



ALD Welcomes California

In life, commitment oftentimes serves as a catalyst to achieving a goal or task. In turn, a sense of real accomplishment accompanies completion of the goal or task - especially if the undertaking is one of great importance. One important goal of NASBA is to continually increase the awareness and number of participants in the ALD.

We are thrilled to announce that effective February 2010, the California Board of Accountancy (CBA) began sending a nightly transmission to ALD. With the addition of California's 110,000 records, the ALD now contains approximately 440,000 licensees.

In a recent conversation Patti Bowers, CBA Executive Officer, said that she plans for her staff to use the ALD as

they process applications for licensure to verify if individuals are licensed in other jurisdictions and, in some instances, to verify employers who sign experience verification forms.

Currently, the process is very manual for applicants and CBA staff alike. Applicants must send a Certificate of Experience form to their employer and then the employer completes and returns the form to the CBA. Depending on the type of experience being verified, CBA staff must then provide a form to the applicant to send to the employer's state of licensure. That state then completes the form with background information for the employer's CPA license and mails it to the CBA office.

Bowers concluded, "Using ALD will allow us to eliminate this manual process as we can now verify this information online. It is going to significantly cut down on the processing timeframe and the workflow."

Sally Anderson, CBA Board Member, also stressed the importance of the ALD public version going online to protect the public in a Mobility environment. "Strong consumer groups in California who are very influential with the Legislature have voiced concerns about individuals coming into our state and potentially doing harm to our citizens, with no means to track these individuals. Having a national database is very important so that if problems arise, we can find a way to

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Recent Improvements. . .

The ALD Task Force is continuously thinking of ways for the ALD to better assist boards. Recently, three new improvements were introduced to the system. The improvement that our team is most excited about is direct access to Accountancy Licensing Library (ALL) summary information in the ALD. Users no longer have to leave the ALD to obtain up-to-date licensing information from ALL. Now, users can click on the link provided in the licensee record that will open the licensing information for that specific state in another window. This new addition provides easy access, in one location, to verify the licensing requirements for a particular state without ever having to leave the ALD.

Another improvement to the ALD system is the placement of a date stamp in each licensee's record. This stamp provides users with the date that the state board sent the file to the ALD. This will help all state boards ensure that their license information in the ALD is as up-to-date as possible. It will also help other state boards that are using the information in the ALD know that the information is as up-to-date as the information at the state board.

The third improvement is a link to state board contact information including their Web site. Each record has a statement to contact the state board for official verification and an easy link to the state.

If you have a suggestion for an improvement in the ALD system, please contact Kenny Denny at: kdenny@nasba.org or 615.312.3801.

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resolve them. The ALD public site will eliminate the biggest concern with Mobility that has been voiced so far," shared Anderson.

Regarding the need for a public version of ALD Bowers added, "This is a critical tool to move ahead with Mobility. Presently, when out of state licensees practice in California, we have a notice requirement. These licensees' names are posted on our Web site so consumers can verify that they have met the qualification screening process and are authorized to practice here."

Moving from a notice requirement to a no-notice system would leave the California public with a critical need for a resource to verify that a licensee is authorized to practice, and who members of the public should contact if they experience problems.

Bowers and Anderson are both members of the ALD Task Force. NASBA appreciates their commitment to shaping the ALD into a resource that meets the needs of Boards and the public. Also special thanks to the CBA IT team, Connie Kono and Nick Battalico, for their work in developing the ALD transmission.

ALD Plans to Assist the Public

We are very excited about the continued expansion of the ALD board tool as well as our plans to provide a Web site with basic licensee information to the public. The Public Web site is an exciting new way we are assisting boards in protecting the public through access to information.

In February, NASBA sent out a Quick Poll to gather each board's questions, comments and level of interest in a Web site hosted by NASBA, accessible by the public, containing basic license information for all participating jurisdictions. We received responses from 40 jurisdictions that overall gave us a thumbs up.

Edith Steele made a presentation at the ED Conference in March and provided a summary of the results and a Q&A document to address questions and comments we received on this subject. We've looked at all of the state-sponsored Web sites that are now available to the public and created a prototype that will contain similar information with an added benefit of searching across all of the states. In the next few weeks, we will be contacting each state to ask for permission to include their information in this new Web site.

CONTACT US

The *ALD News* is the premier source for news and information regarding the Accountancy Licensee Database. For questions or comments, contact:

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