



## MISSISSIPPI INTERIOR DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SHERYL G. FOX/CHAIR • ALVIS EARL LAWSON, JR./SECRETARY  
DEBORAH M. HOLSTEIN • BETH R. MILLER • DOTTIE E. GOZAN

### MEMORANDUM

Date: September 21, 2011

To: Mississippi Interior Designers

From: Jenny Wilkinson, Executive Director

---

During the 2010 legislative session, the Mississippi legislature passed the Mississippi Certified Interior Designer Act. The act established a registration process for Mississippi Certified Interior Designers and created the Interior Designer Advisory Committee (IDAC) to the Mississippi State Board of Architecture (Board). The new law, *Miss. Code Ann.* §73-73-1, et al, can be accessed on the Board's website at [www.archbd.state.ms.us](http://www.archbd.state.ms.us).

Governor Barbour appointed Sheryl Fox, Al Lawson, Deborah Holstein, Dottie Gozan and Beth Miller to the IDAC. Their contact information is enclosed.

Here are a few critical facts:

- The law is a title act that establishes qualifications for one to become registered as a "Mississippi Certified Interior Designer." The law restricts use of that title to those certified by the Board. The act has no affect on those practicing interior design or using the title "Interior Designer." The certification is completely voluntary.
- In accordance with the law, the IDAC cannot accept applications for certification until July 1, 2012.
- During the coming months, the IDAC and the Board will be crafting rules and regulations in accordance with the new state law. The draft rules will be posted to the Board's website early next year.
- The most time sensitive aspect of the legislation is the alternate eligibility path (grandfathering) provision in section 73-73-9. This path to licensure will be open from July 1, 2012 until July 1, 2013.
- Those who might become a Mississippi Certified Interior Designer through the alternate path must take and pass the code section (section 1) of the Interior Designer Qualification Examination (IDQE) as administered by National Council for Interior Designer Qualification (NCIDQ) before July 1, 2013. We will work to provide guidance on the process as soon as possible next year, but cannot accept applications to admit individuals to the IDQE until July 1, 2012.

- Anyone who is not qualified to seek certification through the alternate eligibility path must meet the requirements of 73-73-7, which requires passage of all sections of the IDQE.

At this time, we may not be able to answer specific questions about the qualifications and process for certification. However, knowing your questions will be helpful as the IDAC develops rules and a FAQs section for the Board's website.

So, we want to hear from you and we need your current email address. If you would like to receive updates by email, email your contact information to [msboa@archbd.state.ms.us](mailto:msboa@archbd.state.ms.us). Also send your questions via email then look for answers on the Mississippi Certified Interior Designer FAQs section of the Board's website in November and for draft rules to be posted in January. Application forms will be posted on July 1, 2012.

We look forward to serving you and appreciate your patience as we begin to organize the IDAC in anticipation of registering Mississippi Certified Interior Designers.