STATE OF MINNESOTA

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

In the Matter of

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

Tan Huu Nguyen Architect No. 44730 Certified Interior Designer No. C02299 (Expired)

Board File No. 2025-0016

STIPULATION

Tan Nguyen ("Respondent") and the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design's Complaint Committee stipulate that, subject to Board's review and discretionary approval, the Board may issue a consent order that imposes the following sanctions:

- A. Respondent is CENSURED and REPRIMANDED pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326.111 (2024).
- B. Respondent shall pay to the Board a civil penalty of \$3,000. Respondent shall submit the civil penalty by check to the Board within 60 days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Consent Order.
- C. Respondent shall comply with all statutes and rules within the Board's jurisdiction. See Minn. Stat. §§ 326.02–.15 (2024) and Minn. R. chs. 1800 & 1805 (2023).
- D. Respondent shall report in writing within ten days any and all violations of this Stipulation and Consent Order to the Board's Executive Director.

Respondent and the Committee enter into this stipulation based on the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and other stipulated provisions:

Findings of Fact

- 1. The Board issued Respondent an Architect license on February 17, 2006.
- 2. The Board issued Respondent a Certified Interior Designer certificate on July 26, 2010.
 - 3. Respondent's Certified Interior Designer certificate expired on June 30, 2012.
 - 4. Respondent's Architect license expired on June 30, 2022.
- 5. Respondent emailed the Board on July 25, 2024, requesting information about reinstatement of his Architect license.
- 6. Respondent's Architect license was reinstated on November 6, 2024. Respondent answered the certification statements honestly and provided additional explanation as required on the reinstatement application.
- 7. Respondent is the owner and Principal of a Minnesota architecture firm specializing in residential design.
- 8. Respondent states that two sets of construction documents were signed and submitted for permitting during his time of lapse.
- 9. During his lapse in licensure, Respondent held out by representing himself as an Architect in the following manners:
 - a. On his firm's website as a "licensed Architect in the state of Minnesota."

- b. In his email signature by using the "AIA" designation with a firm with a Minnesota address.
- 10. Respondent held out and practiced as an Architect in the State of Minnesota during his lapse in licensure.

Conclusions of Law

- 1. The Board has authority to license and regulate Architects and to take disciplinary action as appropriate. Minn. Stat. § 326.111 (2024).
- 2. Respondent violated Minn. Stat. § 326.02, subd. 1 and 2 (2024) and Minn. R. 1805.0200, subp. 4(C) (2023).
- 3. Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326.111 subd. 4(a)(1) and (2) (2024).
 - 4. This Stipulation and Consent Order is in the public interest.

Other Stipulated Provisions

- 1. This Stipulation and Consent Order must be approved by the Board to become effective.
- 2. Respondent agrees that the Committee may move the Board *ex parte*, with or without advance notice to the Respondent, to approve this Stipulation and Consent Order. Respondent understands that the Board may either approve the Stipulation and Consent Order or not approve it. This stipulation and the files, records, and proceedings associated with this matter may be reviewed by the Board in its consideration of the Committee's motion.

- 3. If approved by the Board, this Stipulation and Consent Order shall be classified as public data. Minn. Stat. § 13.41, subd. 5 (2024). The Board will post a copy of this order on its website. The Board will also send a summary to the national discipline data bank pertaining to the practice of architecture.
- 4. If the Board does not approve this Stipulation and Consent Order, then the matter remains unresolved and the Committee may either seek to negotiate a revised Stipulation and Consent Order with Respondent to present to the Board or issue an order commencing a contested-case hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings. *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 14.57–.62, 214.10, subd. 2 (2024) (describing administrative hearing process).
- 5. Respondent agrees that if this case comes before the Board again after it reviews and discusses this Stipulation and Consent Order, Respondent waives any claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this Stipulation and Consent Order and any records relating to it.
- 6. Respondent acknowledges that they were advised by the Committee of their right to a contested-case hearing in this matter before an Administrative Law Judge, to file exceptions and make argument to the Board after the hearing, and to seek judicial review from any adverse decision rendered by the Board. Respondent hereby expressly waives those rights. Respondent was further advised by the committee of their right to be represented by counsel and that they are represented by council.
- 7. Respondent has read, understands, and agrees to this stipulation and has voluntarily signed it. It is expressly understood that this stipulation contains the entire agreement

between the parties, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise. If approved by the Board, a copy of the final Stipulation and Consent Order shall be served personally or by first class mail on Respondent. The Board's order shall be effective when it is signed by the Chair of the Board or the Chair's designee.

8. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2024), any civil penalty imposed by this Stipulation and Consent Order shall begin to accrue simple interest in accordance with that section thirty days after the civil penalty is due. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.17 (2024), thirty days after any civil penalty imposed by this Stipulation and Consent Order is due, the Board may file and enforce any unpaid portion of the civil penalty as a judgment against Respondent in district court without further notice or additional proceedings.

Tan Huu Nguyen, Architect and Certified Interior Designer (Expired)

STATE OF MINNOSOTO

COUNTY OF HEMPERIN

This instrument was acknowledged before me on July 2 20 Pay Tan Nguyen.

JESSICA A HILL
NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 01/31/2026

(Signature of notary officer)

My commission expires: 01.31.2026

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

DANIEL HUNTER, PG

Chair

Dated: <u>July 16</u>, 2025

CONSENT ORDER

Upon consideration of this Stipulation and Consent Order, and based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein, all terms of the Stipulation and Consent Order are approved.

Accordingly, the Board hereby ADOPTS the stipulation and issues the ORDER described above.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

Dated: ________, 2025

DANIEL KELSEY, PE

Board Chair