



"WORKING TOGETHER"
Property Records Education Partners
(PREP)



[PREP Newsletter](#)

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"Volunteer for PREP" Session held at the PRIA Winter Symposium



PRIA's Winter Symposium in Washington DC was a huge success this year and very well attended. One of the sessions at the Symposium involved PRIA's many volunteer opportunities.



Here's what we talked about at the [Volunteer for PREP](#) session:



"PREP provides a **local** structured forum for property records industry stakeholders to meet and work together more effectively. Your PREP Chapter will improve local working relationships through discussion of local issues and expanded educational opportunities. Networking nationally through [PRIA](#), PREP Chapter participants will be better informed and enjoy a stronger voice when addressing federal legislation, standards and best practices. Through PRIA, your Chapter will be provided with information and materials concerning national industry standards, adopted or proposed. [PREP Chapter program assistance](#) is also available covering such topics as eRecording, privacy issues, mortgage fraud, access to bulk records and other topics that impact your office. PREP also provides all participants and interested parties with a chance to use the [PREP Blog](#), and the [PREP LinkedIn](#) site where daily news articles and PREP Chapter news and Industry press releases are posted. And since 2010, there has been a [PREP Newsletter](#) ("Working Together") published bi-weekly to over 7000+ emails to keep us all communicating about our industry and PRIA's ability to help. **[So what do I do to get started or more involved?](#)**"

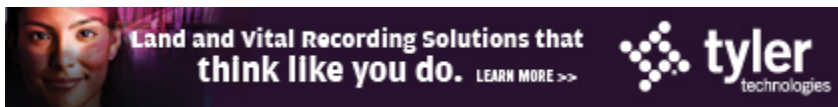


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Examples of PRIA's Products
["2010/11 PREP Chapter Topics"](#)
["How to get Ready for eRecording"](#)
[Bulk Records Access and Cost \(other PRIA Standards and Publications\)](#)



Notary Best Practices for Recordable Documents Adopted by PRIA

The Property Records Industry Association board of directors formally adopted the white paper, "*Notary Best Practices for Recordable Documents*" that encourages specific standards to assist recorders, notaries who handle recordable documents, and the commissioning authorities who appoint and oversee notaries. Co-chaired by Marc L. Aronson, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Notaries and Nancy Becker, recorder of deeds for Montgomery County, the white paper covers the "best practices" for notaries including:

- separate notarial forms
- acknowledgment wording on recordable documents
- affixing an official seal of office on a notarial form of a recordable document
- making corrections on recordable documents

Highlights of the best practices for commissioning authorities include:

- proper screening of notary applicants for evidence of misconduct
- the keeping of an accurate record of each notarial act the notary performs
- the traditional combination of physical presence and proper identification of the document signer to ensure the integrity of the notarial act
- the promotion of education and testing to increase notaries' awareness, professionalism and ethical conduct
- the bonding of notaries as a measure of protection to the general public
- the supporting of statutes and regulations for the appointing and commissioning authorities to punish or remove notaries from office

In addition to the best practices, PRIA also reiterates its stance on the fundamental role of the notary as an impartial witness of a signing as equally relevant in electronic documents as in paper documents. To read the white paper in its entirety, please visit the PRIA Web site at: <http://www.pria.us/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3705>



News from PREP Chapters

Each PREP Newsletter will highlight one or two PREP Chapters with a brief summary or overview of recent meetings. You can also go to the PREP Chapter locator [MAP](#) and look up all minutes/agendas from each chapter. In this newsletter, we'll be highlighting these chapters: [SE Pennsylvania](#) and [South Florida](#).

PREP Chapter Meetings March/April 2012

Connecticut
Metro Minnesota
Washington State
Central Texas
North Central Texas
SW Minnesota

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



SE Pennsylvania PREP Chapter:

Co-chairs: Government, Nancy Becker,
NBecker@mail.montcopa.org and **Business, Dallys Novarina**
dallys@dallys.com

The SE Pennsylvania PREP Chapter met on 2/23/12. More than 50 individuals participated in a joint seminar given by the PREP Chapter and the Pennsylvania Land Title Institute (PLTI). Nancy Becker, PREP Chapter Government co-chair, reminded everyone that of 6 original regions originally established by PREP only the Southeast remains. The Southeast continues to reach out and share information and updates on new regulations. Items on the agenda included: Montgomery County plans to appeal the 1/31/12 request to dismiss the lawsuit filed against MERS; Nancy also talked about proposed legislation including HB 970 URPERA that passed the house and is waiting Senate approval. PRODA is looking at possible legislation that will define document indexing requirements that could be brought up under the URPERA Commission if passed; Montgomery County will be introducing a Veterans' ID Card program in March. Bucks County is already up and running with the program. Local businesses will be encouraged to offer veterans with the card a discount in appreciation for their service to our country; Nancy introduced Lt. Michael Gilbert and Detective Bill Mitchell both from the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office to discuss Land Fraud Issues. They pointed out several ways fraud can be committed most times unbeknownst to the owner of a property, holder of a mortgage, a buyer and a seller; Mr. Philip S. Janny, CLTP, President, PA Land Title Association gave a presentation on the current issues in the Title Insurance Industry; Mr. Paul Trefz, CLTP, First American Title Insurance Co. presented an overview of the Marcellus Shale project. He touched on House Bill 1950 signed by Governor Corbett on February 14, 2010. [Nancy](#) set up CLE credits for this meeting and is available to discuss with other PREP Co-chairs how to go about doing that. She has been having record attendance at her PREP Meetings since putting that into effect. [See complete minutes.](#)

South Florida PREP Chapter:

Co-chairs: Government, Tony LoBianco at
ALobianco@mypalmbeachclerk.com and **Business, Pat Sponem at**
psponem@simplifile.com

The South Florida PREP Chapter met on February 23rd, 2012. The meeting agenda included: an update on the state of foreclosures by Paul H. Minoff, Esq. - McGlinchey Stafford PLLC and the featured speaker this month was David Heine, VP from PCS Title discussing Sovereign Citizens. The remainder of the meeting covered announcements from the county recorders, PREP and PRIA National handouts and updates, and setting upcoming PREP meeting dates for 6/21 and 10/25 in 2012. South Florida is investigating using webinars for their meetings and is also considering setting up CLE accreditation for its participants.



PRIA's Speaker's Bureau

Did you know that PRIA has a great speaker's resource for your property records related industry conference or meeting? PRIA supports an excellent group of speakers and it includes those who are or have been in leadership positions within PRIA. Members of the PRIA Speakers Bureau participate in training programs, which include appropriate and specific instruction concerning presentations to be made on behalf of PRIA.

Topics include, but are not limited to eRecording, how to start a PREP chapter, implementation of URPERA and general PRIA overview.

The Speakers Bureau encourages presentation opportunities through contacts with industry participants and organizations, in accordance with parameters established by the PRIA Board of Directors. When a speaking opportunity is identified and sufficient information has been gathered concerning the presentation, a member of the PRIA Speakers Bureau will be selected for the program, based on purpose, expertise preference, location at which presentation will be made and speaker availability.

To request a PRIA presentation, complete this application [form](#) and submit to [Stevie Kernick](#).

Find Out What's Happening With Land Records Issues Across the Country

Almost every day, we post news articles, and PRIA and PREP Chapter information, so feel free to subscribe to both the [PREP Blog](#) and the [PRIA/PREP LinkedIn Group](#) to stay in touch.

Recent Links to National News

[North Carolina county sues MERS, banks and LPS](#) - "The Guilford County Register of Deeds in North Carolina is suing the nation's big banks, **Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems** and **Lender Processing Services**, hoping to force them to address issues in the county's property recording system."

[Occupy protesters demand action on foreclosures in Sonoma County \(CA\)](#) - "Members of the Santa Rosa and Petaluma Occupy movements on Monday urged District Attorney Jill Ravitch to investigate what they consider widespread fraud in property foreclosures."

[Deeply Underwater Homeowners to Get Most Aid from Foreclosure Deal](#) - "The \$25-billion settlement gives the nation's largest mortgage servicers more incentives to help those who owe 40% to 75% more than the value of their homes."

[Bank of America, MERS Ask Court to Dismiss Texas Counties' Mortgage Suit](#) - "Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. and Bank of America Corp. asked a court to dismiss a lawsuit brought by Texas counties accusing MERS of filing false claims in property records."

[Americans Grow More Confident in Housing Recovery](#) - "Potential homebuyers and sellers are growing more confident that the U.S. real estate market will begin to recover as soon as next year, according to a Prudential Real Estate survey."

[The Housing Market And The Fed](#)- "The Federal Reserve has a keen interest in the state of housing and has been actively engaged in analyzing issues in the housing and mortgage markets."

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.

Advertise in "Working Together" - the PREP Newsletter

Did you know that we distribute this newsletter to over 7000 addresses in the real property records industry every two weeks?

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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