# VIRGINIA AUCTIONEERS BOARD INFORMAL FACT-FINDING CONFERENCES MAY 27, 2004 (10:00 A.M.)

The Virginia Auctioneers Board convened in Richmond, Virginia, for the purpose of holding Informal Fact-Finding Conferences pursuant to the Administrative Process Act.

Samuel K. Updike, Jr. Board Member, presided. No other Board Members were present.

Douglas W. Schroder appeared for the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

The conference was recorded by Inge Snead & Associates, LTD. and the Summaries or Consent Orders are attached unless no decision was made.

Disc=Disciplinary Case Lic=Licensing Application RF=Recovery Fund Claim Trades=Tradesmen Application C=Complainant/Claimant A=Applicant R=Respondent/Regulant W=Witness Atty = Attorney I = Investigator S = Staff

# <u>Participants</u>

1.	Harry L. Laws, Jr.	Ann Coulter - C
	File Number 2004-01620 (Discp)	Linda Boswell – I
	•	llona LaPaglia - S

2.	Laws Auctioneers, Inc.	Ann Coulter - C
	File Number 2004-01641 (Discp)	Linda Boswell ∸ I
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Ilona LaPaglia - S

3.	Laws Auctioneers, Inc,	Lynn Bauer - C
	File Number 2004-02398 (Discp)	Linda Boswell – I
	· · · ·	Ilona LaPaglia - S

4.	Laws Auctioneers, Inc. File Number 2004-03081 (Discp)	Linda Boswell – I Ilona LaPaglia - S
5.	Laws Auctioneers, Inc. File Number 2004-02592 (Discp)	Carolyn Relly – C by phone Linda Boswell – I Ilona LaPaglia - S
6.	Laws Auctioneers, Inc. File Number 2004-02399 (Discp)	John A. O'Keefe - C Linda Boswell – I Ilona LaPaglia - S

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Virginia Auctioneers Board

Larry J. Linkous, Chairman

quise Fontaine Ware Secretary

# **AUCTIONEERS BOARD**

IN RE: HARRY L. LAWS, JR.

LICENSE NUMBER: 2905 000578

FILE NUMBER: 2004-01620

## Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference

An Informal Fact-Finding Conference (IFF) was convened on May 27, 2004, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, pursuant to a Notice of Informal Fact-Finding Conference sent by certified mail to Harry L. Laws, Jr., on April 30, 2004. The following individuals participated at the conference: Ann Coulter, Complainant; Linda Boswell, Ilona LaPaglia, and Douglas W. Schroder, Staff Members; and Samuel K. Updike, Jr., Presiding Board Member. Neither Laws, nor anyone on his behalf, appeared at the IFF.

- 1. On October 17, 2003, the Enforcement Division of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation received a written complaint from Raymond Abramson (Abramson), an attorney representing Ann Coulter (Coulter), regarding a contract Coulter entered into with Harry L. Laws, Jr., d/b/a, Laws Auctioneers Inc.
- 2. On or about July 2, 2003, Coulter entered into a verbal agreement with Harry L. Laws, Jr., d/b/a Laws Auctioneers Inc, to auction the household goods belonging to Mark Eutsler, Coulter's uncle.
- 3. On July 2, 2003, Harry L. Laws, Jr. (Harry Laws) agreed to conduct an auction of Eutsler's goods, but failed to draw up a contract setting forth the particulars of the terms and conditions under which Harry Laws received the personal property for auction and particulars for the disbursement of the proceeds.
- 4. On November 10, 2003, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright, the Board's agent made a written request to Harry L. Laws, Jr. of Laws Auctioneers, Inc. to the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111, requesting a written response and supporting documents relating to Coulter's contract. The Board's agent requested the written response and documents be received by December 1, 2003.

5. Harry Laws has failed to produce documents.

#### Conclusion and Recommendation

Count 1: 18 VAC 25-21-110 (Effective February 1, 2002)

Harry Laws' failure to draw up a contract setting forth the particulars of the terms and conditions under which Harry Laws received the personal property for auction and particulars for the disbursement of the proceeds is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-110. Therefore, I recommend that license revocation be imposed.

Count 2: 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Harry Laws' failure to produce to the board or any of its agents any document, book or copy thereof in licensee's or owner's possession concerning the performance of auctioneering duties is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

By:	
Samuel K. Updike, Jr. Presiding IFF Board Member Auctioneers Board	
Date:	

## **FINAL ORDER RECOMMENDATION**

### **AUCTIONEERS BOARD**

IN RE: LAWS AUCTIONEERS, INC.

LICENSE NUMBER: 2908 000515

FILE NUMBER: 2004-01641

## Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference

An Informal Fact-Finding Conference (IFF) was convened on May 27, 2004, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, pursuant to a Notice of Informal Fact-Finding Conference sent by certified mail to Harry L. Laws, Jr., of Laws Auctioneers, Inc., on April 30, 2004. The following individuals participated at the conference: Ann Coulter, Complainant; Linda Boswell, Ilona LaPaglia, and Douglas W. Schroder, Staff Members; and Samuel K. Updike, Jr., Presiding Board Member. No one from Laws Auctioneers, Inc. appeared at the IFF.

- 1. On October 17, 2003, the Enforcement Division of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation received a written complaint from Raymond Abramson (Abramson), an attorney representing Ann Coulter (Coulter), regarding a contract Coulter entered into with Harry L. Laws, Jr., d/b/a, Laws Auctioneers Inc. (Laws).
- 2. On or about July 2, 2003, Coulter entered into a verbal agreement with Laws to auction the household goods belonging to Mark Eutsler, Coulter's uncle.
- 3. On July 2, 2003, Harry L. Laws, Jr. (Harry Laws) agreed to conduct an auction of Eutsler's goods, but failed to draw up a contract setting forth the particulars of the terms and conditions under which Harry Laws and Laws Auctioneers Inc. received the personal property for auction and particulars for the disbursement of the proceeds.
- 4. On November 10, 2003, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright, the Board's agent made a written request to Laws at the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111, requesting a written response and supporting documents relating to Coulter's contract. The Board's agent requested the written response and documents be received by December 1, 2003.

- 5. Laws failed to produce documents.
- 6. On March 26, 2004, a scheduled appointment date, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright and Assistant Director Linda J. Boswell, the Board's agents, went to Laws at the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111, requesting Laws' business records for inspection. Laws failed to make the records available to the Board's agents.

### Conclusion and Recommendation

## Count 1: 18 VAC 25-21-110 (February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to draw up a contract setting forth the particulars of the terms and conditions under which Harry Laws and Laws Auctioneers Inc. received the personal property for auction and particulars for the disbursement of the proceeds is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-110. Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

## Count 2: 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to produce to the board or any of its agents, any document, book, or copy thereof in the licensee's or owner's possession concerning the performance of auctioneering duties is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

### Count 3: 18 VAC 25-21-160 (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to make records available for inspection by the board or its designees as deemed appropriate and necessary is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-160. Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

Ву:	
Samuel K. Updike, Jr. Presiding IFF Board Member Auctioneers Board	
Date:	

#### **AUCTIONEERS BOARD**

IN RE: LAWS AUCTIONEERS, INC.

**LICENSE NUMBER: 2908 000515** 

FILE NUMBER: 2004-02398

# Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference

An Informal Fact-Finding Conference (IFF) was convened on May 27, 2004, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, pursuant to a Notice of Informal Fact-Finding Conference sent by certified mail to Harry L. Laws, Jr., of Laws Auctioneers, Inc. on April 30, 2004. The following individuals participated at the conference: Lynn Bauer, Complainant; Linda Boswell, Ilona LaPaglia, and Douglas W. Schroder, Staff Members; and Samuel K. Updike, Jr., Presiding Board Member. No one from Laws Auctioneers, Inc. appeared at the IFF.

- 1. On December 5, 2003, the Enforcement Division of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation received a written complaint from Lynn Bauer (Bauer), regarding a contract Bauer entered into with Laws Auctioneers Inc. (Laws).
- 2. On or about November 15, 2001, Bauer entered into a Contract for Goods Consigned at Auction (Contract) with Laws to auction Bauer's household goods.
- 3. On December 31, 2003, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright, the Board's agent made a written request, by certified mail, to Laws at the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111, requesting a written response and supporting documents relating to Bauer's contract. The Board's agent requested the written response and documents be received by January 20, "2003" (2004).
- 4. Laws failed to produce documents.

- 5. On March 26, 2004, a scheduled appointment date, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright and Assistant Director Linda J. Boswell, the Board's agents, went to Laws at the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111, requesting Laws' business records for inspection. Laws failed to make the records available to the Board's agents.
- 6. On or about April 2003, Laws sold all of Bauer's consigned items. Laws failed to provide Bauer with legible copies of bills of sale, clerk sheets, consignment sheets, settlement papers, balance sheets or other evidence to properly account for all items sold at auction.
- 7. Laws failed to disburse the proceeds to Bauer no later than thirty (30) days after the date of each auction.

### Conclusion and Recommendation

# Count 1: 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to provide a written response and to produce to the board or any of its agents, any document, book, or copy thereof in licensee's or owner's possession concerning the performance of auctioneering duties is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 be imposed.

### Count 2: 18 VAC 25-21-160 (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to make records available for inspection by the board or its designees as deemed appropriate or necessary is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-160. Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

# Count 3: 18 VAC 25-21-140 (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to provide Bauer with legible copies of bills of sale, clerk sheets, consignment sheets, settlement papers, balance sheets or other evidence to properly account for all items sold at auction is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-140. Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

#### Count 4: 18 VAC 25-21-150(C) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to disburse the proceeds to Bauer no later than thirty (30) days after the date of each auction is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-150(C). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

By:	
Samuel K. Updike, Jr. Presiding IFF Board Member Auctioneers Board	
Date <sup>.</sup>	

### **AUCTIONEERS BOARD**

IN RE: LAWS AUCTIONEERS, INC.

LICENSE NUMBER: 2908 000515

FILE NUMBER: 2004-03081

# Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference

An Informal Fact-Finding Conference (IFF) was convened on May 27, 2004, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, pursuant to a Notice of Informal Fact-Finding Conference sent by certified mail to Harry L. Laws, Jr., of Laws Auctioneers on April 30, 20204. The following individuals participated at the conference: Linda Boswell, Ilona LaPaglia, and Douglas W. Schroder, Staff Members; and Samuel K. Updike, Jr., Presiding Board Member. No one from Laws Auctioneers, Inc. appeared at the IFF.

- 1. On January 30, 2004, the Enforcement Division of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation received a written complaint from Karen L. Davis (Davis), regarding a contract Davis entered into with Laws Auctioneers Inc. (Laws)
- 2. On or about June 14, 2002, Davis entered into an agreement with Laws Auctioneers Inc. to auction her household goods.
- 3. On June 14, 2002, Laws agreed to conduct an auction of Davis' goods, but failed to provide a legible executed copy of the contract.
- 4. On March 17, 2004, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright, the Board's agent, made a verbal request to Harry L. Laws, III of Laws Auctioneers, Inc. to respond and provide supporting documents relating to Davis' contract. The Board's agent requested the response and documents be received by March 26, 2004.
- 5. Laws failed to produce documents.

### Conclusion and Recommendation

# Count 1: <u>18 VAC 25-21-110(9) (Effective February 1, 2002)</u>

Laws' failure to provide a legible executed copy of the contract to the owner at the time of execution is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-110(9). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 be imposed.

## Count 2: 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to produce to the board or any of its agents any document, book or copy thereof in licensee's or owner's possession concerning the performance of auctioneering duties is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

By:	
Samuel K. Updike, Jr. Presiding IFF Board Member Auctioneers Board	
Date:	

## FINAL ORDER RECOMMENDATION

### **AUCTIONEERS BOARD**

IN RE: LAWS AUCTIONEERS, INC.

**LICENSE NUMBER: 2908 000515** 

FILE NUMBER: 2004-02592

# Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference

An Informal Fact-Finding Conference (IFF) was convened on May 27, 2004, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, pursuant to a Notice of Informal Fact-Finding Conference sent by certified mail to Harry L. Laws, Jr., of Laws Auctioneers on April 30, 2004. The following individuals participated at the conference: Carolyn Relly, Complainant, by telephone; Linda Boswell, Ilona LaPaglia, and Douglas W. Schroder, Staff Members; and Samuel K. Updike, Jr., Presiding Board Member. No one from Laws Auctioneers, Inc. appeared at the IFF.

- 1. On December 19, 2003, the Enforcement Division of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation received a written complaint from Carolyn S. Relly (Relly), regarding a contract Relly entered into with Laws Auctioneers Inc. (Laws).
- 2. On or about September 16, 2003, Relly entered into a Contract for Goods Consigned at Auction (Contract) with Laws to auction Relly's household goods.
- 3. On January 21, 2004, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright, the Board's agent made a written request, by certified mail, to Laws at the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111, requesting a written response and supporting documents relating to Relly's contract. The Board's agent requested the written response and documents be received by February 6, 2004.
- 4. Laws failed to produce documents.
- 5. On March 26, 2004, a scheduled appointment date, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright and Assistant Director Linda J. Boswell, the Board's agents, went to Laws at the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111,

requesting Laws' business records for inspection. Laws failed to make the records available to the Board's agents.

6. The Contract fails to specify the date, time, and place of the auction or auctions at which Relly's personal property are scheduled to be auctioned.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

# Count 1: 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to produce to the board or any of its agents any document, book or copy thereof in licensee's or owner's possession concerning the performance of auctioneering duties is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 be imposed.

# Count 2: 18 VAC 25-21-160 (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to make the business records available for inspection by the board or its designees as deemed appropriate or necessary is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-160. Therefore, I recommend license revocation be imposed.

# Count 3: 18 VAC 25-21-110(4) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to make use of a contract which specifies the date, time and place of the auction at which Relly's personal property is scheduled to be auctioned is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-110(4). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

By:	
Samuel K. Updike, Jr.	
Presiding IFF Board Member	
Auctioneers Board	
Date:	

#### **AUCTIONEERS BOARD**

IN RE: LAWS AUCTIONEERS, INC.

LICENSE NUMBER: 2908 000515

FILE NUMBER: 2004-02399

# Summary of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference

An Informal Fact-Finding Conference (IFF) was convened on May 27, 2004, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, pursuant to a Notice of Informal Fact-Finding Conference sent by certified mail to Harry L. Laws, Jr., of Laws Auctioneers, Inc., on April 30, 2004. The following individuals participated at the conference: John A. O'Keefe, Complainant; Linda Boswell, Ilona LaPaglia, and Douglas W. Schroder, Staff Members; and Samuel K. Updike, Jr., Presiding Board Member. No one from Laws Auctioneers, Inc. appeared at the IFF.

- 1. On December 5, 2003, the Enforcement Division of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation received a written complaint from John A. O'Keefe (O'Keefe), regarding a contract O'Keefe entered into with Laws Auctioneers Inc. (Laws).
- 2. On or about September 16, 2003, O'Keefe entered into a Contract for Goods Consigned at Auction (Contract) with Laws to auction O'Keefe's household goods.
- 3. On December 31, 2003, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright, the Board's agent made a written request, by certified mail, to Laws at the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111, requesting a written response and supporting documents relating to O'Keefe's contract. The Board's agent requested the written response and documents be received by January 20, 2004.
- 4. Laws failed to produce documents.
- 5. On March 26, 2004, a scheduled appointment date, Investigator Carolyn D. Wright and Assistant Director Linda J. Boswell, the Board's agents, went to Laws

at the address of record of 7209 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111, requesting Laws' business records for inspection. Laws failed to make the records available to the Board's agents.

- 6. On or about November 24, 2003, Laws disbursed proceeds to O'Keefe. As of April 15, 2004, Laws has failed to provide O'Keefe with legible copies of bills of sale, clerk sheets, consignment sheets, settlement papers, balance sheets or other evidence to properly account for all items sold at auction.
- 7. The Contract fails to specify the date, time, and place of the auction or auctions at which O'Keefe's personal property is scheduled to be auctioned.

#### Conclusion and Recommendation

# Count 1: 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to produce to the board or any of its agents any document, book or copy thereof in licensee's or owner's possession concerning the performance of auctioneering duties is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-180(A)(6). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 be imposed.

## Count 2: <u>18 VAC 25-21-160 (Effective February 1, 2002)</u>

Laws' failure to make business records available for inspection by the board or its designees as deemed appropriate or necessary is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-160. Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 be imposed.

## Count 3: <u>18 VAC 25-21-140 (Effective February 1, 2002)</u>

Laws' failure to provide O'Keefe with legible copies of bills of sale, clerk sheets, consignment sheets, settlement papers, balance sheets or other evidence to properly account for all items sold at auction is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-140. Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

### Count 4: 18 VAC 25-21-110(4) (Effective February 1, 2002)

Laws' failure to make use of a contract which specifies the date, time and place of the auctions at which O'Keefe's personal property is scheduled to be auctioned is a violation of Board Regulation 18 VAC 25-21-110(4). Therefore, I recommend that a monetary penalty of \$2,500.00 and license revocation be imposed.

Ву:	
Samuel K. Updike, Jr. Presiding IFF Board Member Auctioneers Board	
Date:	