BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE
BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

In the Matter of:
Ali Gharai
Registered Architect
Registration No. 44966
GHA Architects, Inc
Non-Registrant Firm

Case No. P21-015
CONSENT AGREEMENT
and
ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

Respondents

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, Ali Gharai ("Respondent"),
holder of Registration No. 44966, GHA Architects, Inc ("Respondent Firm"), Non-Registrant
Firm, 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.

RECLUS

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.

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

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

6. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement deals with Board case number P21-015 involving allegations that Respondent engaged in conduct that would subject him to discipline under the Board’s statutes and rules. The investigation into these allegations against Respondent shall be concluded upon the Board’s adoption of this Consent Agreement.

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

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

9. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning this document to the Board’s Executive Director, he may not revoke his acceptance of the Consent Agreement or make any 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.

10. 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 pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(E). 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.

11. 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.

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

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of Professional Architecture in the State of Arizona.

2. Respondent is the holder of Arizona Architect Registration No. 44966 and has been a Registered Architect with the Board since 2006.

3. According to the Arizona Corporation Commission, Respondent Firm originally incorporated on or about June 19, 2009; however, Respondent Firm was not registered with the Board.

4. Until August 25, 2020, Respondent Firm was not registered with the Board.

5. On or about August 20, 2020, the Board opened a complaint alleging that Respondent and Respondent firm engaged in the practice of Architecture on the Fike remodeling project in Scottsdale without firm registration with the Board. Board records show no record that Respondent Firm has ever been registered.

6. Respondent indicated that he holds multiple licenses in other states that do not require him to register Respondent Firm for the architectural services he provides, so Respondent assumed Arizona was the same. Respondent acknowledged that if he knew that Respondent Firm needed to be registered, Respondent would have registered Respondent Firm with the Board.
7. On or about August 25, 2020, the Board received Respondent Firm’s firm registration and given a registration number. Respondent Firm’s registration number is 22793, which expires on August 25, 2021.

8. Board records indicate that Respondent is the firm principal and the responsible party for Respondent Firm.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

2. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S.§ 32-121 and A.R.S.§ 32-141, in that Respondent and Respondent Firm engaged in the practice of Architecture on the Fike remodeling project in Scottsdale without firm registration with the Board.

3. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S.§ 32-128(C)(4) as it relates to A.A.C. R4-30-301(4), in that Respondent and failed to comply with state laws and regulations pertaining to his area of practice.

**ORDER**

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

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

2. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. Within 60 (Sixty) days from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars ($750.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.

3. COST OF INVESTIGATION. Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay the cost of investigation of this case to the Board in the amount of Sixty-Eight Dollars ($68.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration, according to the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-128(H).

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

5. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION. Respondent and Respondent Firm shall timely renew their Arizona registration as an Architect and an Architecture Firm, and timely pay all required registration fees.

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

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

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

ACCEPTED and ORDERED this 27th day of October, 2020.

Jason E. Foose, R.L.S., Chairman
Arizona State Board of Technical Registration

Consent Agreement and Order, No. P21-015 accepted this 11th day of September, 2020.

Ali Gharai, on behalf of himself and on behalf of GHA Architects, Inc, Respondents
ORIGINAL filed this 27 day of October, 2020, with:

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

COPY of the foregoing mailed via Certified Mail
No. 9214 8901 9784 4622 0749 65 and
First Class mail this 27 day of October, 2020, to:

Ali Gharai
GHA Architects, Inc
9655 E Cinnabar Avenue
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

By: ___________________________