

Meet the 2016-2017 FLTA Board of Directors



Karla Staker
President

Fidelity National Title Group
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Karla J. Staker is a Vice President and State Underwriting Counsel with Fidelity National Title Group in Maitland, Florida. She received a J.D. and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Florida. Karla later received bachelor degrees in accounting and business administration from Florida Southern College. Except for a brief stint in private practice, Karla has been an underwriter with Fidelity National's group of underwriters since 1986. She is a member of The Florida Bar and is board certified in Real Estate Law. She is also a member of the Executive Council of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar. She serves as a co-vice chair of the Section's Title Issues and Standards Committee.



Timothy Steele
Chair, Agents' Section
First Vice President

North American Title Company
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Tim Steele oversees the West Florida Division of North American Title Company. He is responsible for all management and operational aspects of the four offices in that division, ranging from Tampa, Lakeland, Spring Hill to south Hillsborough County. He joined North American Title about four years ago, after practicing law as a real estate attorney, and as an assistant county attorney for Pasco County. He has extensive experience in drafting local ordinances and representing governmental bodies. Tim graduated from Stetson College of Law in St. Petersburg, and earned his Bachelors of Science degree in wildlife biology from Arizona State University.



Kevin Thomas
Chair, Insurers' Section

AmTrust Title Insurance Company
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Kevin D. Thomas is Senior Vice President and Southeast Regional Counsel for AmTrust Title Insurance Company and is based in Orlando, Florida. Prior to joining AmTrust Title he spent 12 years as Vice President and Florida Underwriting Counsel at another major title insurer and as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Director of Alliance Title of America, a Florida title insurer owned primarily by title agents until its acquisition by a major title insurer in 2003. He began his career in the title industry in 1985 and served as State Underwriting Counsel for other national title insurers specializing in commercial transactions. He is a member of the Florida Bar and has lectured extensively on title insurance and real property law. He served as a Staff Assistant to the President in the Carter White House. He received a B.A. in Foreign Service and International Politics from Pennsylvania State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore.



Marcia G. Cameron CLS
Chair, CLT Institute Council
First American Title Insurance Company
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Marcia was born, raised and currently resides in Ocala with her husband of 35 years, Junior Cameron, and their children, Stephanie 25, and Trey 28 who are currently attending college for Pharmacy and Mechanical Engineering respectively. Marcia began working in the title industry at Florida Title & Abstract Company (John Lane owner, deceased April 2015) in an entry level position in 1979

through the "Cooperative Business Education" during her senior year in high school. In the early 80's Marcia became a closer until the early 90's when she began searching/examining. Marcia obtained her CLC in 1989 and her CLS in 1993. Marcia became involved in the CLT Institute in the mid 90's and has held the positions of Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chair. In 2001 she started to work for LandAmerica where she opened a plant in Marion County. Marcia was fortunate to build the office from one person to six before the real estate drop which caused a merger with the Maitland office in 2007, returning to First American in June of 2007.



Mickey Godat
Chair, Governmental Affairs

Title Resources Guaranty Company
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Mickey Godat was born in St. Louis, MO. He graduated from Loyola University in New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts in History and obtained his law degree from St. Louis University School of Law. Mickey began his title career as in-house counsel for a large title agency in St. Louis, MO. From there he traveled back down the Mississippi River to New Orleans where, in 1996 he was hired by Lawyers Title. For the next 14 years, through industry consolidations with LandAmerica and Fidelity, he held various positions throughout the Southeast; including underwriting counsel in Louisiana and Florida and managed a major commercial transactions division in Central Florida. In 2010, he moved to Title Resources Guaranty Company. He is currently a Vice President and Underwriting Counsel for the East Region. He manages underwriting and regulatory issues from Florida to Louisiana up to Maine.



Skip Straus
Immediate Past President

Enterprise Title, Inc.
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Skip Straus is General Counsel/Vice President of Enterprise Title, Inc., with offices in Pembroke Pines and Weston. He has owned Enterprise with his wife Donna Straus since 1995. He is also a partner in Straus & Eisler, P.A., a general practice law firm concentrating on real property matters, probate, business transactions, and real estate litigation. In 2000, Skip pioneered the nation's first completely electronic purchase mortgage closing. He became an active member of FLTA in 2003, serving as Zone VP, Vice-Chair of Govt. Affairs, and Agents Section Chair. He has always advocated for the title industry: aiding passage of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA); founding So. Fla Property Rec. Education Partnership (SF-PREPS); serving as a member of the Florida Electronic Recording Advisory Committee, which wrote the Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act (URPERA); and promoting the title agents as a member of the Florida Bar RPPTL. He is a proud member of ALTA. Skip graduated from Tufts University (B.A.) and University of Miami (J.D.). He and Donna have twin daughters, Stephanie and Jolie.



Vincent J. Cassidy
Chair, Past Presidents' Council

Majesty Title Services, LLC
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vcassidy@majestytitle.com

Vincent J. Cassidy is the CEO and owner of Majesty Title Services, LLC. Prior to forming Majesty, Vince spent 25 years with JPMorgan Chase & Co., in various leadership positions. Vince is a graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, and the University of Virginia's Graduate School of Retail Banking, with honors. He resides in Tampa Florida with his wife and two daughters. Vince serves on the Board of Directors of Gulf Shore Bank, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and is the Chairman of the Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority.

Meet the 2016-2017 FLTA Board of Directors



Rachel B. McIntosh, CPA
Chair, Finance Committee
Westcor Land Title Insurance
875 Concourse Parkway South
Maitland, FL 32713
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Rachel B. McIntosh is the Corporate Controller for Westcor Land Title Insurance Company. Rachel brings to the position over 13 years of experience in both public and private accounting. She is a licensed CPA in both Florida and New York. Rachel holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Accounting from Hunter College of the City University in New York and a Master of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Central Florida. In her spare time, she can be found fishing with her husband and daughter.



James C. Russick
Director
Old Republic Title
1408 N. Westshore Blvd. - Ste 900
Tampa, FL 33607
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jrussick@oldrepublictitle.com

Jim Russick is Vice President, Florida State & Governmental Affairs Counsel for Old Republic Title. He has been Board Certified in Real Property Law since 1997. Jim received his B.A. in political science from Denison University in Granville, Ohio in 1974. He earned his J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California in 1977. Jim was sworn in as a member of both the Ohio Bar (inactive) in 1977 and the Florida Bar in 1980. Jim brings over 31 years of experience and dedication to the title insurance community. He is a past President of the Florida Land Title Association (FLTA) and currently serves on its Board in as Chair of the Past President's Council. Jim's commitment to title agents and the profession is further demonstrated in his involvement on the Executive Committee of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar (RPPTL) where he is a member of several of the substantive law committees. Jim is very active on the national stage where he is a long standing member of the Forms Committee of the American Land Title Association (ALTA).



Elaine Mahnke
Director
Island Title & Escrow Agency, Inc.
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Merritt Island, FL 32953
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Elaine Mahnke is the President of Island Title & Escrow Agency, Inc. and is currently a Board Member of Florida Land Title Association. In addition to all the details of managing a title agency, Elaine is a full time closer. She started her career as a closing agent in Hobbs, New Mexico, in 1976 and purchased the agency she worked for in 1980. She moved to Merritt Island, FL with her family in 1992, and in 1998 she and her husband, Paul Mahnke, opened their title agency. With the help of two employees, they built their business and eventually added another eight employees. Island Title is one of the largest title agencies in Brevard County and has received many awards of excellence in the title industry through the years. Elaine was named the 2012 Business Affiliate of the Year by the Space Coast Area Realtors. She has served on several committees and enjoys giving presentations to the real estate industry to help them better understand the title insurance industry.



Melissa Murphy
Director
Attorneys' Title Fund Services, LLC
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Ms. Murphy obtained her B.S. degree from Florida State University and her J. D. degree from the University of Florida. Prior to joining The

Fund, she was in private practice in Gainesville for over 30 years, with a focus on real property transactional law. Ms. Murphy was a Fund agent and her firm has been in The Fund Top 25 several years. She also served as the Trustee from the 8th Judicial Circuit to Attorneys Title Insurance Fund, Inc. for 14 years prior to becoming General Counsel of The Fund. Ms. Murphy was an adjunct professor at the University of Florida for many years prior to moving to Orlando, teaching real property law at the law school and in the Masters of Science in Real Estate program in the business school. She serves on the Executive Council of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar and was Chair of the Section in 2005-2006.



Mary Orme
Director
North American Title Company
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Mary Orme oversees the Southwest Florida Division of North American Title Company and is responsible for the management and operational aspects of the offices within this division. Mary has been with North American Title since May of 1996 and during her 20-year tenure has acquired a comprehensive knowledge of the title insurance industry. Prior to becoming Division Manager, Mary acted in the capacity as Staff Attorney for North American Title. Mary is a graduate of the University of Florida where she earned her Bachelors of Science Degree and a graduate of Nova Southeastern University where she attended Law School. Mary is a Member of the Florida Bar and is a certified Instructor with the Department of Business & Professional Regulation which allows her to teach continuing education courses on title issues of interest to the Real Estate community.



JoAnne Quarles, CLC
Director
Treasure Title Insurance Agency, Inc.
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JoAnne is the President and Owner of Treasure Title Insurance Agency, Inc. located in Winter Garden, FL. In 1971, JoAnne started her career in the title insurance industry in Orlando, FL and was employed by Chicago Title Insurance Co. f/k/a Continental Title Corp, f/k/a Orange Title & Guaranty Co. preparing title research and title reports; Construction and Loan Administrator, and as Secretary to the in house Counsel assisting in Development and Commercial transactions. In 1977 she became the Group Branch Manager for American Title Insurance Company, with responsibility for Winter Garden and Windermere. After the merger of American Title into Meridian Title and then into Fidelity National Title in 1992 her offices were closed and she began a short term employment as Area Manager with Gulf Atlantic Title. After a medical leave, she opened Stewart Title of Orange County, Winter Garden Office, as Branch Manager, in 1993 where she obtained the Stewart Title's "Volunteer of the Year" award. In May of 2001, she ventured out to open her own company, Treasure Title where she remains active in commercial, residential, agricultural and church closings, marketing and managing the operation. JoAnne has served the West Orange Community in many capacities, as Chamber President and Board Member, Bank First Advisory Board Member and Chairperson, YMCA Board Member, Member of the Central Florida Women's League and is currently the Ambassador Chair for the West Orange Chamber Ambassadors where she also received the Lifetime Ambassador Award and Ambassador of the year award. She enjoys boating, fishing and traveling.

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