



CARL R. ERNST FOUNDERS AWARD SCRIPT

For 300 years, communication between the public and private sectors of the property records industry was not happening, particularly on a national basis. New and complex challenges kept arising, but communication and cooperation between sectors remained non-existent.

Businesses wanted to record faster and access property records efficiently. Recordors wanted new software and processes but lacked funding. An atmosphere of distrust existed. To make matters worse, state legislatures were adopting varying industry requirements.

In 1997, the late Carl R. Ernst, who headed a firm dedicated to providing industry information to all sectors, spoke to county recorders about the urgent need for a structured forum to promote better communication and understanding.

The Property Records Industry Joint Task Force (PRIJTF) was organized. Industry leaders from all sectors were invited – and urged – to participate. The first meeting was held on February 26, 1998, in Washington, DC. Over 40 people attended, including representatives from most of the industry's major national professional associations.

The task force focused on improving performance 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 while the public and private sectors worked together to bring about needed industry reform.

PRIJTF's success moved the participants to form a permanent organization. In August 2002 the Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) was born.

PRIA identifies opportunities for the industry to work together, improving the trustworthiness and effectiveness of property ownership principles; to acknowledge diversity of viewpoints, and

to be a clearinghouse for property records' principles, practices, systems, protocols and legislation. PRIA provides a table for consensus and a platform for distribution of recommendations. 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 envisioned and organized this vital forum, as well as the many individuals who continue to serve and nurture this effort.

PRIA's core values are reflected through the integrity of its participants, who use their professional skill, industry knowledge and diversity to responsibly discuss and evaluate industry issues.

Without their neutral objectivity, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to formulate and adopt national industry standards.

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