



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Ernst Integrates ALTA Registry Data Into Search Engine

Firm makes all the benefits of ALTA Registry available to lenders, urges agents to register

ALBANY, NY—October 8, 2018—Ernst, the leading provider of technology and closing cost data for the real estate and home finance industries for the past 29 years, announced today that the American Land Title Association (ALTA) has agreed to integrate all of the data it collects and maintains in its national ALTA Title & Settlement Agent Registry (ALTA Registry) into Ernst Settlement Agent Gateway and Smart Query closing cost fee calculator along with other closing cost software Ernst Publishing delivers to the industry. Now, title agents that work with Ernst will be able to effortlessly share their ALTA ID, a unique 7-digit identifier, and their settlement fees with integration partners and lenders.

“The ALTA Registry is an important industry database that will mitigate fraud risk and help lenders ensure the integrity of their loan origination process,” said Gregory E. Teal, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ernst Publishing. “Because the data ALTA collects is confirmed by title underwriters, the ALTA ID has become a critical piece of data that our customers use to verify the identity of their partners. Ernst integration of this information with Settlement Agent fees insures the accuracy of the fees agents and lenders disclose to their borrowers. We’re proud to include this unique dataset in the information we provide to our clients.”

The ALTA Registry is a searchable online database of underwriter-confirmed title agent companies, real estate attorneys, and underwriter direct offices. The ALTA ID has become an industry standard method for lenders to confirm the identity of their settlement industry partners. ALTA is perfectly positioned to develop and maintain this industry utility. Ernst provides the perfect method to push this information out to lenders and integrators in the manner they wish to receive it. Ernst will access data in the ALTA Registry through a direct integration and will begin making the data available to industry partners immediately.

“We’re pleased to offer this tool to Ernst as it helps to confirm the identity of title and settlement agents handling mortgage transactions,” said Paul Martin, Director of the ALTA Title Registry. “We expect this integration to further increase awareness of the registry, particularly among title and settlement agents, and to encourage more agents to register for an ALTA ID. This dataset is established in the mortgage lending

ecosystem and has been shown to be of great value to lenders and title underwriters.”

Teal pointed out that since lenders will now have easier access to ALTA IDs for the partners they work with, it makes more sense than ever for title agents to join the ALTA Registry for their own ALTA ID. There is no charge to register and title agents do not have to join ALTA to receive an ALTA ID.

Ernst programs processed 250 million real estate transactions in 2017, making it the most used technology of its kind in the industry. Since the company was founded 29 years ago, Ernst has processed well over 1 billion transactions and unveiled dozens of technologies and products that produce efficiency across the real estate industry. The firm estimates that its technology is in use for 90% of the nation’s new loan originations and refinance transactions.

About ALTA

The [American Land Title Association](#), founded in 1907, is the national trade association representing more than 6,200 title insurance companies, title and settlement agents, independent abstracters, title searchers, and real estate attorneys. With offices throughout the United States, ALTA members conduct title searches, examinations, closings, and issue title insurance that protects real property owners and mortgage lenders against losses from defects in titles.

About Ernst

Ernst has been the leading authority on land recording requirements for nearly three decades. In fact, Ernst’s recording fees, transfer taxes and title data have been integrated throughout the title and lending industries. Legal requirements have made accurate recording fees and taxes for recording documents more important than ever. Ernst excels at creating solutions for their clients to manage not just those fees but also all vendor fees with unparalleled precision. As a company, our goal is simple: Empower clients to not only meet CFPB’s new compliance regulations for the Loan Estimate, but set the industry standard for client satisfaction, an attainable goal due to our patented technology, impeccable data standards, expertise at creating custom solutions, and network of partners. Ernst’s patented solutions are trusted and used by 9 of the nation’s top 10 mortgage servicers, all 5 of the top title underwriters and 9 out of 10 mortgage originators nationwide, including 9 of the 10 largest banks.

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