**ABA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**FEBRUARY 24TH, 2014**

**By Mark Minter, Executive Director**

 The Arizona Legislature passed its first big deadline last week when bills must have been heard in committees in the chamber in which the bill originated. About 2/3rd’s of the bills introduced have functionally died due to lack of a hearing. But, don’t worry. There are still plenty of interesting, controversial or down-right goofy ideas still floating around.

 Federal OSHA is still indicating they plan to take over all construction inspections in Arizona unless changes are made to the residential fall protection standard in Arizona. Due to actions taken by ABA the various stakeholders including homebuilders, Industrial Commission of Arizona and Federal OSHA have begun talks on changes to the statute. Hopefully, agreement can be reached on changes prior to the end of the Legislative session.

 The ABA is supporting the renewal of the Registrar of Contractors, which is up for “sunset review” this year. ABA also supports changes to the statute to prevent the Registrar from reviewing the tax filings of new and renewing applicants.

 Here’s a list and description of other bills ABA has taken a position on this year:

Supporting:

 HB 2288 which reduces the frequency of TPT reporting for smaller contractors/businesses

 HB 2487 requiring that insurance audits disclose to the ICA the discovery of an Independent Operator who is truly an employee.

 SB 1378 – creates a $1 billion university capital improvement plan for research projects.

Opposing:

 HB 2259 and HB 2696 – Local contractor preference laws

 SB 1323 – requiring the registrar of contractors to license elevator mechanics

 SB 1475 – allowing property owners to construct any project without the use of a licensed contractor.

Issues of discussion over the summer include:

 Prompt pay coverage for architects and engineers

 Creation of an on-line registry to replace traditional 20 day lien notices