

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the Matter of the JLG Architects Employee PAC;

1. The Minnesota Architects Political Action Committee (MAPAC) is a political committee registered with the Board. MAPAC's 2017 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed receipt of a \$1,000 contribution from "JLG Employee PAC" on January 6, 2017, and a \$100 contribution from "JLG Employee PAC" on November 22, 2017. The report listed the contributor's address as 124 N Third St, Grand Forks, ND 58203, which is the address of JLG Architects Employee PAC, an association not registered with the Board.
2. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, prohibits an unregistered association from giving a contribution that exceeds \$200 to a political committee, unless the contribution is accompanied by a written disclosure statement satisfying the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20. The recipient must then file the disclosure statement with its next report of receipts and expenditures. The required statement was not filed with MAPAC's 2017 year-end report.
3. Sheri Hansen, Director of Communications, Advocacy & Public Outreach for AIA Minnesota, which is affiliated with MAPAC, responded to inquiries from Board staff. In July 2018, Ms. Hansen indicated that MAPAC thought the \$1,100 was given by JLG PAC, a political committee registered with the Board. However, in a 2017 year-end statement filed with the North Dakota Secretary of State's office, JLG Architects Employee PAC reported giving a contribution of \$1,100 to "Minnesota Architecture PAC" on September 21, 2017, and the address listed for the recipient matches MAPAC's address. JLG PAC reported having no financial activity at all in 2017 and despite the similarity in name, does not appear to have any connection to the architecture firm Johnson Laffen Galloway Architects, Ltd., or its political action committee, JLG Architects Employee PAC.
4. After being provided a copy of the 2017 year-end statement filed by JLG Architects Employee PAC in North Dakota, MAPAC's Deputy Treasurer, Mary-Margaret Zindren, conceded that the \$1,100 came from JLG Architects Employee PAC and stated that MAPAC would refund \$900 of the \$1,100 received to rectify exceeding the \$200 limit for contributions from unregistered associations without the required disclosure statement. Ms. Zindren explained that conversations with leaders of JLG led MAPAC to believe that the donations came from JLG PAC registered in Minnesota.
5. Lonnie Laffen, JLG Architects Employee PAC's agent, responded to a letter from the Board on December 28, 2018. Mr. Laffen confirmed that JLG Architects Employee PAC gave contributions to MAPAC of \$1,000 on January 6, 2017, and \$100 on November 22, 2017. Mr. Laffen expressed uncertainty as to why MAPAC believed the contributions to be from an unrelated political committee in Minnesota. Mr. Laffen explained that JLG Architects Employee PAC was not aware of the disclosure requirement for contributions from unregistered associations and thus did not provide a disclosure

statement with its contributions to MAPAC. Mr. Laffen also confirmed that MAPAC sent a check to JLG Architects Employee PAC for \$900 to refund the amount exceeding \$200 and that the check was deposited on December 28, 2018. Mr. Laffen provided a copy of the refund check as well as the deposit slip. However, because the contribution was not returned within 90 days, it is deemed accepted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

6. The parties agree that JLG Architects Employee PAC gave a contribution in excess of \$200 to MAPAC in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13. This is JLG Architects Employee PAC's first violation of this statute.

7. To avoid a similar violation in the future, JLG Architects Employee PAC agrees that it will not give a contribution in excess of \$200 to a Minnesota political committee or fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit, without either providing with the contribution a disclosure statement in the form required by statute, registering with the Board as a political committee or fund, or seeking advice from Board staff.

8. JLG Architects Employee PAC agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$900 for giving a contribution without the disclosure statement required by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13. This civil penalty is the amount of the contribution that exceeded \$200. Of this amount, \$225 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$675 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2021. If JLG Architects Employee PAC violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If JLG Architects Employee PAC does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

9. If JLG Architects Employee PAC does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Lonnie Laffen Dated: February 12, 2019

Lonnie Laffen, Agent
JLG Architects Employee PAC

/s/ Margaret Leppik Dated: February 6, 2019

Margaret Leppik, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board