

**State of New Hampshire  
Real Estate Appraiser Board  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301**

In the Matter of:  
John Prieto  
No.: NHLR485  
(Misconduct Allegations)

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

In order to avoid the delay and expense of further proceedings and to promote the best interests of the public and the practice of real estate appraisals, the New Hampshire Board Real Estate Appraiser (“Board”) and John Prieto (“Respondent”), an appraiser licensed by the Board, do hereby stipulate and agree to resolve certain allegations of professional misconduct now pending before the Board according to the following terms and conditions:

1. Pursuant to RSA 310-B:17-a or RSA 310-B:17-b; RSA 310-B:18; RSA 310-B:19; and Real Estate Appraiser Rule (“Rab”) Part 205, 206 and 208, the Board has jurisdiction to investigate and adjudicate allegations of professional misconduct committed by appraisers. Pursuant to Rab 205.02 (c) and (d), the Board may, at any time, dispose of such allegations by settlement and without commencing a disciplinary hearing.
2. It was alleged that the Respondent’s appraisal report contained a series of errors rendering it misleading.
3. In response to this, the Board conducted an investigation and obtained information from various sources pertaining to Respondent’s appraisal report in question.
4. Respondent stipulates that if a disciplinary hearing were to take place, Hearing Counsel would prove that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct, in violation of the following Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (2012-13 edition), by the following facts:
  - A. Unauthorized practice (310-B:3)
  - B. SR1-4 (b) Cost approach violation
5. The Board finds that Respondent committed the acts as described above and concludes that, by engaging in such conduct, Respondent violated RSA 310-B:18; RSA 310-B:18-a;
6. Respondent acknowledges that this conduct constitutes grounds for the Board to impose disciplinary sanctions against Respondent’s license to practice as a real estate appraiser in the State of New Hampshire.
7. Respondent consents to the Board imposing the following discipline, pursuant to RSA 310-B:18:
  - A. Respondent is required to meaningfully participate in a program of continuing education in the areas of 15 hour Cost Approach approved continuing education class with a passing grade on exam, These hours shall be in addition to the hours

- required by the Board for renewal of licensure and shall be completed within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effective date of this *Settlement Agreement*. Within fifteen (15) days of completing these hours, Respondent shall notify the Board and provide written proof of completion.
- B. Respondent is assessed an ADMINISTRATIVE FINE in the amount of \$1,000.00. Respondent shall pay this fine in full within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this *Settlement Agreement*, as defined further below, by delivering a money order or bank check, made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Hampshire," to the Board's office at 57 Regional Drive, Unit 2, Concord, New Hampshire.
- C. Within ten (10) days of the effective date of this agreement, as defined further below, Respondent shall furnish a copy of the *Settlement Agreement* to any current employer for whom Respondent performs services as an appraiser or work which requires a appraisal knowledge or directly or indirectly involves appraising, and to any agency or authority which licenses, certifies or credentials appraisers, with which Respondent is presently affiliated.
- D. For a continuing period of one (1) year from the effective date of this agreement, Respondent shall furnish a copy of this *Settlement Agreement* to any employer to which Respondent may apply for work as an appraiser or for work in any capacity which requires appraisal knowledge or directly or indirectly involves appraising, and to any agency or authority that licenses, certifies or credentials appraisers, to which Respondent may apply for any such professional privileges or recognition.
8. Respondent's breach of any terms or conditions of this *Settlement Agreement* shall constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to RSA 310-B:18, IX, and a separate and sufficient basis for further disciplinary action by the Board.
9. Except as provided herein, this *Settlement Agreement* shall bar the commencement of further disciplinary action by the Board based upon the misconduct described above. However, the Board may consider this misconduct as evidence of a pattern of conduct in the event that similar misconduct is proven against Respondent in the future. Additionally, the Board may consider the fact that discipline was imposed by this Order as a factor in determining appropriate discipline should any further misconduct be proven against Respondent in the future.
10. This *Settlement Agreement* shall become a permanent part of Respondent's file, which is maintained by the Board as a public document.
11. Respondent voluntarily enters into and signs this *Settlement Agreement* and states that no promises or representations have been made to them other than those terms and conditions expressly stated herein.
12. The Board agrees that in return for Respondent executing this *Settlement Agreement*, the Board will not proceed with the formal adjudicatory process based upon the facts described herein.

13. Respondent understands that their action in entering into this *Settlement Agreement* is a final act and not subject to reconsideration or judicial review or appeal.
14. Respondent has had the opportunity to seek and obtain the advice of an attorney of their choosing in connection with their decision to enter into this agreement.
15. Respondent understands that the Board must review and accept the terms of this *Settlement Agreement*. If the Board rejects any portion, the entire *Settlement Agreement* shall be null and void. Respondent specifically waives any claims that any disclosures made to the Board during its review of this *Settlement Agreement* have prejudiced their right to a fair and impartial hearing in the future if this *Settlement Agreement* is not accepted by the Board.
16. Respondent is not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time they sign this *Settlement Agreement*.
17. Respondent certifies that he has read this document titled *Settlement Agreement*. Respondent understands that he has the right to a formal adjudicatory hearing concerning this matter and that at said hearing he would possess the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to call witnesses, to present evidence, to testify on their own behalf, to contest the allegations, to present oral argument, and to appeal to the courts. Further, Respondent fully understands the nature, qualities and dimensions of these rights. Respondent understands that by signing this *Settlement Agreement*, he waives these rights as they pertain to the misconduct described herein.
18. This *Settlement Agreement* shall take effect as an Order of the Board on the date it is signed by an authorized representative of the Board.

**FOR RESPONDENT**

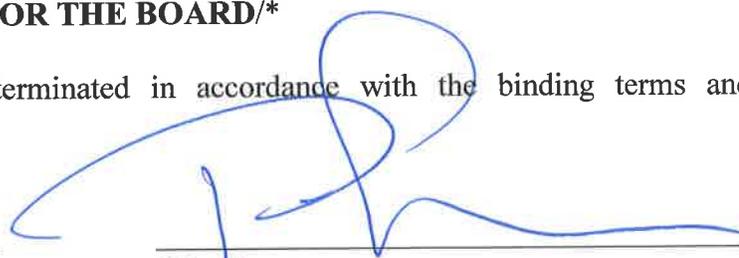
Date: 4/4/14

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Prieto  
Respondent

**FOR THE BOARD/\***

This proceeding is hereby terminated in accordance with the binding terms and conditions set forth above.

Date: 4/4/14

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

PATRICIA SHERMAN

(Print or Type Name) CHAIR

~~Louise Lavertu~~

~~Authorized Representative of the~~

~~New Hampshire Real Estate Appraiser Board~~

/\* Mark Correnti, Board member, recused.

v.09.11