



"WORKING TOGETHER"

Property Records Education Partners (PREP)

[PREP Newsletter](#)

[Volume 9, December 2010](#)

Happy New Year! PREP Chapters Ring in the 2011 New Year

2010 has been quite a year for all of us in the property records industry. Several PREP Chapters have reinvented and reorganized their chapters, and revised their participant lists due to all the people coming and going. And while I think we all hope for more stability in 2011, instead we'll probably continue to experience continuing political, legislative and technology changes that will affect us all.

PREP Chapters across the country are designed to keep us communicating with each other as we collaborate and weather all these changes. Several new chapters are hoping to begin meeting in 2011. Connecticut, South Carolina, new Texas chapters, New Jersey, Indiana and Massachusetts are a few states that are making plans to organize this coming year. In any case, we are looking forward to an exciting year for PREP Chapters as we continue to "work together"! Happy New Year!

The Recorder's of the Country "Speak"

[See the joint press release from NACRC and IACREOT](#): "The National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC) and the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Elections Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT) are opposed to any federal land title recordation system for property transfers such as that proposed by Representative Kaptur (D, OH) in HR 6460. NACRC and IACREOT are the two national associations that provide education, training, and a voice for this nation's recorders and clerks that handle real estate transactions that affect real property rights."

"Current Realities and New Opportunities" - PRIA 2011 Winter Symposium

Mark your calendars for March 2-4, 2011, and plan to join PRIA members in the nation's capital for a three-day conference gathering that will highlight topics that are both on your mind and in the news. ([Click to view registration materials](#)).

The format for winter 2011 will combine general sessions with



Examples of PRIA's Products
["How to get Ready for eRecording"](#)
["Privacy and Land Records"](#)
[\(other PRIA Standards and Publications\)](#)

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Upcoming PREP Chapter Meetings

January 2011
SE Pennsylvania
Arizona
Washington State

committee and workgroup meetings where attendees can contribute to the work products currently in process or just starting.

In addition, there will be a pre-conference, three-hour GIS Workshop during which attendees will learn more about GIS initiatives around the country and how recorders can work in conjunction with GIS managers to maximize efficiencies for their counties.

General Sessions:

- Opening Meeting - How PRIA Gets Stuff Done
- Records Access and Privacy Policy - White Paper on Access to and Sale in Bulk of Land Records, Redaction Best Practices and the Education of Legislators
- Roundtables on "New Realities for Government and Business - How Is It Affecting You" and "Multi-tasking - Juggling and Gyration for Optimum Results"
- Risk Management - Minimizing Your Exposure
- Land Fraud and Foreclosures - What's Happening Right Now

Committee and Workgroup Sessions:

- XML Workgroup
- Archival, Backup and Disaster Recovery - Disaster Preparedness Best Practices
- GIS
- eRecording Business and Technical Requirements
- Uniform Document Numbering
- PREP
- Notary Rewrite

Registration materials are available on the [PRIA Website](#). Hotel reservations can be made [online](#) or by calling 800.228.9290.



Links to National News

[Home Prices Probably Fell, Baring Weak Link in Accelerating U.S. Recovery](#) - "Home prices probably dropped in October, a sign housing will remain a weak link as the U.S. recovery accelerates into the new year, economists said before reports this week."

[Prediction: Mortgage Delinquencies Will Decline in 2011](#) - "The annual consumer credit forecast from U.S. credit bureau TransUnion predicts a 20 percent drop in national mortgage loan delinquencies by

Nebraska

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:

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the end of 2011."

[Bull vs. Bear: Will Housing Rebound?](#) - "It's a question many Americans want answered: Will the value of my home rise or fall next year? Smart minds fall in both camps - here are both sides of the coin on real estate."

ALTA Announces Two Additions to Staff

The American Land Title Association (ALTA) announced the addition of Kelley Williams and Steve Gottheim to its staff.

Williams will serve as manager of government affairs, responsible for managing ALTA's Title Insurance Political Action Committee, cultivating ALTA's grassroots initiatives, overseeing compliance issues and lobbying at the federal level. Gottheim was named legislative and regulatory counsel, focusing on policy research and development, and serve as a resource for members regarding legislative and regulatory issues. Previously with KPMG LLP, a global network of professional firms providing audit, tax and advisory services, Williams worked in the Office of Government Affairs where she managed the KPMG PAC, political compliance and grassroots objectives for the firm.

"With the legislative and regulatory climate remaining uncertain, it's paramount ALTA reinforces its voice and continues to reach out to policymakers," said Kurt Pfothauer, chief executive officer of ALTA. "Kelley brings new fire power to ALTA that will bolster our grassroots and advocacy efforts." Gottheim will serve as a liaison with legal trade organizations including the American Bar Association, National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

"Steve has a terrific understanding of the key issues and concerns facing professionals in the land title industry," Pfothauer said. "At a time when the market remains volatile and the regulatory and legislative landscape continues to change, I am certain Steve's contributions will enable us to increase our responsiveness to the industry in a manner that brings value to the work our members do each day to provide safe and secure real estate transactions."

A graduate of the University of Maryland College Park in 2006, Gottheim earned his Juris Doctorate in 2009 from the University of Maryland School of Law. Previously, he worked for the Senate Banking Committee, and a small community-based lender.

PREP Chapter News

In this newsletter volume, we'll be highlighting the [CORE California](#) and [Missouri](#) chapters. ([Read complete article](#)). You can also read the minutes from any of the PREP Chapters on the [PRIA/PREP](#)

website.

CORE Group California PREP:

Co-chairs: Business, Yianni Pantis, yianni@pantislaw.com
and Government, Theresa Rabe, trabe@smcare.org

The California Core Group PREP met in December for the first time in many months. By all reports, the meeting was well attended and productive. The group had a good discussion on the history and meaning/purpose of PREP. There was good discussion about ways to reinvigorate this group in 2011 since historically it's been one of the more active PREP Chapters in the U.S. Ideas for 2011 included: 1) having a legislative summit in the spring for both government and business to discuss their positions and concerns on legislation that would have an effect on the industry. The purpose would be to open communication between government and business in order to reach common goals; 2) setting up meetings between the PREP regions of California; 3) rebuilding the overall contact list, since many people have left the industry on both the business and government sides. The co-chairs will meet after the holidays to rejuvenate and update their contact and mailing lists.

Missouri PREP

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

The East Central Missouri PREP met in November and sponsored a panel discussion about the steps and processes needed to start eRecording in Missouri. The meeting was well attended and included (5) panel members, and over 30 participants. The meeting covered questions, and answers, from all sides including from Recorders, title companies, law firms and others. Discussion included questions on issues such as ACH payments, the Missouri portal, eRecording fees, integrated versus non-integrated set-ups, and the impact of time and labor savings. Since the meeting, it is reported that an additional (6) companies started using eRecording to record documents.