

# PRIA IN TOUCH

July 20, 2020

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## President's Message

Dear Members:

Welcome to summer! As you plot your course through the changing norms in your personal and professional lives because of the pandemic that doesn't seem to go away, I hope you and yours are staying healthy!

I want to encourage you to register for the upcoming **PRIA Annual Conference**, which will be a virtual conference in its entirety. The Conference Planning Committee is busy putting the final changes to a series of general and breakout sessions with interesting and timely content, and knowledgeable speakers. You will be able to participate in this year's Annual Conference from the convenience of your office, or at home if you are working remotely.



Following the Annual Conference, we will announce the results of the vote for the PRIA Board of Directors for a two-year term, 2020-2022, during a virtual Annual Membership Meeting. Additional information on the candidates is included in this issue of *In Touch*. The new board will hit the ground running immediately following the conference.

Education continues to be a valuable part of your PRIA membership. In addition to the Annual Conference, webinars are an effective way to present important topics and are being scheduled more frequently, for viewing at your convenience.

It is even more valuable today, since we can't be together day-to-day, to keep in touch with your PRIA peers and business partners. Use the PRIA network to find out how others are navigating these difficult waters, and to share your best practices. Be safe!

Have a good month,

*Larry*

**Larry Burtness**

President



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**New Publication Added to PRIA's Resource Library**

The Redaction Best Practices Work Group announces an educational paper on Social Security Numbers, which was approved by the Board of Directors on July 15 and added to the online Resource Library.

Information about SSNs was previously included in PRIA's 2014 Redaction Best Practices paper, which is currently being edited and updated by a small taskforce.

Learn about the structure of an SSN, what happens when a SSN is masquerading as another number and the Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017.

Click [here](#) or visit the Resource Library on the website and use key word "SSN."

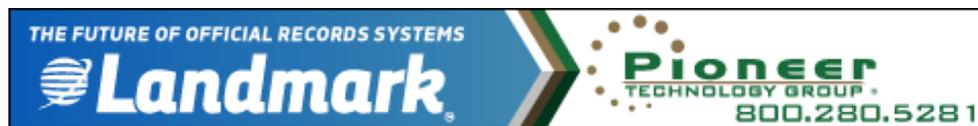


### What Can I Put on Record?

The PRIA Board of Directors, during its July 15 meeting, approved the release of the "Electronic Notary: What Can I Put on Record?" paper for a 30-day comment period.

The Interstate Notarization Work Group, co-chaired by Staci Hoffman, Jefferson Co., WI; and Renee Hunter, Notarize Inc., has a standing monthly meeting during which volunteers drafted and edited this paper for publication. It is one of several projects currently underway by the work group.

To access the document, click [here](#). Please submit your comments directly to [Stevie Kernick](#), PRIA chief staff officer, no later than 5 p.m., ET, Friday, August 20, 2020 .



### New Learning Module Added to PRIA's Learning Management System

A second learning module has been added to PRIA's [Learning Management System](#) (LMS). The LRMS (Land Records Management System) Best Practices module consists of an extensive paper defining the best practices, followed by a webinar recording. At the conclusion of the module, there is a Knowledge-check quiz after which students can print a certificate of completion suitable for framing.

This module is designed to appeal to both government and LRMS vendors. Access to the LMS is **complimentary** for all PRIA members and their staffs. If you have already registered for PRIA's LMS, you can use your login credentials to access the new LRMS module directly.

Take advantage of this member service to enhance your knowledge of the property records industry. With many state associations cancelling meetings because of COVID-19, PRIA's LMS will provide yet another vehicle for offering education for the property records industry.



### There Is Still Time To Register

PRIA will sponsor a second monthly webinar on Thursday, July 23, addressing *Modernized Land Records Part 2 - Parcel Management in Parcel Fabric*. This is the final complimentary webinar for non-members. Beginning August 1, non-members will pay \$25 for each webinar. Webinars are always complimentary for PRIA Members and their staff.

If you missed the initial GIS (Geographic Information System) webinar on June 11, members can log on to the members-only side of the [website](#) and access the PPT and listen to the webinar recording.

During the July 23 webinar, presenters will answer several of the participants questions from the first GIS webinar and then address the following:

1. Understanding that Parcel Fabric is the key part of best practices in Parcel Management.
2. Explaining why now is a good time to implement Parcel Fabric.
3. Demonstrating how and why to engage GIS staff to gain support from more departments for land records modernization.

To register for this webinar, click [here](#). Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all seats are filled.

Presenters include Jodi Helgeson, Adams Co., WI; Lisa Schaefer and Brandon Tourtelotte, Pro-West & Associates; and Dr. Nancy von Meyer, Fairfax Industries.



## Board Candidates for 2020-22 Announced

The 2020 Nominating Committee submitted to the Secretary of Corporation, and then to the Board of Directors, the following slate of candidates for two-year terms beginning in mid-August 2020.

### Government Recorder Candidates (two positions open)

Annette Hill	New York City Dept. of Finance, NY
Brandon Krause	Bay Co., MI

### Business Candidates (two positions open)

Elizabeth Blosser	ALTA
Jana Miyasaki	CSC

### At-large Candidates (two positions open)

Jerry Lewallen	eRecording Partners Network
Kyle Quackenbush	Orange Co., FL

To learn more about each candidate, click [here](#) (member login required).

## ESIGN Act - Paving the Way for Digital Innovation

(Excerpted from DocuSign blog, June 30, 2020)

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the *Electronic Signature in Global and National Commerce Act* (ESIGN). Just 20 years ago, the only way to reliably collect signatures on business documents was to hold in-person meetings or construct a paper-intensive, slow process involving expensive physical mail, fax machines, printers, scanners and photocopiers.

Individuals expect a friction-less digital transaction as they manage in today's economy - all done electronically from an electronic device like a smartphone.

“The adoption of the federal ESIGN Act was unusual in that it was not *reactive*, as are many statutes, but *proactive* – it was intended to support the development and expansion of eCommerce over time, not just validate already-existing practices,” notes David Whitaker, Partner at DLA Piper, one of the people involved with the passage of the Act. To try to promote consistency and ease of use at the state-level, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (now called the Uniform Law Commission) adopted the *Uniform Electronic Transactions Act* (“UETA”) in 1999. Although UETA was adopted very quickly by a handful of states, exceptions to the scope of the law created inconsistency among the states. To address this issue, the federal government stepped in and passed the *Electronic Signature in Global and National Commerce* (“ESIGN”) Act in 2000. The ESIGN Act is modeled on UETA, and sets out the same key elements:

- A contract may not be denied legal effect or enforceability solely because of its electronic form.
- If a law requires a record to be in writing, an electronic record satisfies the law.
- If a law requires a signature, an electronic signature satisfies the law.

The ESIGN Act implemented a national uniform standard for all electronic transactions and encouraged the use of electronic signatures, contracts and records by providing certainty for these instruments when parties complied with its standards. According to the [Electronic Signature and Records Association](#) (“ESRA”) the industry trade association for digital transactions, electronic commerce has seen a dramatic increase since 2000 and now represents 10.7 percent of U.S. retail sales, a number that is expected to grow.

While electronic signatures and trust in digital agreements are at the next level now with the general public, there is definitely more work to be done in continuing to apply the technology to additional use cases. Efforts by our business and technology leaders, legislators, regulators, and other government organizations are paving the way for further adoption, especially in light of getting business done during the current pandemic.

To read the complete blog post, click [here](#).

## Welcome New Members

PRIA welcomed these new members in June.

### Government

Hudson Co., Jersey City, NJ

Collin Co., McKinney, TX

Karene Leworthy, Manatee Clerk of Circuit Court (retired)

### Business

Mortgage Connect, Moon Township, PA

Snapdocs, Inc., San Francisco, CA

Total paid membership as of June 30, 2020, is 789.

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## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS 2019-20

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

CSC

Notarize Inc.

Simplifile

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

American Land Title Association

### PLATINUM

eRecording Partners Network

### GOLD MEMBERS

Aumentum Technologies

Avenu Insights and Analytics

Computing System Innovations

CoreLogic

Ernst Publishing Co. LLC

Esri Inc.

Fidelity National Title Group

Granicus Inc.

Harris Recording Solutions

MERSCORP Holdings, Inc.  
Pioneer Technology Group

Kofile Technologies  
Nationwide Title Clearing  
Rekon Technologies  
SYNRGO, Inc.  
Tyler Technologies  
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage  
Westcor Land Title Insurance Co.

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**Property Records Industry Association**  
[coordinator@pria.us](mailto:coordinator@pria.us)  
919.459.2081

