# BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION IN THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

In the Matter of:

BTR Case No.: P24-023

**HAO WU** 

Architect

Registration No. 73925;

Respondent.

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

In the interest of a prompt and judicious resolution of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration ("Board") and consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements, and the responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101 et seq., and A.A.C. R4-30-101 et seq., Hao Wu ("Respondent") and the Board enter into the following Recitals, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

#### RECITALS

- 1. The Board has not conducted a hearing or made a determination on the merits contained herein. Instead, the Board and Respondent have agreed to a full and final settlement of this matter, as reflected in this Consent Agreement.
- 2. Pursuant to Arizona's Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-101, et seq., upon execution by the parties, the Consent Agreement shall constitute a public record that may be disseminated as a formal action of the Board.
- 3. Upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning an original or copy of this document to the Board staff or counsel, Respondent agrees and acknowledges they may not revoke acceptance of the Consent Agreement or make modifications to the document regardless of whether the Consent Agreement has been signed on behalf of the Board.

Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually agreed by the parties in writing.

- 4. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney, or have waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney.
- 5. Respondent understands that they have a right to a public administrative hearing concerning this case, and that at such formal hearing could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Respondent knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably waives the right to such an administrative hearing, as well as rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action concerning the matters set forth herein.
- 6. Respondents understand that this Consent Agreement or any part of the agreement may be considered in any future disciplinary action by the Board.
- Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent Agreement is to settle Board Case No. P24-023. This settlement will solely settle this case, and does not preclude the Board from instituting any other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future. Furthermore, and notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondents, including but not limited to violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or

officer or political subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

- 8. This Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and is effective only when accepted by the Board and signed on behalf of the Board. If the Board does not accept this Consent Agreement, the Board retains its authority to hold a formal administrative hearing. In the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except that the parties agree that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or any records relating thereto.
- 9. If a court of competent jurisdiction rules that any part of this Consent Agreement is void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
- 10. This Consent Agreement is based upon the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Board is the state agency authorized pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101, et seq, to regulate through registration the role of an architect in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent holds Architect Registration No. 73925, issued by the Board.
- 3. Respondent initially filed an application for registration as an architect with Board staff on April 26, 2021. As part of the application process for such registration, Respondent requested on April 8, 2021, that the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards ("NCARB") transmit to the Board his NCARB record. Respondent's NCARB record provided the Board with evidence of Respondent's successful completion and passing of the Architect Registration Examination ("ARE"), including passing the

Project Planning and Design ("PPD") section on February 7, 2021 and the Project Development and Documentation ("PDD") section on February 15, 2021; both sections were administered by NCARB.

- 4. On June 29, 2021, the Board reviewed the application and associated materials, granted the application, and issued Respondent Architect Registration No. 73925.
- 5. In late 2022, NCARB became aware of a potential disclosure of exam questions on a paid test preparation platform. Following investigation, including communications with Respondent, NCARB determined Respondent potentially had knowledge of exam content prior to taking the PPD and PDD exams. Additionally, NCARB communication with Respondent directly linked him to the administration of the paid test preparation platform with harvested exam content. NCARB referred the investigation to their Professional Conduct Committee and, on April 5, 2023, sent Respondent a communication stating specific allegations of violations of the NCARB Policy for the ARE®: Exam Candidate Conduct ("Policy") and requested a response within 30 days. Respondent provided a response denying the allegations and, on June 15, 2023, the NCARB Board of Directors reviewed all investigation materials and determined that Respondent committed Category 1: Seeking or Failing to Report Disclosed ARE Content, and Category 4: Copying, Recording or Disseminating ARE Content Policy violations. As a result of this determination, the NCARB Board of Directors invalidated Respondent's February 7, 2021, PPD and February 15, 2021, PDD exam scores.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 6. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101, et seq.
- 7. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(C)(4) ["[v]iolation of this chapter or board rules"] through A.R.S. § 32-122.01(A)(2) ["...[p]ass the applicable in-training and professional examinations in the profession in which registration is sought."]

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8. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(C)(1) ["[v]iolation of this chapter or board rules"] through A.R.S. § 32-150 ["[f]raud or misrepresentation in obtaining a certificate of qualification, whether in the application or qualification examination."]

## **ORDER**

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board issues the following Order:

## **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

1. As of the Effective Date of this Order, Respondent's Arizona Architect Registration No. 73925 is voluntarily surrendered.

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

2. This Order is effective upon the acceptance by the parties of the Consent Agreement as evidenced by the respective signatures. The effective date of this Order is the date the Consent Agreement is signed by the parties. If the Agreement is signed by different parties on different dates, the later date shall be the effective date. The parties may execute the Agreement in counterparts, and the parties understand and agree that copies, including facsimile or e-mail signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as originals.

#### NON-COMPLIANCE

3. The failure of Respondent to complete or comply with any of the requirements or provisions of this Order, including the General Provisions, shall be deemed a violation of this Order. Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32.106.01, .02, the Board may combine an action to enforce an order issued under A.R.S. § 32.106.02 with a Petition for Injunction.

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

4. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with complying with this Order.

1	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed  November 16, 2023, with:
2	<u> </u>
3	Judith Stapley The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration
4	1110 W. Washington Street
5	Suite 240 Phoenix, AZ 85007
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7	COPY of the foregoing mailed by Certified Mail No. 9214 8901 9434 4600 0950 11 November 16, 2023, to:
8	November 16, 2023, to:
9	Hao Wu
10	2917 W. Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90026
11	
12	COPY of the foregoing emailed November 16, 2023, to:
13	swu@archimorphic.com
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15	By:
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