

POSTSCRIPT TO SCJA'S FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Most of you should be aware of AKC's finally agreeing to the SCJA's position through the years ---- **that the dog show judges, as independent contractors, have the right by federal statutes to advertise their services to judge.** The SCJA has been stressing this point ever since our "Help The Provisional Judges Program" back in the mid 90's. The problem arose when the American Dog Show Judges (ADSJ) officially complained to the AKC about the SCJA's "Help The Provisional Judges Program".

In the Fall of 1999, the AKC ruled in favor of the ADSJ complaint against the SCJA's "Help The Provisional Judges Program" in spite of our request for reconsideration and directed that the SCJA's program, as then constituted, should be "immediately discontinued". AKC pointed out,

"This is clearly contrary to the directive in *The Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* to 'Never solicit or promote assignments.' "

The AKC's Judges Department recent explanation for changing this long-standing policy at this particular point in time is on AKC's web site. It was changed because of SCJA's tough stand on this position. Do you really believe that it is just coincidental that the SCJA, within the past six weeks, indicated in writing directly to the AKC Board with info copies to the AKC Judges Department that the SCJA preferred to discuss the subject with the AKC Board prior to going to the federal government (IRS) for a determination as to whether AKC was violating IRS statutes concerning independent contractors and their right to advertise? What do you know --- after 125 years, they would like you to believe they, on their own, decided to change their long-standing policy! All of this was covered in detail in the SCJA's official letter to the AKC Board of Directors this past July. An extract from the SCJA's official letter to the AKC Board was included in the SCJA's Summer 2010 newsletter so that our members could confirm the particular paragraph that stipulated **independent contractors have the right to advertise** - this point is covered in paragraph 6 of the quoted IRS official publication.

We are delighted that the SCJA's position on helping our new judges has been vindicated. The SCJA once again, stood alone on arguing for our new judges. We will continue to address the even more egregious and questionably legal behavioral control AKC places on the judges. The SCJA no doubt will be all alone on these issues as well. We intend to reinstitute our "Help The Provisional Judges Program" in its original format which, of course, makes it so much more beneficial to our provisional judges as well as participating Group judges and the show-giving clubs with a number of SCJA senior Group and multiple-Group judges donating their services to the all-breed clubs utilizing provisional judges within their Group.

An interesting recent email from a member

"Wally, did you and the SCJA have anything to do with this wonderful news?" THE ANSWER IS POSITIVELY 100% AND WE STOOD ALONE!

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF OUR JUDGES AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND THE SCJA INTENDS TO PURSUE THEM IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL STATUTES. One of the SCJA's primary missions as covered in our Bylaws is to represent our judges and protect their rights and speak out for them in strict accordance with the Bylaws and Constitution of the respective corporation and with THE LAWS OF THE LAND. It has proved through the years to be very difficult for judges to speak out for themselves for fear of some form of retribution.

Hope all of you agree it does little good to preach to the proverbial choir (to member judges via your own newsletters and emails). An organization purportedly representing a group of individuals must take a stand and express their official views in writing for the record to those with the power to change the things that need changing. That is the SCJA modus operandi through the years!

We reiterate a very appropriate quote concerning the needs of our judges and those supposedly representing them:

"CAUTIOUS CAREFUL PEOPLE, ALWAYS CASTING ABOUT TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THEIR OWN STANDING, NEVER CAN BRING ABOUT REFORM. THOSE WHO ARE REALLY IN EARNEST MUST BE WILLING TO BE ANYTHING OR SAY AND DO ANYTHING THAT MUST BE DONE TO RIGHT THE WRONG OR IMPROVE THE SYSTEM." (underlining added)

GLAD YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE TEAM & TRUST YOU WILL STAY WITH US!

It is important that the newsletter be published at this time since it covers the Westminster week and other timely events. We will publish a follow up to this newsletter within the next two weeks covering other major issues affecting our judges' rights as independent contractors - to include a little history on the subject.