

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 30250, New Orleans, LA 70190-0250



Telephone: (504) 524-6763

FAX: (504) 568-8893

Writer's Direct Dial:

(504) _____

**IN THE MATTER OF:
ALA J. ALBAZZAZ, M.D.
(Certificate No. 07354R)**

**OPINION
99-A-005**

This matter was heard by a panel of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") consisting of Drs. Ike Muslow, Elmo J. Laborde, and Trenton L. James, II, constituting a quorum of the Board.

This matter comes before the Board pursuant to an Administrative Complaint, charging that Ala Jabar Albazzaz, M.D., violated R.S. 37:1285A(29), in that his license to practice medicine in the State of Illinois has been disciplined by the Medical Disciplinary Board of the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation.

In evidence before us, without objection, are the proceedings of the I.D.P.R., including the complaint filed against Dr. Albazzaz; the report and recommendation of the Hearing Officer; and the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation to the Director.

As a result of those proceedings, the license of Dr. Albazzaz to practice medicine in the State of Illinois was indefinitely suspended for a minimum of five years; he was required to pay a fine of \$30,000.00; and was required to successfully complete the SPEX examination. Various requirements were also placed on any application for reinstatement. This determination is still on appeal in Illinois.

Dr. Albazzaz does not dispute the foregoing circumstances, but argues that this Board should take no action against his Louisiana license for a number of reasons.

He points out that, before the original Complaint was filed against him in Illinois, he was acquitted of all criminal charges against him in Illinois, which arose out of the same

October, 1999

acts with which he was charged in the Complaint. He refused to participate in settlement of the civil suits against him, which were settled by the HMO by which he was employed for amounts ranging from \$5,000.00 to \$15,000.00.

He complains that he was not given a fair hearing in Illinois. He claims that the entire case against him was political, and was media driven.

In support of his position he offered a large number of letters from patients, friends, and professional associates, attesting to his competency and to his good character. Also before us is the brief on appeal of his case in Illinois.

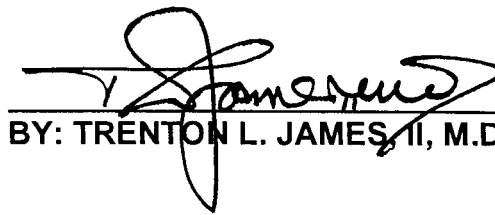
It is not the policy of this Board to retry or review disciplinary determinations made in other states. This case, for instance, turned on witness credibility, and was decided against Dr. Albazzaz.

There is no doubt that Dr. Albazzaz has been disciplined by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, although the determination made there is still under appellate review. Dr. Albazzaz is therefore guilty of the charge against him.

A review of our records, of which we take administrative notice, reveals that the license of Dr. Albazzaz to practice medicine in Louisiana lapsed in 1995 for non-renewal, and is not presently active. We therefore rule that no application for renewal thereof will be granted until such time as Dr. Albazzaz holds an unrestricted license in the State of Illinois.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, this 20 day of October, 1999.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trenton L. James, II", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

BY: TRENTON L. JAMES, II, M.D., VICE-PRESIDENT