





July 2010

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NCIDQ's Mission

Greetings!

Welcome to the July edition of the QLetter, your electronic source for NCIDQ news and updates, industry announcements and calls to action.

NCIDQ Holds National Grading Session

In May, 41 Certificate holders from across North America gathered in Dallas for the first national grading session for section 3 (Practicum) of the NCIDQ Examination. Previously, exams were graded at a network of regional grading centers in the United States and Canada.



Graders are interior design professionals, who complete a rigorous training program before each grading session. In addition, graders must agree to adhere to the established grading criteria and to abide by a confidentiality agreement. NCIDQ invites professionals from across North America with a diverse set of specialties and experience to be part of the grading process. Watch for a future QLetter for your opportunity to join this elite group of volunteers.

Each part of the three-part practicum exam is scored separately by at least two independent graders who do not know the other grader's score. Graders specialize in Part A, Part B or Part C of the examination, so that a total of six graders are involved in scoring each candidate's examination. If the two graders disagree on whether a solution is passing or failing, the exercise receives an automatic third scoring by a grading coordinator to resolve the difference.

Graders got a behind-the-scenes look at everything that happens in the process to ensure fairness to the candidates-from pre-testing future exams to inventorying and





To protect the health, life safety and welfare of the public by establishing standards of competence in the practice of interior design.

Fact or Fiction?

Debunking Common Myths



Have a common NCIDQ myth you'd like dispelled? E-mail us at [news@ncidq.org!](mailto:news@ncidq.org)

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randomizing of exams to monitoring of grader performance. Many commented on the efficiency of the process and how fair the system is for candidates.

"Our graders and grading coordinators represent a cross-section of extremely dedicated interior designers," says Jeff Kenney, Executive Director. "They went far beyond what we asked of them--even coming back one evening to grade more exams. The work that they do is intense, and their careful consideration of the examination ensures that NCIDQ's mission of public protection is upheld. NCIDQ is so grateful for their time and professionalism."

Thank you to these Certificate holders who assisted as grading coordinators and graders at the national grading session in Dallas:

Myriam Alarie, Montreal, QC; **Cristina Alston**, McKinney, TX; **Clare Ardizzone**, Chicago, IL; **Erin Armstrong**, Scarborough, ON; **Holly Baird**, Nashville, TN; **Kristin Bankes**, Toronto, ON; **Fran Bernstein**, Boca Raton, FL; **Susan Besser**, Franklin, TN; **Kuang-Hua Chen**, Ashburn, VA; **Nancy Crandall**, Springfield, MO; **Kim Cummings**, Richardson, TX; **Carole Dame**, Jupiter, FL; **Tatyana Epstein**, Brooklyn, NY; **Christina Fritz**, Dallas, TX; **Marty Gatz**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; **Anna Grochowska**, Chicago, IL; **Amalia Groebe**, Portland, OR; **Nadine Harris**, Lake Geneva, WI; **Jody Himes**, Ft. Walton Beach, FL; **Karen Holmes**, Pickering, ON; **Victoria Horobin**, Toronto, ON; **Jeffery Hurkes**, San Diego, CA; **Betty James**, Toronto, ON; **Constance Kennelly**, Des Plaines, IL; **Marcia Knight**, Nashville, TN; **Nancy Llanas**, Henderson, NV; **Lisa Lowrie**, Dallas, TX; **Peggy Lundeen**, Phoenix, AZ; **Paula Lutz**, Chicago, IL; **Denese Menard**, Tustin, CA; **Kimberly Michaud**, Brentwood, TN; **Randall Patrick**, Irvine, CA; **Mary Pierce**, Alameda, CA; **Angela Prichard**, Nashville, TN; **Nanette Rhodes**, Murfreesboro, TN; **Michelle Salz-Smith**, Del Mar, CA; **David Stone**, Scottsdale, AZ; **Rosanna Trivilino**, Roseland, NJ; **Mason Waldo**, Dayton, OH; **Margaret Wettlaufer**, Buffalo, NY; and **Marjorie Whitton**, Phoenix, AZ.

NCIDQ Files *Amicus* Brief in Support of Florida Board

Many of NCIDQ's member boards in the United States have faced lawsuits in recent years challenging the constitutionality of regulating interior design. In May 2009, the Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design was sued in federal court by a group of individuals claiming that the Florida statute unconstitutionally prevented non-registrants from calling themselves interior designers and from practicing interior design. The claim was that interior design is a purely expressive activity and therefore cannot be restricted under the U.S.

Constitution's First Amendment prohibition of government restriction of free speech.

The Federal Court for the Northern District of Florida ruled that regulation of the practice of interior design is in the public's interest and therefore the state can continue to regulate it. The court determined, as many previous courts have done, that the unrestricted title "interior designer" cannot be regulated as it has been widely used in the public realm. Therefore, the court ordered the state to change the regulated title, which it has done. The Board now regulates the use of the title "Registered Interior Designer" as well as continues to regulate the practice of interior design as defined in the statutes.

The plaintiffs in this case filed an appeal with the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States in April, and the Florida Attorney General filed his response. NCIDQ filed an *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") brief in June. The case is now waiting to be scheduled with the Eleventh Circuit. [You can read NCIDQ's brief here.](#)

NCIDQ's mission and bylaws do not permit the organization to engage in lobbying activities; that is the mission of the professional (membership) organizations. NCIDQ does support its member board in their defense of the laws of their jurisdiction. This *amicus* brief was written specifically to support the Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design. We will report any developments in the case in future newsletters.

You can [read Federal District Judge Robert L. Hinkle's order in this case](#) on the Florida Board's Web site.

Student Video Competition Highlights Importance of Interior Design Standards

We recently partnered with the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) and the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) to host an interior design education video competition. The competition, open to interior design students, interior design educators and interior design practitioners, called for the creation of a short video that demonstrated the importance of established interior design education and examination standards.

We want to congratulate the winners of the first Interior Design Video Competition and the three sponsoring organizations. The competition was very successful in both the number and quality of the submissions. The work of the winners was commendable and worthy of the awards they received.

First place was awarded to Simon Chung, Hong Kong Polytechnic University; second place, Erica Burgon and Kurt Leikis, Utah State University; third place went to Ashleey Coons and Kendra Ames, Utah State University.

The three winners' videos as well as those receiving an honorable mention are now posted on YouTube on the [Interior Design HSW channel](#). The public, the profession and interior design colleges and universities can utilize these short "films" for such issues as client and legislation education, classroom exchange and promotion of the profession.

Everyone included in the competition was pleased with the outcomes of the first time event and hopes to repeat the success in next year's competition. Look for the upcoming announcement about the 2011 competition and how you as a practitioner, educator or student can add your voice to the promotion and understanding of the profession of interior design.

NCIDQ Office Space Featured in Contract Magazine

NCIDQ was recently featured by Contract Magazine online at www.contractdesign.com. The article highlighted NCIDQ's journey to transition its old office into a new, healthy and safe environment for its staff. NCIDQ wanted to lead by example and embody its mission of protecting the health, life safety and welfare of the public.

You can view the entire article by [clicking here](#).

'How To Apply' Webinar Released

We have produced a new webinar to help candidates seeking the NCIDQ credential apply to take the NCIDQ Examination. The new webinar provides viewers with all the information they need to understand and successfully complete the application process and begin their journey to professionalism as an interior designer.

The deadline for the fall 2010 NCIDQ Exam has passed, but it is never too early to apply for the spring 2011 exam administration. If you know someone who is thinking about taking the NCIDQ Exam - [share this video](#).

In the webinar video, NCIDQ's Exam and IDEP Evaluations Manager, Dana Williams-Johnson, discusses how to apply to take the NCIDQ Examination. The webinar provides a step-by-step process, with helpful hints and even an application checklist. You can [download, view and share this recorded presentation](#) anytime

straight from our Web site at www.ncidq.org.

New Educator Resources

Educators - do you need practice problems for your students? NCIDQ is discounting its remaining inventory of old [practice design problems](#). These problems are no longer current and do not reflect the content of the current practicum exam.

However, they can be extremely effective as classroom tools to help students develop their space planning abilities, learn how to apply relevant codes and standards and specify appropriate wall types, lighting fixtures and finishes.

Special offer for Certificate holder educators! [Buy one copy](#) and we will provide you with a copyright release form so that you can make copies for your students. Simply tell us your Certificate number and institution name in the "Comments" box on the payment page of our online store.

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Sincerely,

NCIDQ

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