



"WORKING TOGETHER"
Property Records Education Partners
(PREP)



[PREP Newsletter](#)

[Volume 33 - December 2011](#)

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Happy New Year PREP

We wish all of you a very Happy New Year and hope the Holiday Season treated you well.

2011 was a great year for PREP (Property Records Education Partners) and we look forward to exciting times in 2012 as well. In 2011, we added new chapters to our [PREP Chapter family](#) in Southern California, Upstate South Carolina, and Central Texas. We started a [PREP Blog](#) and [PREP LinkedIn](#) site that both communicate daily news items and comments from our PREP Chapter participants and we've revised our [PREP website and PREP logo](#) to help all of you easily access the latest support and news from PRIA.

PREP is part of [PRIA](#) and its mission is to provide a forum to bring together industry stakeholders at the local level to open lines of communication and to resolve issues. PRIA provides valuable support and direct assistance to PREP Chapters.



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Take the PRIA "LEAP" - Learn, Educate, Advocate and Participate

We hope you will join us all at the [PRIA Winter Symposium](#) this "leap" year. The conference is in Washington DC and it's from February 29 through March 2nd. The schedule is exciting and just as it was at PRIA's Annual Conference in San Antonio in September, sponsorships and hotel rooms are filling up fast.

This year's [PRIA Winter Symposium](#) will feature more hot topics for recorders and the business segment, including a continuation of the conversation about the state of the entire property records industry, "the cloud," multi-generational workforces and eRecording eXcellence. These

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Examples of PRIA's Products
["2010/11 PREP Chapter Topics"](#)
["How to get Ready for eRecording"](#)
[Bulk Records Access and Cost](#)

general sessions will wrap around workgroup sessions and small group discussions with yet additional opportunities to continue developing relationships with all attendees. Please take a look at the [preliminary schedule](#) and [reserve your room](#) as soon as possible. PRIA has much in store for you this year, so don't miss the opportunity to be "at the table".



[\(other PRIA Standards and Publications\)](#)

PREP Chapter Meetings Jan/Feb 2012

- Missouri
- Colorado
- South Carolina UP
- SE Minnesota
- Central Florida
- Metro Minnesota

News From PREP Chapters:

In this newsletter volume, we'll be highlighting the [Upstate South Carolina](#) and [East Central Missouri](#) PREP Chapter(s). (Each PREP Newsletter will post the recent "minutes" or summaries from PREP Chapters. And you can also go directly to the [map](#) on the PRIA/PREP webpage and find all documents from Chapters across the country.)

Upstate South Carolina PREP:

Co-chairs: Government, Courtney Willson at cwillson@greenvillecounty.org and Business, Mark Rettinger at jdtitlellc@yahoo.com

The Upstate South Carolina PREP Chapter met on November 15, 2011. Guest speakers included the Spartanburg Tax Assessor, Clerk of Court and Probate Judge. All three presented overviews of their offices and procedures. The meeting also included a roundtable discussion of current issues. The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2012. [See complete minutes on the PRIA/PREP website.](#)

East Central Missouri PREP:

Co-chairs: Government, Shawn Hennessee at hennesha@jacksongov.org and Business, John Winkler at jwinkler@us-title.com

The East Central Missouri held a PREP Chapter meeting on October 20, 2011. The primary agenda item was discussion about the top document rejection reasons that are still issues. Will Nix from a local title company came to discuss their business processes and how rejections affect them. The remainder of the meeting included updates about the RAM Convention, Plat fees, and a discussion about eRecording in Missouri. The next meeting will be held in early 2012.

Join our discussions on the [PREP Blog](#) and [PRIA/PREP LinkedIn Group](#)

Contact Information

Do you have questions or suggestions on this newsletter or any updated information on co-chairs, emails, phone numbers etc. please contact us:
[Carolyn Ableman](#)
PREP Coordinator
[Mark Monacelli](#)
PRIA PREP Committee Co-Chair
Recorder
St Louis County, Minnesota
[Nick Hacker](#)
PRIA PREP Committee Co-Chair
ALTA, Manager of Government Affairs

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Go to or subscribe to the [PREP Blog](#) and join the [PRIA/PREP LinkedIn Group](#) - both are intended to provide multiple ways for us to communicate and discuss current news in the industry.



Recent Links to National News

[The Fannie and Freddie Hate Storm](#) - "Like amoebas feuding in a drop of water, pundits have been savaging each other all year over whether Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac "caused" the financial crisis. Lately the argument has become apoplectic."

[Foreclosure Relief? Don't Hold Your Breath](#) - "THROUGHOUT the foreclosure crisis, Washington has done little to help people hang on to their homes. All those programs that were supposed to help - HAMP, HARP, Hope for Homeowners - have mostly failed."

['Slow, Plodding' Economy Stalled By Housing Market](#) - "This month, consumer confidence jumped to its highest level since April, a sign that the U.S. economy is starting to mend. But the housing market isn't going along yet with this cheerier mood: Home prices were down 3.4 percent for the year as of October, according to a new report released Tuesday."

[Nevada Supreme Court Case Could Impact Homeowners](#) - "This is the first time the state supreme court will consider issues related to the use of MERS, the Mortgage Electronic Registration System. During the housing boom, banks created MERS to serve as the mortgagee of record for lenders which allowed properties to change hands without publicly recording each transfer."

[Foreclosure firm hit with another lawsuit in robo-signing scandal](#) - "The term "robo-signing" has been discussed in this blog before and the fraudulent action has been cited in a class-action lawsuit by homeowners in Henderson and Las Vegas against the [foreclosure](#) company Lender Processing Services, Inc."

ALTA NEWS: ALTA Names Director of Government Affairs

The American Land Title Association (ALTA), the national trade association of the land title insurance industry, today announced the appointment of Jessica McEwen as director of government affairs. In her role, McEwen is responsible for lobbying at the federal level, managing ALTA's Title Insurance Political Action Committee (PAC) and assisting in cultivating the association's grassroots program. McEwen will also work with ALTA members, manage Association standing committees and staff ALTA's major meetings to promote membership involvement in advocacy efforts.

"Jessica is an effective advocate with the ability to master and articulate complex ideas," said Michelle Korsmo, ALTA's chief executive officer. "Her outgoing personality and entrepreneurial and creative spirit will be a great fit with ALTA." Prior to joining ALTA, McEwen served as legislative assistant to U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-IN), where she advised the Congressman on all matters under the jurisdiction of the House Financial Services Committee, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act and other legislation.

"ALTA members protect consumers' and lenders' property rights. In addition to providing certainty, efficiency and security to real estate transactions, they are wonderful people," McEwen said. "I look forward to working with ALTA members to increase their voice to policymakers on Capitol Hill and in the federal government." McEwen graduated cum laude from George Washington University with a Master of Arts in Legislative Affairs. She also graduated cum laude from the University of North Carolina Wilmington with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration Finance. "We need strong, thoughtful and articulate voices in Washington, D.C., representing the land title industry, and ALTA provides an especially important value to its members when we reach out to policymakers," said Justin Ailes, ALTA's vice president of government and regulatory affairs. "Jessica brings an impressive set of skills and experience. I am excited to welcome Jessica to our team and to work with her."

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Did you know that we distribute this newsletter to over 7000 addresses in the real property records industry every two weeks? Please consider advertising in the PREP Newsletter. Your advertising dollars will not only pay for this level of distribution, but will also be supporting PRIA's mission and PREP Chapters across the country.

Please see the new [media kit](#) on the PRIA website. Click to page 5 in the kit to see PREP e-Newsletter advertising rates for the rest of the PRIA year, ending on July 31, 2012. Or contact [Carolyn Ableman](#) at any time for more PREP information.

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