UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

In the Matter of

SION 03 06 2018 589852 SECRETARY ORIGINIAL

Docket No.

PUBLIC

Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board, Respondent

COMPLAINT COUNSEL'S EXPEDITED MOTION FOR AN ORDER THAT RESPONDENT HAS WAIVED PRIVILEGE

Pursuant to Rules 3.22 and 3.31(g), of the Commission Rules of Practice, 16 C.F.R. § 3.22 and 16 C.F.R. § 3.31(g), Complaint Counsel respectfully move the Court for an order that Respondent has waived any claims of privilege as to 425 documents that Respondent is seeking to claw back as inadvertently produced privileged materials ("disputed documents") and that Complaint Counsel need not return, continue to sequester, or destroy the documents pursuant to Rule 3.31(g).

As set forth in the attached memorandum, Respondent has waived any claims of privilege for these documents. The production of these documents was not inadvertent. Further, Respondent did not take reasonable steps to prevent disclosure of the documents. Finally, Respondent did not promptly rectify its purported error in producing the documents, despite multiple opportunities to do so. *See* Rule 3.31(g) of the Commission Rules of Practice. 16 C.F.R. 3.31(g).¹

¹ As set forth in the attached memorandum, Complaint Counsel has not yet received a privilege log covering these 425 documents. Therefore, should the Court determine that there has not been a blanket waiver of privilege by Respondent for all 425 documents, Complaint Counsel request that the Court direct Respondent to produce within three days of the date of this Court's order a privilege log setting forth the basis for its claims of privilege for each of the documents. *See* Memorandum at 2 n.4.

A proposed order is attached.

Dated: February 28, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Lisa B. Kopchik</u> Lisa B. Kopchik Kathleen M. Clair Christine M. Kennedy Michael J. Turner

Counsel Supporting the Complaint

Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition 600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20580 Telephone: (202) 326-3139 Email: <u>LKopchik@ftc.gov</u>

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

In the Matter of

Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board, Respondent Docket No. 9374

[PROPOSED] ORDER

Upon Complaint Counsel's Motion for an Order that Respondent Has Waived Privilege,

and having considered the papers in support and in opposition thereto, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Respondent's conduct constituted a waiver of any claim of privilege for

the documents produced by Respondent in response to the Civil Investigative Demand in the

precomplaint investigation in the above-captioned matter, and it is further

ORDERED, that Complaint Counsel need not return, continue to sequester, or destroy any such documents.

D. Michael Chappell Chief Administrative Law Judge

Date: _____, 2018

STATEMENT OF CONFERENCE PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF SCHEDULING ORDER

In a telephone conversation at 5:00 p.m. EST on February 26, 2018, Complaint Counsel (Lisa Kopchik, Kathleen Clair, Michael Turner, and Christine Kennedy) and Respondent's counsel (Steve Cannon, Seth Greenstein, James Kovacks, and Allison Sheedy) met and conferred in an effort in good faith to resolve by agreement the issues raised by the attached motion and were unable to reach an agreement.

Dated: February 28, 2018

/s/ Kathleen M. Clair Kathleen M. Clair

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

In the Matter of

DOCKET NO. 9374

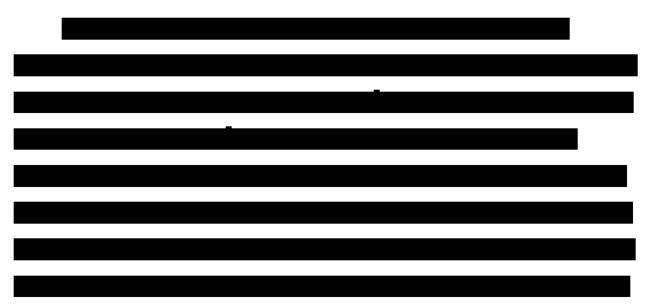
Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board, Respondent

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT COUNSEL'S EXPEDITED MOTION FOR AN ORDER THAT RESPONDENT HAS WAIVED PRIVILEGE

Complaint Counsel request that the Court issue an order instructing that Respondent

Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board has waived attorney-client privilege with regard to 425

documents that were knowingly and deliberately produced to Commission staff in May 2016.



¹ Ex. A (Declaration of Lisa Kopchik, Esq., (Feb. 27, 2018) ¶¶ 5-6).

² Id.

basis of a more circumscribed evidentiary record, Respondent seeks to claw back 425 documents from its initial production.

This request comes far too late.

. Ten months ago, staff

gave Respondent's counsel of record copies of these documents; at that time, staff expressly explained to Respondent's counsel its position that, by producing these documents, Respondent had waived any privilege protections. Nevertheless, near the close of fact discovery and on the eve of several depositions of Respondent's personnel,³ Respondent has suddenly decided to assert a now-waived claim of privilege.

Respondent's production of these documents was deliberate and not inadvertent;

Respondent did not take any steps to prevent the disclosure of these documents to Complaint

Counsel; and Respondent certainly did not take timely and reasonable steps to rectify its

purported error. See Rule 3.31(g). Therefore, Complaint Counsel respectfully move the Court for

an order rejecting Respondent's belated attempt to claw back these documents.⁴ Complaint

Counsel also respectfully request expedited consideration of this motion.

³ Depositions of Respondent's members and employees are being held each day this week (February 26, 2018 through March 2, 2018) and have been scheduled since January 30, 2018 (*see* Ex. C), suggesting that the timing of Respondent's clawback notice—after 4:00 p m. on the Friday before these depositions were set to take place (*see* Ex. B)—was at best reckless.

⁴ Complaint Counsel reserves the right to challenge the privilege claim for any of these individual documents at a later date. Upon receiving Respondent's notice, Complaint Counsel sequestered the 425 documents from our document review system. Respondent's list identified by Bates number the documents as to which it asserted a privilege and stated "attorney-client" as the type of privilege asserted. *See* Ex. B (Email from James Kovacs to Lisa Kopchik *et al.* (Feb. 23, 2018 at 4:18 p.m. EST) and attachment).

Respondent did not provide "a schedule which describes the nature of the documents, communications, or tangible things . . . in a manner that . . . will enable other parties to assess the claim." *See* Rule 3.38A(a)(1). As such, Complaint Counsel is unable to assess or challenge the privilege claim for any individual document. Therefore, if the Court determines that there has not been a blanket waiver of privilege for all 425 documents, Complaint Counsel respectfully request that the Court, pursuant to Rule 3.38A, direct Respondent to produce, within three days of the date of this Court's order, a privilege log sufficient to allow both the Court and Complaint Counsel to evaluate—and, if necessary, to permit Complaint Counsel to challenge—the claim of privilege for each of the 425 documents individual documents. *See Union Oil Co.*, 2003 FTC LEXIS 94 at *12-13 (2003) (order requiring a privilege log pursuant to Rule 3.38A within five business days of order.)

ARGUMENT

On February 23, 2018, Respondent served Complaint Counsel a list of 425 documents that it sought to claw back as inadvertently produced privileged materials.⁵ Inadvertent disclosure is governed by Rule 3.31(g) of the Commission Rules of Practice, which provides that "[t]he disclosure of privileged or protected information or communications during a Part 3 proceeding or during a Commission pre-complaint investigation shall not operate as a waiver if: (A) The disclosure is inadvertent; (B) The holder of the privilege or protection took reasonable steps to prevent disclosure; and (C) The holder promptly took reasonable steps to rectify the error, including notifying any party that received the information or communication of the claim and the basis for it." 16 C.F.R. 3.31(g)(1).⁶ The party seeking protection from waiver bears the burden of proving that each of these elements has been met. *See Maxtena, Inc. v. Marks*, 289 F.R.D. 427, 444 (D. Md. 2012); *Amobi v. D.C. Dep't of Corr.*, 262 F.R.D. 45, 53 (D.D.C. 2009).

The disclosure of the 425 documents identified in Respondent's February 23, 2018 email (the "disputed documents") was not inadvertent. Taking "reasonable steps to prevent disclosure" would, at minimum, have required Respondent to take some steps to cull privileged documents from its document production, yet Respondent took no such steps. Moreover, Respondent has not acted "promptly" to rectify its purported error. As such, any claim of privilege as to these documents has long since been waived.

⁵ Ex. B.

⁶ Rule 3.31(g) tracks closely the language of Federal Rule of Evidence 502(b) (providing that inadvertent disclosure "does not operate as a waiver in a federal or state proceeding if: (1) the disclosure is inadvertent; (2) the holder of the privilege or protection took reasonable steps to prevent disclosure; and (3) the holder promptly took reasonable steps to rectify the error, including (if applicable) following Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B)."). Federal rules and case law interpreting them may be useful where federal rules are similar to Commission rules. *In re LabMD*, *Inc.*, 2014 FTC LEXIS 45, at *6 n.4 (F.T.C. Mar. 10, 2014) ("Commission Rule 3.33(c)(1) mirrors Rule 30(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Where the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are similar to the Commission's Rules of Practice, those rules and case law interpreting them may be useful, though not controlling, in adjudicating disputes."); *see also, e.g.*, FTC Operating Manual §0.6.

A. The Disclosure Was Not Inadvertent and Respondent Did Not Take Reasonable Steps to Prevent Disclosure

Inadvertent disclosure, in "comport[ing] with the dictionary definition of the word," means simply "an unintended disclosure." *Amobi*, 262 F.R.D. at 53. The question involves the "simple analysis of considering if the party intended to disclose the document." *Id.; see also Coburn Grp., LLC v. Whitecap Advisors LLC*, 640 F. Supp. 2d 1032, 1038 (N.D. Ill. 2009) (same; noting also that "the parallel structure of subparts [of Federal Rule of Evidence 502] contrasts a waiver that is *intentional* with a disclosure that is *inadvertent*"). Applying this simple analysis, it is clear that Respondent intended to produce these 425 documents, as evidenced by the fact that Board Executive Director Bruce Unangst explained to Complaint Counsel, with reference to the Board's document productions, that "[w]e want to be as transparent as possible" and that Respondent Board wanted FTC staff to see "everything."⁷

Respondent also did not take reasonable steps to prevent disclosure of privileged materials. In fact, when Respondent produced the disputed documents, it elected not to withhold *any* materials on the basis of privilege, and therefore did not produce any privilege log.⁸ Failure to produce a privilege log, mark documents as privileged, or implement any "procedure, protocol or method . . . to prevent disclosure of privileged material" constitutes a failure to "take reasonable steps" under the second prong of the inadvertent disclosure framework. *Barnett v. Hospital*, No. 5:11 CV 399, 2012 WL 12886505, at *3-4 (N.D. Ohio Apr. 17, 2012).

What is clear, and relevant to both of these tests, is that this is not a case in which a party endeavored to withhold privileged materials but made some mistakes in doing so. This is not a

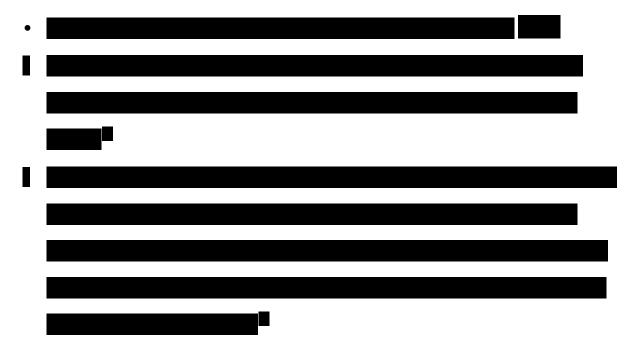
⁷ Ex. A (Kopchik Decl.) ¶ 6. It is well established that a client holds—and can waive—the attorney client privilege. *E.g.*, 3-503 Weinstein's Federal Evidence § 503.20 (2018) ("The client is the holder of the privilege . . ."); 3-511 Weinstein's Federal Evidence § 511.04 (2018) ("The holder of a privilege can waive the privilege by voluntarily disclosing the privileged information.").

⁸ Ex. A (Kopchik Decl.) \P 5.

case in which some privileged materials slipped through the cracks. Here, Respondent did not attempt to withhold any potentially privileged materials but rather intended to—and apparently did—produce "everything."

B. Respondent Did Not Act "Promptly"

Even if Respondent's production of the disputed documents were inadvertent, Respondent has still waived the privilege because of the passage of time. Respondent did not "promptly t[ake] reasonable steps to rectify the error"—for well over a year—despite opportunity after opportunity to assert any privilege claims Respondent may have had for these documents. Respondent has received repeated notices that the documents it now claims are privileged had been produced. And Respondent received notice that Complaint Counsel considered production of these documents to have waived any privilege at least *nine months* before Respondent took action to claw back the documents. Specifically:



⁹ *Id.* ¶ 7.

- ¹⁰ *Id.* ¶ 14.
- ¹¹ *Id.* ¶ 10.

- In or around May 2017, after Constantine Cannon received these materials and before the • complaint issued, Complaint Counsel and Respondent's counsel spoke by telephone about the issue of waiver in Respondent's previous document productions. During this telephone call, Respondent's counsel asked Complaint Counsel's position on whether Respondent had waived privilege, and Complaint Counsel responded that it took the position that Respondent had waived privilege for its prior document productions.¹²
- Finally, in November 2017, Complaint Counsel again cited the disputed document with the beginning Bates number FTC-LAB-00003805 as Exhibit 20(c) in support of its motion for partial summary decision.¹³

Each of these events put Respondent on notice of the need to assert privilege claims, if any, in connection with its document production. See, e.g., Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. v. United States, 106 Fed. Cl. 571, 585-86 (Fed. Cl. 2012) (use of disputed documents in deposition by opposing counsel put privilege holder on notice); Preferred Care Partners Holding Corp. v. Humana, Inc. 258 F.R.D. 684, 700 (S.D. Fla. 2009) (citation to a disputed document by opposing counsel in a motion put privilege holder on notice); Clarke v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., No. 08 Civ. 02400, 2009 WL 970940, at *6 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 10, 2009) (that opposing counsel reproduced disputed document back to the privilege holder constituted notice). Importantly, a party need not be aware of the full extent of its inadvertent production to be on notice of the need to investigate further. E.g., Humana, 258 F.R.D. at 700 ("In light of the fact that Humana was aware that it inadvertently produced a number of documents which it believed to contain privileged information, Humana had an obligation to carefully review the motion for sanctions to ensure that no additional privileged documents were divulged.").

¹² *Id.* ¶ 11. ¹³ *Id.* ¶ 15.

Despite these many opportunities to rectify any possible error in producing the disputed documents, Respondent waited until February 23, 2018—three weeks before the close of fact discovery, and on the eve of several depositions of Respondent's agents and employees—to assert any claim of privilege as to the disputed documents. This is not "prompt" action under Rule 3.31(g)(C). "[O]nce a party realizes a document has been accidentally produced, it must assert privilege with *virtual immediacy*." *Sikorsky*, 106 Fed. Cl. at 585 (emphasis added); *Clarke*, 2009 WL 970940 at *6 ("Inadvertent disclosure has been held to be remedied when the privilege was asserted *immediately* upon discovery of the disclosure and a prompt request is made for the return of the privileged documents.' In this case, Defendant's assertion of privilege was far from immediate.") (quoting *United States v. Rigas*, 281 F. Supp. 2d 733, 741 (S.D.N.Y. 2003)); *Ceglia v. Zuckerberg*, No. 10-cv-00569, 2012 WL 1392965 at *9 (W.D.N.Y. Apr. 19. 2012) ("Generally, a request for the return or destruction of inadvertently produced privileged materials *within days* after learning of the disclosure is required" to show a party took reasonable steps to rectify an inadvertent disclosure) (emphasis added).

Delays far shorter than Respondent's delay here are routinely held to be too long to avoid waiver. *See, e.g., Sikorsky*, 106 Fed. Cl. at 585 (holding that a delay of *ten months* waived privilege); *Clarke*, 2009 WL 970940 at *6 (holding that *two months* was an "inexplicably long time" to wait before seeking a document's destruction or return and therefore privilege was waived); *Preferred Care*, 258 F.R.D. at 700 (holding that delay of *three weeks* after an inadvertently disclosed document was used in a motion by opposing counsel was too long a delay to avoid waiver); *LaSalle Bank Nat'l Ass'n v. Merrill Lynch Mort. Lending, Inc.*, No. 04 Civ. 5452, 2007 WL 2324292 at *3, 5 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 13, 2007) (holding that waiting *one month* after learning of disclosure was not sufficiently prompt to avoid waiver); *Ceglia*, No. 10-

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cv-00569, 2012 WL 1392965 at *9 (holding privilege waived where party waited *two months* to request return or destruction of materials).

C. Expedited Treatment is Appropriate

Absent a Court order, Complaint Counsel cannot use the disputed documents to prepare for depositions, or as deposition exhibits. Complaint Counsel respectfully request that the Court order Respondent to respond to this motion by March 5, 2018. The parties are in the middle of discovery and the deposition of Respondent's executive director Bruce Unangst is scheduled for March 13, 2018. Thus, an expedited resolution of this motion is requested in order to complete depositions before the end of fact discovery.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Complaint Counsel respectfully move the Court for an order that Respondent has waived privilege as to the 425 disputed documents.

Dated: February 28, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Lisa B. Kopchik</u> Lisa B. Kopchik Kathleen M. Clair Christine M. Kennedy Michael J. Turner *Counsel Supporting the Complaint*

Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition 600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20580 Telephone: (202) 326-3139 Email: <u>LKopchik@ftc.gov</u>

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

In the Matter of

Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board, Respondent DOCKET NO. 9374

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT COUNSEL'S MOTION FOR AN ORDER THAT RESPONDENT HAS WAIVED PRIVILEGE

- 1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration.
- My name is Lisa Kopchik, and I am an attorney admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia. I am employed by the Federal Trade Commission and am Complaint Counsel in this proceeding.

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15. In November 2017, Complaint Counsel again cited one of these same documents (FTC-LAB-00003805) as Exhibit 20(c) in support of its motion for partial summary decision.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 27th day of February, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

<u>/s/ Lisa B. Kopchik</u> Lisa B. Kopchik Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition 600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20580 Telephone: (202) 326-3139 Email: lkopchik@ftc.gov

Counsel Supporting the Complaint

EXHIBIT B

From:	Kovacs, James J.
То:	Kopchik, Lisa B.; Kennedy, Christine; Turner, Michael; Clair, Kathleen
Cc:	Cannon, Stephen; Greenstein, Seth; Levine, Richard; Sheedy, Allison; Fore, Wyatt
Subject:	LREAB Clawback
Date:	Friday, February 23, 2018 4:18:07 PM
Attachments:	LREAB Clawback List.xlsx

Lisa,

Attached is an excel spreadsheet listing 425 privileged documents and communications that were inadvertently produced by the Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board to Complaint Counsel in response to the Federal Trade Commission's Civil Investigative Demands in the Part II Investigation. Respondent Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board requests that Complaint Counsel return all of the original documents and communications to Constantine Cannon and destroy all copies that Complaint Counsel may have in its possession. We respectfully request that the return and deletion of all 425 documents and communications be done by February 28, 2018. Thank you.

Best,

Jimmy

James J. Kovacs

CONSTANTINE | CANNON 1001 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 1300N Washington, DC 20004 Direct: 202/204-3518 Main: 202/204-3500 Email: jkovacs@constantinecannon.com http://constantinecannon.com

Respondent Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board Clawback List

Doc ID	A (Attachment)	Privilege
FTC-LAB-00003790		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00003805		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00003883		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00004053		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00004144		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00006861		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00006862	Α	Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00006866		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00006867	Α	Attorney-Client
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FTC-LAB-00071377		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00071659		Attorney-Client
FTC-LAB-00072860		Attorney-Client

Total: 425 documents

EXHIBIT C

From:	Greenstein, Seth	
То:	Kopchik, Lisa B.; Turner, Michael; Kennedy, Christine	
Cc:	Cannon, Stephen; Levine, Richard; Sheedy, Allison; Kovacs, James J.; Broz, Kristen	
Subject:	Re: Depositions	
Date:	Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:01:32 AM	

Thank you for your email. Now that the Commission's stay has lifted today, we confirm the following dates for depositions you have requested:

February 26:	Michael Graham
February 27:	Clayton Lipscomb
February 28:	Tad Bolton
March 1:	Robert Maynor
March 2:	Henk vanDuyvendijk

We further propose the following dates for depositions of non-parties. We are conferring with you as to availability on these dates at the same time as we are approaching these companies, so we would appreciate the benefit of a prompt response. We have tried to schedule depositions grouped together geographically.

February 13:	Accurate Group
February 14:	Real Estate Valuation Partners
February 15:	Nations Valuation Services
February 19:	LRES Corporation
February 20:	Clear Capital
March 5:	Robert Rieger
March 9:	REVAA
March 12:	Don Kelly
March 15:	Coester
March 16:	iMortgage

We anticipate identifying additional deponents, and assuming you also may want additional depositions it may be necessary to double-track.

All of the above proposed dates are contingent upon the decision of the Commission upon LREAB's Renewed Expedited Motion for Stay – which I will email you about momentarily.

Regards,

Seth D. Greenstein Constantine Cannon LLP 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 1300N Washington, D.C. 20004

(w) 202.204.3514(f) 202.204.3501(m) 202.285.5000

From: Kopchik, Lisa B. [mailto:LKOPCHIK@ftc.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 12:36 PM
To: Greenstein, Seth <<u>sgreenstein@constantinecannon.com</u>>; Cannon, Stephen
<<u>scannon@constantinecannon.com</u>>; Broz, Kristen <<u>kbroz@constantinecannon.com</u>>; Kovacs,
James J. <<u>ikovacs@constantinecannon.com</u>>
Subject: Depositions

I requested dates for Tad Bolton, Henk, and Robert Maynor depositions. I would still like to schedule them on dates convenient for you.

In the meantime, we are going to serve you with SATs for those depositions. We will be happy to rearrange dates when you get back to us.

Lisa

Lisa B. Kopchik / Federal Trade Commission / Bureau of Competition Division of Anticompetitive Practices / Washington, DC 20580

Deliveries to 400 7th Street, SW / Washington, DC 20024 202-326-3139 / <u>LKopchik@ftc.gov</u>

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 6, 2018, I filed the foregoing document electronically using the FTC's E-Filing System and served the following via email:

Donald S. Clark Secretary Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. H-113 Washington, DC 20580 ElectronicFilings@ftc.gov

The Honorable D. Michael Chappell Administrative Law Judge Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. H-110 Washington, DC 20580

I also certify that I delivered via electronic mail a copy of the foregoing document to:

W. Stephen Cannon Seth Greenstein **Richard Levine** James Kovacs Allison Sheedy Justin Fore Constantine Cannon LLP 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 1300N Washington, DC 20004 scannon@constantinecannon.com sgreenstein@constantinecannon.com rlevine@constantinecannon.com jkovacs@constantinecannon.com asheedy@constantinecannon.com wfore@constantinecannon.com

Counsel for Respondent Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board

Dated: March 6, 2018

By: <u>/s/ Lisa B. Kopchik</u> Lisa B. Kopchik, Attorney

CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC FILING

I certify that the electronic copy sent to the Secretary of the Commission is a true and correct copy of the paper original and that I possess a paper original of the signed document that is available for review by the parties and the adjudicator.

Dated: March 6, 2018

By: <u>/s/ Lisa B. Kopchik</u> Lisa B. Kopchik, Attorney