

BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

In the Matter of: Felix Steele Registered Land Surveyor Registration No. 28234 Respondent

Case No.: P17-081

CONSENT AGREEMENT and ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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. R4-30-120(G), the undersigned party, Felix Steele ("Respondent"), holder of Registration No. 28234, 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. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney, or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney.

2. Respondent understands that he has a right to a public administrative hearing concerning this case. He further acknowledges that at such formal hearing he could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Respondent knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably waives his 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.

3. Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be irrevocable.

1 4. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement or any part of the
2 agreement may be considered in any future disciplinary action by the Board against him.

3 5. The Consent Agreement, any record prepared in this matter, all investigative
4 materials prepared or received by the Board and all related exhibits and materials, are
5 public records (as defined in A.R.S. § 41-158.18) upon acceptance by the Board of this
6 Consent Agreement and may be retained in the Board's files pertaining to this matter.

7 6. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement deals with Board case
8 number P17-081 involving allegations that Respondent engaged in conduct that would
9 subject him to discipline under the Board's statutes and rules. The investigation into
10 these allegations against Respondent shall be concluded upon the Board's adoption of
11 this Consent Agreement.

12 7. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a
13 dismissal or resolution of any other matters currently pending before the Board, if any,
14 and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority
15 or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding.

16 8. Respondent also understands that acceptance of this Consent Agreement does
17 not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from instituting any
18 other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this
19 Consent Agreement.

20 9. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, upon signing this Consent
21 Agreement and returning this document to the Board's Executive Director, he may not
22 revoke his acceptance of the Consent Agreement or make any modifications to the
23 document regardless of whether the Consent Agreement has been signed on behalf of the
24 Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless
25 mutually agreed by the parties in writing.

26 10. This Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and is
27 effective only when accepted by the Board and signed on behalf of the Board. If the
28 Board does not accept this Consent Agreement, the Board retains its authority to hold a

1 formal administrative hearing pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(E). In the event that the
2 Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no
3 evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party,
4 except that the parties agree that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this
5 case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced
6 by its review and discussion of this document or any records relating thereto.

7 11. If a court of competent jurisdiction rules that any part of this Consent
8 Agreement is void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement
9 shall remain in full force and effect.

10 12. Respondent understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement may
11 result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of the registration under
12 A.R.S. § 32-150.

13 13. Respondent agrees that the Board will adopt the following Findings of Fact,
14 Conclusions of Law and Order.

15 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

16 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of
17 the practice of Land Surveying in the State of Arizona.

18 2. Respondent is the holder of Arizona Professional Land Surveyor Registration
19 No. 28234.

20 3. On or about January 16, 2014, Respondent conducted professional survey
21 services for a project located at APN 304-21-388B in Navajo County, Arizona.

22 4. On or about March 21, 2017, the Board received a complaint alleging that
23 Respondent, while conducting the project survey in Navajo County on January 16, 2014,
24 entered private property without making every reasonable effort to notify the landowners.

25 5. On August 29, 2017, the Board reviewed the facts and circumstances of this
26 case and found that Respondent failed to make a reasonable effort to notify landowners
27 prior to allowing Respondent's survey crew to enter the landowner's secured and
28 enclosed property.

1 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2 1. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101, et seq.

3 2. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline
4 pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(C)(4) as it relates to A.A.C. R4-30-301(4), in that
5 Respondent failed to make every reasonable effort to give oral or written notice of the
6 survey to the owner of the land before entering the land, in violation of A.R.S. § 33-
7 104(A).

8 ORDER

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

11 1. LETTER OF REPRIMAND. Respondent is hereby issued a Letter of
12 Reprimand.

13 2. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. Within ninety (90) days from the
14 effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty
15 of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) by certified check or money order made payable to
16 the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.

17 3. COST OF INVESTIGATION. Within sixty (60) days from the effective
18 date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay the cost of investigation of this
19 case to the Board in the amount of Four Hundred and Nine Dollars (\$409.00) by certified
20 check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical
21 Registration, according to the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-128(H).

22 4. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local
23 laws, as well as, all rules governing the practice of Land Surveying in the State of
24 Arizona. The Board shall consider any violation of this paragraph to be a separate
25 violation of the rules and statues governing the Arizona Board of Technical Registration.
26 The Board may also consider Respondent's non-compliance with this Order as a separate
27 violation of A.R.S. § 32-150.

28 5. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION. Respondent shall timely renew his

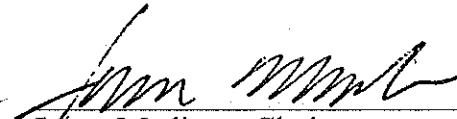
1 Arizona registration as a Land Surveyor, and timely pay all required registration fees.

2 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the
3 date the Respondent and Board sign the Consent Agreement. If the dates are different, the
4 effective date is the later of the two dates.

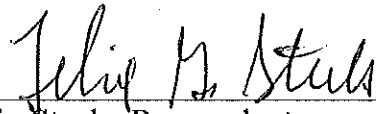
5 7. COSTS OF COMPLIANCE. Respondent shall pay all costs associated
6 with complying with this Consent Agreement.

7 8. NONCOMPLIANCE. If Respondent violates this Order in any way or fails
8 to fulfill the requirements of this Order, the Board, after giving notice and the opportunity
9 to be heard, may revoke, suspend or take other disciplinary actions against the
10 registration. The issue at such a hearing will be limited solely to whether this Order has
11 been violated.

12 ACCEPTED and ORDERED this 7th day of SEPTEMBER, 2017.

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14 
15 Jason Madison, Chairman
16 Arizona State Board of
17 Technical Registration

18 Consent Agreement and Order, No. P17-081 accepted this 5 day of
19 September, 2017.

20 
21 Felix Steele, Respondent
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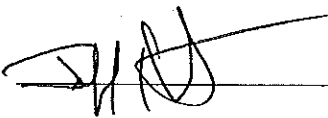
1 ORIGINAL filed this 7th day of

2 SEPTEMBER, 2017, with:

3 Arizona State Board of Technical Registration
4 1110 W. Washington, Suite 240
Phoenix, AZ 85007

5 COPY of the foregoing mailed via Certified Mail
6 No. 9214 8901 9434 4600 0237 17 and
7 First Class mail this 7th day of SEPTEMBER, 2017, to:

8 Felix Steele
9 Steele Geographical Services
10 P.O. Box 1138
Lakeside, AZ 85929

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12 By:  _____

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