Meet the Board Member

Henry C. Krasnow, JD on why he wanted to serve on the MDB:

I joined the board to help accomplish a very important goal - contributing to the efficacy and quality of how government supervises and monitors the medical profession. Since I was a teenager, I’ve been fascinated by the profoundly important role the practice of medicine plays in our society and the well-earned esteem in which physicians are held. As an adult, I, my children and my grandsons have been patients/consumers of the medical profession and some of my dearest friends are physicians. Doctors are both essential and vital to the successful functioning of our society, and if I can, I want to contribute to the government ‘getting it right.’

For over 50 years, Henry has worked as a lawyer to develop strategies that solve the business and legal problems of entrepreneurs and owners of family and privately-held businesses by providing expertise in areas such as real estate, commercial and probate litigation and tax planning. A 1962 University of Michigan graduate, Mr. Krasnow earned a JD from the University of Chicago Law School in 1966 where he served as an Editorial Board Member of that school’s Law Review. He was later awarded a CPA degree from the University of Illinois in 1967.

Over the course of his long career, Mr. Krasnow has been widely published (His book, Your Lawyer: An Owner’s Manual, was published in 2006 to very complimentary reviews, and has won numerous honors and awards, including his having recently been named of the country’s Most Innovative Business Leaders. In 2012 he was named Best Lawyer’s - Lawyer of the Year in Litigation - Real Estate. He was also named as one of the Best Lawyers in America in 2010 and has been named one of the Top Lawyers in Chicago and Illinois.

We are honored to have Mr. Krasnow join the Medical Disciplinary Board as one of its newest public members. He was appointed by Governor Rauner in January, 2018 and was approved by the Senate shortly thereafter.

In upcoming issues we’ll profile not only the other three public members of the MDB, but the physician members of both boards as well.
Board Meeting and Holiday Schedule

Medical Disciplinary Board

The Medical Disciplinary Board (MDB) meets the first and third Wednesday of every month, generally at 9 am, although it may start earlier if the agenda requires it. The public is invited to the Open Meeting portion of the MDB. The agenda is published at least one week ahead of time at: https://www.idfpr.com/profs/Boards/MedDisc.asp. All meetings are held in Chicago at the Thompson Center, 100 W Randolph Street.

Medical Licensing Board

The Medical Licensing Board (MLB) meets the second Wednesday, also in Chicago at the Thompson Center. Due to the confidential nature of their work, the bulk of MLB meetings are generally not open to the public. However, the agenda of the Open Meeting portion may be found at: https://www.idfpr.com/profs/Boards/MedLic.asp.

2018 Holiday Schedule

All Departmental offices, both in Chicago and Springfield will be closed for the following State holidays:

- May 28, 2018 Monday Memorial Day
- July 4, 2018 Wednesday Independence Day
- September 3, 2018 Monday Labor Day
- October 8, 2018 Monday Columbus Day
- November 6, 2018 Tuesday Election Day
- November 12, 2018 Monday Veteran’s Day celebrated
- November 22 & 23, 2018 Thursday & Friday Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 25, 2018 Tuesday Christmas Day

Former Chief Prosecutor Honored by FSMB

At this year’s 106th Annual Meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards, former Chief of Medical Prosecutions and current Administrative Law Judge, Laura E. Forester, JD will receive that organization’s Award of Merit. This award is given by the FSMB Board of Directors for “contributions that have positively impacted and strengthened the profession of medical licensure and discipline and helped enhance public protection.” The Medical Boards miss Ms. Forester, but congratulate her both on her promotion to ALJ and for this much-deserved award.
Information Regarding Impaired Physicians in Illinois

According to a 2014 study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 43.6 million American adults suffer from some form of mental illness, 20.2 million report having a substance abuse disorder and 7.9 million report having both a mental illness and a substance abuse disorder. (https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FRR1-2014/NSDUH-FRR1-2014.pdf). Physicians have similar rates of mental illness and substance abuse according to studies from the Journal of the American Medical Association (https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2474424) and the Mayo Clinic Proceedings (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2704134/). A common question among physicians in Illinois is what to do when a colleague shows signs of impairment? The Illinois Medical Practice Act (“MPA”) and Rules of Administration (“Rules”) both provide the answer.

Section 23 of the MPA requires the chief administrator or executive officer of any health care institution licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health to report any termination or restriction of privileges, even if voluntary, based on a final determination that a physician may have a mental or physical disability that may endanger patients under that person's care. (http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=022500600K23).

Mental illness and substance abuse are becoming more commonly diagnosed. While some physicians are able to practice safely and effectively despite a mental illness, some need help. Others are unable to handle the rigors of being a physician until they have undergone treatment. It is important that physicians and/or those around them identify these issues as soon as possible so that the doctor can get the help they need to return to practice safely.

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2017 Statistics

2017 was a busy year for the Department, highlights include:

Licensing

• Processed over 5500 applications, including:
  • 3012 MD/DO permanent licenses
  • 134 DC licenses
  • 395 PA licenses
  • 1875 Temporary Medical Permits

• In the first full year of Illinois’s participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact the Department:
  • Issued 51 Letters of Qualification to Illinois-licensed physicians seeking licensure elsewhere
  • Granted 49 expedited licenses to physicians in Compact states looking to practice also in Illinois

Discipline

• Investigated 2231 individual complaints
  • Approximately 50% involving allegations of unethical or unprofessional behavior
  • Approximately 40% involving allegations of negligent or substandard medical care

  The remainder include sister-state actions and reports of medical malpractice judgements or settlements

• Levied 366 total disciplines, including:
  • 94 reprimands
  • 65 probations
  • 60 suspensions
  • 9 revocations or licenses placed in refuse to renew status
  • Suspended temporarily as their continued practice represented an immediate danger to the public the licenses of 20 physicians
The *Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Medical Boards Newsletter* is published by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to promote compliance with the State’s Medical Practice Act and other applicable laws and rules. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of the IDFPR unless expressly so stated.