

OREGON LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION 2014 EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Cleve Abbe is State Counsel for Oregon, Fidelity National Title, Group, Inc. Cleve joined the Fidelity National Title Group in December 2008. He provides state counsel underwriting for Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, Chicago Title Insurance Company and Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company. He also provides escrow and other assistance to the direct operations of Fidelity family companies in Oregon and underwriting assistance for Oregon agents of the Fidelity family insurers. Cleve is a key contact for relations with the two state regulators, the Insurance Division and the Real Estate Agency. He is chair of the Legislative Committee of the Oregon Land Title Association, the state trade association of title companies. He is a past president of the association. He is the author of the "Recording and Priorities" chapter in PRINCIPLES OF OREGON REAL ESTATE LAW (Oregon CLE 1995 & Supp 2003). Cleve began his title insurance career in Oregon in 1984, when he began working for Oregon Title Insurance Company. In addition to being a member of the Oregon State Bar, he is a graduate of Tufts College (BA, 1971), Harvard Divinity School (MDiv, 1975) and Washington and Lee University School of Law (JD, 1981).

Dwight Bickel is the Regional Counsel for the Fidelity National Financial Group, supporting all its title insurance companies: Chicago Title, Fidelity Title, Ticor Title, Commonwealth Land Title and Lawyers Title, and their agents. Based in its Seattle office at Columbia Center, he is responsible as an advisor to the other underwriting personnel and to all the title and escrow operations in six northwest states.

Mr. Bickel graduated from the University of Washington Foster School of Business and the University of Puget Sound School of Law. Dwight's professional career began in a private law firm for five years handling real property transactions, bankruptcy, family law and civil litigation. He joined Safeco Title in 1982 as its claims counsel and thereafter served as underwriting counsel and as a manager for agents and underwriter companies.

Dwight is the Legislative Committee Chair for the Washington Land Title Association, has been a member of its Board of Directors for many years and was its President in 2006. For over thirteen years he has been a member of the Forms Committee of the American Land Title Association responsible for developing new title insurance forms for use throughout the United States. Dwight is an approved instructor for education credits for lawyers, limited practice officers and real estate brokers.

Alan Brickley is currently Counsel with First American Title Insurance Company. He has been in title insurance and/or real estate law for over 50 years. He is a 1970 graduate of Northwestern College of Law/Lewis and Clark College JD and an MBA, University of Oregon, 1992. He has been a member of the Oregon State Bar since 1970. In addition to his duties at First American he has taught at Clackamas Community College, Lewis and Clark, Northwestern College of Law, Portland State University, Marylhurst University and Willamette University Law School. Alan was also involved in civic affairs as former Mayor of West Linn (1974-1982) and currently on the City Club of Portland where he has served on the Board of Governors and Chair of the Research Board. He is a frequent lecturer on real estate related issues for the Oregon State Bar, Oregon Law Institute, Mortgage Lending Education Board (2006 Educator of the Year) and other organizations.

Jay Dobson is Underwriting Counsel for First American Title Insurance Company. Jay has worked in the title insurance industry over 35 years, being involved in most aspects of the industry, including title, escrow, claims, 1031 exchanges, and as his title infers, underwriting in both the title and escrow portions. He obtained his BA from Willamette University and his JD from the University of Oregon. Jay is currently President of the Oregon Land Title Association.

Pat Ihnat is counsel for Fidelity National Title in Oregon. She has been with Fidelity for 20 years in various positions including claims litigation, claims management, and underwriting. Before her 2004 move to Portland, Pat was state counsel for Fidelity's Arizona operations. She chaired the legislative committee of the Arizona Land Title Association for 12 years. She is a past president of the Oregon Land Title Association and currently serves on several OLTA committees. Before joining the title industry, Pat was in private practice in Tucson and Phoenix, as a litigator and appellate attorney with a focus on real estate and commercial issues. She received her J.D. from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1981. Her undergraduate degree in Mathematics is from Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana. She is a member of the State Bar Associations in Oregon, California, and Arizona. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and agility training with her McNab herding dog, Riley.

John LaVeille is Legal Counsel for Chicago Title Company of Oregon, Inc. John received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Portland, magna cum laude in 1971, and his Juris Doctor from Northwestern School of Law, Lewis and Clark College, 1974. In 1989, John received an MBA for Portland State University. John has spent the majority of his professional life in the title insurance industry. He has served on the OLTA Educational and Legislation Committees, the Real Estate Section Legislative Committee of the Oregon State Bar, and is the past Chairman of the Corporation Counsel Section of the Oregon State Bar. He currently serves on the Forms and Practices Committee of OLTA and is Vice President for OLTA. In addition, he is on the Board of Directors of Our House of Portland. When not volunteering at Our House or working, John likes to garden, fancies himself as a bit of a gourmand, is continuously restoring his 1920s storybook house and is a long distance bicyclist.

Peggy Neikirk, CSEO, LPO, AVP and Senior Commercial Escrow Officer

Peggy has been in the title and escrow industry since 1972. She moved to the Northwest in 1976 and has been actively involved in the Portland Metropolitan commercial real estate market since 1979. Peggy is a Certified Senior Escrow Officer, having received her professional designation from Oregon Escrow Council, Inc. in 1984. She also maintains a Limited Practice Officer license from the State of Washington Supreme Court (admitted in 1999) and is a Notary Public in both Oregon and Washington. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Mortgage Bankers Association and as committee chair for Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) as well as on the advisory board to the State of Oregon in the Real Estate Division's revamping of the escrow laws for Oregon. Peggy specializes in multi-state transactions the most complicated of which involved 492 sites in 34 states in one restructuring transaction. Her clients include large corporations for which she handles their real estate transactions on a national basis. She has worked extensively with utilities and municipalities in large easement and right of way transactions. Peggy further specializes in complicated financing transactions including tax credit and bond financed deals. In her "off-time" from closing commercial real estate transactions, she serves on the Board of The Silver Buckle Ranch, a 501-(c) (3) organization that provides youth with equestrian based learning opportunities for growth in life and social skills.

Donald A. O'Neill has over thirty years of mortgage and real estate industry experience. At WFG National Title Insurance Company Don serves as the Company's Chief Compliance officer and oversees WFG's Compliance and Audit Department. In addition he is responsible for WFG's National Production Center and WFG's National Commercial Operations. Don is a member of the WFG Executive Management Committee.

Prior to joining WFG Don served as Chief Operating Officer and Associate General Counsel for Altisource's Premium Title and before that he was President of the Origination Practice and Chief Risk Officer for ISGN Solutions. Previously, Don was Group President for Stewart Title Company where he was responsible for the operational performance and financial results of the Company's Real Estate Information (REI) Group.

Don is a member of the state bar associations in Utah and Washington State and is admitted to practice law in the state and federal courts in both states. Don is also a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar – Washington D.C. He received his Juris Doctorate and MBA from Gonzaga University.

George N. Peters Jr. is the Executive Director of the Washington Land Title Association, and has served as the Education Chair. He retired as an Assistant Vice President and Division Underwriter for Chicago Title Insurance Company, Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, Ticor Title Insurance Company and Security Union Title Insurance Company, and has 47 years' experience in the title insurance and real estate fields, including five years as a paralegal coordinating national title insurance requirements for a Boston law firm.

He is the author of the chapters "Title Insurance" and "Waterfront Titles" in the Washington State Bar Association's Real Property Deskbook, and has written numerous papers on various title insurance topics, including condominiums, leaseholds, bankruptcy, Indian lands, probate, mineral lands, timber, water boundaries, easements and foreclosures. He has organized and participated in many seminars for the title insurance, lending, and escrow industries and the legal profession.

He currently represents the title insurance industry on a subcommittee of the Real Property, Probate & Trust section of the Washington State Bar Association which is reviewing the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act for possible adoption in Washington State. He was the representative of that industry on the statutory Condominium Task Force which drafted the current Washington Condominium Act and authored a paper "Condominiums and Title Insurance in Washington."

Mr. Peters consults on real estate projects where title insurance problems, particularly in the area of condominiums, are present, and is available as an expert witness in litigation involving title insurance.

Mary Thuemmel is Pacific Northwest Underwriting Counsel and Vice President for WFG National Title Insurance Company. She came to the title insurance industry in 1977 after graduating from University of Oregon Law School. After a brief stint as a commercial escrow officer for Chicago Title Insurance Company, Mary spent over a decade as Oregon operations underwriter and Oregon claims handler for Chicago Title Insurance Company, Lawyers Title of Oregon, and Fidelity National Title Insurance Company. Mary left the active practice of law to raise a family, and then returned to the profession to spend five years as operations counsel for Sunwest Management, which was, for a time before its implosion, one of the nation largest providers of senior care. Mary joined Williston Financial Group and WFG in 2012. She currently spends roughly half of her time providing underwriting and escrow advisory advice and half of her time in support of mergers and acquisitions. Mary is a past-president of the Oregon Land Title Association.