

CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

In 2009, the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline (ABCD) handled 105 cases, 46 requests for guidance and 59 inquiries. It provided guidance in response to the 46 requests and closed 36 inquiry cases.

The nine ABCD members are appointed by the Council of U.S. Presidents and Presidents-Elect ("CUSP") of the five U.S.-based actuarial organizations. The ABCD members broadly represent the four traditional practice areas and the five organizations. ABCD members, as a group, bring a wealth of experience to their service on the Board.

Much of what the ABCD does involves responding to requests for guidance ("RFGs"). Members of the participating actuarial organizations may contact the ABCD to seek guidance. Most responses to RFGs are by individual ABCD members, though an actuary can request that the ABCD as a whole respond to an RFG.

Often the guidance will take the form of listening to a requester's concerns and helping the requester sort out a problem and arrive at his or her own conclusions. At other times, the guidance may be specific answers to questions, especially conduct and ethics questions; less often, questions involve standards of practice and methods. A summary of the kinds of issues raised in RFGs that are handled by the ABCD is included in this report.

The other large-time commitment by ABCD members involves working on inquiry cases. These cases stem primarily from complaints that are filed with the ABCD. They also include cases commenced on the ABCD's own initiative - from news articles spotted by ABCD members and staff or from submissions that do not constitute complaints. The ABCD Chairperson and two Vice Chairpersons may, after a thorough review and appropriate determination, dismiss an inquiry case. Other inquiry cases go all the way through an investigation, hearing, and a recommendation that the membership organization(s) impose discipline. A chart showing the number of cases handled by the ABCD, including inquiry cases and RFGs, since its inception in 1992 is included in this report.

In 2009, the ABCD increased its efforts to participate in professionalism sessions, discussing with actuarial audiences how the investigation and discipline system works and illustrating some of the kinds of cases handled by the ABCD. Sessions were conducted for the five professional organizations, but also for actuarial clubs, regional affiliates, individual employers and university student-run groups. Organizations can inquire into the availability of an ABCD member for professionalism presentations at <http://www.abcdboard.org/speakers/request.asp>.

The ABCD also continued to describe its functions, illustrate problematic conduct, and discuss professionalism in *Contingencies* magazine's "Up to Code" column.

In 2009 and into 2010, the ABCD has exchanged ideas with CUSP regarding the latter's draft revision of the U.S. actuaries' investigative and discipline system. CUSP's proposals and concepts have already been presented to the five U.S.-based organizations' leadership. Their goal is to streamline the discipline process while maintaining due process for members of the

profession whose actions are being reviewed.

At the conclusion of 2009, ABCD members Julia Philips and Michael Toothman completed six years each of outstanding service. They brought experience, expertise, and enthusiasm to all aspects of the ABCD's operations. The remainder of the ABCD is thankful to have had the opportunity to serve with Julia and Mike and wish them well.

Newly appointed members, replacing them, are James Gutterman and John Purple. They have already vigorously taken on ABCD responsibilities in meetings, individual assignments, and responses to requests for guidance. They have been welcome additions to the ABCD family.

For 2010, CUSP appointed Carol Sears to serve as Chairperson, assisted by Paul Fleischacker and me as the two Vice Chairpersons.

Curtis E. Huntington
2009 ABCD Chairperson