

Ohio Board of Examiners of Architects
2005 Enforcement Actions

The following files are the final results of investigative matters against architects or non-licensed persons through, where an official finding of wrong doing was determined, a settlement agreement was entered into or compliance was otherwise obtained. Only the names of those where an official finding was determined or those who entered into settlement agreements are published.

Please note that each file gives a brief description of the case and the code sections allegedly violated. If you would like more specific information regarding a case, 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 #05-02

This Ohio architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.06, which prohibits non-architects from assuming title, abbreviation or words to imply that he or she is an architect or registered architect. This firm allegedly was holding out several of its unlicensed employees as "Staff Architects". This matter was amicably resolved whereby the firm agreed to delete any reference to "Staff Architects" for its unlicensed personnel.

File #05-03

This Ohio architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.06, which prohibits non-architects from assuming title, abbreviation or words to imply that he or she is an architect or registered architect. This firm allegedly was holding out several of its unlicensed employees as "Intern Architects". This matter was amicably resolved whereby the firm agreed to delete any reference to "Intern Architects" for its unlicensed personnel.

File #05-04

This Ohio architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.06, which prohibits non-architects from assuming title, abbreviation or words to imply that he or she is an architect or registered architect. This firm allegedly was holding out one of its unlicensed employees as an "Architectural Designer". This matter was amicably resolved whereby the Board reiterated its stance on this issue with the firm.

File #05-05
Todd A. Ruhe
iBuilt Company
Dublin, Ohio

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. Via its website and marketing material, this firm allegedly advertised itself as providing architectural services and having architects on staff. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the company entered into a settlement agreement and agreed to revise its website and marketing material.

File #05-06

This Ohio architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.06, which prohibits non-architects from assuming title, abbreviation or words to imply that he or she is an architect or registered architect. This firm allegedly was holding out several of its unlicensed employees as “Architect Intern”. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the firm agreed to comply with the Board’s laws as currently written.

File #05-08
Clarence F. Lauthers,
Cert. No. 7057
Mansfield, Ohio

After an investigation, the Board determined that architect Clarence Lauthers, allegedly had provided architectural services without utilizing a written contract for such services, which is a violation of O.A.C. 4703-3-09 (A). A settlement agreement was entered into whereby he will cease and desist from such practices and will use written contracts in the future.

File #05-09

An architect was discovered to have allegedly provided architectural services through a firm that did not possess certificate of authorization, which is a violation of O.R.C. 4703.18 (H). After an investigation, the matter was amicably resolved with the architect applying for, and receiving a certificate of authorization.

File #05-10

This non-architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This firm allegedly was advertising itself as “Casaverde Architecture”. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the company agreed to revise its firm name to “Casaverde Residential Design Services”.

File #05-11
Larry A. Siebieda
Cert. No. 9671
Bellaire, Ohio

After an investigation, the Board determined that architect Larry Siebieda, allegedly had provided architectural services without possessing the degree of direct supervisory control normally expected of architects which is a violation of O.A.C. section 4703-3-07 (E) (1) and for not utilizing a written contract for such services, which is a violation of O.A.C. 4703-3-09 (A). A settlement agreement was entered into whereby he will cease and desist from such practices and will use written contracts in the future.

File #05-12

This Ohio architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.06, which prohibits non-architects from assuming title, abbreviation or words to imply that he or she is an architect or registered architect. This firm allegedly was advertising the services of an “Architectural Designer”. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the firm agreed to delete any reference to “Architectural Designer”.

File #05-13

This Ohio architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code section 4703.06, which prohibits non-architects from assuming title, abbreviation or words to imply that he or she is an architect or registered architect. The firm was seeking to fill a position of “Architect Graduate” via a local newspaper. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the firm agreed to delete any reference to “Architect Graduate” for its unlicensed personnel.

File #05-14

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. Via his company website, this individual allegedly implied that he was an architect in Ohio. It was later revealed that this individual is an architect in Texas. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the individual agreed to revise his company website to properly reflect that he is an architect in Texas.

File #05-15

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This individual allegedly advertised the provision of “light commercial design services” and inappropriately used the term “architect” via his resume. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the individual agreed to revise the language on resume.

File #05-16

This non-architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This firm, via its website, allegedly was advertising the provision of “commercial and residential architecture”. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the company agreed to revise its website.

File #05-17

This Ohio architect allegedly violated Ohio Administrative Code section 4703-3-07 (C) (2), which states an architect shall accurately represent his responsibility in connection with projects

or work for which he is claiming credit. This architect allegedly did not indicate on his new website that featured design projects and commissions were completed while employed by, or in association with another firm. This matter was resolved whereby the Board issued a warning letter to the architect.

File #05-19

This non-architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This firm allegedly was advertising the provision of “architectural design services” via their corporate website. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the company agreed to revise the language on their website.

File #05-25

This individual and non-architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This firm allegedly registered with the Ohio Secretary of State as an “architectural firm”, however did not possess a Certificate of Authorization. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the individual obtained Ohio licensure as an architect and obtained a firm Certificate of Authorization.

File #05-28

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This individual allegedly advertised that he worked as an “architect” via his company bio. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the individual agreed to revise the language on his bio.

File #05-29

D. Drew White, Cert. No. 10281

Axis Architecture +Interiors

Indianapolis, Indiana

After an investigation, the Board determined that Mr. White allegedly had provided architectural services with a license that had been lapsed for over 4 years, which is a violation of Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H). The Board reinstated Mr. White’s license only after he entered into a settlement agreement whereby he agreed to maintain a valid individual license and firm certificate of authorization.

File #05-30

This non-architectural firm allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This firm, via its company letterhead, allegedly

advertised “architecture” as part of its services. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the company agreed to revise its letter and delete any reference to architecture.

File #05-31

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This individual allegedly advertised via his company website that he offered design services for commercial, mixed use and civic projects. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the individual agreed to revise his website and not engage in the practice of architecture.

File #05-32

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This individual allegedly advertised via his company titleblock that he offered “Architecture” as part of his services. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the individual agreed to delete any reference to “Architecture” on his titleblock.

File #05-33

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This individual allegedly held himself out as an “architectural designer” via company business cards. This matter was amicably resolved, whereby the individual agreed to revise his business cards.

File #05-34

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering or providing architectural services. This individual allegedly provided drawings for a truck service garage. This matter was amicably resolved, whereby the individual agreed to cease and desist from such practices in the future.

File #05-35

Gary E. Gray, Cert. No. 7042
Columbus, Ohio

After an investigation, the Board determined that Mr. Gray allegedly had provided architectural services with a license that lapsed December 31, 2003 which is a violation of Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H). The Board renewed Mr. Gray’s license only after he successfully completed NCARB’s Professional Conduct monograph and entered into a settlement agreement whereby he agreed to maintain a valid individual license.

File #05-40

This non-architect allegedly violated Ohio Revised Code sections 4703.06, 4703.18 (A) and 4703.18 (H), which prohibit non-architects and non-architectural firms from advertising, offering

or providing architectural services. This individual allegedly stamped residential drawings with a seal claiming to be a “Softplan Architectural Designer”. This matter was amicably resolved whereby the individual agreed to cease and desist from using such a seal or holding himself out as a “Softplan Architectural Designer”.

File #05-41

This Ohio architect allegedly violated Ohio Administrative Code section 4703-3-07 (D) (3), which states that an architect must comply with the registration laws and rules governing his practice in any jurisdiction. This architect’s license was revoked by the state of North Carolina for allegedly failing to complete mandatory continuing education requirements. An advisory letter was issued to this individual advising him that Ohio now has mandatory continuing education requirements and that it is his obligation to comply with other state’s laws & rules wherever he may be licensed.