

## CourthouseDirect.com Increases TSPS Contributions

CourthouseDirect.com, a TSPS Affinity Partner, recently agreed to increase its contribution from 12 cents per page to \$.25 per page when TSPS members use the [www.CourthouseDirect.com/tsps](http://www.CourthouseDirect.com/tsps) webpage.

Approximately 10 years ago, Paul Cones, owner of CourthouseDirect.com, approached the association and offered to donate a portion of its revenue from online documents sales to TSPS. Since that time, CourthouseDirect.com has contributed more than \$70,000 to the TSPS organization. Mr. Cones was presented with a President's Award at the Annual Awards Gala in San Marcos last October during 2012 Convention.



Paul Cones, left, with Martin Keller of Baker Surveying, the June Beat the Heat Promotion winner.



### HISTORY

CourthouseDirect.com and its sister company Courthouse Specialists have been providing abstracting and online access to real property records for surveyors in Texas since 1982. Courthouse Specialists specializes in providing research for boundary surveys and complex public and private right of way projects.

CourthouseDirect.com was the first company in the nation to put a Grantor Grantee on the internet (Harris County) and has been a leader in changing the way many surveyors do business. Instead of hiring an outside firm to perform a subject and adjoiner search most surveyors are now doing it themselves by using CourthouseDirect.com, county websites, or other websites. CourthouseDirect.com's Grantor Grantee indexes are free to use, and there are currently more than 100 counties available and more on the way.

**CourthouseDirect.com**

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Mr. Cones said what differentiates CourthouseDirect.com from other sites is the ability to perform a “sub-search.” For example, when researching a common name like, “City of Houston” or “John Smith,” surveyors can match a party, subdivision or survey name in the sub-search field, which reduces research time substantially.

CourthouseDirect.com is the largest provider of Title Plant facilities for title insurance companies (per Texas Department of Insurance statistics) and owns the largest repository of historical Real Property records in Texas. Much of this information is available to surveyors in the, “Historical Documents and Plats” portion of the site. Subscribers are able to choose a county and view a free Map or Deed, and if they choose to download the document there is a nominal fee.

### **WHAT’S NEW?**

CourthouseDirect.com recently introduced a new GIS services to its website in eight counties within the Houston and Dallas metropolitan markets and plans to expand this service throughout the state. Current layers include Tax Maps, Tax Records, New Sales Data, Deed information and Google satellite imaging.

Instead of generating multiple tax printouts from the Appraisal District the CourthouseDirect.com GIS site allows surveyors to combine several tax records into a free “Basic Report.” For those needing to perform right of entry or need to give notice to property owners for a replat or rezoning there is a Mailing Label feature on the site. CourthouseDirect.com is currently working to link recorded subdivision maps and vesting deeds to the Basic Report which, according to Mr. Cones, will substantially reduce the time it takes for surveyors to perform their research.

### **TSPS & COURTHOUSEDIRECT.COM**

“We have a high regard for land surveyors and appreciate the work they do every day to make land records better and more accurate,” Cones said. “Sometimes surveyors are under appreciated, but everyone from Title Agents, Landmen, Abstractors, Right-of-Way Agents, Appraisers and Real Estate Agents rely on a quality land surveys to perform our jobs effectively.”

To learn more about CourthouseDirect.com, contact Paul Cones at [pcones@CourthouseDirect.com](mailto:pcones@CourthouseDirect.com) or call 713-683-0491.



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