

The Institute for Justice has just released an exhaustive study on the need for interior design regulation. An analysis of data collected nationwide reveals that this is a bogus argument. A total of 52 lawsuits have been filed against interior designers since 1907, 45 of those since interior design licensing began showing up in some states. Fifty-two is a very small number! But wait! Of those 52, only four...four...were due to code violations which could affect the health, safety or welfare of the consumer. All other suits were based on disputes of contract, poor quality and similar disputes. However, three of the four were filed since 1982, when the first Practice Act became law in Alabama. All other disputes involving interior designers are based on designers turning each other in for practicing without a license! Safe to say, these disputes would never have arisen if not for the regulation that ASID and their coalitions imposed in 26 states!

It is safe to ask the question, where is the evidence that interior designers, licensed or unlicensed, are consistently putting their clients health, safety or welfare at risk? The simple, and only, answer is, there is no evidence.

After the George Will article ran in 80 newspapers around the country, *Wallpapering With Red Tape*, Michael Alin, Executive Director of ASID wrote a Letter to the Editor of the Washington Post, George Will's newspaper. [Click here](#) to read the full text. (attached) Mr. Alin shamelessly suggests the tragic fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas was made more tragic due to the work of unqualified (read: unlicensed) designers and uses this tragedy as proof that designers ignored health, safety and welfare issues. In fact, that fire was started in one of the hotel restaurants when a burner was left on after closing. The permit (obtained by architects) did not require smoke detectors or sprinklers be installed and the lack of those items allowed the fire to smolder for hours before bursting into a full fledged and tragic fire. It had absolutely nothing what so ever to do with any work performed by interior designers on the project.

The moral of this story? Do not trust anything you hear on this issue from ASID or their coalitions as they clearly will stoop to anything in order to pass legislation that benefits no one but ASID.