

Appraisers talk about a changing real estate landscape as LDAC returns

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leadership Development and Advisory Council conference returned to Washington, D.C., May 18–20. Jacinto “Jay” Munoz, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, AI-RRS, 2022 LDAC chair, welcomed more than 100 Appraisal Institute professionals to the city for the three-day event.

During the opening session, LDAC leaders offered previews of their respective discussion topics, after which AI President Pledger M. “Jody” Bishop III, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, talked about issues affecting the Appraisal Institute and the valuation profession. Melody Taylor, executive director of the Interagency Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity, discussed the PAVE task force and fielded questions from the audience about its potential effect on appraisers. Misty Ray, MAI, AI-GRS, the final speaker, talked about the Appraisal Institute Insurance Trust.

During the closing session, Kelly Yeatts, MAI, was elected 2023 vice chair; 2022 vice chair Eric Schneider, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, will serve as chair next year.

Up for discussion

The central topics the four discussion leaders introduced focused on advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within the valuation profession; the Appraisal Institute’s use of technology; recruiting and retaining individuals to the



More than 100 Appraisal Institute professionals went to Capitol Hill on May 19 to talk to lawmakers about equity in valuation and AI’s efforts to prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion. They also urged members of the House to co-sponsor HR 575, legislation that would modernize the real estate appraisal licensing system.

profession; and AI member services and benefits. The ideas, proposals and recommendations that came out of the discussions were compiled into reports delivered to AI’s Executive Committee. Following are highlights from those reports.

DE&I: Brett Weatherbie, MAI, AI-GRS, reported that participants in all four of his discussion groups agreed that AI’s appraiser

diversity, equity and inclusion initiative is a positive step toward addressing these concerns and, along with the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal program (known as PAREA), is seen as a good opportunity for giving people a nontraditional path into the profession. Participants also strongly supported AI’s university outreach efforts, which they said could help cre-

First-timer award

Michael Tidwell II, SRA, of Los Angeles, received the William T. Anglyn Award at the Leadership Development and Advisory Council conference on May 20. The Anglyn Award is presented on the last day of the event to a first-year participant who exhibited exemplary leadership, integrity and outstanding contributions at the conference. The award was created in 2000 in recognition of efforts by Ted Anglyn, MAI, to promote LDAC.



ate a foundation that increases diversity at the entry level. All groups noted the importance of seeing diversity at the leadership level and on committees and panels.

Technology: Lee Smalley, MAI, used the Slido app to poll his discussion groups on how they felt about the Appraisal Institute's use of technology in service to its professionals. The responses showed that participants wanted more education and delivery options, that they highly valued the idea of data sharing and collection among membership (while acknowledging that this could be seen as a tricky topic), and that they thought that affiliations and collaborations with tech companies could be very helpful.

Recruitment: Kelly Yeatts, MAI, had her discussion groups focus on how to attract new candidates to the valuation profession, and they universally agreed that recruitment through both four-year colleges and universities and the community college system is essential. They also thought it would be helpful for higher education institutions to offer more general appraisal courses as an introduction to the profession. Participants also discussed the importance of creating opportunities that benefit both trainees and supervisors, and they want to more strongly market the benefits of being an appraiser and being an Appraisal Institute professional.

Member services: Seth Rohling, MAI, AI-GRS, reported that all of his discussion groups said they could benefit from



HILARY SCHWAB

AI's 2022 Leadership Development and Advisory Council conference operated under the direction of (front row, from left) Jay Munoz, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, AI-RRS, chair; Seth Rohling, MAI, AI-GRS, discussion leader; Kelly Yeatts, MAI, discussion leader; Eric Schneider, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, vice chair; (back row, from left) Lee Smalley, MAI, discussion leader; Craig Steinley, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, AI-RRS, AI president-elect; and Brett Weatherbie, MAI, AI-GRS, discussion leader.

social media education and how best to use it to promote their services, the profession and the Appraisal Institute. They also said they would benefit from business development training, which they noted could be particularly valuable to smaller firms. Many participants noted that Communities of Practice could be expanded and used for

networking, such as bringing together appraisers who specialize in certain property types.

► Appraisal Institute professionals interested in next year's LDAC can learn more about the program at <http://bit.ly/2Nmgn12>.