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# GRAction

a government relations newsletter published by the association for interior design professionals

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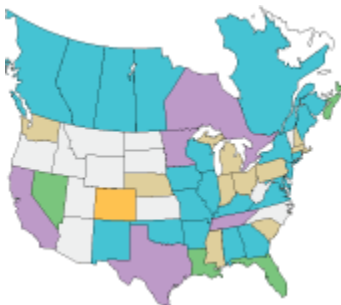
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## Interior Design Laws of North America



- Title Act
- Practice Act
- Permitting Statute
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## Note From VP of GRA

IIDA is proud to bring you this Fall issue of GRAction, our update on legislative happenings.

Congratulations to those of you who have recently been appointed Vice Presidents of GRA on Chapter Boards. Thank you for continuing to give your time and service to our industry. And, for those of you that also serve on individual coalition boards, your involvement provides a significant contribution to our success in the legislative process because continuity and historical knowledge is an integral part to understanding often complicated public policymaking. I would like to personally welcome those who have recently been appointed on Chapter Boards across the country.

IIDA is committed to supporting you in your efforts. Financial support is one important example of our commitment to you. Chapter legislative grant requests, which were due no later than October 19th, are being reviewed. We will notify you about our decision in December and distribute grant awards at IIDA's Chapter Leadership Conference early next year..

I want to encourage and support each and every one of you, in the various stages of your legislative pursuit. I know it can sometimes be a hard row to hoe. In my experience with pursuing legislation in Oklahoma, I tried to stay focused by keeping my eye on the ball, but I realize that it's easy to get distracted when you're in the trenches.

Please don't ever forget that the interior design education that you possess has afforded you a unique body of knowledge that protects the Health, Safety and Welfare of the public. Protection is our primary goal. Your education, along with monitored internships and the NCIDQ exam, makes you a member of a qualified profession, of which you can be proud.

I welcome you to call me anytime I can be of assistance to you. If I don't know the answer to your question, I'll find you someone that does.

Again, I welcome you with best wishes in your continued pursuit for much success!

Sincerely,

Laura Brett Tribble, IIDA, ASID  
Vice President  
Government and Regulatory Affairs

**GRA Alert: IIDA Member Advisory on the Institute for Justice**

**2007 Membership Renewals & Legislative Grant Donations**

Renew your IIDA membership for 2007 now by clicking [here](#). Students, remember to fill out a [new application](#) for 2007. Also, don't forget to include an additional contribution to support IIDA's legislative grant program.

Keeping our Members informed of issues concerning the profession is a primary responsibility of IIDA. As licensing affects us all, we wanted to make our membership aware of the recent activities of the Institute for Justice. Many IIDA Members know of the Institute due to their recent efforts against Interior Design legislation, but the Institute has actually been in existence since 1991. According to the Institute for Justice's Web site, it is a libertarian-oriented, public interest, non-profit law firm which uses litigation and training to secure their interpretation of individual rights against government intervention. IIDA is cognizant of the efforts of the Institute for Justice and our Government Affairs team has been formulating an effort to protect existing and future Interior Design legislation.

Some facts:

- The Institute for Justice is well-funded by large donors, including individuals and foundations.
- They are active in many states with existing Interior Design legislation, with pending legislation and with proposed legislation.
- The Institute's efforts do not just affect Interior Designers. The Institute is fighting government intervention in organized professions, and as a result, they are opposing Interior Design legislation.

IIDA is aware the Institute is using the profession's own members to fight legislative efforts, in effect using us against ourselves. If you have been contacted by the Institute to oppose legislation in your state, please contact Cheryl Durst, EVP/CEO, at 888.799.IIDA (4432). IIDA will continue to update you as more information becomes available.

**Get Published in GRAAction**

Do you have an article or image to share? Submit content and images related to bill language, codes, coalitions, construction, interior design laws and regulations, legislation, and other issues relating to the practice of interior design.

**State GRA Updates**

**Illinois**

The Illinois Design Title Act will expire in 2012. The best way to protect the public's health, safety and welfare is to continue to support the Title Act by registering with the state. There are over 1,700 interior designers registered with Illinois today. For more information [click here](#).

If you have passed the NCIDQ exam and need assistance in becoming a registered interior designer in Illinois email [Carrie Fitzpatrick](#).

**Pennsylvania**

The HB807 hearing was successful as the room at Drexel University was well-attended by 17 representatives. Please contact your senator to thank them for attending the event: Michael Sturla, Timothy Solobay, John Yudichak, Marc Gregely, James Wansacz, Tom Yewic, Nick Kotik, Sean Ramaley, Don Walko, William Adolph, Craig Dally, Keith Gillespie, Susan Helm, Thomas Killion, Mark Mustio, Stan Saylor, and Richard Stevenson.

Another hearing is scheduled for the bill in October as the biggest opposition comes from the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA). NKBA would like to see the bill language amended to include many things that would compromise the main premise of HB807.

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**Michigan**

Fall 2007 has given CIDR success in advancing HB4770, HB4771, and HB4772. The bills have now been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism and await a hearing date to be assigned.

The bills advanced because of the support received from eblasts. Eblasts from state and national IIDA and ASID appealed for supporters to call or email the House members for their "yes" vote. The result was what one legislator described as a "crushing" outpouring of emails and phone calls. CIDR supporters were back outside the House chambers talking to House members until the vote was taken.

[Click here for more information.](#)

**Tennessee**

House Bill 84 (HB84) and Senate Bill 210 (SB210) are the primary focus in Tennessee. Both bills focus on the interior design practice act. The second year of the two year cycle begins again in January 2008.

HB84--Enacts "Tennessee Interior Design Consumer Protection Act;" prescribes qualifications of interior designers and prescribes who can use the designation of interior designer. The bill was filed for introduction January 30 and referred to the Committee on Government Operations February 1. The committee then passed the bill on March 14 and referred it to the Consumer & Employees Affairs Committee. It is deferred until April 24, 2008, and it is being sponsored by Representative

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**Oklahoma**

Reminder: NCIDQ candidates planning to take

the NCIDQ next spring, October 1 is the deadline to submit applications to the Oklahoma Board of Governors for approval. [Click here for applications](#). For assistance, please visit the Oklahoma Interior Design Coalition website and visit the links page or the "contact us" page for questions.

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Janis Baird Sontany.

SB210--Enacts "Tennessee Interior Design Consumer Protection Act;" prescribes qualifications of interior designers and prescribes who can use the designation of interior designer. The bill was referred to the Government Operations Committee and introduced on February 1. It passed committee on May 2 and was referred to Commerce Committee. The bill has been deferred until May 30, 2008, and it is sponsored by Senator Bill Ketron.

[Click here](#) for more information regarding other house and senate bills.

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### **Texas**

On May 9, the House decided not to vote on the Practice Act, HB1985 due to a point of order. A point of order can be called when a bill that reaches the House or Senate floor differs in some way from the bill that was approved in the legal committee. Aside from the Practice Act there were 21 bills introduced into the legislature, several which passed, that affected interior designers and the profession in some way. For more information visit the [Texas Association for Interior Design](#).

Also in May the Institute for Justice filed a lawsuit against the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners on behalf of four non-registrants who wish to advertise interior design services. The Washington D.C. firm states that Texas' interior design registration statutes violate the First Amendment.

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