



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Waterbury's Ralph Biondi Honored as Appraisal Institute's 'Volunteer of Distinction'**

CHICAGO (March 9, 2011) – Ralph J. Biondi of Waterbury, Conn., was recognized today as the Appraisal Institute's March "Volunteer of Distinction" for Region IV.

The Appraisal Institute is the nation's largest professional association of real estate appraisers; Region IV consists of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and parts of Canada. Biondi is a member of the Connecticut Chapter.

"Ralph Biondi is an example of the outstanding individuals who belong to the Appraisal Institute," said Appraisal Institute President Joseph C. Magdziarz, MAI, SRA. "We're proud of the contributions Ralph and all our members make to our organization, to the real estate valuation profession and to the communities where they work and live."

A member of the Appraisal Institute since 1978, Biondi has served as chair of the Connecticut Chapter's Legislative Affairs Committee since 1995. In this capacity, he has spearheaded chapter efforts to pass important legislation, including statutory separation of "real estate appraisers" from "real estate brokers" – as they were formerly grouped together – in 1995-96 and securing Connecticut's status as a mandatory appraisal state. In 2003, Biondi provided assistance and guidance in defeating an attempt to expand the status of broker price opinions, and in 2009-2010 he led the chapter's efforts, in conjunction with state's Realtors and home builders, to pass legislation regulating appraisal management companies.

Biondi has provided testimony before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly on many occasions. He has arranged for the governor, lieutenant governor and the state's commissioner of consumer protection to speak at chapter dinners and trade expos. Biondi has provided updates to the chapter's Board of Directors and membership on a regular basis to report progress, encouraging members to get involved, and by serving as a panel member at chapter forums.

In service of his community, Biondi is treasurer for Water-Oak Crimestoppers, Inc., and is a member of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce, currently serving on the executive dialogue group. He holds membership in the National Association of Realtors, Connecticut Association of Realtors and Greater Waterbury Board of Realtors, as well as the Connecticut Multiple Listings Service. He is also a member of the Lega Siciliana Social Club and served as treasurer for Gov. John Rowland's re-election campaigns in 1998 and 2002.

Biondi, 59, has worked in the real estate valuation profession for 37 years and has been a partner of Biondi and Rosengrant, LLC, Real Estate Appraisal since 1995. He earned his bachelor's degree in liberal arts and sciences from the University of Connecticut in 1974. He lives in Watertown with his wife, Elaine, and their dog, Mandy, and has two grown sons, Scott and Mark.

To learn more about the Appraisal Institute's "Volunteer of Distinction" member recognition program, go to <http://www.appraisalinstitute.org/membership/VolunteerOfDistinction.aspx>.

*The Appraisal Institute is a global membership association of professional real estate appraisers, with more than 24,000 members and 91 chapters 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. Members of the Appraisal Institute benefit from an array of professional education and advocacy programs, and may hold the prestigious MAI, SRPA and SRA designations. Learn more at [www.appraisalinstitute.org](http://www.appraisalinstitute.org).*

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