

Date

Courtney Alcock
P.O. Box 1905
Houma, LA 70361

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2011-060

Dear Ms. Alcock:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its January 21, 2011 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether a potential Section 1112 (participation) violation would be presented if the expropriation of property owned by Hollywood Properties, Inc. would be handled by the District Attorney's Office. You stated that Michael Claudet is the Parish President for Terrebonne Consolidated Parish Government ("TPCG"). Hollywood Properties, Inc. is owned by Michael Claudet's brother, Renee Claudet, and his sister-in-law. You stated that in BD Docket No. 2010-221, the Board advised that property owned by Hollywood Properties, Inc. may be expropriated by TPCG as long as Michael Claudet, in his capacity as Parish President, does not participate in the expropriation process. You stated that TPCG is considering transferring the expropriation process to the District Attorney's Office for handling.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that no participation violation under the Code of Governmental Ethics on behalf of Parish President Michael Claudet would be presented if the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government transferred the handling of the expropriation process to the District Attorney's Office. Section 1112A of the Code prohibits a public servant from participating in a transaction involving his governmental entity in which he has a substantial economic interest. Since the District Attorney's Office is a separate governmental entity from the TPCG, no participation issue is presented by the District Attorney's handling of the expropriation process.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Tracy M. Barker
For the Board