

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS	*	DOCKET NO.
	*	
IN THE MATTER OF	*	
	*	
BOBBY J. GUIDROZ AND	*	
DUPRE-CARRIER-GODCHAUX	*	
AGENCY, INC.	*	AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2022-724

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics (the "BOE") voted on September 7, 2023 to and does hereby file the following Charges:

I.

RESPONDENTS

Made Respondents herein are:

Bobby J. Guidroz, a person of the full age of majority, domiciled in the Parish of St. Landry with the last known address of 1552 Highway 743, Opelousas, Louisiana 70570; and

Dupre-Carrier-Godchaux Agency, Inc., a Louisiana corporation, domiciled in the Parish of St. Landry with the last known address of 4670 I-49 North Service Road, Opelousas, Louisiana 70570.

II.

JURISDICTION

1.

The BOE is an agency of the State of Louisiana domiciled in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

2.

The BOE is authorized to file these Charges by virtue of the provisions of La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(a) and (b); the Ethics Adjudicatory Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to

La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(a) and La. R.S. 42:1141.5; and East Baton Rouge Parish, the domicile of the BOE and Ethics Adjudicatory Board is the proper venue pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1141.3.

3.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(b)(iv), the BOE designated all staff attorneys as trial attorneys in this matter with Charles E. Reeves, Jr. serving as the Lead Trial Attorney.

III.

ALLEGATIONS

1.

On November 7, 2006, Bobby J. Guidroz was elected Sheriff, St. Landry Parish, and was commissioned on November 20, 2006. Mr. Guidroz was re-elected on November 17, 2007, October 22, 2011, October 24, 2015 and October 12, 2019. As of the date of these Charges, Mr. Guidroz remains St. Landry Parish Sheriff, and has served continuously at all times relevant herein.

2.

As the elected Sheriff of St. Landry Parish, Mr. Guidroz is a “public servant” as defined by La. R.S. 42:1102(19), and the St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office (“SLPSO”) is his “agency” as defined by La. R.S. 42:1102(2)(a)(vi).

3.

Willie and Layne Godchaux were married on December 11, 1999, and have been continuously married at all times pertinent herein. Layne Godchaux is the daughter of Mr. Guidroz. As the son-in-law of Mr. Guidroz, Mr. Godchaux is an “immediate family member” of Mr. Guidroz as defined by La. R.S. 42:1102(13).

4.

Dupre-Carrier-Godchaux Agency, Inc., a Louisiana corporation (“DCG”) was

incorporated on November 29, 1971. DCG was incorporated under the name “Dupre-Carrier-Callahan Agency, Inc.”, but changed its name to “Dupre-Carrier-Godchaux Agency, Inc.” effective August 15, 1979. Mr. Godchaux serves as an officer of DCG and has served in such capacity at all times relevant herein.

5.

In 2005, DCG became wholly-owned by United Insurance Group, L.L.C., a Louisiana limited liability company (“UIG”). Beginning in 2015 and at all times relevant herein, the profits and losses of UIG has been allocated in the respective following percentages: Godchaux Holdings Group LLC (63%), Kevin Carrier (27%) and Jennifer Credeur (10%).

6.

Godchaux Holdings Group, LLC, a Louisiana limited liability company (“GHG”), was organized on February 23, 2005. From its organization and at all times relevant herein, Mr. Godchaux has owned 50% of GHG.

7.

At all times relevant herein, DCG has been 100% owned by UIG, UIG has been 63% owned by GHG, and GHG has been 50% owned by Mr. Godchaux. Accordingly, Mr. Godchaux has an indirect ownership of 31.5% of DCG. As the 31.5% indirect owner of DCG, Mr. Godchaux has a “controlling interest” in DCG as defined in La. R.S. 42:1102(8).

8.

Beginning in 1992, DCG has served as the agent of record for SLPSO. In that role, DCG would market SLPSO’s insurance needs to various underwriters and insurance entities, who would, in turn, issue contracts of insurance to SLPSO. From September 2019 through the date of these charges, below is a list of all policies which DCG has assisted SLPSO in procuring:

Insurer	Policy Number	Dates of Coverage
Lloyd's	PSR083404	9/11/2020 - 9/11/2021
Lloyd's	PSR083515	9/11/2021 - 9/11/2022
All Risks	791-00-11-80-0003	7/1/2019 - 7/1/2020
All Risks	791-00-11-80-0004	7/1/2020 - 7/1/2021
RSG Specialty	791-00-11-80-0005	7/1/2021 - 7/1/2022
Professional Governmental Underwriters	PPL0956053	7/1/2022 - 7/1/2023
Professional Governmental Underwriters	POL0956052	7/1/2022 - 7/1/2023
Ryan Turner Specialty	MCP0168171	12/15/2018 - 12/15/2019
Ryan Turner Specialty	MCP0168597	12/15/2019 - 12/15/2020
Ryan Turner Specialty	MCP0171023	12/15/2020 - 12/15/2021
Ryan Turner Specialty	MCP0171700	12/15/2021 - 12/15/2022
Arch Insurance Company	DLIML3097700	12/20/2022 - 12/20/2023
Louisiana Citizen's Property Insurance Corporation	C020627	12/15/2022 - 12/15/2023
Evanston Insurance Company	9CC92349	3/16/2019 - 3/16/2020
Markel American Insurance Company	9CE06010	3/16/2020 - 3/16/2021
Markel American Insurance Company	9CE06011	3/16/2021 - 3/16/2022
Markel American Insurance Company	9CE0601-2	3/16/2022 - 3/16/2023
Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation	28644-S	7/1/2019 - 7/1/2020

Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation	28644-S	7/1/2020 - 7/1/2021
Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation	28644-S	7/1/2021 - 7/1/2022
Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation	28644-S	7/1/2022 - 7/1/2023

9.

As part of its business relationship with DCG, from April 20, 2020 through the present, SLPSO issued the following payments to DCG:

Date Issued/Received	Check Number	Amount
4/20/2020	43665	\$770.00
9/4/2020	44267	\$5,287.65
1/4/2021	44804	\$70,628.25
3/12/2021	45127	\$7,603.00
7/15/2021	45640	\$634,074.00
8/9/2021	45805	\$3,651.99
8/20/2021	45854	\$5,287.65
12/20/2021	46399	\$71,291.95
3/2/2022	46710	\$8,343.00
7/11/2022	47308	\$812,109.57
10/6/2022	47834	\$540.00
11/9/2022	47852	\$270.00
12/27/2022	48082	\$37,994.00
2/6/2023	48254	\$135.00
3/10/2023	48392	\$14,335.54
Total		\$1,672,321.60

10.

In his capacity as Sheriff of St. Landry Parish, Mr. Guidroz personally authorized the

following payments to DCG for insurance coverage or renewal:

Date Issued/Received	Check Number	Amount
1/4/2021	44804	\$70,628.25
3/12/2021	45127	\$7,603.00
7/12/2021	45640	\$634,074.00
8/9/2021	45805	\$3,651.99
8/18/2021	45854	\$5,287.65
12/16/2021	46399	\$71,291.95
7/6/2022	47308	\$812,109.57
12/22/2022	48082	\$37,994.00
3/7/2023	48392	\$14,335.54
Total		\$1,656,975.95

11.

DCG did not make distributions to its shareholder, UIG. DCG has represented that it distributes profits to the owners of DCG in the form of salary and wages paid to its owners who are employees of the company. For the years, 2020, 2021 and 2022, DCG has paid Mr. Godchaux salary and wages of \$252,179.72, \$266,074.86 and \$264,274.80, respectively. As an employee and the 31.5% indirect owner of DCG, Mr. Godchaux's receipt of the profits associated with the transactions between DCG and SLPSO represent a "substantial economic interest," as defined in La. R.S. 42:1102(21).

IV.

PROVISIONS OF LAW

The following provisions of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics are implicated by the alleged facts stated herein:

- (a) **La. R.S. 42:1112B(1)** provides that no public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any member of his immediate family has a substantial economic interest.

- (b) **La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a)** provides that no public servant, or a member of such a public servant's immediate family, or a legal entity in which he has a controlling interest shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.
- (c) **La. R.S. 42:1117** provides that no public servant or other person shall give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver or offer to give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver, directly or indirectly, to any public servant or other person any thing of economic value which such public servant or other person would be prohibited from receiving by any provision of this Part.
- (d) **La. R.S. 42:1102(2)(a)(vi)** provides that the "agency" for a public servant of a political subdivisions, it shall mean the agency in which the public servant serves.
- (e) **La. R.S. 42:1102(8)** defines "controlling interest" to mean any ownership in any legal entity or beneficial interest in a trust, held by or on behalf of an individual or a member of his immediate family, either individually or collectively, which exceeds twenty-five percent of that legal entity.
- (f) **La. R.S. 42:1102(9)** defines "elected official" to mean any person holding an office in a governmental entity which is filled by the vote of the appropriate electorate.
- (g) **La. R.S. 42:1102(13)** defines "governmental entity" to mean the state or any political subdivision which employs the public employee or employed the former public employee or to which the elected official is elected, as the case may be.
- (h) **La. R.S. 42:1102(15)** defines "participate" to mean to take part in or to have or share responsibility for action of a governmental entity or a proceeding, personally, as a public servant of the governmental entity, through approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or the failure to act or perform a duty.
- (i) **La. R.S. 42:1102(19)** defines "public servant" to mean a public employee or an elected official.
- (j) **La. R.S. 42:1102(21)** defines "substantial economic interest" to mean an economic interest which is of greater benefit to the public servant or other person than to a general class or group of persons, except: (a) the interest that the public servant has in his position, office, rank, salary, per diem, or other matter arising solely from his public employment or office; (b) the interest that an elected official who is elected to a house, body, or authority has in a position or office of such house, body, or authority which is required to be filled by a member of such house, body, or authority by law, legislative rule, or home rule charter; (c) the interest that a person has as a member of the general public.
- (k) **La. R.S. 42:1102(23)** defines "transaction involving the governmental entity" to mean

any proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, case, or other such particular matter which the public servant or former public servant of the governmental entity in question knows or should know: (a) is, or will be, the subject of action by the governmental entity; (b) is one to which the governmental entity is or will be a party; (c) is one in which the governmental entity has a direct interest. A transaction involving the agency of a governmental entity shall have the same meaning with respect to the agency.

- (l) **La. R.S. 42:1153A** Upon a determination that any elected official or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics except violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act which shall be governed by Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may censure the elected official or person, or impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.
- (m) **La. R.S. 42:1155A** If an investigation conducted pursuant to this Part reveals that any public servant or other person has violated any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to his economic advantage, and after an adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may order the payment of penalties. Recovery may include, in addition to an amount equal to such economic advantage, penalties not to exceed one half of the amount of the economic advantage.
- (n) **La. R.S. 42:1155B** The Ethics Adjudicatory Board is authorized to order the forfeiture of any gifts or payments made in violation of this Chapter.

V.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

1.

Based on the foregoing facts, Bobby J. Guidroz, while serving as Sheriff, St. Landry Parish, violated La. R.S. 42:1112B(1) by virtue of participating in transactions between DCG and SLPSO in which Mr. Godchaux, his immediate family member, had a substantial economic interest.

2.

Based on the foregoing facts, Dupre-Carrier-Godchaux Agency, Inc. violated La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a) by virtue of entering into transactions with SLPSO while Mr. Godchaux, the immediate family member of Mr. Guidroz, had a controlling interest in DCG.

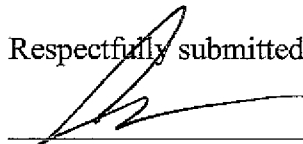
3.

Based on the foregoing facts, Bobby J. Guidroz violated La. R.S. 42:1117 by virtue of authorizing payments from SLPSO to DCG which DCG was prohibited from receiving by virtue of La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a).

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics respectfully prays that:

- (a) The Ethics Adjudicatory Board conduct a hearing on the foregoing charges;
- (b) The Ethics Adjudicatory Board determine that Bobby J. Guidroz violated La. R.S. 42:1112B(1), with respect to the foregoing facts;
- (c) The Ethics Adjudicatory Board determine that Dupre-Carrier-Godchaux Agency, Inc. violated La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a), with respect to the foregoing facts;
- (c) The Ethics Adjudicatory Board determine that Bobby J. Guidroz violated La. R.S. 42:1117, with respect to the foregoing facts;
- (c) The Ethics Adjudicatory Board assess appropriate penalties in accordance with the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics; and
- (d) The Ethics Adjudicatory Board only send electronic notices in this matter to the Lead Trial Attorney as designated above.

Respectfully submitted by:

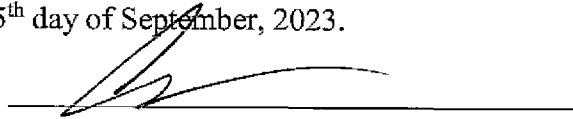


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TRIAL ATTORNEY FOR THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of these Charges has been issued for service to each of Bobby J. Guidroz and Dupre-Carrier-Godchaux Agency, Inc., by certified mail in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141.4, on this 25th day of September, 2023.



Charles E. Reeves, Jr.
Lead Trial Attorney

SERVICE INFORMATION:

Bobby J. Guidroz
1552 Highway 743
Opelousas, Louisiana 70570

Dupre-Carrier-Godchaux Agency, Inc.
Through its registered agent:
Joseph F. Godchaux, Jr.
4670 I-49 North Service Road
Opelousas, Louisiana 70570