

FILED 6/22/17 (Date)

BEFORE THE ACCOUNTANCY EXAMINING BOARD
OF THE STATE OF IOWA

IAEB
Board / Commission
Robert L. Lampe
Signature, Executive Officer

IN THE MATTER OF:

Nancy Ann Patterson
Certificate #R05438

and

Moorhead Patterson & Company, PC
Permit # 2016-190

Respondents.

Case No. 16-17

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF
CHARGES, SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT, AND FINAL ORDER**

A. Statement of Charges

1. The Iowa Accountancy Examining Board (“Board”) has jurisdiction of this disciplinary matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C, and 542 (2017).

2. Respondent, Nancy Ann Patterson, was issued Iowa CPA certificate number R05438 on October 25, 2010. Respondent’s CPA certificate is currently active and will next expire the 30th day of June, 2017. Respondent, Moorhead Patterson & Company, PC, holds previously issued firm permit number 2016-190. The firm permit will expire on the 30th day of June, 2017. Nancy Ann Patterson and Moorhead Patterson & Company, PC, shall jointly be referred to as “Respondents.”

3. In August of 2016 the Board was notified by the Employee Benefits Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor (“EBSA”) of concerns with Respondents’ performance of the October 13, 2015, audit of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 91 Annuity Plan of and for the year ended December 31, 2014. Two deficiencies noted by the EBSA were particularly significant involving failure to perform sufficient audit work in certain relevant areas to support the unqualified opinion rendered on the plan’s financial statements, and failure of the financial statements to meet reporting and disclosure requirements.

4. Based on the foregoing, the Board charges Respondents with failing to comply with applicable auditing standards when developing, issuing, and documenting governmental audits in violation of Iowa Code section 542.10(1)(d) and 193A Iowa Administrative Code rules 13.1(4); 13.4(2)(b), (3), (5); 13.6(8); and 14.3(6) and (7)(a).

5. The Board and Respondents have agreed to fully resolve these charges through the following Settlement Agreement and Final Order, rather than proceed to contested case hearing.

B. Settlement Agreement and Final Order

1. Respondents do not admit the above referenced allegations as set forth in the Statement of Charges, but do agree to the entry of this Settlement Agreement and Final Order (Agreement) as the resolution of a disputed matter.

2. Respondents have a right to a hearing on the charges, but waives Respondents' right to hearing and all attendant rights, including the right to seek judicial review, by freely and voluntarily entering into this Agreement. This Agreement constitutes discipline against Respondents, and is the final agency order in the contested case, pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.10 and 193 Iowa Administrative Code 7.4. Respondents acknowledge that Respondents had an opportunity to review this Agreement with legal counsel before signing it.

3. This Agreement shall be part of the permanent record of Respondents and shall be considered by the Board in determining the nature and severity of any future disciplinary action to be imposed in the event of any future violations.

4. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Agreement shall be grounds for further disciplinary action pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.3(2)(a). However, no action may be taken against Respondents for violations of these provisions without a hearing, or waiver of hearing.

5. The Agreement shall also not preclude the Board from taking appropriate action in the event the Board receives any further complaints or information against Respondents.

6. This Agreement is a public record available for inspection and copying in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 22.

7. Respondents agree the State's counsel may present this Agreement to the Board and may have ex parte communications with the Board while presenting it.

8. This Agreement is subject to approval of the Board:

a. If the Board fails to approve this Agreement, it shall be of no force or effect on either party, and it shall not be admissible for any purpose in further proceedings in this matter;

b. If the Board approves this Agreement, it shall fully dispose of all issues in this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

A. **Reprimand.** Respondents are reprimanded for failing to adhere to applicable auditing standards in their audit practice.

B. **Civil Penalty.** Respondents shall each pay separate civil penalties of \$1,000

within thirty days from the date this Agreement is signed by all parties.

C. Practice Restriction.

1. Respondents are restricted from performing audits of employee benefit plans covered under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“Covered Audits”). If Respondents wish to perform Covered Audits, any such audits shall be pre-release reviewed following the procedures outlined in Section D (Desk Review and Release of Practice Restriction) from and after the date this Agreement is signed by all parties, until the restriction is lifted by the Board. Unless and until the restriction is removed, any Covered Audits shall be subject to pre-release desk review by an Iowa CPA pre-approved by the Board (“Approved Desk Reviewer”). At least four (4) Covered Audits must be subject to pre-release review before Respondents may apply to release the restriction. The process for pre-release review and removal of the restriction shall be as outlined in Section D (Desk Review and Release of Practice Restriction), below.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed or interpreted to *require* Respondents to perform Covered Audits. If Respondents elect to not perform Covered Audits, the requirements of Section D (Desk Review and Release of Practice Restriction) shall not apply, unless and until Respondents elect to resume providing Covered Audits.

D. Desk Review and Release of Practice Restriction.

1. Respondents’ CPA certificate and permit to practice, respectively, shall be subject to an indefinite practice restriction effective the day this Agreement is executed by all parties. Until this restriction is released, Respondents are restricted from performing Covered Audits as stated in section C. If Respondents wish to perform Covered Audits, all such audits shall be pre-release reviewed using the procedures further outlined in this section D from and after the date this Agreement is signed by all parties, until the restriction is lifted by Board order.
2. Respondents agree to retain, at their own expense, an Approved Desk Reviewer for the purpose of reviewing Respondents’ next four (4) Covered Audit engagements.
3. Respondents shall provide the Approved Desk Reviewer with a copy of this Agreement, and shall supply the Board with any resulting engagement letter between Respondents and the Approved Desk Reviewer in advance of implementing their agreement. Respondents may not perform any Covered Audits until such engagement letter has been submitted to the Board and approved.

4. The following terms shall apply to the desk review:
 - a. The first four (4) Covered Audits performed by Respondents after they have obtained an Approved Desk Reviewer shall be subject to desk review. As described below, the Board may order additional desk reviews if the reviews from the first four (4) audits do not demonstrate compliance with applicable audit standards.
 - b. Respondents shall submit to the Approved Desk Reviewer for pre-release review all work-papers, reports, and related documents for the four (4) Covered Audits referenced above. The Approved Desk Reviewer shall perform desk reviews of the work-papers, reports, and related documents for the four (4) Covered Audits referenced above. These reviews shall be for facial compliance with minimum auditing standards. The Approved Desk Reviewer shall not perform field work or warrant the accuracy of Respondents' work product, but will review work-papers, reports, internal control systems, and such additional documents as are reasonably needed.
 - c. The Approved Desk Reviewer shall prepare written comments on each of the four (4) Covered Audit reports and work papers, and shall provide the Approved Desk Reviewer's comments, work-papers, and notes simultaneously to Respondents and the Board.
 - d. The Approved Desk Reviewer's recommended revisions or collections, if any, shall be incorporated into each final audit prior to release of the report to the client or any third party. Respondents shall, as needed, submit a revised version of each report to the Approved Desk Reviewer for final approval prior to such release. If Respondents disagree with a recommended revision by the Approved Desk Reviewer, they shall notify the Board in writing of the recommendation, their response, and the nature of the dispute.
 - e. Within ten days of the issuance of each audit report, Respondents shall provide the Board a copy of the initial audit report as sent to the Approved Desk Reviewer, the final audit report as issued to the client, all work-papers, and any final desk review comments related to review of the final audit report. These documents do not need to be received by the Board prior to issuance of an audit report approved for release by the Approved Desk Reviewer.
5. The Board shall release Respondents from the practice restriction established by this Agreement if the the Covered Audits reviewed in accordance with this Section demonstrate compliance with applicable auditing standards, and Respondents have successfully complied with all of the other terms of this Agreement. The Board may rely upon the report from and/or written

comments prepared by the Approved Desk Reviewer or the Board, or its designated peer reviewer, may conduct its own review of the Covered Audits as may be reasonably required to assure future practices will be compliant with professional standards.

6. Provided Respondents have successfully complied with all of the other terms of this Agreement, upon completion of the review of the four (4) Covered Audits, Respondents may file an application for release from the practice restriction established by Section C (Practice Restriction) and this Section D (Desk Review and Release of Practice Restriction). Respondents shall provide the Board with such access to records as is necessary to verify compliance with this Agreement. Respondents' application for release from the practice restriction established by this Agreement shall comply with 193A Iowa Administrative Code rule 16.5 and 193 Iowa Administrative Code rule 7.38. The Board recognizes that 193 Iowa Administrative Code 7.30(3) is not applicable to this situation.
7. The Board retains full discretion on whether and when to release Respondents from the practice restriction established by this Agreement. With notice to and an opportunity for Respondents to object, the Board may modify the terms of this practice restriction upon a demonstrated basis for such action.
8. This Agreement shall not preclude the Board from filing additional charges if one or more of the Covered Audits subject to desk review or otherwise demonstrate probable cause to take such action.

E. Submission of Peer Review Report.

1. Respondents shall submit to the board their most recent peer review report issued pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code chapter 11. *See also id.* 193A—11.6 (“The subject of a peer review may voluntarily submit the final peer review report directly to the board.”).
2. With notice to and an opportunity for Respondents to object, the Board may modify the scope or terms of this Agreement if Respondents' most recent peer review report reveals issues with Respondents audit practice generally, as opposed to only Covered Audits. If Respondents' most recent peer review report reveals issues with Respondents audit practice generally, in assessing whether and how to modify the scope or terms of this Agreement, the Board may require Respondents to supply the Board with work-papers, reports, and related documents for up to two (2) additional audits as may be randomly selected by the Board from Respondents audit logs, which the Board, or its designated peer reviewer, may review to assure compliance with professional standards. Respondents shall provide the Board with such access to records as is necessary to verify compliance with this Section.

F. **Education.** Nancy Ann Patterson and all professional staff of Moorhead Patterson & Company, PC, who perform audits shall complete 30 hours of professional education related to performing audits. These CPE credits are not to be used for any individual CPA license renewal.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

Respondents

Nancy Ann Patterson, CPA, individual:

Iowa Accountancy Examining Board

Nancy Ann Patterson
By:

[Signature]
By: Ying Sa, CPA, Chair

May 30, 2017
Date

06/21/17
Date

Moorhead Patterson & Company, PC, firm:

Nancy Ann Patterson
By:

May 30, 2017
Date