Separate Licensing of Structural Engineers

FSEA Structural Licensure Forum
June 5, 2009

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Separate Licensing of SE

AGENDA

What
Why
Who
How
Conclusion
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WHAT?
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HISTORY

• 1907 – Wyoming licensed engineers
• 55 jurisdictions license engineers
• 1915 – Illinois established structural engineering practice act
  
  ... compelled to keep “fools and rascals from building unsafe structures.”

• 10 states have some form of separate licensing for structural engineers
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Defining separate licensing

- Requirements beyond general engineering
- Special requirements for licensing
- Rules and regulations
- Legislative statutes concerning practice
- Restrictions on practice
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TYPES OF SEPARATE LICENSING

- Roster Designation
- Title Designation
- Partial Practice Designation
- Full Practice Designation
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WHY?
PROTECT THE HEALTH SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC
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Protect from What?

- Unqualified Professionals
- Inexperienced Professionals
- Professionals not current with changes
- Inadequate Structures
- Costly Failures

... compelled to keep “fools and rascals from building unsafe structures.”
MORE:

- Complex Structures
- Complex Building Materials
- Complex Codes and Specifications
- Complex Computer Programs
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LESS:

- Time
- Budget
- Training
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COMPLEXITIES

• Increased expectations for performance
• Complex serviceability requirements
• Complex project delivery methods
• Design for extremes
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Benefits

• Mobility
• Less confusion to public
• Insurance reductions
• Recognition by Building Officials
• Ease of licensing
• Reduce discipline cases
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WHO?
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**Full Practice Designation**
Hawaii, Illinois

**Partial Practice Designation**
California, Oregon, Utah
Washington, Nevada

**Title Designation**
Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico

**Roster Designation**

**States Making Changes**
Missouri, Kansas, Florida, Ohio, Nebraska
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HOW?
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Steps to Separate Licensing

• Licensing Committee
• Investigate State Rules and Statutes
• Enlist Help
  - those who have succeeded
  - NCSEA
  - SEI
  - ASCE
• Advocate in State Legislature
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Determine Extent

- Requirements for Licensing
- NCEES Model Law
- Include “Grandfathering” Clause
- Type of Designation
- Limits on Practice
- Legal language required
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COMMUNICATE AND EDUCATE

- Structural Engineers
- Other Professionals
- Licensing Board
- Public Officials
- Legislature
- Public
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CONCLUSION

• Protect the Public
• Complexities of the Profession
• Additional Benefit
QUESTIONS?