

New Bill in 2008

IDCA's coalition has hired two new high powered lobbyists to get interior design legislation passed in Arizona THIS YEAR, 2008. A bill has been written and will be submitted to the Arizona Legislature THIS SESSION. What is in the bill? We found that it is the typical bill for the coalitions who face opposition working to defeat any such legislation. Some of our grassroots members met briefly with the lobbyists recently who stated that they will introduce a voluntary bill that will do nothing but give to those designers who want to stamp their own plans the right to do so! And to change the language as to alter the Board of Technical Registration for administrative purposes. Oh, really? Since there are other ways to achieve that goal...to allow designers to stamp their own plans...is it necessary to impose a LAW to do this? And a voluntary law at that? The lobbyists denied that this bill is the first step toward a full Practice Act. Tell that to the ten or so states who faced attempts to upgrade their "simple little laws" to place more stringent requirements on designers who just want to work in their field. Tell that to every state who passed "simple little laws" and saw those laws upgraded to impose more and more restrictions on practicing designers. In New Hampshire in 2007 *where the coalition's bill was defeated twice in 2007, one leader wrote, "since NH isn't the most agreeable state toward licensure, it was added that we may want to begin with a title act and move inconspicuously toward a practice act within a few years."* This would be shocking if we had not already learned through vigorous research that this is the game plan for every coalition in every state. Be warned!

What can you do to stop this legislation? A lot!

- 1) Thoroughly read the information on this website so you are aware of what this issue is all about.
- 2) Go to www.capwiz.com/nkba/dbq/officials This is a legislature website link to find your lawmaker's contact information. Call or email them that you are against this legislation and why. We suggest that an email is the best way to contact them. If they do not serve on the Commerce Committee in the House or the Senate, they will not be aware of what you are talking about so be sure to let them know that a bill is expected to be introduced this session, 2008, and that Sen. Leff and Rep. Reagan are aware of the bill.
- 3) Tell everyone you know about this bill and what it will ultimately do to the interior designers in Arizona.
- 4) Attend a town hall meeting to learn as much as you can about this bill as well as the history of interior design legislation so that you have a good understanding of what the coalitions do to put you out of business.
- 5) Read *Designing Cartels* on the Institute for Justice Website.
- 6) Send your email address to grassrootsfordesignfreedom@yahoo.com and ask to be put on the information database. You will get legislation updates and meeting notices only from this site and your information is never, ever shared with anyone.
- 7) Answer the call to attend a hearing at the Capitol if called to do so. Should this current bill make it through committee, it will go to a hearing. That is where the opposition will testify against the bill. We will need plenty of designers to sit in the gallery to show lawmakers that there is not just one or two designers opposed to this law, but the design community as a whole is opposed.

DON'T WAIT FOR THIS BILL TO PASS!!! It is very easy to get a bill passed if there is no opposition. It nearly takes an act of Congress to get it off the books once it's been passed. It's up to YOU to see that this bill is killed!