

# The American Institute of Architects

The Octagon, Washington, D. C.



## Findings of the Judiciary Committee

*Transmitted herewith to Members as required by the Judiciary Rules of the Institute.*

### NOTICE.

*January, 1918.*

*To the Members of the American Institute of Architects:*

The "Rules for the Guidance of the Committee on Practice and the Judiciary Committee

#### *Advertising by Publication of a Business Card.*

Mr. Joseph H. McGuire, of the New York Chapter, was found guilty of advertising by the Committee on Practice, and the Judiciary Committee concurs in this decision.

The advertising in question consisted of the insertion of an ordinary business card in a current publication. The card contained Mr. McGuire's name and address, telephone number and a reference to membership in several architectural organizations.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that the Board of Directors holds that the findings of the Judiciary Committee are in accordance with the Canons of Ethics, but assigns no penalty other than the publication of these findings.

#### *Unprofessional Conduct in Offering to Divide Commissions.*

Mr. Alfred Hopkins, of the New York Chapter, was found guilty by the Committee on Practice of unprofessional conduct in that he wrote to Mr. William Skinner of the National Dairy Show Association requesting his aid in procuring business, and offering to pay Mr. Skinner part of any commissions he might receive.

The Committee on Practice found that Mr. Hopkins was guilty of an infraction of the spirit of the Canons of Ethics and that his conduct was prejudicial to the interests of the profession at large.

The Judiciary Committee, after an extended hearing, upheld these findings.

The Secretary then presented a letter of August 17, 1917, from Mr. Alfred Hopkins, appealing from the decision of the Judiciary Committee that he was guilty of unprofessional conduct. He enclosed a copy of his letter to Mr. Skinner, General Manager of the National Dairy Show Association, in which he offered to share the percentage of any commission received. By way of explanation Mr. Hopkins said

that this offer was simply an expression of willingness on his part to pay for service—and that he was in duty called upon to make some suggestion of payment to a man whom he did not know. Furthermore, he was really looking for a business representative in Chicago, and while the letter was thoughtlessly written he believed too much importance had been given to the form of an offer which he thought to be a legitimate endeavor to increase his business.

After deliberation, and on motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that the findings of the Judiciary Committee be approved and that Mr. Hopkins be suspended for one year.

#### *Advertising by Publication of a Business Card.*

Mr. Haralson Bleckley, of the Georgia Chapter, whose partner inserted a professional card of the firm in a newspaper, was charged with advertising and the Committee on Practice found a prima facie case.

The Judiciary Committee finds that on technical grounds he is guilty as charged, under the strict interpretation of the rule against advertising. However, the Committee is strongly of the opinion that the circumstances are distinctly unusual; Mr. Bleckley was personally unaware of the insertion of the card. In any case it was a minor offense and that the guilt in this case is of the very slightest.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that the Board considers the findings of the Judiciary Committee to be in accordance with a strict technical interpretation of the Canons of Ethics, and necessarily, under the established precedent that a partner is responsible for the actions of his firm, finds Mr. Bleckley guilty of advertising, but under the unusual circumstances of the case he is absolved of any intention to offend.

WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER,  
Secretary.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Bleckley  
COPY

2-3

My dear Mr. Bleckley:-

By direction of the Secretary I advise you with regret that your Institute membership was discontinued on January 1, 1919, on account of non payment of dues.

As you know, this will automatically discontinue your Chapter membership, and I am, therefore, sending a copy of this letter to the Secretary of the Georgia Chapter, Mr. Warren C. Powell, Candler Bldg., Atlanta, Ga., for his information and guidance.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Haralson Bleckley,  
King Building, Atlanta, Ga.

K:B