

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE ARCHITECT SECTION OF THE WISCONSIN EXAMINING BOARD OF
ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, DESIGNERS
AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

BRADLEY S. KORTBEIN AND
CORNERSTONE ARCHITECTS, LLC,
RESPONDENTS.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ORDER 0007923

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 ARC 009

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

Bradley S. Kortbein
Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Cornerstone Architects, LLC
Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Architect Section of the Wisconsin Examining Board of Architects, Landscape
Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Professional Land Surveyors
P.O. Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Architect Section of the Wisconsin Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Professional Land Surveyors (Section). The Section has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Section in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Bradley S. Kortbein (Birth Year 1962) is registered by the State of Wisconsin as an architect, having registration number 7950-5, first issued on February 22, 1995 and current through July 31, 2022. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Punta Gorda, Florida 33982.

2. Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC is authorized by the State of Wisconsin as an architectural firm, having certificate of authorization number 4952-11, first issued on August 5, 2021 and current through January 31, 2022. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department is in Punta Gorda, Florida 33982.

3. Respondent Bradley S. Kortbein is identified in Department records as the responsible licensee in charge of Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC.

4. On September 3, 2020, the Department received a complaint alleging that Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC was practicing architecture in Wisconsin without a certificate of authorization (COA). The Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) subsequently opened Case Number 20 ARC 009 for investigation.

5. On November 5, 2020, the Department emailed Respondent Kortbein to request a response to the complaint.

6. On November 5, 2020, Respondent Kortbein responded to the Department, but did not address the issue of Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC's COA.

7. On June 25, 2021, the Department emailed Respondent Kortbein to state that a COA was required for Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC to provide architect services in Wisconsin.

8. On June 25, 2021, Respondent Kortbein responded to the Department and stated that he had completed a COA application for Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC.

9. On August 5, 2021, the Department issued Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC a COA.

10. On August 14, 2021, Respondent Kortbein stated that since 2016, Respondents have designed approximately 12-18 buildings per year in Wisconsin.

11. In resolution of this matter, Respondents consent to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Architect Section of the Wisconsin Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Professional Land Surveyors has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 443.11, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Bradley S. Kortbein violated Wis. Stat. § 443.08(2)(a)2. by practicing or offering to practice architecture as an agent of a firm when the firm had not been issued a certificate of authorization.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC violated Wis. Stat. § 443.08(5)(a) by furnishing architectural services when the firm had not complied with Chapter 443 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

4. As a result of the above violations, Respondent Bradley S. Kortbein is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 443.11(1)(c) and (e).

5. As a result of the above violations, Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 443.11(2).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Bradley S. Kortbein is REPRIMANDED.

3. Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC is REPRIMANDED.

4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent Bradley S. Kortbein shall pay one-half of the COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$370.

5. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent Cornerstone Architects, LLC shall pay one-half of the COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$370.

6. Payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent by Respondents to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov


Respondents may also submit this information online at: <https://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov/>

7. In the event Respondents violate any term of this Order, Respondents' credentials (numbers 7950-5 and 4952-11), or Respondents' right to renew their credentials, may, in the discretion of the Section or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondents have complied with the terms of the Order. The Section may, in addition and/or in the alternative, refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

8. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN ARCHITECT SECTION OF THE WISCONSIN EXAMINING BOARD OF
ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, DESIGNERS
AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

by:



A Member of the Section

4/12/2022

Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE ARCHITECT SECTION OF THE WISCONSIN EXAMINING BOARD OF
ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,
DESIGNERS AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

BRADLEY S. KORTBEIN AND
CORNERSTONE ARCHITECTS, LLC,
RESPONDENTS.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007923

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 ARC 009

Respondents Bradley S. Kortbein and Cornerstone Architects, LLC and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondents consent to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.
2. Respondents understand that by signing this Stipulation, Respondents voluntarily and knowingly waive the following rights:
 - the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondents, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
 - the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondents;
 - the right to call witnesses on Respondents' behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
 - the right to testify on Respondents' own behalf;
 - the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
 - the right to petition for rehearing; and
 - all other applicable rights afforded to Respondents under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.
3. Respondents are aware of Respondents' right to seek legal representation and have been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.
4. Respondents agree to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Architect Section of the Wisconsin Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Professional Land Surveyors (Section). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice,

pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondents waive all rights to any appeal of the Section's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Section, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Section, the parties agree not to contend that the Section has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Section ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Section in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondents, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Section may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Section should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondents are informed that should the Section adopt this Stipulation, the Section's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondents in recommending the Section adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



Bradley S. Korthwein, Respondent
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
Credential No. 7950-5

10/28/21
Date



Cornerstone Architects, LLC, Respondent
By: Bradley S. Korthwein, Responsible Licensee
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
Credential No. 4952-11

10/28/21
Date



Alicia M. Kennedy, Prosecuting Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

Date