

BETTY STORY
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June 22, 2015

LOUISIANA AUCTIONEERS LICENSING BOARD
ATTN: TESSA STEINKAMP, CHAIRMAN
11736 NEWCASTLE AVE
BLD 2 STE C
BATON ROUGE LA 70816-9102

Dear Ms. Steinkamp:

As you are aware, I filed a complaint against auctioneer Marlo Schmidt after my trial in 36th JDC in which I was awarded \$4,102.29. As you are also aware, I am an 84-year-old widow and had to try the case pro se, but I presented a convincing enough case that Judge O'Neal handed down the judgment without Schmidt even presenting a defense! When he asked if he could, O'Neal said, "Yes, but you're not going to be able to undo the damage you've already done in response to the Court's questions." I had no choice but to try the case myself after Arthur Ogea, an investigator with Attorney General Caldwell's Office came to my home and said, "There's no question you've been wronged, but there's nothing the AG's Office can do unless we can establish a pattern of abuse of the elderly."

I am not going to repeat all of the merits of the complaint because that was done with the original submission. Hence, I am merely going to state that the crux of it was deception to me in terms of promised prices and shill bidding entailing the immovable properties in the auction.

I filed the complaint after the LALB voted unanimously that it would conduct a full-blown investigation into the alleged shill bidding on the immovable property at its March 10, 2015 meeting. Soon thereafter, LALB investigator Jim Steele visited my home for an interview.

As I have indicated in the complaint, a transcript of the 36th JDC proceedings will clearly demonstrate Mr. Schmidt making the admission under oath that shill bidding transpired; furthermore, the sworn testimony of Gordon Jenkins directly contradicts what Schmidt testified to on September 10, 2013 before the LALB when he falsely stated his nephew was bidding on my home on behalf of Jenkins, to whom his nephew intended to flip the home. A transcript will also reflect Judge O'Neal strongly chastising Schmidt regarding the HUD-1 settlement statement's failure to account for all of the proceeds of his initial purchase of my rental home (for which he didn't remit the remaining balance until 60 days after closing and then only under threat of lawsuit by me).

I spoke with Ms. Sandy Edmonds on Wednesday, June 21, 2015 regarding the statuses of the investigation. Edmonds indicated it remained ongoing with no set timeframe for a hearing.

The board has had more than ample time to bring this matter to a head, and I am convinced the board's strategy is to drag this matter out beyond the 3-year period in which a bond may be filed on my behalf by the LALB to recover the \$1,500 remittance I made to an assisted living facility as a result of Schmidt's promises on the results of my two houses. We are rapidly approaching the end of that three-year period and, by my count, only about 4 1/2 months remain before it lapses.

If Schmidt fails to remit the \$1,500 to me which he cost me as a result of his deceit on the promised results on my immovable property and the board stalls on this matter past the three-year period in which a bond claim may be filed on my behalf, I certainly cannot rule out another pro se lawsuit against the board, especially since I've recovered the costs of the initial pro se lawsuit.

The LALB filed a bond claim for Brant Thompson even though the file was closed and it was concluded that "there is no evidence of auctioneer wrongdoing." I realize the fact Mr. Thompson is the son of a Louisiana Senator played a huge role in the 180-degree reversal and the filing of his bond claim.

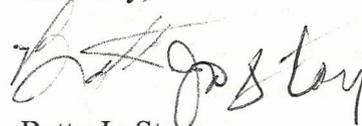
More recently, I am told the LALB conducted a full-blown hearing over a \$25 dresser! For that hearing, the complainants did not even show up! In contrast, I showed up for my initial hearing and, as you well know, it's my firm intention to be present for the follow-up hearing.

It is time for the LALB to ACT on my complaint which it voted unanimously that it would do on March 10, 2015. I expect the hearing to be concluded well in advance of the expiration of the three-year period for the LALB filing a bond claim on my behalf as it did so willingly for Sen. Francis Thompson's son, Brant.

Cc: James D "Buddy Caldwell
Louisiana Attorney General;

Landry for Louisiana Campaign

Sincerely,



Betty Jo Story

↓ This paragraph is what prompted the LALB to schedule a "special hearing date" on 9/30/15. Also scheduled for hearing were Mark Buser and Sean Seteff, but upon Schmidt remitting the \$1,500 to Story, ALL hearings were delayed to 11/12/15