BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

Complaint No. 2023-10

IN THE MATTER OF: Justin W. Hall, PE 11050 Hall Engineering LTD, COA 982

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

A hearing on the above-referenced matter was held before the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors ("the Board") on November 14, 2023. The Respondent appeared in person, and by and through his legal counsel, Harrison Kemp. The Board was represented by Senior Assistant Attorney General Michael Lewis. The Board, from all the evidence presented and the stipulations of the parties, makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent Hall has been actively licensed since June 14, 2002.
- Respondent Hall received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arkansas in May 1997.
- Respondent Hall attended and passed the NCEES Principles and Practices of Engineering
 Mechanical Engineering exam in April 2002. Respondent Hall obtained his pre-licensure
 professional experience at Raytheon Aircraft.
- Respondent Hall Engineering received its certificate of authority on November 17, 2003.
 Respondent Hall Engineering operates under the fictitious name of Hall Engineering
 Group, Ltd.

- 5. Respondent Hall is the president of Respondent Hall Engineering. Respondent Hall is also the designated professional engineer in responsible charge of Respondent Hall Engineering, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 17-30-303(b)(1).
- 6. On June 28, 2022, the Board issued the "Amended Board Order" which provided, in part, "Before respondents are permitted to represent Justin W. Hall as a structural engineer, the Respondents shall satisfy the Board that Justin W. Hall has completed a master's program in Civil Engineer/Structural and passed the NCEES Professional Engineer Structural Exam."
- 7. In addition, the "Amended Board Order" issued on June 28, 2022, also provided, in part, that "Before Respondents are permitted to represent Justin W. Hall as having expertise in, or providing or offering to provide, structural inspection, analysis, or forensic analysis that Respondent shall satisfy the Board that Justin W. Hall has passed the NCEES Professional Engineer Civil Engineer Exam with Structural Emphasis."
- 8. On October 21, 2021, Respondent registered for the NCEES Professional Engineer exam, PE Civil Construction. Respondent did not receive a passing score. On July 5, 2022, Respondent Hall registered for the NCEES Professional Engineer exam PE Civil Structural exam, Respondent did not receive a passing score. On October 6, 2022, Respondent registered for the NCEES Professional Engineer exam PE Civil Construction. Respondent received a passing score for the exam.
- 9. On April 15, 2023, Kathrine Holsapple's property at 2900 Green County Rd 326 in Bono, AR was damaged during a straight-line wind event, causing a large tree to fall on to the Holsapple property resulting in severe damage to the Holsapple home.

- 10. Holsapple filed a claim with her homeowner's insurance, State Farm. State Farm contracted EnVista Forensics (AR COA # 1422) to perform a structural evaluation and provide a suggested scope of repairs for the damages. Nolan Williams, PE #21863 stamped the report dated May 22, 2023.
- 11. On May 29, 2023, Holsapple contacted Respondents after performing an internet search for "Structural Engineer." Holsapple contracted Respondents to perform a structural evaluation on the property.
- 12. On or about June 3, 2023, agents for Respondents visited the Holsapple property and conducted an engineering evaluation. Respondents completed an engineering report of the aforementioned property signed and sealed by the Respondents.
- 13. On June 5, 2023, Respondents provided to Holsapple a report on Respondents' letterhead that contains a PE stamp from Respondent Hall as well as a COA stamp from Respondent Hall Engineering.
- 14. The report refers to "an engineer to inspect the dwelling" as well as "an engineer from Hall Engineering Group, Ltd. inspected the dwelling on June 3, 2023."
- 15. Respondents' report provides under the "REPAIRS & CONCLUSIONS" section that,
 "Based on my investigation and analysis of the as-seen individual and collective
 damages, it can be said that to a reasonable degree of engineering certainty..."
- 16. Respondents' report provides analysis and evaluation of Holsapple's residence.
- 17. Respondents' report provides analysis of structural damage and causes of thereof.
- 18. Respondents' report constitutes structural inspection, analysis, and/or forensic analysis of the Holsapple's residence mentioned above.

- 19. Respondents have failed to comply with the Board's Amended Order from June 28, 2023.

 Specifically, Respondents have failed to:
 - a. Complete a master's program in Civil Engineering/Structural and pass the NCEES
 Professional Engineer Structural Exam before representing himself as a structural engineer;
 - b. Pass the NCEES Professional Engineer Civil Engineer Exam with Structural Emphasis before providing or offering to provide, structural inspection, analysis or forensic analysis.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 20. Respondent Hall's actions described in the Findings of Facts violates Ark. Code Ann. §17-30-305(a)(1)(C), "Failure to comply with this chapter, the rules of the board or an order of the board."
- 21. Under Arkansas Code Annotated §17-30-305, the Board may impose a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation of the Board's statutes or rules. The Board may also suspend or revoke Respondent Hall's Professional Engineer license.

 Respondent Hall Engineering Ltd's certificate of authorization may be revoked or suspended for no more than two (2) years if Respondent Hall is found guilty of any of the above-listed infractions.

ORDER

For the violations found by the Board and described herein, the Board imposes the following penalties:

A. For the violations described in Conclusions of Law, Justin W. Hall's license as a professional engineer and Hall Engineering, LTD's certificate of authorization are hereby REVOKED.

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-212, Applicant may petition for judicial review of this decision by filing a petition in circuit court within thirty (30) days after the service of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17th day of November, 2023

Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors

MURRY E. CLINE, P.E. PRESIDENT