

# Florida Department of Business Professional Regulation



A Publication from the **BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN**

SUMMER 2008



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

**CHARLIE CRIST**  
Governor

**CHUCK DRAGO**  
Interim Secretary

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[www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com)

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### Architects:

**Eric Kuritzky**, Chair, Orlando, FL

**Rossana Dolan**, Seminole, FL

**John P. Ehrig**, Maitland, FL

**E. Wendell Hall**, Orange Park, FL

**Lourdes Solera**, Miami, FL

#### Interior Designers:

**Mary Jane Grigsby**, Port St. Lucie, FL

**Joyce Shore**, Vice-Chair, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Vacant

#### Consumer Members:

**Wanda Gozdz**, Ft. Pierce, FL

**Garrick Gustafson**, Tequesta, FL

**Roymi Membiela**, Miami, FL

### BOARD STAFF

**Juanita Chastain**, Executive Director

**Terri Estes**, Government Analyst

#### Board Counsel

**Mary Ellen Clark**

Assistant Attorney General

#### Prosecuting Attorney

**David K. Minacci**

Smith, Thompson, Shaw and Manausa, P.A.

## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM SECRETARY **Chuck Drago**

Dear Friend:

It has been a distinct pleasure serving you as the Interim Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation since February of this year. In my time at the Department, both as the Interim Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Business Regulation, I have participated in great changes that have resulted in enhanced customer service.

We've made tremendous progress over the past year, and I'm dedicated to maintaining this momentum. We know that serving you is the first step to providing great service to the people of Florida. That's why we've focused on changes that improve customer service, streamline processes, open communications with licensees and the public, and lead to better business practices.

One of the most crucial adjustments to business practices at the Department was the implementation of the Document Imaging System. The project is in its final phases, and it ultimately provides for a more streamlined and centralized application process that results in faster licensing and better service for you. I thank Governor Charlie Crist and the Legislature for providing \$2.5 million to complete this project in Fiscal Year 2008/2009, which helps take care of businesses and professionals throughout Florida.

Our quest to improve customer service is never over. In an effort to reach our licensees who are located throughout the state, I'm taking our business on the road in the "On the Road to Better Business" tour this summer. This tour will provide the opportunity for you to meet with me and my staff to ask questions and provide input and suggestions. I will hold office hours for customers to come and meet with me at a Department office in their communities. Please look forward to more information to come.

I continue to uphold our mission to "License Efficiently. Regulate Fairly." I understand and value that licensees have unique insight into how we do business and ways we can build upon existing practices, and I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Thank you for all that you do for the people and economy of our great state.

Sincerely,

Chuck Drago  
Interim Secretary



This year the Board begins with new members, Mr. John Ehrig, architect, from Orlando, Mr. E. Wendell Hall, architect, from Orange Park, and re-appointed veterans, Mr. Garrick Gustafson, Ms. Joyce Shore and Ms. Lourdes Solera. In addition, I am honored to be serving as Chair along with Ms. Shore who is Vice-Chair. The Board continues to be supported, and served. It functions efficiently and effectively due to the efforts of our Executive Director, Juanita Chastain and her associate Terri Estes. I would also like to thank and commend our Board attorney, Mary Ellen Clark, our prosecuting attorney, David Minacci and staff, who support our efforts to maintain the high standards expected of the professions we represent, making sure that the people and buildings of Florida are protected.

During this past year, I have had the opportunity to attend several regional and national conferences for the National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB). The focus of these seminars has been to discuss and initiate the new architectural registration exam; to explore 'Green' building standards; to review the fast pace of technology and how the

construction industry is ahead of architects in the use of design-build and building information modeling; Intern Development Program (IDP) training; and recently, accreditation of architectural college programs. Reciprocity, especially the roadblocks created by some states, was part of the conversation, in conjunction with continuing education. NCARB is working to improve their in-house management and document processing. The culmination of these events, including elections and charter changes, will be held at the National NCARB meeting in Pittsburgh at the end of June.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessors, Rick Gonzalez, Neil Hall, and Sharon Del Bianco, who, with the assistance of the Florida AIA and Florida IDAF, all provided support to the Board, our professions, and gave me a foundation to continue forward to serve the State of Florida and educate the design professionals about their role and responsibilities. I look forward to making this next year even better.

**Eric Kuritzky**, Chair  
Board of Architecture and Interior Design

### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

**Are you interested in serving on a professional board or council?**

Interested applicants may obtain a Gubernatorial Questionnaire by downloading the application from [http://www.flgov.com/pdfs/appoint\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://www.flgov.com/pdfs/appoint_questionnaire.pdf) Once your application is complete, return the questionnaire for consideration to:

**Governor's Appointments' Office  
PL01 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0001**

**A**s mentioned by Chairman Kuritzky, the Board welcomed two new members and several reappointments. I look forward to working with these dedicated individuals and know that they will be an asset to the Board.

As you know there have been many changes at the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). There have been employee changes, examination changes, and proposed changes to IDP reporting. I urge you to visit their Web site at [www.NCARB.org](http://www.NCARB.org) to stay up-to-date with their requirements.

Should your schedule permit, I encourage your attendance and participation at all Board meetings. I welcome the opportunity to meet you and know you will be enlightened by the work of the Board. Attendance at a Board meeting qualifies for four hours of continuing education credit for those who do not have an item on the agenda. Attendance is a great way to stay informed of current issues as well

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

July 28-29, 2008  
Palm Beach

October 2-3, 2008  
Ft. Lauderdale

All Board meeting dates and locations are subject to change. Please refer to the [Board Calendar](#) on our Web site, [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com), to confirm meeting dates and locations.

as to provide the Board valuable feedback. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28-29, 2008 in West Palm Beach. Please check the Board Web page for up-to-date meeting information. I hope to see you there.

**Juanita Chastain**, Executive Director  
Board of Architecture and Interior Design



## The State of Florida Partners with Google

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Web site provides information to the public about licensees. Consumers turn to the Department for information about professionals, and many look to the Web site for information about results of restaurant inspections. Although the Web site has tremendously useful information for consumers, it has not always been easy for consumers to find the information.

On December 3, 2007, Governor Crist announced an important partnership between the state of Florida and Google. Google has been helping DBPR and several other agencies catalog the information on their Web sites in order to make them more user-friendly.

The partnership between Google and Florida developed as officials from both entities recognized that the public is increasingly turning to search engines to access government services. However, a significant share of information on state agency Web sites could not be found using standard search engines because the information was stored behind a database, hindering citizens from easily finding online state government services. Now, with improved technology, search engines will access and index the records in online databases, making them available to anyone using a search engine.

Under the old system, if a consumer went to Google, Yahoo or MSN to search for a contractor using the name and location, the search results would not include information from the Department's Web site. While that search might return many results from the search engine,



*"This public-private partnership is an innovative way to improve the accessibility of state information for all Floridians. I am grateful for this chance to join with Google to further develop Florida's leadership in delivering open government services to the people of Florida. By empowering Floridians with the tools they need for easier access to state agency Web sites, we are allowing them to truly take ownership of state government."*

—Governor Charlie Crist

useful information from the Department would not be included even though meaningful information on the contractor exists.

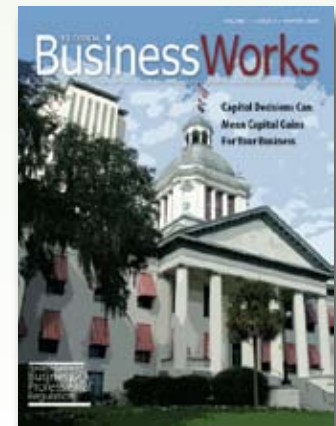
Under the new improved system, DBPR is working with Google to develop sitemaps that will allow search engines to more intelligently mine data from our Web site. Sitemaps are essentially spreadsheets for the Web site that prioritize the information on the DBPR Web site for the search engines. The Department is busy putting hundreds of thousands of records into sitemaps to make the information more useful.

## Subscribe to DBPR Newsletters

You can now subscribe on-line at [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com) to receive your profession's newsletter as well as other Department publications via e-mail. Subscribing is quick and easy.

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When the newsletters you have subscribed to are available, you will receive an e-mail from the Department with a link to your newsletter.



## DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

### DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

You can locate the disciplinary actions taken by the Board of Architecture and Interior Design at the website of Smith, Thompson, Shaw and Manausa, PA. The website address is [www.stslaw.com](http://www.stslaw.com) > Board of Architecture and Interior Design. This site is updated after each Board meeting. Before making any decisions based upon this information, you may want to request a copy of the administrative complaint and final order to ensure accuracy. Contact the Department's Agency Clerk at [sarah.wachman@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:sarah.wachman@dbpr.state.fl.us) for this information. The listing of disciplinary actions does not reflect pending appeals or requests for rehearing.

### REPORT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

To report unlicensed activity, please call the Department's **UNLICENSED ACTIVITY HOTLINE** at **1.866.532.1440**, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern Time) or e-mail the information to [ULA@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:ULA@dbpr.state.fl.us).