



Benchmark celebrates five-year anniversary

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A five year anniversary for any business is a good thing. For co-founders Thomas DeCaro and Jean Partridge, the success of Benchmark Title Agency despite the current real estate market is proof positive that the principles with which they founded the company five years ago were right-in good times and bad. Additionally, Westchester Women's Bar Association, recently named Benchmark Title Agency the "Family Friendly Employer" of 2010. Benchmark was selected for embracing employment policies and practices that allow for a balance of career opportunity with family responsibilities.

"Jean and I have worked together for many years, and we share a vision of a title agency that performs at a superior level for clients, while respecting the personal lives of our employees," said Tom DeCaro. "We are very proud to have reached this milestone, particularly in this economy, and we look forward to many more years of growth and success."

Benchmark takes its role as a market leader seriously. Every year, the agency presents five well-attended CLE (Continuing Legal Education) programs and is constantly alerting its clients to all new laws that effect real estate transactions. Senior staff members were instrumental in working with the Westchester County Clerk's office to streamline the entire PREP system (Property Records Electronic Portal). This online system, used by more than a thousand New York real estate professionals annually, is used to prepare cover pages and tax forms needed to submit land record documents to the County Clerk's office. Benchmark was selected to work with the County's IT department to develop the system, and also served as a beta test site just prior to its successful implementation. Additionally, Benchmark was selected by the County to review and beta test their online search tool (WRO- Westchester Records Online).

"Benchmark has consistently taken a leadership role in the modernization of land records management during my term in office," said Westchester County clerk Tim Idoni. "They go beyond the bottom line to insure that their whole industry is prepared and participating in these important changes."

President Thomas DeCaro's leadership and involvement with related organizations, including the New York State Association for Affordable Housing, WestHab, Inc., Building & Realty Institute of Westchester County and Urban Land Institute -Westchester/Fairfield contribute to Benchmark's position as a leader in the real estate field.

Chief counsel Jean Partridge and managing member is a member of the executive board and serves on many committees of the New York State Land Title Association, Inc. (NYSLTA), a statewide organization of title insurance companies, abstract companies, title insurance agents, lawyers, surveyors and others in the real estate field. She also serves as a chairperson and liaison between the New York State Land Title Association and all county clerks in the Hudson Valley Region.

“Benchmark’s presence lobbying in Albany and locally, Jean’s invaluable contributions at many meetings with the Department of Insurance and rallying those in the industry has provided a boost for the industry,” said Sharon Sabol, Executive Vice President of the NYSLTA.

Senior Vice Presidents Christine Gagliardi and Melissa Colavito are also committed to extending themselves to local organizations. Within the firm, their professionalism and reputation for excellence in client service make an important contribution to Benchmark’s success.

“This is a tremendous milestone to achieve for any organization, but in our industry, at this particular time, it is an even more impressive accomplishment. It looks to the quality of the people involved with Benchmark Title that this five year anniversary is being celebrated. We are extremely pleased with our relationship with Benchmark Title, Tom and Jean. We look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries with them in the future,” John F. Welling, President, Stewart Title Insurance Company.

Benchmark serves clients throughout New York State, and is prominent in Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, New York City, Bronx, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties. The agency prides itself in matching the right underwriter to each transaction, whether the property is a multi-million commercial building or a first home. Benchmark Title Agency is headquartered at 222 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 102, White Plains, NY 10605 (914-250-2400) and online at www.benchmarkta.com.

New York Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540