

WHAT HAS AIA FLORIDA DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

Passing effective legislation is an investment of time, resources, and capital. Countless hours of work are put into advocating for AIA Florida members. Each piece of legislation represents many weeks, if not years, of dedication from a team of association members, staff, lobbyists, and legal representatives. Here is a brief overview of strides AIA Florida has made over the years.



2022

LIABILITY PROTECTED

Legislation amending the Statute of Repose deleted chapter 558, Construction Defects, from Florida Statutes including the law protecting architects from personal suits. AIA Florida successfully worked with bill sponsors to ensure liability protections remained in statute. Other legislation filed this session deleted the requirement for equitable distribution among qualified firms in CCNA. Again, AIA Florida worked with bill sponsors to clarify the issue to be solved and CCNA remained intact. AIA Florida filed an amicus brief in *Feldman vs. DBPR* where a person holding a foreign license was claiming first amendment protection to use the term architect. The outcome of this case could have far reaching implications on the use of titles in licensed professions.

2021

GOOD SAM ADOPTED

AIA Florida successfully advocated for the adoption of long sought-after legislation that provides architects liability when responding to declared emergencies. Architects were again protected from the threat of deregulation and State University System's repeated attempt to circumvent CCNA was thwarted. An amicus brief was filed to protect a potentially harmful court decision extending the Statute of Repose beyond 10 years.

2020

LICENSE PROTECTED

AIA Florida secured commitments to remove architects from "sunset" of all Florida licenses bill, stopped the State University System's attempt to carve themselves out of CCNA, and negotiated an increase in CCNA continuing contracts thresholds to \$4 million.

2019

UPDATE PROCESS CLARIFIED

After 2018's rule challenge and subsequent appeal, AIA Florida championed legislation that clarifies the triennial Florida Building Code update process removing the Florida-specific requirement for amendments brought down from the International Code Council.

2018

RULE CHALLENGE ISSUED

AIA Florida issued a rule challenge on behalf of members who would be affected by the Florida Building Commission's (FBC) proposed rule changes to the Florida Building Code. Legislation that further defines the starting date of the 10-year Statute of Repose was signed into law by the governor.

2017

STATUTE OF REPOSE

AIA Florida backed legislation to define precisely when the clock starts on completion of contract in the Statute of Repose was passed. This protects design professionals from a previous court precedent giving indefinite liability by not "starting the clock" until final payment by owners.

2015

RESOLUTION

In an initiative supported by AIA Florida, legislation was passed resolving construction defect claims through a negotiated settlement and shifting the burden of proof to the plaintiff. This bill was signed into law by the governor.