



**Where We Are: The Massage Profession, Regulation,
and What Truly Matters**

with Beverley Giroud, Debra Persinger, and Les Sweeney

Print this handout or download the document and then use the text boxes to type notes.

I. As the compact turns and the state of regulation

II. Riding the wave of accreditation and federal funding

III. Why and how this matters, or does it?

IV. Group discussion

Resources

ABMP Legislative Updates, <https://www.abmp.com/updates/legislative-updates>

Interstate Massage Compact (IMPact), <https://massagecompact.org/>

Panel Bios

Beverley Giroud

Beverley Giroud is a massage therapist and life coach from Tucson, Arizona. Beverley is passionate about the industry and has worked as a massage school educator for over 20 years including 10 years as director of education for a COMTA-accredited school. She volunteered for COMTA as a commissioner for 12 years before taking on her current position with COMTA. Beverley's extensive experience as a practitioner, educator, administrator, and volunteer brings a well-rounded set of skills and knowledge to her position. As accreditation services coordinator, Beverley shares responsibility for the accreditation services and serves as a resource person for schools in the accreditation process. Learn more at comta.org.

Debra Persinger, PhD

Dr. Debra Persinger brings a rare combination of management experience, examination expertise, and national and state legislative know-how to the Federation for State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB), where she serves as executive director. She has directed all psychometric aspects of examination development and was instrumental in offering award-winning quality assessment services for examinations for four professional certification and licensure programs. She has an undergraduate degree in human nutrition, postgraduate teacher training, a master's degree in human development and family studies, and a doctoral degree in human services. She is a former university lecturer and coauthored *Conversations with Teachers of Asian Medicine*. She frequently presents at regulatory and credentialing conferences and has provided trainings for local and federal law enforcement agencies about the intersection of massage therapy with human trafficking. Learn more at fsmtb.org.

Les Sweeney

Les Sweeney is president and chief executive officer of Professional Assist Corporation, the parent organization of ABMP, ASCP, AHP, and ANP, leading membership associations that serve more than 120,000 individuals in the massage and cosmetology professions. Les is a graduate of the University of Virginia, has more than three decades experience in association management, a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in entrepreneurship from the University of Colorado, is a licensed massage therapist, been the lead singer in a band for 30-plus years, recently got an undeserved hole-in-one, and inadvertently appeared on the Super Bowl XLIII telecast while returning to his seat from the restroom. Connect with Les at les@abmp.com.