IDLCPA NEWSFLASH!!!

RUMOR RESPONSE  Many of our members and legislators have been seeing emails and newsletter articles from opposition groups making outrageous claims stating that the interior design licensing bill will put “everyone out of business except for a handful of elite designers.” They also argue licensing the profession is a violation of free speech claiming that drawing a sketch on a napkin will get you prosecuted!

The IDLCPA has put together a Fact VS Fiction document that addresses many of the unsubstantiated claims and the actual truth to dispute these misconceptions. Please use this document to become comfortable with the issues so you can talk to colleagues and legislators that are hearing and possibly believing the opposition. Please also share this information with the industry representatives who are also targeted by these claims.

The simple facts are that:

- The Interior Design Practice Act is meant to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of the general public
- There is a difference between an Interior Design Professional and an Interior Decorator. Although both job categories are needed in today’s society, there are many projects that call for a professional that has the education, experience and testing to address space designs regulated by Pennsylvania building codes.
- There are specific exemptions in the bill to ensure that decorators, contractors, architects, kitchen and bath specialists, retailers and related industry fields will still be able to practice within their scope of expertise.
- There are clauses in the bill to ensure that designers who have been successfully practicing for years will be able to get licensed regardless of educational background.

If you or anyone you know has a question about the bill, please contact an IDLCPA board member so we can provide answers.

2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND DECAL GIVEAWAY  Can anyone believe it’s almost November? Which means the Holidays and New Year are right around the corner! Before we all get caught up in the craziness of the season, now would be a great time to get those 2009 Membership forms filled out and mailed in. Please look for email reminders or go to the website and download a membership form at www.idlcpa.org.

Memberships are critical to our cause. Along with showing the legislators how many people are dedicated to licensing, the memberships also help us keep track of constituents in certain districts, so that when we hear that a representative is having second thoughts, we can get his or her voters to send emails and make phone calls directly to him or her.

Due to the economy, the prices for the memberships are staying the same as last year. These rates are very reasonable compared with other professional organizations and all the money stays in state to protect our right to practice!

For an added incentive, IDLCPA will be mailing one decal per membership this year that you can put on your car or workstation showing your support for licensing. The decal is a simple black and white box that states “Support Interior Design Licensing” and the website. Can you imagine if legislators started seeing these decals all across the state? That would sure get their attention!!!!!

Additional decals are available for a donation of 1 for $3 or 2 for $5 by sending a check to the IDLCPA, PO Box 44144, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

IDLCPA BOARD

ASID W.Rep: Lauren Berger, Allied ASID
ASID W.Rep: Natalie Buches, Allied ASID
ASID W.Rep: Tim Holt, ASID
ASID E.Rep: Vera Bahou, Allied ASID
ASID E.Rep: Marcello Luzi, ASID, IIDA
ASID E.Rep: Cyndi Haaz, ASID
IIDA Rep: Jessica Belcher, IIDA
IIDA Rep: Jennifer Winters, IIDA
IIDA Rep: Chrissy Thompson, IIDA
Unaffiliated Rep: John Wagner
Unaffiliated Rep: Richard King
Educator W: Suzanne Kile, IIDA, LEED
Educator E: Ada Tremonte
Industry Rep.E: Tom Gillingham, ASID IP
Industry Rep. C: Stephanie Adams, IIDA, LEED
Student Rep.W: Sarah Glass, AIP Student
Student Rep.E: Melinda McComas & Erica Anderson, Drexel University

We NEED your support. Please become a member TODAY and consider contributing to the Interior Designer’s PAC!
NEWSFLASH continued

CRUISE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER IDLCPA is conducting a raffle for a 2 person, 3 night Carnival Cruise! CH Briggs has generously donated the cruise to help raise funds for the coalition.

   Thanks so much to Tom Gillingham, Stephanie Adams and all the folks at CH Briggs!

As the weather gets colder and colder, think how great it would be to escape it all and have a chance to totally relax and recharge!

The Raffle donation is $10 per ticket or 2 for $15 and all board members have tickets to sell. Please look for IDLCPA board members at all events and get your chance to win! For additional tickets please contact Suzanne Kile at skile@aii.edu.

Drawing will be held in April, 2009. Of course the cruise does have limitations and opportunities to upgrade, so if you have questions, please ask for the details!

2008 PAC FUND DRIVE IDLCPA is aggressively pursuing licensing in Harrisburg, and we need to get our name and issue in front of legislators. To do this we contribute to legislators’ campaign committees through the PAC (Political Action Committee).

2008 is an election year for the PA House and Senate, and there are numerous campaign contribution opportunities. We, along with our lobbyist, have targeted key legislators that will help get our bill passed, but we need funding!

Please contribute as much as you can to the Interior Designer’s PAC. We need $15,000 in the next year to meet our goal. To date we have only reached about $1000 of our goal. IDLCPA Board members have given the most money and we are asking for your financial help. If every member would contribute $20.00, we would be able to meet our requirements! Please note that contributions are not tax deductible, and may not be made by a corporation. Your help is very much appreciated!

Please send a check made out to “Interior Designers PAC” (sorry, checks made out to the IDLPA can not be deposited into the PAC account), and mail to: IDLCPA, PO Box 44144 Pittsburgh, PA 15205

2009-2010 BOARD IDLCPA is currently looking for dedicated persons to join our board and fill positions for 2009-2010. Terms and positions vary from 1-2 years. If you are interested please contact Sheri Spoharski, IDLCPA Member At Large West.

PLEASE BE INVOLVED We need all designers to continue to get involved by contacting Noelle Weaver at nweaver@idlcpa.org. This November after the elections new legislators will be elected to sit on the Professional Licensure Committees in both the House and the Senate.

Please take time to visit www.legis.state.pa.us and find your representatives in both the House and the Senate. If any of your legislators sit on the Professional Licensure Committee, PLEASE contact Mary Ann Mozelewski at mmozelewski@idlcpa.org

CALL FOR ARTICLES

To help combat the barrage of negative press that has been passed around by the opposition, IDLCPA is asking for help finding printed articles or letters that are in support of Interior Design Licensing. Please send all references to Noelle Weaver at christmas.weaver@gmail.com.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Fact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An interior design practice act will put me out of business.</td>
<td>No regulatory action can be passed in PA that would “restrict trade” putting fields that already offer similar services out of business. There are exemptions in the proposed legislation for “specialists” in the design field. They will not be regulated under the proposed legislation; however, these individuals will not be able to refer to themselves as interior designers. They can refer to themselves as residential design specialists, kitchen designers, furniture specialists, or similar title. Under the exemption, the specialized interior design services performed by these groups are not restricted. However, the restrictions inflicted by the abiding adopted IBC and IRC codes still will apply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a retail salesperson, cabinetmaker, drapery specialist, kitchen designer… I will not be able to keep my job with this regulation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The proposed Interior Design Practice Act will only help a small group of interior designers by creating an “elite” group who are essentially taking the market share away from the majority of the professional population that provides these services.</td>
<td>The regulation will allow interior designers to practice full services of interior design as listed under the IBC, International Building Code and the International Residential Code (IRC) as registered design professionals (currently designers are restricted from practice as the code states you must be a “registered design professional” in order to practice services as listed in the code). There are over 700 members of the Interior Design Legislative Coalition of Pennsylvania that support this regulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Interior Design practice does not affect the public health, safety or welfare.</td>
<td>Interior Design does affect the health, safety and welfare of the captive public. Designers must specify correct materials per project conditions; specify ergonomic products, and adhere to fire, egress, and accessibility codes. If interior design did not require regulation then services performed by interior designers would not be regulated by the International Code Council.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pursuing recognition and regulation for interior design professionals whose occupation protects and enhances the health, safety, and welfare of people occupying interior space – IDLC PA [www.idlcpa.org](http://www.idlcpa.org)*
There are only 1838 interior designers in PA of which only 325 are active NCIDQ certificate holders.

The NCIDQ test costs $1000 to take and most people don’t pass the first time. The NCIDQ has a historically low passage rate of around 40%.

The NCIDQ is not the only examination that tests minimum competency in interior design. There are several exams that are equally legitimate.

The NCIDQ is not considered the best examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section I</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section II</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section III</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximately 75 percent of all candidates who enter the examination process pass the examination. More than 20,000 candidates have successfully completed the exam.

The NCIDQ is the only interior design examination that encompasses the entire body of knowledge including public safety code questions that interior designers must know.

Unlike the CRIDQ and the AKBD the NCIDQ was independently developed by information retained from an ETS study of the profession. The examination continues to be re-evaluated and adjusted as codes and regulations change.

The federal government only issues contracts to interior designers who are NCIDQ Certificate Holders.

This legislation does not add anything new to protecting the public.

It is a redundancy of codes and practices already in place. This regulation does not benefit consumers.

There is no evidence whatsoever that the unregulated practice of interior design places the public in any form of jeopardy.

There are already systems in place (codes, inspections, etc.) which adequately provide protection for consumers and whether a designer is licensed or not, the codes have to be followed. And contrary to what the proponents would have people believe, the codes must be followed. To the contrary, the codes are designed for all professionals, regulated and unregulated alike. Even the unregulated professionals are legally bound to follow these codes or they may be sued and not protected.

The International Code Council (ICC) deems that interior design services must be regulated in order to protect the public. The International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC) as developed by the ICC are adopted as the abiding code of Pennsylvania. Terminology contained within the code states only “Registered Design Professionals” may practice services as listed within the IBC. Many of the services interior designers provide are included in these codes. Because interior designers in PA lack regulation, professionals are unable to perform services as listed in the code. This regulation will allow interior designers to practice as registered design professionals as well as grandfathering language that will expire four years after regulation is passed.

It is estimated that there are approximately 2,000 practicing designers and approximately 1,250 students enrolled in interior design programs in PA.

Many designers haven’t taken the test because it is not required. Even though it is not required close to 600 interior designers in PA have taken and passed the NCIDQ. That is already 30% of the estimated professional population and the number grows every Spring and Fall as the exam is administered.

Results for the Fall 2007 NCIDQ Examination:

**Section I**: 68% of candidates passed

**Section II**: 64% of candidates passed

**Section III**: 70% of candidates passed

Pursuing recognition and regulation for interior design professionals whose occupation protects and enhances the health, safety, and welfare of people occupying interior space – IDLCPA  www.idlcpa.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>have everyone believe, the codes are not secret information – anyone can access them.</th>
<th>professionals. If you apply the same logic to architects; that regulation is redundant because code officials and fire marshals are already safeguarding the public from potential negligence, then why would we need architects to be licensed and regulated? This is a straw man argument. Regulation benefits the public as they can clearly know who is a real professional having the credentials to perform the job.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Because interior designers are not regulated in PA, there are few cases of harm filed specifically against interior designers as most lawsuits hold licensed architects and contractors responsible for interior environments.</td>
<td>The terms interior design, decorator and retail sales are not defined. Therefore, they can mean whatever is needed to keep us from working. All three are defined in the bill. As previously stated, no regulation can be passed in PA that will put anyone out of business. There are exemptions in this proposed regulation for specialists in the design field. They will not be regulated, but they cannot call themselves interior designers or any deviation of that title. They can be residential designers, kitchen designers, furniture specialists, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is difficult to imagine how a self-employed small business person would document their experience going back 10 or 20 years to meet the grandfathering requirements.</td>
<td>You can use your tax returns to document your years of practicing interior design. This should not be a problem for legitimate businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalition leaders are refusing to show up at previously scheduled debates and round table discussions which would allow for both sides of the issue to be presented.</td>
<td>Coalition leaders haven’t been invited to any sort of debate. Conferences held by the opposition do not include round table discussions with the opposing side. The majority of discussions occur at bill hearings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASID is lobbying to create a design cartel. They are only promoting what is best for their professional members while penalizing the allied members and independent designers.</td>
<td>ASID and IDLCPA are two different and separate organizations. ASID is promoting the interior design profession by supporting legislative efforts but can not directly affect the regulation in PA. Pennsylvania legislation is driven by local supporters and constituents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no evidence that graduates of CIDA programs are any better prepared or become more successful than graduates from other interior design programs.</td>
<td>CIDA ensures a minimum standard of educating future designers. Accreditation is a must in establishing credibility of the profession being regulated. CIDA is preferred but not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislators are more interested in your opinion than your name.</td>
<td>Legislators work directly for the people they represent. They pay attention to the people that vote in their districts. Constituents that support regulation are key to the success of the legislative effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 states do not have government-imposed regulation.</td>
<td>TRUTH: there are 26 states and US jurisdictions that have regulation in place for interior design. Only two of these states make regulation “optional”. Twenty regulate a title and the remaining 6 regulate the title and practice of interior design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Institute for Justice has filed a lawsuit in Texas to repeal their law; hopefully, more lawsuits like Alabama and Texas will be filed and won in the future.</td>
<td>TRUTH: The IJ lost their lawsuit in Alabama as their Practice Act law was re-enacted. Texas chose to amend their law as did New Mexico that is also cited by the opposition as a lawsuit that was won.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida’s Practice Act is unreasonable as it requires that furniture dealerships hire licensed professionals in order to perform interior design services.</td>
<td>FL code has been written by the ICC and requires that you must be a “registered design professional” in order to perform services listed in the code. When furniture dealerships are space planning furniture that is regulated by the code they are in violation of the abiding &quot;CODE&quot; and by state law would require a registered designer to be on staff to seal their drawings (meaning RA or RID).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation takes away our freedoms as interior designers and restricts future persons from entering into the field.</td>
<td>Currently all interior designers practicing in PA that are not “registered design professionals” could be in violation of the abiding code if you are performing services that are regulated by the code. This applies to both residential and commercial designers. At any point the state legislature can pass a bill to fine violations of the code. Already there have been recent bills proposed by other established regulatory boards that would inflict fines for violating code. Luckily for designers, these bills have been reviewed by IDLCPA and with the help of Milliron and Associates, we have been successful in not seeing one of these proposals passed before our legislation is in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In order to protect the future practice of interior design, legislation must be passed. Without legislation, the interior design profession will be restricted to services that are not regulated by the code eliminating many markets that interior designers share with architects. Legislation is not about restricting the practice. It is about protecting the practice and future of the profession.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pursuing recognition and regulation for interior design professionals whose occupation protects and enhances the health, safety, and welfare of people occupying interior space – IDLCPA  www.idlcpa.org