



## GET INVOLVED!

Social Media: #AIASGN

**REGISTER NOW!** 25th Annual SGN Meeting: June 25 & 26 (with optional activities 6/24 & 6/27). Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Hotel: Snake River Lodge & Spa.

Do you have photos from past SGN Meetings? Send them our way!

**NEW!** SGN "Now & Then" Photo Contest! Send a current photo and one of yourself from 1991 for a special SGN Meeting event. If each component sends at least one photo, every component in attendance will receive a GREAT prize! Due: 5/1/2015.

Would your component like to be next month's "Around the Nation" spotlight state? Let us know!

Interested in conducting an advocacy training or strategy session at your component? Contact Advocacy staff to coordinate.

Do you have content for next month's newsletter? Send a BRIEF write-up to [bryansoukup@aia.org](mailto:bryansoukup@aia.org) by *April 28, 2015*.

## RESOURCES

State & Local Government Relations

Digital Advocacy Tools:

What Architects Do

How to Choose an Architect (Click on QBS Tab)

Architects Design Buildings...

(Click on Licensing Tab)

State Policy Update Report Form (Due **4/3/15**)

Statute of Repose Compendium

Good Samaritan Compendium

P3 Legislative Resource Guide

Design-Build Reform Toolkit

Rating Systems Issue Brief

Have a codes policy question? Email: [codes@aia.org](mailto:codes@aia.org)

## NATIONAL UPDATE

All good things must come to an end.... Our friend and colleague, Bryan Soukup, is leaving us effective April 17th. He's moving on to the International Code Council (ICC) as their Government Relations Regional Manager for the Mid-Atlantic states. We will miss him! In Bryan's absence, please direct all SGN-related inquiries to Yvonne Castillo at [yvonnecastillo@aia.org](mailto:yvonnecastillo@aia.org).

In the February 2015 issue, you heard a little bit about 2015 being the Year of the Advocate. You learned that the campaign will be focused on creating a culture of advocacy at the AIA. But how will that happen? Only with your help.

Join us as we begin to build a culture of advocacy by:

- 1) **CONNECTING** members to each other and those who influence the built environment and the practice of architecture;
- 2) **SUPPORTING** AIA components at all levels by building their capacity to help members advocate; and
- 3) **PREPARING** AIA members to become more effective advocates for their profession

If AIA members don't speak up for the profession, who else will? That's why 2015 is your year at the AIA - a year of empowerment, civic engagement, and change.

There are 3 steps you can take immediately to effect change in your state:

- 1) Join the AIA Advocacy Network NOW

- 2) Share the image below on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to spread the word about the Year of the Advocate.



- 3) Talk about the Year of the Advocate to other component members & staff. We have created talking points to assist you with these conversations.

The AIA Advocacy page will continue to have updated information on this initiative for you to share with colleagues – news, resources, case studies, and more. We hope that you will keep the conversation about advocacy going this initial launch as we get deeper into 2015.

On the Codes & Standards front, members and national staff will represent the AIA at the 2018 ICC Group A code cycle (updating the IBC, IEBC, IRC, and more) at the ICC Committee Action Hearings (April 19-28 in Memphis). AIA submitted more than 50 code change proposals (see the full list here), many informed by input from members like you across the country. Check out the hearing schedule and registration page.

And don't forget, May is Building Safety Month! ICC's theme for 2015 is "Resilient Communities Start with Building Codes." Check out all the activities in your community and across the nation here. ■

## Fighting Illegal Practice in Michigan

The Architect's seal is conclusive evidence that the person whose name appears on the seal is an Architect . . . correct? While one might think so, unfortunately that isn't necessarily the case. Junius D. Godboldo it turns out has a Michigan Licensed Architect seal bearing his name, and runs what appears to be an architectural practice out of his house in Hazel Park Michigan. There is only one problem . . . the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has no record of him.

Mr. Godboldo came to light when a "client" of his approached a real Architect seeking assistance with the design for a child care center. Godboldo it seems was unable to prepare and submit documents adequate to secure a building permit despite repeated attempts to do so. The client inquired of the Building Official as to why that was the case, and was advised that Godboldo appeared to lack a basic understanding of codes, construction, and even the manner in which architectural documents are prepared. The client was furnished with a list of Architects who had done sound work in that community. She approached one, who completed the project as an Architect would be expected. That Architect also reported Mr. Godboldo to the AIA Michigan Government Affairs Committee.

A review of the Godboldo "drawing" as it were reveals deficiencies, shortcomings, and outright errors too numerous to even begin to list. That being the case, one has to question how Mr. Godboldo ever came into legitimate possession of his seal. The answer is simple – he didn't. Indeed, procuring a seal in many states is easy – too easy. All one need do is log onto an office supply source that carries them, plug in the name, the state, and the license number. For less than \$50.00, the seal is on its way. No questions asked.

So aside from his ineptitude, how was Mr. Godboldo caught? In addition to ignorance as to the manner in which drawings should be prepared, Mr. Godboldo also seems to be ignorant of the manner in which Michigan licenses Architects. The primary tip off was the fact that he

used a 4 digit control number on his seal. The State of Michigan has never issued 4 digit control numbers to Architects.

When AIA Michigan was notified we first attempted to secure a prosecution through the attorney general's office. Unfortunately, without a complaining witness there wasn't much they could do. The original client was interested in building and operating a day care center, more so than prosecuting an incompetent posing as an Architect. Fortunately, Michigan law contains a provision allowing a private professional society to bring an action to enjoin unlicensed practice (owing to one of the first AIAMI lobbying efforts dating back to the late 1980's). Frederick F. Butters, Esq., FAIA was retained for that purpose.

The Oakland County Circuit Court considered the case and on February 26, 2015 it entered an order permanently enjoining Godboldo from any further architectural practice and from using the title "Architect," the term "Architecture" or any derivatives of either. The order also directs him to surrender his seal to the Court for destruction and to pay the entirety of AIA Michigan costs and legal fees incurred in the course of prosecuting him.

He has only just been served with the order. He has 14 days to comply and surrender his seal. If he refuses, he can be cited for contempt of court (refusal to comply with a court order generally has that effect). What he will do of course remains to be seen.

The overt disregard for the law in this case is shocking. Worse, it points out numerous holes in the system, it undermines the Architectural profession, and it creates a real risk of harm for the building using public. However, it also points out that generally the system does work and it does successfully filter out those sorts of things that should be filtered out. It works because of the vigilance of those who review the documents and reject what should be rejected, and because of the vigilance of those who serve as watchdogs to tamp out those practices that should be ended. ■

-Frederick F. Butters, PLLC  
Attorney at Law

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### INSTITUTE CONVERSATIONS:

For current aggregated responses, please contact [bryansoukup@aia.org](mailto:bryansoukup@aia.org)

■ PENNSYLVANIA: "Pennsylvania is looking to introduce legislation on Student Loan Forgiveness for Architects. Does any state have draft legislation, policy briefs, statistics etc. that you could share with us? Has this been successful in your state?"

To respond, email Holly Lubart at [hlubart@aiapa.org](mailto:hlubart@aiapa.org)

■ NEW JERSEY: "Have any other states dealt with issues related to moratoria on the use of lightweight construction on all multi-family type construction?"

To respond, email Joseph Simonetta at [jsimonetta@njpsi.com](mailto:jsimonetta@njpsi.com)

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