

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS**

Complaint No. 2023-11

**IN THE MATTER OF:
Ashley Ray Bice, PE 13829**

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

A hearing on the above-referenced matter was held before the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors (“the Board”) on March 12, 2024. The Respondent appeared in person, and by and through his legal counsel, Harrison Kemp. The Board was represented by Senior Assistant Attorney General Michael Lewis. The Board, from all the evidence presented and the stipulations of the parties, makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Bice has been actively licensed since June 24, 2009.
2. Respondent Bice received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas in May 2004.
3. Respondent Bice attended and passed the NCEES Principles and Practices of Engineering Civil exam in April 2004.
4. On June 22, 2022, the Board issued an “Amended Board Order” which prohibited Justin Hall from representing himself as a structural engineer until Justin Hall satisfied to the Board that he had completed a master’s program in Civil Engineering/Structural and passed the NCESS professional Engineer Structural exam.
5. On June 22, 2022, the Board issued an “Amended Board Order” which restricted Justin Hall and Hall Engineering’s license from representing themselves as having expertise in,

- or providing or offering to provide, structural inspection analysis, or forensic analysis until Justin Hall and Hall Engineering satisfied to the Board that Justin Hall passed the NCEES Professional Engineer Civil Engineer exam with Structural emphasis.
6. On April 15, 2023, Kathrine Holsapple's property at 2900 Green County Rd 326 in Bono, AR was damaged during a straight-line wind event, causing a large tree to fall on to the Holsapple property resulting in severe damage to the Holsapple home.
 7. Holsapple filed a claim with her homeowner's insurance, State Farm. State Farm contracted EnVista Forensics (AR COA # 1422) to perform a structural evaluation and provide a suggested scope of repairs for the damages. Nolan Williams, PE #21863 stamped the report dated May 22, 2023
 8. On or about June 3, 2023, an engineer from Hall Engineering visited the Holsapple property and conducted an engineering evaluation. Justin Hall signed and sealed an engineering report for the Holsapple property.
 9. On June 5, 2023, Hall Engineering provided the report to Holsapple, who then turned it into State Farm. Due to Justin Hall's restricted license, State Farm rejected the Hall Report.
 10. On June 13, 2023, Respondent Bice stamped and sealed a separate engineering report for Kathrine Holsapple's property at 2900 Green County Rd 326 in Bono, AR.
 11. The engineering report stamped and sealed by Respondent Bice was actually prepared by Justin Hall and Hall Engineering.
 12. Respondent Bice's report was nearly identical to the Justin Hall and Hall Engineering report.
 13. Respondent Bice stamped and sealed the engineering report at the request of Justin Hall.

14. Respondent Bice's report was ultimately submitted to State Farm in place of the Hall Engineering report.

15. Respondent Bice's report was rejected by State Farm.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

16. Respondent Bice's actions alleged in Allegations of Fact 1-15 in signing and sealing engineering work that was not Respondent's own violates Ark. Code Ann. §17-30-305(a)(1)(J), "Signing, affixing the professional engineer's seal, or permitting the professional engineer's seal or signature to be affixed to an instrument of practice that has not been prepared or completely checked by the professional engineer or under the professional engineer's direct supervision or control."

ORDER

For the violations found by the Board and described herein, the Board imposes the following penalties:

- A. For the violations described in Conclusions of Law, Ashley Ray Bice shall pay a monetary penalty of \$5,000, and
- B. Ashley Ray Bice's license as a professional engineer is on probation for a period of six (6) months and during that time Respondent is required to complete a six (6) hour online or in-person engineering ethics course and provide evidence of completion.

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-212, Applicant may petition for judicial review of this decision by filing a petition in circuit court within thirty (30) days after the service of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2024

**Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional
Engineers and Professional Surveyors**



MURRY E. CLINE, P.E. PRESIDENT