



Ohio Board of Landscape Architect Examiners

FALL 2010

NEWS FOR OHIO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

*Ohio Board of
Landscape
Architect
Examiners*

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What Job Title Can Be Used?

The Board routinely receives questions regarding the legal use of the term and title, "*Landscape Architect*" or "*Graduate Landscape Architect*". Quite frequently, the Board learns of non-registered interns or employees of landscape architecture firms improperly using these titles. The only persons permitted to use the title of "Landscape Architect" are those who are actively licensed as landscape architects by the Board.

Additionally, the use of the title "Graduate Landscape Architect" by non-registered persons is strictly prohibited. Although an individual may hold an accredited degree in landscape architecture from a university, colleges do not confer degrees deeming one to be a "Graduate Landscape Architect"; only registration boards issue licenses for landscape architects.

Persons with a degree in landscape architecture may indicate so by listing their degree under or beside their name. For example it is acceptable to identify oneself as Jane Doe, BSLA, Ohio State University.

Non-registered interns and employees are encouraged to use the titles "Landscape Designer", "Designer" or "Project Manager" on resumes, business cards, websites, and marketing or promotional material until they have become duly licensed in Ohio.

Discuss Landscape Architecture on CLARB's Facebook Page

How does the every day practice of landscape architecture positively affect public welfare? In an effort to reach and engage more stakeholders, CLARB has launched a "Discussion of the Month" on their Facebook fan page. Click [here](#) to join the conversation under the "Discussions" tab on the CLARB Facebook fan page.

Continuing Education Is Required in Ohio!

At audit time, landscape architects often express surprise that they have not met the Continuing Education requirement.

- A variety of excuses are offered: "I didn't know about the requirement." (But the same landscape architect acknowledged completion of the requirement by checking the appropriate box on the renewal application.)
- Or, "I'm retired." (However, there is currently no exemption from the CE requirement for retirees. The board is seeking legislative

Examiner

Click on staff name to send an email.

Mission Statement

The Ohio Board of Landscape Architect Examiners - is comprised of landscape architects, allied professionals, and consumers dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

- *By regulating the landscape architecture practice in Ohio*
- *By informing the public and consumer groups about the role of the profession and expectation of practice*
- *By creating opportunities to raise the levels of professional practice*
- *By monitoring the adequacy of candidates' entrance into the profession by national examination*

authority to create an Emeritus category.)

- Or, "I thought I had completed all of my hours!" (Had the architect carefully reviewed their Certificates of Completion or LA CES transcript prior to mailing the renewal application, they would have known if they had met the requirement!)

Even greater is the surprise expressed when the Board fines the landscape architect for failing to complete the requirement!

As a reminder, landscape architects should take care to ensure they have obtained the required 24 hours (16 must be HSW) prior to renewal. The current renewal period is 11/1/09 – 10/31/11. Hours must be earned in this time frame.

If audited, the landscape architect will be asked to provide copies of their Certificates of Completion or an LA CES transcript.

Due to the wide availability of free CE courses on the internet, the Board does not recognize financial hardship as an excuse for failing to complete the requirement. The Board also maintains a list of CE resources at <http://www.arc.ohio.gov/lae/ce.stm>

Ohioans Serve on CLARB Board and Committees

Board Member *Tim Schmalenberger, ASLA*, Columbus, has been elected Region 2 Director for the Council of Landscape Architect Registration Boards. He represents the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin on the CLARB Board of Directors.

Scott Sonnenberg, ASLA, PE, Allied Professional Member on the Ohio Board, just completed a two year term on the CLARB Nominations Committee.

Dennis Mersky, ASLA, past Ohio Board President, serves as CLARB Treasurer.

Board Executive Director, *Amy Kobe, Hon AIA*, serves on the CLARB Communications Committee.

CLARB volunteers play an important role in helping the organization to accomplish its core purpose: providing uniform standards of competency to help Member Boards protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Volunteer opportunities vary in scope, time commitment and experience/expertise required and include:

- CLARB Officer or Regional Director
- L.A.R.E. Grader
- Exam Writer
- Cut Score Committee Member
- Member Board Executive Committee Member
- Special Interest Committees/Task Forces/Work Groups

Benefits of volunteering include:

- Develop leadership skills
- Learn from peers and colleagues from across the U.S. and Canada
- Contribute time and talents to the betterment of the profession and the protection of the public's health, safety and welfare.
- Support CLARB's efforts to promote licensure.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please complete and e-mail the [Statement of Interest form](#) to [Valerie Heh Gardner](#) at CLARB.

Welcome, Stephanie Happ!



The Board is pleased to welcome Stephanie Happ as the Board's Certification/Licensure Examiner.

Stephanie comes to the Board from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, where she was an Unemployment Compensation Claims Examiner.

CLARB Launches "Determinants of Success" Study

The "Determinants of Success" research project is designed to help identify the key elements (education, experience and preparation) that make a positive difference on the path to licensure. The first administration of the survey was sent to candidates who took the September 2010 Multiple-Choice sections of the L.A.R.E. The survey will also be sent to candidates following the next three exam administrations (December 2010, March 2011 and June 2011) in order to have one "cycle" of data to analyze and consider. The results of the "Determinants of Success" study will be presented at the 2011 CLARB Annual Meeting in Chicago September 15-17, 2011.

Is Your Contact Information Up to Date?

Do you have a new email address? Have you moved or changed jobs? It is your responsibility to notify the Board of any changes in your contact information.

If your current information is not on file, you may not receive your renewal notice or other important information. Use this link to notify the Board of your new contact information: <http://www.arc.ohio.gov/lae/address.stm>

If you have an CLARB Record or Certificate, you should also notify CLARB at www.clarb.org

Congratulations to Landscape Architects Newly Licensed by Examination!

The Board wishes to congratulate the following landscape architects who were licensed by examination between October 1, 2009 and November 30, 2010:

Kyle Adams
Mark Bambach
Kathleen Chapman
Aaron Chew
Jeremy Hinte
Jacqueline Huelskamp
Kyle Lukes
Christian Lynn
Elise McElwain
Lynne Nischwitz
Justin Meranda
Carmine Russo
Mark Sierschula

Dates and Start/End Times for the December 2010 Graphic Administration

The December 2010 Graphic Administration will take place December 13 (Section C) and December 14 (Section E). **Beginning with the December 2010 administration, the start time will be 9 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. and the end time will be 2:15 p.m. instead of 1:15 p.m.**

Updated Exam Resources



The CLARB Examination Committee has added a new exam resource, "Sustainability and Design Ethics" by Tom Russ to the Landscape Architects Registration Exam (LARE) Section A [study reference list](#). Also, the study reference list has been enhanced by linking many of the exam resource titles to the publishers' websites to make it easy for exam candidates to purchase exam resources. Titles that are linked represent those titles that were donated by publishers to the CLARB Examination Committee.

Enforcement Actions

The following cases are final results of investigative matters resolved between November 2009 and November 2010. Every effort is made to ensure that the following information is correct.

If you have any questions about these cases or other enforcement matters, please contact the Board's Investigator, Chad B. Holland at (614) 466-1476 or via e-mail at chad.holland@arla.state.oh.us

File #2010-2
Robert Neal Bell
Grassroots Landscaping
Shadyside, Ohio

After receiving a complaint, it was determined that Mr. Bell allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.32 (A) which prohibit non-landscape architects from representing themselves to be landscape architects.

Per Mr. Bell's company business card, he represented himself as a landscape architect. This matter was amicably resolved whereby Mr. Bell agreed to remove any references to being a landscape architect. This matter was closed February 2010.

File #2010-5
James M. Houk, Cert. No. 442
Gahanna, Ohio

Mr. Houk indicated on his 2009-2011 renewal application that he had completed the mandatory continuing education requirements for license renewal. However, after conducting a random audit, it was determined that he allegedly failed to complete the mandatory continuing education requirements, which is a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4703.41 (C), (F) and Ohio Administrative Code 4703:1-1-06 (B) (1), (3) and 4703:1-1-06 (I).

This matter was informally resolved whereby Mr. Houk entered into a *settlement agreement*, accepted a \$500 fine for his actions and successfully completed the continuing education requirements. This matter was closed May 2010.

File #2010-6
John C. McFarland, Jr., Cert. No. 767
Mentor, Ohio

Mr. McFarland indicated on his 2009-2011 renewal application that he had completed the mandatory continuing education requirements for license renewal. However, after conducting a random audit, it was determined that he allegedly failed to complete the mandatory continuing education requirements, which is a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4703.41 (C), (F) and Ohio Administrative Code 4703:1-1-06 (B) (1), (3) and 4703:1-1-06 (I).

This matter was informally resolved whereby Mr. McFarland entered into a *settlement agreement*, accepted a \$500 fine for his actions and successfully completed the continuing education requirements. This matter was closed May 2010.

File #2010-27
Eric Sagle
Pataskala, Ohio

After receiving an inquiry, it was determined that Mr. Sagle allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.32 (A) which prohibit non-landscape architects from representing themselves as Graduate Landscape Architects.

Per Mr. Sagle's personal profile on the social network LinkedIn, he represented himself to be a Graduate Landscape Architect. This matter was amicably resolved whereby he agreed to remove any references to being a Graduate Landscape Architect. This matter was closed November 2010.

File #2010-32
Christopher R. Sherburne
Marysville, Ohio

After receiving an inquiry, it was determined that Mr. Sherburne allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.32 (A) which prohibit non-landscape architects from representing themselves as Landscape Architects.

Per Mr. Sherburne's job application, he represented himself as a Landscape Architect because he holds a bachelors degree in landscape architecture. This matter was amicably resolved whereby he agreed to remove any references to being a landscape architect. This matter was closed November 2010.

File #2010-35
Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, Inc.
Washington, DC

It was discovered that the Washington, DC based landscape architecture firm of Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, Inc. allegedly was hired to serve as consultants to an Ohio architecture firm to provide and offer landscape architecture services for the grounds at the South Franklin Retirement Community in Chagrin Falls, Ohio in 2009.

Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, Inc. allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.32 (A), 4703.331 (A) and 4703.33 (B) because they were not registered in Ohio, nor were any of their employees. Due to their cooperation and lack of understanding of Ohio's consultant laws and rules, the Board issued an advisement letter reminding them to be more cognizant of Ohio laws and rules prior to providing services in Ohio. This matter was closed November 2010. The Ohio architecture firm is being investigated for their role in this project.

Unethical or Unlicensed Activity?

If you believe the services or conduct of an Ohio landscape architect or firm to be unethical, illegal or below an acceptable standard, or if you are aware of unlicensed practice, please contact Chad B. Holland, Investigator, at 614-466-1476 or chad.holland@arla.state.oh.us.

The Council Record: A Time and Resource Saving Tool for Landscape Architects

Landscape Architects and exam candidates holding a CLARB Council Record or Certificate can expect to save valuable time and resources when applying for licensure because:

- CLARB has already independently verified all of the information in the Council Record (education, experience, examination, licensure history, continuing education and professional references);
- [CLARB Certification](#) is the professional distinction that carries CLARB's formal recommendation to licensure boards that a professional's licensure application be granted favorable consideration;
- In order to become CLARB Certified, the individual has met or exceeded [CLARB's Standards of Eligibility](#), a set of standards approved by CLARB's Member Boards that are recommended nationally as the minimum standards for licensure;

- CLARB can provide the individual's credentials (the Council Record) to Member Boards in an easy-to-access and easy-to-read electronic transmittal, making the licensing process more efficient.

For more information about the Council Record or CLARB Certification, please [visit the CLARB website](#) or contact [Valerie Heh Gardner](#) at CLARB.

Do You Know the Laws and Rules of the Board?

Have you read the Laws and Rules since you first applied for a license in the State of Ohio? If it has been more than six months, you just might want to take a few minutes and review the current Laws and Rules. A few minutes spent now could avert disciplinary action in the future!

PDF versions of the Laws and Rules can be downloaded from the Board's website at <http://www.arc.ohio.gov/lae/laws.stm>

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