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PRIA Announces Two Recipients of Carl R. Ernst Founders Award

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. – The Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) presented the Carl R. Ernst Founders Award to two recipients in a surprise announcement during the 20th Anniversary Luncheon and Membership Meeting on Wednesday, August 31, at the group’s Annual Conference. Former recipients of the Founders Award, Carol Foglesong and Jim Harper, both retired, and Mark Ladd, vice president of regulatory and industry affairs for ICE Mortgage Technology, provided the award’s background and made the presentations.

The PRIA Founders Award was created to honor industry members who reflect the association’s core values and have provided proven, unparalleled leadership in addressing specific industry needs and standards.

Marc Aronson, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Notaries for the past 50 years, was the first recipient for 2022. He has been a dedicated booster of PRIA for 20 years. A selfless volunteer, Aronson can never say no to an opportunity to provide support for a committee or work project. A PRIA frontline warrior, he espouses the PRIA mission without ever calling a lot of attention to himself.

His ability to bridge perspectives on particularly gnarly notary issues has helped PRIA accept new practices based on the reality of what notaries can and cannot do. He poses the challenging questions that drive the engagement, discussion, negotiation, and compromise necessary to develop the effective policy decisions that PRIA strives to establish.

In an unprecedented move, the PRIA Awards Committee presented a second Founders Award; this one several years in the making. Stephanie “Stevie” Kernick served as PRIA’s Chief Staff Officer for 16 years, providing guidance to eight different PRIA presidents, 20 boards, and

countless committees and work groups. She has been the oil that keeps the PRIA engine running and, at the end of the day, the person that can be relied upon to get the job done. Not one to sit back, she would go the many extra miles to correct any problem or issue.

Kernick purchased IMI Association Executives Inc., the management company that provides PRIA with its organizational needs, in 1996 and remained at the helm for 18 years. When she sold the company in 2014, she agreed to continue working for one more year but only if she could work with PRIA. Now eight years later, she is gradually stepping back but does continue to facilitate all PRIA work groups.

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PRIA develops and promotes national standards and best practices for the property recording 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; and educating members, stakeholders and the public about the property records industry.

For more information, visit www.pria.us.