

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ALASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	Civil No. A 82-423 CIV
Plaintiff,)	
)	Filed: October 12, 1982
v.)	
)	
ALASKA BOARD OF REGISTRATION)	15 U.S.C. §1 (Antitrust Vio-
FOR ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, AND)	lation Alleged)
LAND SURVEYORS,)	
)	15 U.S.C. §4 (Equitable
Defendant.)	Relief Sought)

COMPLAINT

The United States of America, plaintiff, by its attorneys, acting under the direction of the Attorney General of the United States, brings this civil action to obtain equitable relief against the above-named defendant and complains and alleges as follows:

I

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This complaint is filed under Section 4 of the Sherman Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. §4), in order to prevent and restrain the continuing violation by the defendant, as hereinafter alleged, of Section 1 of said Act (15 U.S.C. §1).

2. The defendant, Alaska Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), maintains its principal office, transacts business and is found within the District of Alaska.

II

DEFENDANT

3. The Board is made the defendant herein. The Board is comprised of practicing architects, professional engineers, and land surveyors and is organized and exists under Section 3 of

Chapter 179 of the 1972 Session Laws of Alaska, as amended (Alaska Statutes § 08.48.011 et seq.). The Board maintains its principal office in Juneau, Alaska.

III

CO-CONSPIRATORS

4. Various other persons not made defendants herein have participated as co-conspirators with the defendant in the violation hereinafter alleged, and have performed acts and have made statements in furtherance thereof.

IV

TRADE AND COMMERCE

5. There are approximately 2100 architects, professional engineers and land surveyors, more than one-half of whom are residents of states other than Alaska, licensed to practice in Alaska. These persons provide architectural, professional engineering or land surveying services to individuals, private businesses and governmental entities in Alaska. These services include the design, study and supervision of the construction of buildings, roads, bridges, dams, industrial plants and other structures. Over \$17 million dollars are spent annually by Alaska residents and governmental entities for such services.

6. The Board is the sole licensing authority for the practice of architecture, professional engineering and land surveying in the State of Alaska. The Board administers written examinations and otherwise supervises the qualification, certification and registration for practice within the State of Alaska of resident and nonresident architects, professional engineers, land surveyors and corporations offering architectural, professional engineering or land surveying services. Upon payment of a fee, the

Board annually issues certificates of registration to all properly certified or registered architects, professional engineers, and land surveyors.

7. It is unlawful in Alaska for individuals to practice or offer to practice the profession of architecture, professional engineering or land surveying, or to represent that they are architects, professional engineers or land surveyors unless they have been properly certified or registered by the Board and hold a current Board certificate of registration to practice architecture, professional engineering or land surveying in Alaska.

8. The Board consists of nine members appointed to six-year terms by the Governor of Alaska. Three of the Board members must be architects, one must be a land surveyor, two must be civil engineers, one must be a mining engineer, and two must be engineers from other branches of the engineering profession. Board members must have been residents of Alaska for at least three consecutive years before their appointments. Board members must hold Board certificates of registration and have a minimum of five years of professional practice in their respective fields. While serving their membership terms, Board members may, and do, continue to engage in the practice of architecture, professional engineering or land surveying in Alaska. Board members are compensated on a per diem basis when attending to the work of the Board. In addition, Board members are entitled to receive travel expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.

9. Pursuant to the terms of Section 3 of Chapter 179 of the 1972 Session Laws of Alaska, as amended, the Board may promulgate and amend a code of ethics or professional conduct for architects, professional engineers, and land surveyors.

Under Alaska law, the Board, except in emergencies, must hold a public hearing or proceeding before promulgating or amending its code of ethics or professional conduct. The laws of Alaska are silent as to the form or content of any such code of ethics or professional conduct and neither direct, require, nor mandate restrictions upon, or the regulation of, price competition in the offering of architectural, professional engineering, or land surveying services. Nor has any policy of restricting or regulating price competition in the offering of architectural, professional engineering or land surveying services been established or dictated by the State of Alaska.

10. In 1974, the Board adopted "Rules of Professional Conduct" intended to regulate the practice of architecture, professional engineering and land surveying in Alaska. Among the Board's rules is Rule 36.230(b), which provides that an architect, professional engineer or land surveyor may not knowingly solicit or submit proposals for professional services on the basis of competitive bidding. This rule is still in effect. In December, 1980, the Board rejected a proposal to repeal Rule 36.230(b). In May, 1982, the Board refused to repeal Rule 36.230(b) on an emergency basis. In September, 1982, the Board voted to retain Rule 36.230(b).

11. Section 3 of Chapter 179 of the 1972 Session Laws of Alaska, as amended, provides that the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Board shall be made known in writing to every registrant and applicant for registration and shall be published with the roster of registrants, which the Board must annually publish, mail to registrants and state, borough, and city officials and distribute or sell to the public. Board Rule 36.240(b) provides that an architect, professional engineer or land surveyor having knowledge or reason to believe that another person or corporation may be in violation of any

of the Rules of Professional Conduct shall present that information to the Board in writing and shall cooperate with the Board in furnishing such further information or assistance as may be required.

12. The Board is authorized by Section 3 of Chapter 179 of the 1972 Session Laws of Alaska, as amended, to take disciplinary action against any Board certificate of registration holder who violates any of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Such disciplinary action may include the reprimand of a registrant or corporation or the suspension, refusal to renew, or revocation of the offender's certificate of registration.

13. The architectural, professional engineering and land surveying services provided by the Board certificate of registration holders involve and affect individuals, corporations and other business entities throughout the United States. These services facilitate, direct and shape the conduct of interstate business and contribute directly to the flow of persons, money, goods and services into and out of the State of Alaska.

14. In the course of rendering architectural, professional engineering and land surveying services, Board certificate of registration holders located in Alaska often travel to states other than Alaska and make substantial use of interstate mail and wire services in the transport of funds, documents, plans, reports, plats, drawings and other communications throughout the United States. In addition, many certificate of registration holders located outside Alaska perform architectural, professional engineering and land surveying services within Alaska.

15. The activities of the Board and its certificate of registration holders, as described herein, are within the flow

of interstate commerce and have a substantial effect upon interstate commerce.

V

VIOLATION ALLEGED

16. Beginning at least as early as 1974, and continuing up to and including the date of the filing of this complaint, the defendant and co-conspirators have been engaged in a combination and conspiracy in unreasonable restraint of the aforesaid interstate trade and commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act. Said violation is continuing and will continue unless the relief hereinafter prayed for is granted.

17. The substantial terms of said agreement, understanding and concert of action have been and are that the defendant promulgate, adopt, publish and distribute a provision in its Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 36.230(b), prohibiting certificate of registration holders and other architects, professional engineers and land surveyors practicing in Alaska from knowingly soliciting or submitting proposals for professional services on the basis of competitive bidding.

18. For the purpose of effectuating the aforesaid combination and conspiracy, the defendant and co-conspirators have done those things which, as hereinbefore alleged, they agreed and conspired to do.

VI

EFFECTS

19. The aforesaid combination and conspiracy has had the following effects, among others:

- (a) Competition in the sale of architectural, professional engineering and land surveying services has been suppressed and eliminated;
- (b) Consumers of architectural, professional engineering, and land surveying services have been deprived of the benefits of free and open competition in the sale of such services; and
- (c) Architects, professional engineers, and land surveyors have been restrained in their ability to make their services readily and fully available to customers requiring such services.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays:

1. That the Court adjudge and decree that the defendant and co-conspirators have engaged in an unlawful combination and conspiracy in restraint of the aforesaid trade and commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

2. That the defendant, its members and all other persons acting or claiming to act on its behalf be enjoined and restrained from, in any manner, directly or indirectly, continuing, maintaining or renewing the aforesaid combination and conspiracy or from engaging in any other combination, conspiracy, contract, agreement, understanding or concert of action having similar purposes or effects, and from adopting, ratifying or following any practice, plan, program or device having similar purposes or effects.

3. That the defendant, its members and all persons acting or claiming to act on its behalf be enjoined and restrained from promulgating, publishing, distributing or otherwise

suggesting, and from adhering or agreeing to adhere to, any rule prohibiting competitive bidding by Board certificate of registration holders.

4. That the defendant be required to cancel Rule 36.230(b) of its Rules of Professional Conduct and every other resolution or statement of policy which has as its purpose or effect the suppression or elimination of competitive bidding by Board certificate of registration holders.

5. That the defendant be required to notify all Board certificate of registration holders, the general public, and all Alaska city, borough, and state officials that it has cancelled and rescinded Rule 36.230(b) of its Rules of Professional Conduct and every other resolution or statement of policy which has as its purpose or effect the suppression or elimination of competitive bidding by Board certificate of registration holders.

6. That the plaintiff have such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

7. That the plaintiff recover the costs of this suit.

William F. Baxter
WILLIAM F. BAXTER
Assistant Attorney General

Edward D. Eliasberg, Jr.
EDWARD D. ELIASBERG, JR.

Joseph H. Widmar
JOSEPH H. WIDMAR

Carolyn L. Davis
CAROLYN L. DAVIS

John W. Poole, Jr.
JOHN W. POOLE, JR.

Mark R. Davis
MARK R. DAVIS

Thomas L. Greaney
THOMAS L. GREANEY

Attorneys, United States
Department of Justice
10th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Telephone: (202) 633-2582

Attorneys, United States
Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
District of Alaska

Dated: