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LOCAL ABSTRACTORS SHARE NOTES

(Myrtle Beach, SC) October 21, 2006 – The first ever Title Camp, sponsored by NALTEA, was held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at the Hampton Inn Hollywood at the Beach Resort on October 21, 2006. Attendance by paralegals, title abstractors and examiners from North Carolina, South Carolina and Iowa underlined the differences in markets and title processes for each state, but also highlighted many similarities.

The group focused on a number of topics, chief among which were online records, education and certification in the industry. Discussions were heated at times when opposing views of online records were debated among the group. Jan Forster, a staunch advocate for the removal of public records from the Internet, expressed the view that deeds, mortgages and other documents containing personal information and signatures should not be available for viewing across the globe. “I view this as an issue of national security” Forster added.

The group was in agreement that availability of online records allowed the title abstractor flexibility and was essential to productivity; although from a privacy standpoint, it was not advantageous to consumers in general. The view that online records would cause the industry and the title abstractor to become obsolete while records for American consumers could be researched offshore in India or other foreign countries was also expressed. Toni Shepherd from USLand Title suggested that online records were here to stay and the answer was not to remove them from Internet sources, but to regulate their usage.

Education and certification was a hot topic with strong support for certification of abstractors on a national basis. Lynn Hammett of NALTEA provided an update to the group on the organization’s progress in the certification process. “It is the hope that strong certification guidelines through NALTEA will be recognized by the states and adopted for state certification,” Hammett added. Ms. Hammett further commented that requiring certified title abstractors to search public records would return the professional qualities that once dominated the field.

A number of abstractors expressed strong opposition to unreasonable turnaround times expected by national clients. Wendy See compared unreasonable expectations to the rise in claims experienced by title insurance companies in recent years. Other topics included the problems of late and non-paying clients, diversification ideas, establishing regional associations or state charters through NALTEA, and insurance matters.

NALTEA was founded in June 2004 when several committed and dedicated title examiners and abstractors recognized the need for unifying the industry's members into their own national organization. NALTEA was the first organization developed to address the needs and concerns of those working in an often overlooked arena of the real estate industry. Through its efforts, its members are improving their services and their products through extended marketability and improved industry standards, including the first national abstractor certification program. To learn more about NALTEA, visit the organization's Website at www.naltea.org.

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