



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 12, 2018

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Moraga's Melissa Downing Honored as Appraisal Institute 'Volunteer of Distinction'

CHICAGO (July 12, 2018) – Melissa M. Downing, MAI, of Moraga, California, was recognized today as an Appraisal Institute "Volunteer of Distinction" for second quarter 2018.

The Appraisal Institute is the nation's largest professional association of real estate appraisers. Downing is a member of the Northern California Chapter.

The Appraisal Institute's Volunteer of Distinction program honors the organization's volunteers for their service to the Appraisal Institute, to the real estate valuation profession and to their local communities. Each quarter, the Appraisal Institute recognizes AI professionals who have been nominated by their fellow AI professionals.

"Melissa Downing has been a great contributor to the Appraisal Institute," said Appraisal Institute President James L. Murrett, MAI, SRA. "We are grateful for the time, effort and talent of volunteers like Melissa who have devoted themselves to the betterment of our organization, the valuation profession and their local communities."

Downing is vice chair of the national Admissions and Designation Qualifications Committee, was a member in 2017 and has been a member of the Northern California Chapter's Finance Committee since 2016. She served on the chapter's Finance Committee from 2016-17, the board of directors from 2015-17, as a member of the Nominating Committee in 2016 and regional representative from 2015-16. She served as chair of the chapter's Website Committee, chair of the Fall Conference Committee and member of the Education Committee in 2015 and chair of the Technology Committee from 2014-15. In 2017, she was a member of the Leadership Development & Advisory Council Planning Committee, as well as a discussion leader and attendee from 2014-16, receiving the William T. Anglyn Award in 2014, awarded to a first-year participant who exhibited exemplary leadership, integrity and outstanding contributions at the conference.

Downing joined the Appraisal Institute in 2011, and received her MAI designation in 2013.

She has been managing director for Joseph J. Blake & Associates, Inc. in Walnut Creek. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration and MBA with honors (finance concentration) from St. Mary's College in Moraga.

Downing actively works with St. Mary's College's Business department in helping students navigate their career path.

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The Appraisal Institute is a global professional association of real estate appraisers, with more than 18,000 professionals in nearly 50 countries throughout the world. Its mission is to advance professionalism and ethics, global standards, methodologies, and practices through the professional development of property economics worldwide. Organized in 1932, the Appraisal Institute advocates equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in the appraisal profession and conducts its activities in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws. Individuals of the Appraisal Institute benefit from an array of professional education and advocacy programs, and may hold the prestigious MAI, SRPA, SRA, AI-GRS and AI-RRS designations. Learn more at www.appraisalinstitute.org.

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