

NEVADA STATE BOARD of DENTAL EXAMINERS



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April 5, 2017

Board Teleconference
Meeting

STATEMENT TO NV STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

(April 5, 2017)

My name is Erin Negrete. I have been asked to speak today behalf of the Las Vegas Dental Association and complete the statement started by my colleague Dr Michael Bell.

5. Shaffer admitted that she failed to appropriately disclose on the financial statements the full amount of actual legal fees that Hunt took from the Board....

6. The Legislative investigator's report held Shaffer responsible for her lack of accuracy and lack of fair presentation of its financial statements.

7. Hunt's contract with this Board does not allow him to charge more than \$175,000 per year, but Shaffer assisted Hunt to be paid on all of his contractually false and misleading invoices that went over Hunt's \$175,000 maximum cap he submitted for payment. For the years 2014 and 2015 alone Hunt knowingly over billed the Dental Board more than 250,000.

In summary, investigators told Shaffer they discovered that she over paid Hunt the \$250,000 more than six months ago. As of this date, Shaffer has still not performed her fiduciary duty to the Board members and the public by advising Board members to vote on demanding Hunt to pay back the excess \$250,000 he fraudulently over billed the Board. We still don't know how much Hunt has possibly over billed our board over the past 26 years. We want our money back...Shaffer gone...and Hunt held accountable!

Hunt, as an attorney, is held to a higher standard in the community for knowingly having taken monies from our Board by inappropriately over billing more than what his contract allowed. Hunt was present when his legal fees were under reported on financial statements presented to Board Members at their meetings.

We now make a formal request that the Board do the following:

1. Place on the Agenda at its next meeting a vote to demand John Hunt to return the amount of monies he over billed the Board in the amount of \$250,000 in 2014 and 2015 and investigate Hunt's over billings for his 26-year tenure with the Board;
2. Place on the Agenda at its next meeting a vote to send a formal Bar complaint against Hunt for his fraudulent over billings to the Board; and
3. Include a copy of the 2016 Legislative Performance Audit as part the public record for today's meeting.

Thank you!

STATEMENT TO NV STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

(April 5, 2017)

My name is Dr. Michael Bell. I have been asked to speak today behalf of the Las Vegas Dental Association. We are asking the Board to terminate Schaffer's employment with this Board in an effort for the Board to gain back its integrity and transparency that the Public and its licensees so deserve. Please allow us to explain some of the important reasons for this Board to take such course of action against Schaffer.

Legislative investigators discovered that John Hunt, Esq. took over \$250,000 in over billings from the Board in just 2014 and 2015 alone. The Dental Board's Executive Director, Debra Shaffer, knew or ought to have known she allowed over payments of \$250,000 for Hunt's false and misleading excessive billings to the Board during 2014 and 2015. Shaffer either fraudulently or thru error allowed Hunt to be paid his false and misleading invoices for legal fees in excess of his \$175,000 cap per year in both 2014 and 2105 by a total of \$250,000. Shaffer admitted to the Legislative investigator that she, without knowledge of the Board members, methodically under reported over \$400,000 of Hunt's legal fees to Board on 2014 and 2015 financial statements. (see Legislative Performance Audit, May 2016, pp. 13, 45, 59).

We request the Board terminate Shaffer's employment with this Board in an effort for the Board to gain back its integrity and transparency that the public and its licensees deserve. Below are at some of the important reasons why Board should take this course of action against Shaffer:

1. In the 2016 Legislative Performance Audit of the Dental Board, Shaffer admits to investigators that she was responsible for under reporting legal fees from John Hunt by almost three times their actual amounts on the Board's 2014 and 2015 financial statements.
2. Hunt took over \$400,000 more in legal fees than what Shaffer reported to the Board members on the Board's financial statements.
3. Shaffer admitted to investigators that she was the one who was responsible for internally reducing Hunt's actual total annual legal fees which were then improperly presented to the board members at their public meetings.
4. Financial statements incorrectly stated that Hunt was only being paid about \$110,000 per year when in fact he was cashing in checks for about \$310,000 per year....

My colleague Erin Negrete will now complete my statement.

Thank you!

STATEMENT TO NV STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

(April 5, 2017)

My name is Dr. Nahid Mohammadi. I have been asked to speak today behalf of the Las Vegas Dental Association.

In 2016, Byron Blasco learned that the Legislative investigation of the Dental Board discovered that John Hunt, Esq. had over billed the Board in the amount of \$250,000 during the years 2014 and 2015. Blasco failed to perform his fiduciary duty to the Board and by not demanding Hunt return his \$250,000 in over billings back to the Board's bank account. Blasco's long-term personal relationship with Hunt may have clouded his judgement and this could explain not only his bias for Hunt but his willfully ignoring Hunt's errors and omissions over the past 26 years.

During the Board's last meeting on March 24, 2017, Blasco incorrectly told Board Members that they could still vote for Hunt as General Counsel even after Hunt had withdrawn his application from consideration General Counsel. If Blasco lacks simple binary logic on something this simple then how can Blasco lead the Dental Board as its President? While his volunteering to serve has been appreciated it is outweighed by his lack of ability to serve and protect the public and the licensees against Hunt's abuses.

During the last Dental Board meeting, Blasco also has falsely asserted that the Board has complied with all 14 problematic areas identified in 2016 Legislative Performance Audit of the Dental Board, but this is not the case with respect to investigation and complaint process. Is it possible that Blasco is unwilling to change the system that is not in compliance with the Board's own statutes and regulations because Blasco is still protecting the system created by his buddy Hunt that has been flawed for the last 26 years? We believe the recommendations in the investigative report should be implemented and not recommendations from Hunt and Blasco.

In summary, we call upon Byron Blasco to resign from the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners so that the rest of the Board members can elect a new president who has not shown bias for Hunt or Shaffer and who has not been identified opposing the 14 problematic areas identified in the Legislative Audit that need to be fixed.

Thank you!