

MARYLAND BOARD OF INDIVIDUAL \*  
TAX PREPARERS

v.

LOVET A. AKO,

Respondent

BEFORE THE MARYLAND BOARD OF

INDIVIDUAL TAX PREPARERS

CASE NO.: MITP-16-0109

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the Maryland Board of Individual Tax Preparers (the "Board") as a result of a complaint filed by John Reiman (the "Complainant") against Lovet A. Ako (the "Respondent"), an unregistered professional individual tax preparer. Upon review of the complaint and a subsequent investigation, the Board determined that administrative charges against the Respondent were appropriate. On or about November 9, 2016, the Board issued a Notice of Charges and Order for Hearing (incorporated by reference herein) alleging that the Respondent engaged in certain violations of the Maryland Individual Tax Preparers Act. The parties enter into this Consent Order as a full and final resolution of this matter, with terms as follows:

**THE PARTIES AGREE AND STIPULATE:**

1. The Respondent has never been registered with the Board to provide services as an individual tax preparer in Maryland. At all times relevant to the matters set forth in this Consent Order, the Board had jurisdiction over the subject matter.

2. On or about April 18, 2016, a complaint was filed with the Board by John Reiman alleging that he initially hired the Respondent around December of 2014 to file amended state and federal individual income tax returns for 2012 and 2013. The Respondent was subsequently hired by the Complainant to prepare and file his 2014 and 2015 state and federal individual income tax returns.

3. Upon receipt of the complaint and a subsequent Board investigation, information was obtained from the Maryland Office of the Comptroller (the "Comptroller") indicating that the Respondent had filed a significant number of Maryland individual income tax returns as a professional tax preparer with Money Back Tax, LLC. It was determined that the Respondent provided individual tax preparation services to Maryland taxpayers during 2016 while not registered with the Board. From approximately January 28, 2016 through September 18, 2016, the Respondent filed at least 287 Maryland individual tax returns (Form 502) with the Comptroller for the 2015 tax year.

4. Based on the aforementioned facts, the Respondent admits to violations of Md. Ann. Code, Business Occupations and Professions Article ("BOP"), §§ 21-301 and 21-401 as alleged in the Notice of Charges and Order for Hearing.

5. As a result of his violations, the Respondent agrees to pay a total civil penalty to the Board in the amount of **\$15,000.00** in accordance with the following schedule:

a. The first payment shall be in the amount of \$7500.00 and shall be due on or before January 6, 2017.

b. The second payment shall be in the amount of \$7500.00 and shall be due on or before February 1, 2017.

6. The Respondent agrees that he shall not provide, offer, or attempt to provide individual tax preparation services in Maryland until such time as he is properly registered with the Board and that he shall make prompt and diligent efforts to become registered.

7. The Respondent shall be required to pass the Board's examination and meet all other legal requirements for registration prior to becoming registered with the Board.

8. The Respondent shall pay the civil penalty required by this Consent Order in full prior to becoming registered with the Board.

9. The Respondent shall complete 4 continuing professional education ("CPE") credit hours in the subject matter area of Ethics prior to becoming registered with the Board. The CPE credits obtained in accordance with this paragraph shall be above and beyond any normal statutory or regulatory requirements and, in the event that the Respondent obtains a registration from the Board, shall not be credited toward any future renewal period. The Respondent shall furnish documentary evidence of satisfactory completion of the CPE training in conjunction with any application to the Board for registration.

10. The Respondent shall abide by the provisions of the Maryland Individual Tax Preparers Act and applicable regulations in all relevant future activities.

11. The Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Consent Order shall constitute a Final Order of the Board and shall be enforceable as such.

12. The Respondent, by entering into this Consent Order, expressly waives the right to an administrative hearing, any and all further proceedings before the Board to which he may otherwise be entitled in this matter, and any rights to appeal from this Order.

13. The Respondent enters into this Consent Order freely, knowingly and voluntarily, and with the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel.

BASED ON THESE STIPULATIONS, IT IS, THIS 13 DAY OF January, 2017, BY THE MARYLAND BOARD OF INDIVIDUAL TAX PREPARERS:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent has violated BOP, §§ 21-301 and 21-401;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of **\$15,000.00** to the Board in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 5 of this Consent Order;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Respondent shall comply with all required terms and conditions of this Consent Order prior to becoming registered with the Board;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this matter shall be resolved in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order, and that the same shall be reflected among the records of the Board;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall constitute a Final Order of the Maryland Board of Individual Tax Preparers.

**Signature on File**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lovet A. Ako  
Respondent

1-1-17

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Signature on File**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fredric "Robert" Bader, Chairperson  
Maryland Board of Individual  
Tax Preparers

1-13-17

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

FRB/kmk