

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE ALLEGED :
UNLICENSED PRACTICE BY : FINAL DECISION AND
: SPECIAL ORDER OF
: INJUNCTION
: WIS. STAT. § 440.21
STEVEN L. WOLTERS, :
RESPONDENT : LS0603081UNL
:

[Division of Enforcement Case File #: 05 UNL 035]

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Steven L. Wolters
1718 Shady Point Drive
Verona, WI 53593

Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter agree to the terms of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Department Secretary. The Department Secretary has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

The Department Secretary adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Steven L. Wolters (“Wolters”), date of birth 12/31/66, was registered as an architect in the State of Wisconsin having registration number 05-7819. This registration was granted to Wolters on 05/26/94 and expired on 07/31/98.
2. The last reported address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing (“Department”) for Wolters is: 1718 Shady Point Drive, Verona, WI 53593.
3. Wolters is not and was not at any time relevant to this action, registered in the State of Wisconsin to engage in the practice of Architecture.
4. On or about April 21, 2005, the Department received a complaint from the Architects Section of the Wisconsin Examir Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors. The complaint alleged that Wolters may have engaged in the unlicensed practice of architecture after his architecture credential expired on 7/31/98.
5. An investigation conducted by the Department revealed that on or about September 9, 1998, Wolters signed his name as the Building Designer on an architectural and engineering project for Stevens Point Area Public Schools in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

6. As a Building Designer for the Stevens Point Area Public Schools project, Wolters' responsibilities included supervising plans that were prepared, signed, sealed, and dated by a Wisconsin registered architect or engineer.
7. The Department's investigation also revealed that on or about October 5, 1998, Wolters signed his name as a Building Designer and Supervising Professional on an architectural and engineering project for a two story building addition to Almond Elementary and High School in Almond, Wisconsin.
8. As a Building Designer for the Almond Elementary and High School project, Wolters' responsibilities included supervising plans that were prepared, signed, sealed and dated by a Wisconsin registered architect or engineer.
9. As a Supervising Professional for the Almond Elementary and High School project, Wolters' responsibilities included: supervision of on-the-site reasonable observations of the project, making determinations about whether or not the project is in compliance with the approved plans and specifications, and filing a written statement with the Department of Commerce that the construction has or has not been performed in substantial compliance with the approved plans and specifications.
10. The Department's investigation further revealed that on or about January 11, 1999, Wolters signed his name as a Building Designer, HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) Designer, Lighting Designer, and Supervising Professional on an architectural and engineering project for a dormitory at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
11. As a Building, HVAC, and Lighting Designer for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point project, Wolters' responsibilities included supervising plans that were prepared, signed, sealed and dated by a Wisconsin registered architect or engineer.
12. As a Supervising Professional for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point project, Wolters' responsibilities included: supervision of on-the-site reasonable observations of the project, making determinations about whether or not the project is in compliance with the approved plans and specifications, and filing a written statement with the Department of Commerce that the construction has or has not been performed in substantial compliance with the approved plans and specifications.
13. Wolters understands that in order for him to engage in the practice of architecture in the State of Wisconsin, he must first register as an architect in the State of Wisconsin.
14. Wolters maintains, and the Department accepts, that Wolters was not aware that his architectural credential had lapsed into expired status as of 8/1/98.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Department of Regulation and Licensing has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.21.
2. The Department of Regulation and Licensing is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).
3. Respondent, Steven L. Wolters has violated Wis. Stats. §§ 443.02 (2) and (3) by providing professional services of architecture through supervising projects of buildings and structures without first maintaining a current architecture credential.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT Steven Wolters is ENJOINED and PROHIBITED as follows:

1. STEVEN L. WOLTERS SHALL NOT ENGAGE IN OR OFFER TO ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE UNTIL HE FIRST OBTAINS REGISTRATION AS AN ARCHITECT IN THE STATE OF

WISCONSIN.

2. Violation of the Order described in Paragraph one (1) above may result in a forfeiture of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for each offense, and each day of a continued violation constitutes a separate offense. Violation of the Order described in Paragraph one (1) above may also result in a referral to the office of the local District Attorney or Attorney General for further action.

3. This order shall become effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSING

By: Celia M. Jackson
Secretary

03/08/06