

# Considerations and Mechanics of Commercial Real Estate Transactions

Mississippi Valley Title 2016 Agency Seminar: Commercial Real Estate Transactions

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#### Commercial Due Diligence Products

- Settlement Services
  - Full closing and settlement services
  - Escrow and disbursement services
- 1031 Exchange Services (Old Republic Exchange)
- Land Survey
  - ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys
  - Topographical
  - As-Built
  - Boundary
- Zoning Reports
  - Municipal Letters/Certificates
  - Zoning Summary Information and Detailed Reports



#### Commercial Due Diligence Products (continued)

- Environmental Products (ESA)
  - Phase I
  - Phase II
  - Soil
  - Asbestos
- Property Condition Assessments
  - Roofing, HVAC, etc.
  - ADA Compliance Reports
  - AB 1103 Report
- Appraisal Valuation
  - Commercial Appraisal,
  - Restricted Report, Broker's Price Opinion
- Flood Zone Determinations and Elevation Certificates



#### **Benefits**

- Quality control of due diligence products
  - Technical review of surveys
  - Title review
  - Risk reduction
- Standard product formats with Old Republic branding
- Status reports and personalized customer service
- Financial strength of Old Republic National Title Insurance Company
- Pre-qualified, insured and contracted vendors
  - Established database
  - Screened for professional licenses and insurance
  - Contracted on per-order basis
    - Product meets customer requirements and timeframe
    - Enforcement provisions for non-compliance
- Cost savings
  - Employee costs related to time spent finding providers, placing orders
    \*\*\_and maintaining status of multiple products



#### **Contact Information**

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#### **Considerations**

- Parties to the transaction
  - Title Agent/Seller/Buyer/Lender/Broker
- What is being Sold/Purchased/Financed?
  - Unimproved real estate
  - Improved real estate
  - Fee, leasehold or easement interest
  - Distinctions between multi-family, office, retail and other properties
  - Location/size/multiple parcels
- Timing
  - Closing date (factors in exchange and year-end transactions)
  - Due diligence period
  - Title commitment delivery
  - Title search
- Method of closing
  - Escrow
  - Sit down



## Mechanics - Pre-closing

- Contract/Purchase Sale Agreement
  - Get written into contract
  - Earnest money
- Know parties and respective counsel, consultant, surveyor, etc.
  - Contact information for all contact groups
- Know your role and other's roles
  - Who is responsible for providing certain information?
- Request/Obtain Transaction Checklists
  - Critical date schedules
  - Seller/Purchaser closing checklists
  - Lender title requirements
  - Lender survey requirements
- Title Search and Commitment
  - Search period
  - Certain exception and requirement clauses
  - Copies of all B-II exceptions
  - Million Dollar + Approval



#### Mechanics - Pre-closing (continued)

- ALTA/NSPS Survey
  - Review
  - Proper certifications to owner/lender/Old Republic
- Title and Survey Objection Letter
  - Anticipate comments
- Proforma Policy with Endorsements
  - Preparation
  - Proforma policy language
- Satisfaction of all B-I requirements
- Escrow Instruction Letter
  - Lender
  - Buyer
  - Seller



## Mechanics - At closing

- Prorations
- Settlement statement
- Receipt of funds
- Does the insured require a marked commitment?
- Disbursement of funds
- Release of escrow items
- Instruments to be recorded
  - Who is in possession?
  - Who is responsible for recording?



#### Mechanics - Post-closing

- Recording of instruments
  - Properly executed and acknowledged
  - All exhibits and correct legal description attached
  - Indexing instructions
  - Appropriate order
  - Accurate recording fees
- Releases of liens and encumbrances
- Title policy issuance and delivery
  - Review and approval
  - Where and how to send
  - Timing requirements
- Return of recorded instruments





# THANK YOU

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