

CLARB Annual Meeting

September 17, 2017

KSBTP Board Member Carisa McMullen, LA, recently attended the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board's (CLARB) Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho. The theme of which was "Thinking Differently". From the Welcome Reception to the first annual Leadership Academy, the conference was non-stop DIFFERENT. Even the props and the furniture reminded us of the challenged posed to every attendee. The traditional ways of thinking and problem solving are not acceptable and the results of the four days spent with this focus yielded substantial and significant results for CLARB's work this coming year.



The Department of Labor fueled various agencies with \$7.5 million to evaluate states' unnecessary licenses and yielded a number of Executive Orders that challenged not only CLARB, ASLA and FARB among others along with many local chapters and state boards and lastly practitioners. The state of Missouri was one of the states where an Executive Order was issued.

The Institute for Justice is claiming "occupational licensing results in 2.8 million fewer jobs and costs consumers \$203 billion/year.

While CLARB no doubt recognizes that there is value in reducing unnecessary challenges and barriers in the regulatory environment, the message to these undocumented facts and reported statistics is this:

Occupational licensing is protecting 326,000,000 people every day of every year!

CLARB and its partners and members are attacking any threats to licensure by making an effort to reduce friction in regulation and licensing. CLARB is taking a two-pronged approach.

- 1) **Practical Approach:** Rethinking the framework currently being utilized for the licensure of landscape architects.
- 2) **Tactical Approach:** Preparing and defending threats as they come.

CLARB recognizes that continuing to defend the status quo is not an efficient and effective method to protecting the public's health, safety and welfare moving forward. Specifically, CLARB is:

- Looking to reduce friction in the licensing and renewal process. This includes reciprocity, as well. The state of South Carolina, utilizing CLARB resources and staff, recently completed a friction analysis to determine where the roadblocks exist that make licensing unnecessarily challenging. This is something that is recommended to all state boards. Not only is the information gleaned helpful in reducing friction but also demonstrates the state boards' ability to defend licensure.
- Working to strengthen relationship between CLARB and ASLA, as well as, state boards and their local ASLA chapters including all our other partners in various design communities. As you may already be aware, Joel Albizo, CLARB's chief executive officer is now also serving as FARB's (Federation Association of Regulatory Boards) Executive Board President. And ASLA and CLARB

recently held an Advocacy Summit to discuss how working together gains us strength in numbers. ASLA is a strong ally by providing promotion and education of our profession to legislatures and the public.

In addition, while at the meeting, membership approved a new/updated Model Law for state boards to utilize in an effort to provide some basic guidance and direction. Continuity across states could simplify licensure, making it easier for reciprocity to occur.

Membership was also presented with a new governance structure. The new structure reduces the number of officers in an effort to add more board directors and keep the complete Board of Directors number the same. More board directors would be appointed based on knowledge and competencies, rather than elected by region. This could make it easier to have a more diverse board and would allow CLARB's board to reflect the skills that are envisioned necessary to defend and react to licensure issues.

The meeting ended with a Leadership Academy session on Saturday afternoon. CLARB presented the process, the necessary skills and the commitments necessary to become a member of the Board of Directors. The intention is to fill the pipeline with engaged professionals who are ready and able to serve CLARB and our membership now and into the future!

