all of you and Chris and Kevin and
22 also put out there, of course, if I
23 could help with anything, please call
24 me. I'm sure you've got it completely
25 under control. You've been here for

1 so long. I'm here if y'all need
2 anything.

3 Just also kind of in line with
4 the reorientation, just in general, I
5 just want it to be known that, in
6 general, everything I did when I was
7 president of the board was in good
8 intentions. Everything was to try to
9 represent the board in the best way
10 that I could and protect the board and
11 the pilots, consider safety, and just
12 get a good balance. That was my
13 intention.

14 Now that I'm going back to the
15 route, which I'm excited about, I did
16 have -- It will only take a minute,
17 just a couple of things I wanted to
18 make sure y'all were aware of. I
19 wrote it down because -- I typically
20 don't read. I forget everything
21 unless I write it down, so I figured
22 this would be the best way to make
23 sure everything is said.

24 As y'all know, as the board,
25 Captain Jackson removed me from the

1 route on January 27, 2024. Prior to
2 this meeting, he informed me I would
3 have to take sick leave or pay someone
4 to work for me until I completed the
5 reorientation program, which would be
6 decided upon by the board at a future
7 date.

8 Although, technically, I feel I
9 should have been commissioner of
10 business until the board made its
11 decision, I complied with the
12 directive without resistance. I just
13 want to bring a few specifics to your
14 attention and request it be taken into
15 account when the board decides on the
16 terms of the reorientation
17 requirements.

18 First, as Captain Jackson has
19 acknowledged via email, I'm currently
20 recent according to the BOE rules.

21 Two, I've been a NOBRA state-
22 commissioned pilot for over 20 years
23 and have successfully and safely
24 piloted over 2,000 ship movements
25 throughout my career. Three, all of

1 my credentials are up to date and
2 current, including my merchant mariner
3 credential, my U.S. Coast Guard
4 approved physical, U.S. Coast Guard
5 approved medical certificate, all BOE
6 required drug screens, my TWIC card,
7 all of my BOE required continuing
8 education classes.

9 Also, I would like to request
10 you please take into consideration my
11 being off the route for the entirety
12 of January, part of February in the
13 time it takes to complete the
14 reorientation program when determining
15 my recency for 2024. Additionally,
16 please consider allowing any required
17 observer turns to count toward my 2024
18 recency requirement.

19 I consider myself a safe,
20 responsible pilot. I believe my
21 piloting record supports this claim.
22 Therefore, after being out of rotation
23 for a period of time, I would not
24 place myself back in rotation without
25 riding ships as an observer pilot and

1 making sure I am comfortable with
2 returning to the route.

3 I'm here today to ask that all
4 these things be taken into
5 consideration when the board
6 determines the terms of my
7 reorientation program and to also ask
8 that I be treated fairly and in line
9 with past members who were off the
10 route for a period of time.

11 I thank you for considering
12 these things. I look forward to
13 getting back to work. I enjoy all the
14 aspects of working on the route.

15 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

16 Thank you.

17 BY MR. RICK WARD:

18 Any more public comment?

19 BY MS. CASEY CLAYTON:

20 Unless I'm required to stay, I
21 have to go and --

22 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

23 I will contact you after this
24 is over.

25 BY MS. CASEY CLAYTON:

1 Thank you.

2 BY MR. RICK WARD:

3 Moving on to new business,
4 first, Section A is new Board of
5 Examiners president appointment and
6 new Board of Examiners commissioner
7 appointment.

8 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

9 I just -- First of all, I want
10 to say -- I want to thank Governor
11 Jeff Landry for having the trust in us
12 to lead this board. My hope is that
13 we will honor that -- his appointment
14 by -- with dignity as well as poise.
15 It's such an honor to be here to be a
16 part of this -- the Board of
17 Examiners.

18 There's always work to do. I
19 think with the guys here on this
20 table, I think we will definitely
21 spearhead it together and move the BOE
22 continually in the right direction.

23 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

24 Same. I'm happy to serve under
25 Governor Landry. The idea is to work

1 together. We may not always agree.
2 Let's find some common ground, not
3 take it personally. Let's not
4 embarrass the governor, the state, or
5 the association.

6 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

7 It's an honor and privilege to
8 sit here and be given the opportunity
9 to serve. I look forward to working
10 with Captain Lee, Captain Kevin,
11 counsel as well.

12 BY MR. RICK WARD:

13 Item B, recognition of past
14 Board of Examiners for president.

15 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

16 That was me. I wanted to
17 personally thank Casey for everything
18 she's done over the years. I think
19 she serves the board as well as the
20 board president and as a member. I
21 wish her well and continued success in
22 her career as a pilot. I wanted to
23 acknowledge her and put that on the
24 record.

25 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

1 Thoroughness and attention to
2 detail is unique.

3 BY MR. RICK WARD:

4 C, expiration and non-renewal
5 of Board of Examiners general counsel
6 contract ratification for that.

7 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

8 That would require a vote from
9 the full board to ratify the
10 termination of the contract for
11 general counsel. I would ask for a
12 motion to ratify.

13 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

14 I second the motion -- make the
15 motion.

16 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

17 I second it.

18 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

19 All in favor?

20 COLLECTIVELY:

21 Aye.

22 BY MR. RICK WARD:

23 That motion stands adopted.
24 Expiration and non-renewal of the BOE
25 consultant contract ratification.

1 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

2 That would be consistent with
3 -- That was a consulting contract
4 consistent with what we did in the
5 previous motion. I would ask for a
6 motion to ratify.

7 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

8 I make the motion.

9 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

10 I second the motion.

11 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

12 All in favor?

13 COLLECTIVELY:

14 Aye.

15 BY MR. RICK WARD:

16 That motion stands adopted.

17 E, termination/modification of
18 BOE office lease and BOE relocation,
19 the discussion of that.

20 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

21 On that, I mean, the way I see
22 it is we've gone through the contract
23 of the current lease for this
24 building, this space. We are pretty
25 much here until March of next year.

1 So, the thought process, with
2 so much happening, I think it's
3 imperitive that the BOE kind of come
4 back together with the association and
5 create that working bond together.
6 What I would like to see is that we
7 return back to 2805 Harvard, use this
8 as a satellite office in the interim.

9 Once I think things settle down
10 a little bit and we gain more trust
11 between the two groups, maybe we can
12 revisit that at a later date. It's
13 more of a discussion for us on that
14 particular topic.

15 In a nutshell, where we would
16 be is we would have like a permanent
17 office at 2805, and we would use this
18 as a satellite if we have large events
19 or things like that in the interim.

20 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

21 Your thoughts are it's okay to
22 have the commission and the
23 association under the same roof?

24 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

25 I think it's always been about

1 perception. There is no law that
2 precludes us from doing it. I also
3 believe that it is paramount that the
4 two groups bring a level of trust back
5 together. So, that's a driving force.

6 I would sacrifice that that
7 little perception is to ensure that we
8 can bring harmony back. Again, there
9 is no law. So, it's all about --
10 Look. This is not something we -- We
11 could further look at this down the
12 road. In the interim, I think it's
13 necessary.

14 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

15 The Board of Review can also be
16 ran out of that same office?

17 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

18 Maybe, maybe not. It all
19 depends.

20 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

21 It's a small space. I'm
22 concerned about co-mingling files.

23 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

24 The Board of Review, its files
25 are held by its own executive counsel,

1 who keeps all those files. They are
2 not -- There aren't any files at 2805.

3 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

4 If one of us has to go in there
5 --

6 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

7 We would ensure that all --
8 Currently, all Board of Review files
9 are kept with the executive counsel
10 and the Board of Review.

11 BY MR. RICK WARD:

12 Next topic, BOE website
13 updates, the Division of
14 Administration and BOE.

15 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

16 That was just more about --
17 Obviously, with the new change in
18 administration, we had to make some
19 adjustments to the website, to the
20 Division of Administration, and the
21 BOE. It was just strictly
22 housekeeping things that I wanted to
23 bring it to the attention of the
24 members that everything is up to
25 speed.

1 All names, contact information
2 has been adjusted. So, anywhere you
3 go, whether it's on our BOE website or
4 on Division of Administration or the
5 Legislature, we -- all those things
6 have been adjusted to reflect the true
7 board as it stands today.

8 BY MR. RICK WARD:

9 G, BOE appointed physician.

10 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

11 That's just more information.
12 We all know Dr. Boudreaux continues to
13 be the physician for the Board of
14 Examiners. It's just there, again,
15 continuing that relationship, so
16 nothing new changing there. It's
17 still the same. I think he is
18 starting to tail back a little bit.
19 He's been around a long time.

20 BY MR. RICK WARD:

21 H, Board of Examiners appointed
22 drug-testing facility.

23 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

24 As I'm sure -- Probably there's
25 a few pilots in the audience, these

1 guys here. We have been dealing with
2 Premier, and sometimes it's been less
3 than professional. Pilots have gone
4 to the facility. No one is there.
5 Signs on the door, "See you in two
6 hours." Post-incident, they are
7 nowhere to be found.

8 This last week, I had a meeting
9 with Alicia, who everyone knows. We
10 talked about what's a good path
11 forward from a location standpoint.
12 She has -- She has mentioned to us
13 that there is a location that she is
14 currently looking at. That location
15 seems to be -- it's a different
16 entity, but it falls under the global
17 safety network. It's out of Harahan.

18 The reputation thus far with
19 this group is pretty professional,
20 pretty good. They are reliable.
21 She's to give me a report back by the
22 end of this week that, basically, lays
23 out whether or not they can service
24 us. And to be quite frank, I've asked
25 her for some specifics, like VIP

1 services.

2 If a pilot comes in, let's get
3 them in and get them out quickly. If
4 it's a post-incident, no matter what
5 time it is, make sure someone is there
6 to handle it and get it done
7 professionally. What we are trying to
8 see is if we can carve out a little
9 niche-type place for us that we can go
10 and ensure it will deliver the needs
11 that the pilots need, whether it be
12 random or post-incident.

13 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

14 Is there a timeline from the
15 week that she gives us the go-ahead?

16 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

17 As soon as we can get a report
18 back from her, what it would look like
19 and whether they can do it or not, at
20 that point, I would share that with
21 the balance of the board. Obviously,
22 there's going to be some transition to
23 get there.

24 But what I've found and what
25 I've seen is that -- I know we are

1 going to probably have some grief with
2 that. It goes along with the next
3 section. That is, although I like the
4 idea of having multiple locations to
5 do drug tests, I just find that chain
6 of custody, things of that nature, you
7 get into these quagmires where
8 something falls through the cracks.

9 And it just seems like it's
10 much simpler if we all agree there's
11 one location we go take our drug test.
12 My God, it's like a turn. It worked
13 for so many years. I understand why
14 some folks may want to have one in
15 Slidell, one in Baton Rouge, one --
16 but then each organization may do
17 something differently. Then you get
18 into that problem.

19 So, if you got one standard,
20 one way of doing things, there's no
21 way you can find deficiencies; if
22 there are, you can fix them quickly.
23 That's one of the other things we are
24 going to need to look at and see how
25 to approach that.

1 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

2 That drug test offsite is just
3 for hair? It's not a dispatch?

4 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

5 It will be random too.

6 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

7 What I'm saying is, the hair
8 test was the only place you could go
9 to offsite; whereas, post-accident,
10 random, you went to this Premier.

11 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

12 Yes. They -- It's -- I've been
13 hearing horror stories about it. I
14 think, Shirah, you had one recently.
15 I think the previous president was in
16 the midst of having a conversation on
17 how we can make that adjustment.

18 Now we really need to dive into
19 it and look to see how we can change.
20 Alicia has been in this business for
21 umpteen amount of years. We are kind
22 of leaning on her to give us guidance
23 on how we can get to a better place.

24 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

25 Is it a possibility to have

1 sample collection come to the office?

2 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

3 I've engaged the counsel with
4 NOBRA on that. There is a liability
5 question for them that they would
6 rather not broach. So, that did come
7 up in my discussions last week. It
8 was a pretty strong no. That was to
9 your point. I also think the previous
10 president had asked that very same
11 question. It probably would be
12 convenient, but --

13 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

14 For now, we are still using
15 Premier?

16 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

17 For now, until we can get a
18 report from Alicia on the location and
19 what particular criteria they are
20 going to set out for us. I think we
21 laid out -- I would think the path
22 that was laid out to her was one that
23 seemed achievable for this
24 organization. And, also, it created a
25 certain level of efficiency for the

1 pilot.

2 I went to the Westbank location
3 to do a drug test. I will tell you
4 they got people doing industrial
5 physicals. All I needed to do was a
6 pee test, and I'm sitting there for
7 three hours. It's about changing that
8 so that we can get in and out and it's
9 done.

10 She will report back out, and
11 no decision will be made until we get
12 that report in. Then I can kind of
13 massage it with the balance of the --
14 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

15 The urine test Should only be
16 done on Veterans Highway, the way she
17 had it set up. The hair test is where
18 you went to Westbank, Slidell,
19 Covington, Baton Rouge.

20 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

21 When I went to the Westbank, I
22 did urine and hair. Maybe that was --
23 That's basically the way it works. I
24 will keep the board kind of in tune on
25 that as we get the information back.

1 Again, it kind of follows Item I on
2 the agenda as well. It's encompassing
3 all that.

4 BY MR. RICK WARD:

5 I think we sort of discussed
6 both of those in one. Item I is drug
7 and alcohol policy. Item J, Board of
8 Examiners administrative designation
9 for state commissioner's business.

10 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

11 This was put on the agenda for
12 a discussion amongst the examiners. I
13 don't want to get into much detail to
14 discuss much about it. There is some
15 legal situations happening around this
16 whole designation.

17 I'm just asking this board now,
18 when we look at any of the other two
19 commissioners going on business, let's
20 have a discussion and create some
21 transparency so we will know -- Let's
22 have a discussion of what's needed.
23 The designation is there. It's there
24 to be used. It's there because it's
25 necessary to be used.

1 I think with a little
2 transparency and communication, I
3 think often times it solves a lot of
4 problems. I would ask that when
5 either one of the other two
6 commissioners feel like there's a need
7 for this designation, that we would
8 have a conversation about it and talk
9 amongst ourselves.

10 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

11 Seems fair.

12 BY MR. RICK WARD:

13 Act 393 of the 2023 legislative
14 session, the changes to open meetings
15 law, as well as ADA compliance.

16 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

17 In your packet, you will see --
18 Again, I had an email from the Couhig
19 firm. They were also working on this.
20 This was something that was passed in
21 the last legislative session where all
22 state entities have to be ADA
23 compliant.

24 All that basically means is
25 individuals with disabilities have to

1 be catered to, not just -- not just
2 prior to, but in the process of. So,
3 there are so many things that you need
4 to do. We have done some -- We have
5 looked at our website. We created an
6 icon on the website.

7 If you go to the Board of
8 Examiners website, you'll see "ADA" on
9 the top line. If you click on it,
10 it's under construction. We are going
11 to create that. This will require --
12 At some point, we will have to open up
13 our rule book to actually address this
14 issue.

15 Every last state entity is
16 going to have to do this. This is the
17 way the rule is set. I think a lot of
18 legislatures are saying, "You got to
19 be kidding me." That's what you
20 agreed.

21 BY MR. RICK WARD:

22 I wasn't there.

23 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

24 The reality is, every
25 legislative -- every entity is going

1 to have to do it. If you post the
2 meeting, if someone tells you they
3 have a disability, you are going to
4 have to accommodate them in some form
5 or fashion, whether it be by Zoom or
6 any other -- Whatever their disability
7 is, you're going to have to adjust.

8 But all the state entities are
9 going to have to change their rules,
10 ratify their rule changes. That's
11 just part of the process. I wanted to
12 bring the board up to date on that.
13 We have done some stop-gap things to
14 kind of show that we are moving, but
15 there's more work to be done. It's
16 going to be required that we open our
17 rules to make that adjustment.

18 BY MR. RICK WARD:

19 That ends new business. Old
20 business. There is no old business to
21 address. Then the next section, we
22 are going to go into executive
23 session.

24 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

25 I will present a motion to go

1 into executive session.

2 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

3 Second the motion.

4 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

5 All in favor?

6 COLLECTIVELY:

7 Aye.

8 BY MR. RICK WARD:

9 That motion is adopted. We
10 will head into executive session.

11 (WHEREUPON THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
12 WAS HELD OFF THE RECORD)

13 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

14 I make the motion to return
15 back to regular session.

16 BY MR. RICK WARD:

17 There was a motion to return to
18 regular session that was approved, so
19 we are now back in regular session.

20 We will go down to Section 8,
21 any necessary votes arising from
22 executive session.

23 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

24 I would like to make a motion
25 for reorientation for Captain Casey

1 Erica Clayton. The motion would be
2 for her to complete five observer
3 trips with at least two in the New
4 Orleans Harbor and two above Burnside
5 Anchorage with a minimum of those
6 five, two at night involving docking,
7 undocking, or involving maneuvering
8 with anchors.

9 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

10 I second.

11 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

12 I third.

13 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

14 All in favor?

15 COLLECTIVELY:

16 Aye.

17 BY MR. RICK WARD:

18 That motion stands adopted.

19 There were also two more things
20 that needed to be ratified in the
21 regular session. The first one is the
22 new Board of Examiner general counsel.

23 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

24 I would make a motion that we
25 ratify the contract for Rick Ward

1 Consulting.

2 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

3 I second.

4 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

5 All in favor?

6 COLLECTIVELY:

7 Aye.

8 BY MR. RICK WARD:

9 That motion stands adopted.

10 Also, the new Board of Examiner
11 consultant contract.

12 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

13 I make a motion to bring on
14 Atten Consulting Group, Mike Thomas.

15 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

16 Second it.

17 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

18 All in favor?

19 COLLECTIVELY:

20 Aye.

21 BY MR. RICK WARD:

22 That's it. Is there a motion
23 to adjourn?

24 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

25 I make a motion to adjourn the

1 meeting.

2 BY CAPTAIN KEVIN ALARIO:

3 Second.

4 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

5 All in favor?

6 COLLECTIVELY:

7 Aye.

8 [WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS

9 CONCLUDED AT 3:00 P.M.]

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1 REPORTER'S PAGE

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3 I, Leslie L. Nicosia, Certified Court
4 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the
5 officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal
6 Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434 (B)
7 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before
8 whom this testimony was taken, do hereby state
9 on the record;

10 That due to the interaction and the
11 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes
12 (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes
13 in thought, and/or talk-overs; that same is the
14 proper method for a court reporter's
15 transcription of proceeding, and that the dashes
16 (--) do not indicate that words or phrases have
17 been left out of this transcript; that any words
18 and/or names which could not be verified through
19 reference material have been denoted with the
20 phrase "phonetically spelled."

21

22

Leslie L. Nicosia, C.C.R.

23

24

25

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 This certification is valid only for a transcript with my
3 original signature and original required seal on this page.

4 I, LESLIE L. NICOSIA, Certified Court Reporter in and for
5 the State of Louisiana, the "Officer" before whom this
6 testimony was taken, do hereby certify:

7 That this proceeding and testimony was reported by me in
8 stenotype method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under
9 my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and
10 correct transcript to the best of my ability and
11 understanding;

12 That this transcript has been prepared in compliance with
13 transcript format guidelines required by statute or rules of
14 the Board, and I am informed about the complete arrangement,
15 financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making
16 arrangements for deposition services;

17 That I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on
18 contractual relationships as defined by Louisiana Code of
19 Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory
20 opinions of the Board;

21 That I have no actual knowledge of any prohibited
22 employment or contractual relationship, direct or indirect,
23 between a court reporting firm and any party litigant in this
24 matter, nor is there any such relationship between myself and
25 a party litigant in this matter;

26 That I am not related to counsel or to the parties
27 herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this
28 matter.

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30 _____
31 LESLIE L. NICOSIA, CCR
32 Cert. No. 95004

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