

# PRIA LOCAL

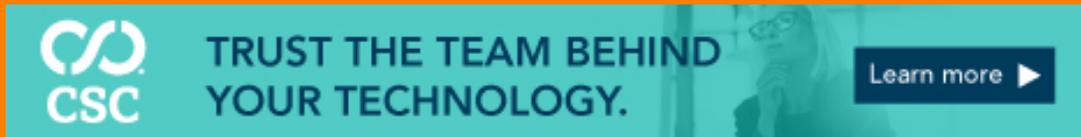
AUGUST 2021



## Online Mortgage Closings Could Soon Become Legal Throughout US *excerpted from Q13Fox/Seattle 7/21/21*

Digital mortgage closings have been on the rise, especially in 2020 after states issued stay-at-home orders and many operations had to be done remotely. But while some states allow for remote online notarization (RON), or the ability to close a home loan from any device with an internet connection, other states are set against it.

Recently members of Congress introduced a new bill that would make remote notarization instantly legal in all 50 U.S. states. Reps Madeleine Dean, D-Penn., and Kelly Armstrong, R-N.D., alongside 31 other members of the House of Representatives reintroduced the bipartisan Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic (SECURE) Notarization Act of 2021, H.R. 3962. ([Read complete article.](#))



## PRIA Local News

### Chapter Meetings in August:

There are two Chapters holding in-person meetings in August. The **SE Minnesota Chapter** will be meeting on August 11 and the **Metro Minnesota Chapter** will be meeting on August 26. If you're in either of these areas, consider attending the meetings. There are never any fees or membership requirements for starting, joining or attending any PRIA Local Chapter meeting. Both these Chapters have an excellent lengthy history bringing their business and government partners involved in property records access and availability together. **You can see their meeting agendas on the PRIA Local webpage.**

### PRIA Local Challenge:

PRIA Local would like to offer you a challenge! Start (or re-start) a PRIA Local Chapter in your area. Hold at least one meeting in the remainder of 2021 and let us know how it goes. We'll give one PRIA membership for the 2021-22 year, to a non-member co-chair or other non-member chapter participant, just for trying this concept of initiating a PRIA Local Chapter in your area. We think you'll be delighted with the outcome and, of course, we hope you continue to meet. We will help you with possible agendas, direct feedback from other Chapter co-chairs, all materials and even speakers and topic suggestions. Just **contact us** and we'll help you get started.

### PRIA Local meets at PRIA's Annual Conference:

If you'll be at **PRIA's Annual Conference in Milwaukee**, and would like to find out more

about PRIA Local, we invite you to join several PRIA Local co-chairs at a special **breakfast together (8:30-9:30 AM, on September 1)**.

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## **Marin County, CA Launches Project to Identify, Rectify Historically Racist Policies/Documents**

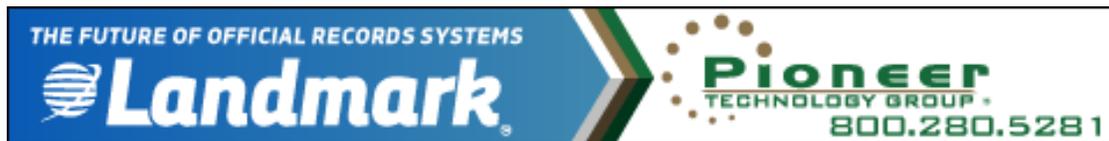
*excerpted from KPIX5/CBS 7/20/21*

Marin County officials announced this week they are going over its policies to identify and fix any that prevented people of color from purchasing homes and led to segregated neighborhoods.

Many public agencies throughout Marin County still have not removed racially restrictive covenants that prohibit the purchase, lease, or occupation of a piece of property to a particular group of people, primarily Black and African American people, despite such policies being illegal in the U.S. since Congress passed the Fair Housing Act in 1964.

Through the collaboration of the county's Community Development Agency, Office of Equity and the Assessor-Recorder's Office, county residents are offered several ways to participate in the project. ([Read complete article.](#))

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## **"Rethink, Refresh, Reunite" with your PRIA Colleagues - 2021 Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI, Pfister Hotel, 8/30 - 9/2/21**

The first hybrid (virtual and in-person) **2021 PRIA Annual Conference** which will be held online and in Milwaukee from August 30-September 2.

You can access the conference registration materials on the [PRIA website](#), in both PDF and online formats. Review the [preliminary schedule](#) and plan to join us as we reunite with our PRIA colleagues across the nation.

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## **"Infosys Public Services Launches Blockchain Network in County Government**

*excerpted from NASDAQ 7/21/21*

Infosys (INFY) revealed that its subsidiary Infosys Public Services (IPS) has completed the pilot of a blockchain solution for Riverside County, California.

IPS has developed the pilot blockchain network, jointly with Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS), using its Amazon Managed Blockchain. The new technology will help digitize the official records, allowing storage, re-creation, and retrieval of verifiable digital records, thereby decreasing the requirement for physical storage. ([Read complete article.](#))

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## **MISMO RON-Certified Platforms Increase**

MISMO announced 14 technology platforms have successfully completed the organization's remote online notarization (RON) certification. New platforms accounted for a 40 percent increase in the number of certified platforms in the past three months.

The newest additions join Black Knight, eNotaryLog, Hercules Holding, Nexsys, Notarize, NotaryCam, Pavaso, Signix, Snapdocs and Stavvy as MISMO compliant for RON standards. These companies have complied with MISMO standards, which provide a common set of requirements. These include credential analysis, borrower identification, capturing and maintaining a recording of the notary process electronically, audio and video requirements, record storage, and audit trails. ([Read complete article.](#))

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## **COVID Relief? This Illinois County is Spending \$353,000 on Digitizing its Records**

*excerpted from Journal Star 8/2/21*

Sometime early this fall, a team armed with specialized document-scanning equipment will descend on the Marshall County Courthouse to transform 350,000 pages of property records dating to 1831 into digital form.

The scanning will be part of a \$353,000 larger overall process in which Iowa-based Fidlar Technologies will also replace computer hardware and software in county clerk and recorder Jill Kenyon's office, eventually resulting in expanding and overhauling much of the way that business gets done there.

The work will be covered by roughly one-third of the county's \$1.1 million American Rescue Plan allotment for this year, under action taken by a unanimous board vote on July 8. ([Read complete article.](#))

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## **Superior Court to Upgrade Property Recording Software**

*excerpted from Cobb County Courier 7/29/21*

Requests for funding have been approved for the purchase and maintenance of Landmark Land Records Software for Cobb County (GA) High Court. The existing property certificates and land recording software are 20 years old, and incompatible with new technologies. In addition, state law now requires separation between land records and tax assessment records, and the existing software systems do not comply with state law. ([Read complete article.](#))

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## **ALTA NEWS - Uniform Law Commission to Draft Model Legislation for Restrictive Covenants**

*excerpted from ALTA Advocacy Update, by Diane Tomb, ALTA CEO, 8/3/21*

The Uniform Law Commission (ULC) recently authorized the appointment of a new drafting committee to develop model legislation that would create a process for property owners to remove discriminatory restrictive covenants from deeds. ALTA was active in persuading the ULC to take up the measure, as was the Property Records Industry Association (PRIA).

This committee will be tasked with drafting uniform or model state legislation enabling an owner of land for which a discriminatory restrictive covenant appears in the chain of title to have that covenant released or expunged from the records. The committee is charged with establishing a general policy approach, subject to review of the Executive Committee, before it begins drafting.

Drafting committees, composed of commissioners with participation from observers, advisors and reporter-drafters, meet throughout the year. ALTA's discriminatory covenants workgroup will be active in the effort as observers to the drafting committee.

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## Any Other Topics You'd Like to See in the PRIA Local Newsletter? Please Contact us Anytime

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**PRIA Local Business Co-chair - Elizabeth Blosser**

**PRIA Local Government Co-chair - Susan Kramer**

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