



State of Louisiana

Gaming Control Board

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

HILLARY J. CRAIN  
CHAIRMAN

DECISION OF THE  
LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

IN RE: PATRICIA A. LAIRD  
P040034842

This is an appeal by Patricia A. Laird of the denial of the renewal of her non-key riverboat gaming employee permit.

By letter dated March 6, 2003, the Louisiana State Police, Casino Gaming Division ("Division"), denied Ms. Laird's renewal application based on her May 31, 2002, guilty plea for Misdemeanor Theft of Goods. Ms. Laird requested a hearing, after which the Hearing Officer upheld the Division's denial citing La. R.S. 27:28 (B)(1)(b) as grounds for the ruling. Ms. Laird has appealed the Hearing Officer's decision.

After careful review of the record and based on the facts and for the reasons assigned in the decision of the Hearing Officer which we attach hereto and adopt as our own, it is determined that the renewal of the non-key gaming employee permit of Patricia A. Laird Hill was properly denied.

**ORDER**

This matter having been considered by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board in open meeting of July 15, 2003:

IT IS ORDERED THAT the Hearing Officer's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003.

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT A CERTIFIED  
COPY HAS BEEN MAILED OR SERVED ON  
ALL PARTIES THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY  
OF July, 2003  
APPEAL DOCKET CLERK  
*Debra A. Coleman*

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

*[Signature]*  
HILLARY J. CRAIN, CHAIRMAN


**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
GAMING CONTROL BOARD**

**ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
APRIL 28, 2003**

**HEARING OFFICER  
JOSEPH E. ANZALONE, JR.**

**IN RE: PATRICIA A. LAIRD  
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TRUE COPY

  
Representative

Louisiana Gaming Control Board

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**P040034842**

**APPEARANCES:**

For the State of Louisiana:  
Ms. Kim Graham  
Assistant Attorney General  
One Canal Place  
365 Canal Street, Suite 2730  
New Orleans, LA 70130

For Patricia A. Laird  
Patricia A. Laird  
111 Cobb Road  
Lake Charles, LA 70607  
In Proper Person

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The Louisiana State Police, Casino Enforcement Division seeks to deny Patricia A. Laird a renewal application of her non-key gaming employee permit. This denial is based upon the permittee's plea of guilty to misdemeanor theft on May 31, 2002.

**STATE'S EVIDENCE AND CONTENTIONS:**

The State has offered, filed, and introduced into evidence an exhibit file marked S-1 (in globo) and containing the following documents:

1. Notice of Administrative Hearing dated March 19, 2003;
2. Request for Administrative Hearing received March 12, 2003;
3. Notice of Denial of Renewal Application dated March 6, 2003;
4. Non-key Gaming Permit Renewal Application received March 3, 2003, by Gaming Division of Louisiana State Police;
5. Copy of Offense report from Lake Charles Police Department;
6. Copy of Bill of Information filed May 28, 2002, by Calcasieu Parish District Attorney; and
7. Copy of Criminal History report from Calcasieu Parish District Attorney, evidencing a plea of guilty to theft Ms. Laird on May 31, 2002.

Marti DeLee, Louisiana State Police, Casino Gaming Division testified that during the process of reviewing Ms. Laird's application, she

learned that Ms. Laird pleaded guilty to misdemeanor theft on May 31, 2002, in the parish of Calcasieu.

**LICENSEE'S EVIDENCE AND CONTENTIONS:**

The licensee has offered, filed, and introduced into evidence an exhibit marked Permittee no. 1, and containing the following:

1. Motion For and Order of Expungement dated March 14, 2003, in the matter of the State of Louisiana vs. Patricia Laird, in which the charge of theft is ordered removed from the records.

Ms. Laird testified that she pleaded guilty to misdemeanor theft and was sentenced to one year probation, 3 months supervised and 9 months unsupervised. She further testified that she was ordered to undergo corrective training and attend church once a week.

She contends that she was under duress during the time the crime was committed.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Patricia A. Laird was arrested and charged on May 22, 2001, with theft of less than one hundred dollars. The Bill Of Information was filed in the Fourteenth Judicial District Court on May 28, 2001, and on May 31, 2002, the Ms. Laird pled guilty as charged. Incarceration was suspended and she was placed on probation for a period of one year, which seemingly has been successfully completed. Ms. Laird applied for and on March 14, 2003, procured an expungement regarding these charges.

**APPLICABLE LAW:**

La. R.S. 27:28(B)(1)(b) provides in pertinent part:

The board or division where applicable, shall not grant a license or permit, enter into a casino operating contract, or issue any other approval pursuant to the provision of this Title to any person who is disqualified on the basis of the following criteria:

- (1)(b) Theft or attempted theft, illegal possession of stolen things, or any offense or attempt involving the misappropriation of property or funds;

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

The Gaming Control Board in In Re: Franklin D. Hardeman and In Re: David Pierce, and their progeny, have consistently ruled that theft, regardless of the grade, demands denial of possessing a non-key gaming employee permit.

The expungement obtained by the permittee does not alter the ruling of the court. Beginning with Eicher v. The Louisiana Gaming Control Board, the Gaming Control Board's policy has been that only a gubernatorial pardon can erase the historical fact of guilt.

The permittee has, to the satisfaction of this writer, involved herself in criminal activity which demands the revocation of her permit.

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**JUDGMENT**

When, after a review of the pleadings, the evidence and argument of counsel,


**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED**, that Patricia A. Laird be DENIED a renewal of her non-key gaming employee permit.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 27 day of May, 2003.

  
Joseph E. Anzalone, Jr.  
Hearing Officer

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT A CERTIFIED  
COPY HAS BEEN MAILED OR SERVED ON  
ALL PARTIES THIS 27th DAY  
OF May 2003  
Debra M. Smith  
DOCKET CLERK, ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE

cc: Patricia Laird  
Kim Graham, Esq.  
Lt. George Dean

A TRUE COPY ATTEST  
LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
HEARING OFFICE  
BATON ROUGE, LA 5/27/03  
  
BY: CLERK