

## **Attachment "B"**

### **Establishing PRIA Founders Award**

#### **CARL R. ERNST FOUNDERS AWARD**

For the first 300 years or so, there was little communication between the public and private sectors of the property records industry, particularly on a national basis. As we moved closer to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, industry participants found themselves facing many new and complex challenges, but communication and cooperation between sectors remained almost non-existent.

In the mid-1990s, use of electronic technology was moving more slowly in the industry's public sector than in the private sector. Many private sector participants were frustrated over their inability to record and access property records in a more efficient and timely manner. Recorders were suspected of not being supportive of change, while they often could not move forward because of a lack of funding. An atmosphere of distrust existed between sectors, but no forum was available for discussion. To make matters worse, with no national standards in place, state legislatures were adopting varying industry requirements.

At a July 1997 NACRC Conference in Baltimore, county recorders were fortunate to have a respected speaker who recognized and addressed the urgent need for a structured forum to promote better communication and understanding between industry sectors. That speaker was Carl R. Ernst, who headed a firm dedicated to providing industry information to all sectors. Carl envisioned an industry-wide, public/ private effort, to address industry problems and promote national standards. A small group of recorders met with Carl over lunch, and his idea for an industry-wide task force moved forward.

The Property Records Industry Joint Task Force (PRIJTF) was organized, legally structured as a subcommittee under NACRC and co-sponsored by IACREOT. With the two national recorders' associations leading the task force effort, industry leaders from all sectors were invited...and urged... to participate. The first PRIJTF meeting was held on February 26, 1998, in Washington, DC. More than 40 people attended, including representatives from most of the industry's major national professional associations.

The focus of the task force was to improve performance in the property records industry in terms of accuracy, access, speed, standards and education. Creation

and adoption of national industry standards was identified as an essential goal. Enthusiasm and participation increased rapidly, and for the first time, the public and private sectors were working together to bring about needed industry reform on a national basis.

Initially designated as a three-year task force, the PRIJTF was so successful in addressing industry issues that in 2002 the participants moved to form a permanent foundation for the forum. In August of 2002 the Property Records Industry Joint Task Force was dissolved and the Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) was born. PRIA has successfully implemented its mission to provide a table for consensus and platform for distribution of recommendations of best practices standards, to promote efficiency and effectiveness across the land records industry. PRIA is recognized as the standard setting organization for the property records industry.

As we recall our association's history and purpose, we honor those who first envisioned and organized this vital forum, as well as those many individuals who continue to serve and nurture this effort. PRIA's core values are clearly reflected through the integrity of its participants, who use their professional skill, industry knowledge and diversity to responsibly discuss and evaluate industry issues. Without the integrity displayed through their neutral objectivity, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to formulate and adopt national industry standards.

The PRIA Founders Award is given to honor a member who not only reflects this association's core values, but who has provided unique leadership in addressing a specific industry need or standard.

**(Each time award is given, description of the specific need or standard fulfilled by the individual's unique leadership will be inserted here.)**

With our deep appreciation and respect, we are pleased to present PRIA's prestigious Carl R. Ernst Founders Award to \_\_\_\_\_