

# Meet Your 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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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.