

Biographies

The Editor

Mitchell G. Williams received a BA from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1973, an MA from the State University of New York in Binghamton in 1975, and graduated summa cum laude from New York Law School in 1984 where he was Articles Editor of the *New York Law School Law Review*. He is a partner in the Real Estate Practice Group at Hunton & Williams LLP in New York and a New York State-licensed professional land surveyor. Mr. Williams is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA). He has published a number of articles on law and surveying in *PROBATE & PROPERTY, SURVEYING AND MAPPING*, and *THE JOURNAL OF LEGAL HISTORY*, and was the Editor of *LAND SURVEYS, A GUIDE FOR LAWYERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS* (2nd ed. 2000).

The Authors

Richard F. Bales is employed by Chicago Title Insurance Company as Assistant Regional Counsel and Assistant Vice President in its Wheaton office. He graduated from Illinois College in Jacksonville in 1973. He received his juris doctorate degree from Northern Illinois University in 1983 and is admitted to practice law in Illinois. As a member of the Education Committee of the Illinois Land Title

Association, he has lectured throughout the state on all aspects of title insurance and real estate law. He has also written numerous articles for the Chicago Bar Association, the DuPage County Bar Association, and the Illinois State Bar Association. These articles include *Land Surveyor Liability to Third Parties in Illinois*, which appeared in the March 2007 issue of the ILLINOIS BAR JOURNAL, the peer-reviewed journal of the Illinois State Bar Association. In 1999, several of his articles appeared in a book on survey issues that was published by the American Bar Association. Mr. Bales's book, *A GUIDE TO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SURVEYS IN ILLINOIS*, was originally published by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education in 2004 and has since then been updated and reissued in 2011. Mr. Bales is a member of an American Land Title Association and American Congress on Surveying and Mapping liaison committee, and he helped draft both the 2005 and 2011 ALTA/ACSM land title survey standards. These standards are used by surveyors throughout the United States. Mr. Bales's article on the 2011 survey standards was published by the American Bar Association in the July/August 2011 issue of *PROBATE & PROPERTY*. Mr. Bales is also the author of *THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE AND THE MYTH OF MRS. O'LEARY'S COW*, a book wherein he claims (through the study of pre-Chicago Fire land records) to have solved the mystery of who started the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. His research was the subject of a Discovery Channel "Unsolved History" episode and an episode of the Weather Channel's television show, "When Weather Changed History." Mr. Bales is now working on a biography of George Wellington "Cap" Streeter and the turbulent post-Chicago Fire saga of Chicago's "Streeterville" neighborhood.

Landon Blake is licensed to practice land surveying in California and Nevada. He graduated with an AAS from Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Montana. He has been employed for the past ten years as a project manager for a small civil engineering and land surveying company in California. His work typically involves surveying for right-of-way acquisition and construction of large flood control and transportation infrastructure projects. Mr. Blake is a charter member of the OSGeo, the volunteer editor of the *OSGEO JOURNAL*, and a member of the California Land Surveyor's Association Central Valley Chapter. He is a volunteer programmer of the open source desktop GIS program OpenJUMP and the founder of the California Central Valley Geospatial Professionals Group. He writes a regular column on boundary surveying for *THE AMERICAN SURVEYOR MAGAZINE*.

Robert W. Foster is a Registered Professional Surveyor and a Registered Professional Engineer (Civil) with over fifty years' experience, having graduated from the University of Vermont in 1955 with a BS in Civil Engineering. Mr. Foster has specialized in offering professional consulting services in arbitration, dispute resolution, and litigation involving surveying and civil engineering issues. Although semi-retired, he is an active member of the Dispute Resolution Panel of Neutrals

of REBA Dispute Resolution, Inc., a subsidiary of the Real Estate Bar Association of Massachusetts. Mr. Foster is a past president of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and a past president of the International Federation of Surveyors, a federation of over one hundred national professional surveying associations. He has provided professional testimony in litigation involving property disputes, appeals of permit denials, eminent domain proceedings, and professional negligence, and has testified before the United States Congress and the Massachusetts legislature on pending legislation and budgetary matters.

Gerald J. Greenan is past chair of the 250-member Real Estate Committee of the Erie County Bar Association and a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education seminars. He has focused his practice on Real Property Law since his admission to the New York Bar in 1962. In the region where he practices, urban, suburban, and rural western New York, the majority of real estate transactions close without fee title insurance and are based upon an attorney's opinion of the state and quality of title. Most of his clients are attorneys who rely upon his examination of the record title and his written opinion of the contract marketability of their clients' purchases.

Knud E. Hermansen is an attorney, professional engineer, and professional land surveyor licensed in several states. His education includes a BS and PhD in Civil Engineering from Pennsylvania State University, an MS in Civil Engineering (emphasis on surveying and mapping) from the University of Wisconsin, and a JD from West Virginia University. Mr. Hermansen is a professor at the University of Maine and operates a consulting firm offering surveying, engineering, and legal services. His professional memberships include the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Lawyers Association, and several state survey societies and bar associations. He is an author or coauthor of the following titles: *Maine Roads and Easements*; *Writing Legal Descriptions*; *Boundary Principles and Procedures for Pennsylvania*; *A Partial Compendium of Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Single Family Residential Development in Maine*; *Legal Topics in Boundary Surveying*; *An Introduction to Surveying Management*; and *Handbook of Annotated Forms for the Surveying Practice*.

R. Lee Hixson began his surveying career by putting himself through college working on the survey crew of the Utah Power & Light Company. After graduating from the University of Utah with a BS and MS in sociology he moved to northern California. Two years of teaching at a junior college led him to return to surveying, and he became a Professional Licensed Surveyor in California in 1980. Mr. Hixson is now licensed in six additional western states: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada. He specializes in research, analysis, and boundary

resolutions relating to a variety of mapping projects. He has completed fifty or more ALTA/ACSM Land Title Surveys and recorded over two hundred maps in three states, most of them in California. He has been published in all of the major nationwide journals, with most of the articles focusing on the need for a higher standard of boundary resolutions.

Gary R. Kent is chair of the National Society of Professional Surveyors' committee on the ALTA/ACSM Standards and is liaison to NSPS for the American Land Title Association. He is in his twenty-eighth year with The Schneider Corporation, a surveying, GIS, and consulting engineering firm based in Indianapolis and with offices in Charlotte and Des Moines. Mr. Kent is a past president of both the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors. He taught Boundary Law, Legal Descriptions, Property Surveying, and Land Survey Systems as an adjunct instructor for Purdue University in Indianapolis and West Lafayette from 1999 to 2006 and received Excellence in Teaching and Outstanding Associate Faculty awards for his efforts there. Gary is currently in his third term as vice chairman of the Indiana State Board of Registration for Land Surveyors. He also writes regular columns for *THE AMERICAN SURVEYOR* magazine and for the *ACSM BULLETIN*.

Wendy Lathrop is a self-employed consultant, licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, and as a Professional Planner in New Jersey. She is also a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) through the Association of State Flood Plain Managers. Since 1974, her surveying experiences have covered a broad range of projects in the field and in the office. She is president of Cadastral Consulting, LLC, which provides consulting services and continuing education courses for surveyors. Ms. Lathrop is a contributing editor for *THE AMERICAN SURVEYOR* magazine.

Harlan J. Onsrud is a professor in the School of Computing and Information Science at the University of Maine where he teaches graduate courses in information systems law and responsible conduct of research. As an attorney, engineer, and land surveyor, his research has focused on the interface of these fields and particularly on analysis of legal, ethical, and societal issues affecting the creation and use of digital databases and assessment of the effects of location tracking technologies. He received a BS and MS from the University of Wisconsin College of Engineering and a JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

David E. Snediker is a partner in the firm of Paul Hastings LLP, resident in its New York City office. He focuses his law practice on commercial real estate matters, concentrating in the areas of pension fund real estate activities and real estate finance matters. Mr. Snediker is a contributing author to *THE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TENANT'S HANDBOOK* (1987) and to *MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES IN NEW YORK*

(1996). He has lectured as a faculty member at numerous NACORE, AECRE, ABA, and local bar association functions on topics relating to commercial real estate matters. Mr. Snediker has been a member of the American Bar Association's Committees on Creditors' Rights in Real Estate Financing and Land Surveys. He is the firm's voting member for the Pension Real Estate Association, and he is a former member of PREA's Governmental Affairs Committee. He is a former chairman of the board of directors of the International Association of Attorneys and Executives in Corporate Real Estate, and he is currently a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Title and Transfer and Real Estate Finance. He is also an independent director of Fieldpoint Private Bank and Trust, where he is on the Loan Committee and the ALCO Committee and is chairman of the bank's Compensation Committee. Mr. Snediker received his BS in 1969 from the University of Notre Dame and his JD in 1975 from St. John's University School of Law.

Donald A. Wilson is president of Land & Boundary Consultants, Inc., based in southeastern New Hampshire, and has been in practice as a land boundary consultant for over forty years. While most of his practice has been in and around the New England area, Mr. Wilson has served as a consultant to firms and groups throughout the United States and Canada. He is both a licensed land surveyor and professional forester, and has conducted programs on a variety of topics, including description interpretation, boundary evidence, law, title problems, forensic procedures, and related subjects. Mr. Wilson has been active in numerous organizations in the surveying and mapping, forestry, and related fields, including the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. He is a life member of the American Forestry Association, a Fellow of ACSM, past president of both the Maine Society of Land Surveyors and the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association, and a member of the New Hampshire Title Association and the New England Land Title Association. In addition to more than two hundred technical publications in several areas, Mr. Wilson has been involved with over fifty books. He is coauthor of *EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURES FOR BOUNDARY LOCATION AND BOUNDARY CONTROL AND LEGAL PRINCIPLES* and author of *DEED DESCRIPTIONS I HAVE KNOWN BUT COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT*, *EASEMENTS AND REVERSIONS*, and the chapter on Boundary Surveys in the *SURVEYING HANDBOOK*. His two latest works, published through John Wiley & Sons, are *INTERPRETING LAND RECORDS* and *FORENSIC PROCEDURES FOR BOUNDARY AND TITLE INVESTIGATION*. Mr. Wilson has spoken before and consulted with numerous organizations, including several state Departments of Transportation, several power authorities, offices of Attorneys General, the International Right of Way Association as well as Minatome Corporation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Wilson formerly contributed a regular column for *PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR* magazine and is presently an instructor for RedVector in producing online professional courses. He is also part owner of and lead instructor in Surveyors Educational Seminars and a regular seminar coordinator for the University of New Hampshire.