New York State
Department of Economic Development
Division of Minority and Women’s
Business Development

In the matter of the appeal of

**Sage and Coombe Architects, LLP**

**FINAL ORDER 20-03**

From a denial of certification as a Women-owned Business Enterprise pursuant to Executive Law Article 15-A.

This order arises from an administrative appeal brought on behalf of Sage and Coombe Architects, LLP (“Sage and Coombe” or “Appellant”) pursuant to section 144.2 of title 5 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. Appellant seeks reversal of the decision of the Division of Minority and Women’s Business Development (the “Division”), dated February 22, 2017, to deny Sage and Coombe certification as a Woman-owned Business Enterprise (“WBE”).


The issue on appeal was whether Sage and Coombe sufficiently demonstrated that the woman owner relied upon for certification is able to make decisions without restrictions by make decisions as it pertains to the operation of the business enterprise, as required by 5 NYCRR § 144.2(b)(2).

On March 11, 2020, the Division received a Recommended Order from Administrative Law Judge Goldberger that recommended affirmation of the Division’s denial of the application
to certify Sage and Coombe as a WBE on the grounds set forth in the Division’s February 22, 2017 denial letter.

After considering the appeal record, I accept the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge Goldberger as it pertains to the facts of this case. Incorporation by reference is hereby made with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Recommended Order.

It is hereby ORDERED that the decision to deny certification, dated February 22, 2017, is affirmed. Accordingly, Sage and Coombe Architects, LLP will not be listed in the Division’s directory for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises.

April 21, 2020

Nicole Stent
Acting Executive Director
Division of Minority and Women’s Business Development