



Department of Justice

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The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today against the Alaska Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

The complaint said the Board restricted price competition among architects, engineers, and land surveyors practicing in Alaska with a rule against competitive bidding.

Attorney General William French Smith said that the complaint, alleging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, was filed in the U.S. District Court in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Board is composed of nine practicing architects, engineers and land surveyors appointed by the governor of Alaska. It issues certificates of registration to all properly qualified architects, engineers and land surveyors practicing in Alaska and promulgates rules regulating the practice of those occupations within the state. It is the only architecture, engineering and land surveying licensing authority in Alaska.

William F. Baxter, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the complaint charged that the defendant and co-conspirators have entered into an unlawful agreement to adopt a rule of professional conduct which prohibits competitive bidding for architectural, engineering, and land surveying services.

(MORE)

According to the complaint, the effect of the rule against competitive bidding has been to suppress competition in the sale of architectural, engineering and land surveying services and to deprive purchasers of the benefits of free and open competition in the sale of such services.

The suit asks that the Board be enjoined from having any rule which prohibits competitive bidding.

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