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For Immediate Release

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PRIA Announces Recipient of Carl R. Ernst Founders Award

Milwaukee, Wis. – The Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) presented the Carl R. Ernst Founders Award to Jim Harper, Kofile Technologies Inc., in a surprise announcement, made at the group’s Annual Membership Meeting, on Wednesday, September 1, during the Annual Conference. Former recipients of the Founders Award, Carol Foglesong (retired) and Mark Ladd (ICE Mortgage Technology), combined to provide the award’s background, while Ladd made the presentation.

The PRIA Founders Award was created to honor an industry member who not only reflects the association’s core values, but who has provided proven, unparalleled leadership in addressing specific industry needs and standards.

Following the announcement, PRIA President Jerry Lewallen noted, “Harper has been a tireless volunteer, having served in numerous capacities on both committees and work groups, as both chair and volunteer member, and has contributed significant intellectual resources and limitless energy to PRIA through the years. He’s never said ‘no’ when called upon to serve.”

Harper’s company PFA Inc., which he founded in 1976 and owned with his brother, broke the mold using new technologies and methods to improve business processes for both business and government. Kofile Technologies purchased PFA Inc. in 2016. He has served as a leader and educator throughout his tenure with PRIA and has proven repeatedly that he embodies the qualities and values on which this award is founded.

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Harper's ability to assist PRIA in achieving highly successful policy decisions by bridging the public-private perspectives on particularly complex issues is invaluable. He has a deep understanding of the needs and challenges for both the public and private sectors within the property records industry.

Through his commitment to the real property industry, he has carried on the high standards and enduring legacy established by the late Carl Ernst encouraging us to aggressively tackle industry issues in a collaborative environment with government and business working together.

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PRIA develops and promotes national standards and best practices for the property records industry by:

- Identifying appropriate opportunities for collaboration among industry stakeholders
- Developing recommendations for standards and best practices
- Encouraging and supporting the adoption of such standards and practices
- Providing a clearinghouse for property-records-related information
- Educating members, industry stakeholders and the public about the property records industry

For more information about PRIA, visit www.pria.us.