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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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**BOARD INITIATES NEW TRAINING PROGRAM**

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Horse Racing Board is initiating a continuing education program for its members and professional staff to improve its regulatory and oversight responsibilities.

Chairman Richard B. Shapiro said the new program will center around seminars and perhaps the development of a manual for stewards and investigators on existing rules and procedures and their uniform and effective application.

“It is not easy to apply rules in a uniform manner to the sport of horse racing,” said Shapiro. “There are many gray areas that sometimes lead to uneven enforcement. We want to ensure fair, equal, and thorough enforcement of our rules. We need to develop a policy, so that in situations that are not black or white, we are consistent throughout the state.”

Shapiro said the CHRB has retained Darrell Vienna, who is both a trainer and a lawyer, as an expert consultant to assist the Board in this new education and training program. He said Vienna is “uniquely qualified to help us once again.” Shapiro pointed out that over the years, Vienna has assisted the CHRB in the development of rules, procedures, policies, and programs relating to backstretch security, surveillance, and TCO2 testing. Vienna has served on various CHRB committees, including the Blue Ribbon Medication Committee.

“We are building a team of professionals and experts in different disciplines of the sport, so we can regulate fairly and efficiently,” continued Shapiro. “Darrell is a great addition to our team.”

Vienna has owned, trained, and bred thoroughbreds since 1976. He served with the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office and has been a court-appointed counsel in criminal matters in Superior Court.

In contracting with Vienna, Shapiro said that the Board considered the potential for conflict of interest and took all necessary steps to protect the public interest.

“Both the California Office of the Attorney General and Department of General Services, as well as an independent industry attorney, have reviewed Darrell’s role,” explained Shapiro. “As a condition of his arrangement with the Board, Darrell may continue to train horses, but he cannot represent licensees before the Board, and will not participate or provide any input or counsel on any matter in which he has an interest.”

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