



## Licensee Advisory

Date: August 6, 2015

### **The Career Compass (and its owner Wellington Pendell) Cannot Offer Continuing Education Courses for CalBRE Credit - Desist and Refrain Order Against The Career Compass and Wellington Pendell for Making False or Misleading Statements is Affirmed**

The California Bureau of Real Estate (CalBRE) has been receiving inquiries about the former continuing education provider The Career Compass and whether it can offer continuing education courses for CalBRE credit. The answer is no. Moreover, **a recent decision upheld a Desist and Refrain Order filed by CalBRE against The Career Compass for making false or misleading statements in its marketing materials that related to continuing education course offerings.**

By way of background, after receiving numerous complaints, the CalBRE conducted an investigation into the activities of The Career Compass and its president and primary instructor Wellington Pendell. Based on the findings of the investigation, on April 17, 2013 CalBRE filed a notice of withdrawal of the approvals of the continuing education course offerings of The Career Compass. CalBRE also filed a notice of withdrawal of the approval of Wellington Pendell (Pendell) as an approved continuing education instructor. The notices of withdrawal cited numerous violations of the Real Estate Law and Commissioner's Regulations, including the issuance by Pendell of continuing education completion certificates to course participants who did not take final exams.

Pendell and The Career Compass requested a hearing to defend against and challenge the notices of withdrawal, and the cases went before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The ALJ found the arguments made by The Career Compass and Pendell as to why the notices of withdrawals should be dismissed to be "unpersuasive". In May 2014, Pendell's approval as a continuing education instructor was withdrawn, as were all of the course offerings of The Career Compass. For a copy of the withdrawal notices and decisions click here: [H-04486 SD](#) and [H-04487 SD](#).

Based on these decisions, **The Career Compass is not approved to offer any continuing education courses for CalBRE credit, nor is Wellington Pendell approved to teach continuing education courses for credit.**

After the effective date of the decisions withdrawing the instructor and continuing education course approvals of Pendell and The Career Compass, The Career Compass and Pendell were discovered to be making false representations, primarily through marketing materials, implying that The Career Compass was still approved to offer continuing education courses. An investigation revealed that The Career Compass had affiliated with approved continuing course

provider Wayne Rapp, doing business as Gold Coast Schools. Moreover, it was determined that Gold Coast Schools was offering courses for continuing education course credit and not The Career Compass, as implied in the marketing materials used by The Career Compass. Based on the findings of the investigation, on January 5, 2015, CalBRE issued an Order to Desist and Refrain against The Career Compass, Wellington Pendell, Tina L. Parker, Gold Coast Schools and Wayne Rapp ordering each respondent to desist and refrain from making false or misleading statements with respect to continuing education course offerings. Shortly after CalBRE filed the Desist and Refrain Order, Gold Coast Schools dropped its affiliation with The Career Compass and Pendell. It should be noted, approximately 50 licensees who attended the courses administered by Gold Coast Schools (based on The Career Compass referral) had their proof of continuing education rejected by CalBRE due to the fact the continuing education course completion certificates were illegally signed by Tina L. Parker - who was affiliated with The Career Compass and not Gold Coast Schools.

The Career Compass and Pendell again requested an administrative hearing to contest the Order to Desist and Refrain. Again, the case went before an ALJ. In June 2015, the ALJ found that the respondents made false or misleading statements with respect to The Career Compass's ability to offer continuing education course offerings and the ALJ affirmed the Order to Desist and Refrain originally filed on January 5, 2015. For a copy of the Desist and Refrain Order see, [H-04684 SD](#).

It is worth noting that Real Estate Commissioner's Regulation 3007(f) requires all approved continuing education course providers to provide a general information page that "sets forth all requirements and policies that affect the participant's enrollment and completion of the course, i.e., fees, cancellation, refund; attendance and dismissal; final exam criteria, etc." prior to registration and the collection of a fee for continuing education. Licensees are cautioned not to pay any fee for a continuing education course without receiving a general information page from the actual course provider. For more information on what to expect from a continuing education course providers, see the [Winter 2014 Real Estate Bulletin](#). For a list a of approved continuing education course providers, visit CalBRE's website at [www.calbre.ca.gov](http://www.calbre.ca.gov).

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