

BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY \*

**RECEIVED** \*

OCT 25 2010 \*

v. **Board of Certified  
Public Accountancy** \*

CASE NO.: CPAS 11-0030 \*

CONSTANTINE HARRY TSERONIS \*

Respondent \*

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy ("Board") as a result of a complaint filed by the Board's continuing professional education auditor against Constantine Harry Tseronis ("Respondent"), a licensed certified public accountant. The auditor conducted an audit of the continuing professional education courses claimed by the Respondent in the Respondent's license renewal application that was filed with the Board on September 14, 2009. Upon a review of the complaint, the Board has determined that administrative charges against the Respondent should be held. In an effort to resolve this matter without a formal hearing, the Respondent and the Board have agreed to enter into this Consent Order as the final settlement of this matter.

**THE PARTIES AGREE AND STIPULATE:**

1. At all times relevant to the matters set forth in this Consent Order, the Board had jurisdiction over the subject matter and the Respondent.

2. The Respondent became licensed as a certified public accountant (License No. 748) on March 1, 1967.

3. On September 14, 2009, the Respondent filed a license renewal application with the Board for the period September 14, 2009 through November 7, 2011.

4. On the renewal application the Respondent claimed 102 hours of continuing professional education credit hours during the previous license term.

5. The Board's license renewal application requires an applicant to certify to the accuracy of the information contained in the application. This certification states, in pertinent part:

*"I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief..."*

6. In a letter dated April 9, 2010, the Respondent was notified that his application was selected for audit of the continuing professional education hours that were claimed in his license renewal application.

7. On May 14, 2010, the Respondent submitted documents to the Board for review by the Board's continuing professional education auditor.

8. In a letter, dated September 14, 2010, the Respondent advised the Board that most of the continuing professional education hours claimed in the September 14, 2009 renewal application was represented by reading various books, magazines and articles relating to accounting, audit, teaching matter for which the Respondent estimated the number of hours.

9. On October 5, 2010, the following audit determination was made regarding the Respondent's documentation of the 102 continuing professional education credits claimed in the Respondent's September 14, 2009 renewal application as follows:

- a) The hours claimed by the Respondent did not constitute qualifying continuing professional education as specified in the Board regulations; and
- b) The Respondent did not complete 4 hours of continuing professional education in ethics.

10. The Respondent has documented that he earned 57 hours of qualify continuing professional education hours subsequent to April 9, 2010 audit notification letter.

11. Based on the aforementioned facts, the Respondent acknowledges that he has violated Business Occupations and Professions Article Regulation Article §§2-312(a) (2) and (3) Annotated Code of Maryland and Code of Maryland Regulations COMAR 09.24.02.02 (A) and (B), which state:

**§ 2-312. Continuing education.**

(a) *In general.* - (1) The Board shall adopt regulations that set, in accordance with this section, continuing education requirements as a condition to the renewal of licenses under this subtitle.

(2) A continuing education requirement does not apply to the first renewal of a license.

(3) (i) To qualify for any further renewal of a license under this subtitle, a licensee shall complete, for each 2-year license term, at least 80 hours in programs that the Board approves.

**09.24.02.02 Basic Requirement.**

A. The applicant shall complete a minimum of 80 hours of acceptable continuing education in each 2-year license term after initial renewal.

B. A minimum of 4 hours of the continuing education for each 2-year license term shall be in professional ethics with no carry forward provision for excess hours.

12. Based on the aforementioned violations, the Respondent agrees to pay to the Board a civil penalty of \$1,000.00 upon the Respondent's execution of this Consent Order.

13. The Respondent agrees to pay the \$40.00 fee to transfer his license to inactive status, upon the Respondent's execution of the Consent Order.

14. The Respondent agrees to submit the following documentation to the Board for all continuing professional education hours claimed in an application to reactivate his license prior to November 7, 2011:

- a) Four (4) hours of continuing education in the subject area of professional ethics;
- b) Seven (7) hours of continuing professional education in subject matter approved by the Board; and
- c) Eight (8) additional hours of continuing professional education in the subject area of ethics.

15. The Respondent agrees to submit documentation of all continuing professional education hours claimed in the first license renewal application filed with the Board following the reactivation of his license.

16. The Respondent shall abide by the provisions of the Maryland Public Accountancy Act, § 2-101 et. seq., Business Occupations and Professions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and COMAR 09.24.01, et. seq.

17. The Respondent, by entering into this Consent Order, expressly waives the right to have the pending allegations by the Board reduced to written charges, the right to an administrative hearing on the charges and the making of Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and any and all further proceedings before the Board to which the Respondent may be entitled to in this matter, and any rights to appeal from this Order.

18. The Respondent enters into this Consent Order freely, knowingly and voluntarily.

BASED ON THESE STIPULATIONS, IT IS, THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF November, 2010, BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTACY:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent has violated Business Occupations and Professions Article Regulation Article §§2-312(a) (2) and (3) Annotated Code of Maryland and Code of Maryland Regulations COMAR 09.24.02.02 (A) and (B); and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is, hereby, reprimanded;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent be assessed a civil penalty of \$1,000.00 for the violation, which amount is payable to the Board upon the Respondent's execution of this Consent Order;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent pay \$40.00 fee to transfer the status of his active license to inactive status.

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is prohibited from making representation to the public by use of a title, including "licensed certified public accountant", "certified public accountant", "public accountant", or "auditor", by use of the abbreviation "CPA", by description of services, methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that the person is authorized to practice certified public accountancy in the Maryland for the period of time that the status of the Respondent's license is inactive.

**ORDERED** that the Respondent comply with Stipulations # 14 and 15 of this Order; and

**ORDERED** that the Board's records and publications reflect the violations, the reprimand and the civil penalty of \$1,000.00 imposed on the Respondent.

(RESPONDENT'S SIGNATURE  
APPEARS ON ORIGINAL ORDER)

  
Constantine Harry Tseronis

(BOARD CHAIR'S SIGNATURE  
APPEARS ON ORIGINAL ORDER)

  
H. Terry Hancock  
Chairman

Date 10-22-10