

ASID Published Legislative Policy
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Recently, in response to negative publicity and “mixed perceptions of the Society’s purposes and ultimate goals”, ASID published its policy for designer licensing. If you missed seeing a copy of the policy, it can be found at this link, along with a video of director, Michael Alin, speaking on the subject.

<http://www.asid.org/legislation/Michael+Alin+Video+Legislative+Priorities+2009.htm>

On the day prior to its release, the legislative team at headquarters held a webinar for presidents and legislative liaisons, giving us an opportunity to ask questions. This article will fill you in on some of the extra information that came from that session, and if you still have questions, any member has been invited to e-mail feedback@asid.org.

Front and center in the policy is the statement, “ASID will not support title acts that restrict the use of the title ‘interior designer’.” Our Virginia law is an example of the type of legislation that is supported by ASID because it defines the requirements for a practitioner to have the title, “certified interior designer”. For those who practice interior design without benefit of certification, they may, as always, call themselves interior designers.

Trying to achieve protection of the term “interior designer” to limit those who qualify to practice would be impossible because the public “owns” the term. Similarly, the term “engineer” cannot be restricted, while “architect” is not publically owned, and may only be used by those who are licensed. (“Professional Engineer” is a restricted term in VA)

Because 80% of our membership supports some type of legal registration, ASID will continue to advise and support state coalitions which are working toward that goal, as long as the bill they are proposing meets the guidelines of this policy. We stand for opening doors to our members, not closing them. The model language shared with the coalitions will stress that designers be allowed to practice their profession to “the fullest extent.” There are obviously some projects that were once restricted to architects and professional engineers which can and should be done by interior designers. There are also projects that were once open to all decorators and designers which should be done by certified or licensed interior designers. Each time a state coalition requests aid from ASID to write or change interior design legislation, the components of their bill will be considered individually by our team at headquarters.

The legislative portion of your dues is divided between headquarters staff, coalitions which apply for grants, and our own state, which keeps it available to protect our legislation should it be threatened.

While ASID has only lost approximately 100 out of 21,000 practitioner members this year, several of those stated in their resignation letters that they objected to what they perceived ASID’s legislative policies to be. ASID will not penalize them if they rejoin this year. Also, ASID is making it easier to pay dues in this stressful economy by allowing monthly automatic withdrawals from a credit card account. There is a small fee for this option.

If you are on the receiving end of messages purporting that ASID has policies which harm your ability to practice interior design, please take the time to counteract that misinformation. ASID has been and will remain the largest and most widely known society for interior designers. Your national board and headquarters staff works diligently to be sure members are always armed with the best tools of the profession.