

ICA Forms Study Group to Review PACE Proposal

ICA has convened a study group chaired by Dr. Gary Walsemann, ICA Board Member and Chair of ICA's Legal Affairs Committee, to review the PACE proposal put forward by the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (FCLB) and the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) that would position these two organizations as the profession's arbiters in all matters related to professional continuing education.

Promoted as a service to the profession, and despite representations by FCLB of broad support for this initiative, the issue is being received with considerable skepticism and concern by many state and national organizations, as well as educational institutions. Field doctors' concerns range from possible increase in costs to obtain relicensure credits, need for examinations on ev-

ery course, and arbitrary decisions on subject matter.

According to an FCLB news release, dated December 20, 2002, the PACE (Providers of Approved Continuing Education) program would be established and maintained by the Council on Chiropractic Education and applied by the PACE Committee of the FCLB. The news release listed the program design as follows:

1. *Chiropractic regulatory boards allow for PACE approval, while retaining the current individual approval process as well*
2. *CE providers seek recognition for their institutions or organizations*
3. *PACE Recognized Providers register courses with FCLB*

The FCLB is seeking comment on its proposal and ICA urges all in chiroprac-

tic to do so. It is essential, however, to respond based on a close reading of the proposal, item by item, so as to provide the FCLB with a substantive and clear representation of your concerns.

"This proposal is being aggressively promoted and clearly has the enthusiastic support of those who have worked to develop it," said Dr. Walsemann. "However, it is critical to look at this situation in terms of genuine need, cost, and impact on freedom in the marketplace of ideas, an element that has been and will continue to be essential to chiropractic's growth and development as a profession."

ICA would also welcome any comments from the field which will help the study group in their analysis of the PACE proposal. E-mail to **chiro@chiropractic.org** or by mail to Dr. Gary Walsemann, at ICA.

The draft PACE design (including the Policies & Procedures and Criteria) is posted on the FCLB website at **www.fclb.org**. Contact: Donna M. Liewer, FCLB Executive Director 970-356-3500 / FAX 970-356-3599 or by e-mail at **dliewer@fclb.org**.

PALMER'S LAWSUIT AGAINST CCE

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been working on this for more than a year and though Palmer and others had tried to get CCE to voluntarily comply with their own articles and bylaws, they had been unsuccessful. "Palmer must step forward at this time or live with the consequences of letting chiropractic accreditation be vulnerable to arguments that are politically based rather than appropriate standards for accreditation," said Crawford. "Our decision to take this step at this time is ultimately about integrity not only of the Palmer colleges and the accreditation process but of chiropractic education itself," the chancellor said.

According to court documents, Palmer is asking the Wisconsin court "for judgment if necessary to restore the *status quo ante*, injunctions as remedies supplemental to the foregoing declaratory judgments, requiring the defendants or the successors to the Individual Defendants to (i) reverse the dissolution of CCE as a Wisconsin corporation and its subsequent domestication as an Arizona corporation, (ii) restore the CCE governance to a condition in which there are 'no members who are not directors,' (iii) require CCE to restore separate voting status on the Board to Palmer Davenport and Palmer West, and (iv) to take no further actions that are inconsistent with the Articles."

Besides the CCE, four of its officers are also named in the lawsuit as defendants. Sued in their official capacities are Paul D. Walker, CCE executive vice-president; Reed B. Phillips, president of the CCE board of directors; James F. Winterstein, chairman of the corporate board; and Joseph C. Brimhall, chairman of the CCE's Commission on Accreditation (COA).

"What we are interested in is having an accrediting agency that is representative of all chiropractic colleges and that, in so far as possible, is above chiropractic politics. In that regard, we are confident in saying that Palmer's action represents a broad range of professional interests across the chiropractic philosophical spectrum who share Palmer's objective to preserve full representation of the profession," said Crawford. "This is hardly an issue for Palmer alone — it affects all graduates of all chiropractic colleges. Palmer has exercised its responsibility as The Fountainhead of Chiropractic Education to redress the wrong."

According to Crawford, Palmer's objective in the lawsuit is to have the CCE's former corporate structure restored "and then move on from there." That would mean "bringing all the chiropractic colleges back to the table to establish by proper legal means an accrediting body that is objective, constructive and professional." Chancellor Crawford said Palmer "had no choice but to take legal action because the CCE's actions have called into question the legality of its corporate structure and hence the legitimacy of the CCE as an accrediting body. Chiropractic education must have confidence in the accreditation process and that certainly requires legal stability of its primary accrediting agency."

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