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ATG marks its 50th Anniversary

Founded 50 years ago by a small group of downstate Illinois lawyers, [Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Inc.](#), has evolved into a family of companies offering a broad spectrum of services to more than 4,000 lawyers in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. The company now garners revenue in excess of 100 million annually and will issue its three millionth title insurance policy this year.

"Our 50th anniversary is a celebration of our founding members and the thousands of law firms and agents who have together built the company into the success it is today," said **Peter Birnbaum**, ATG President and CEO. It's also a celebration of our staff—loyal stewards of the company who believe in our mission to be the premier lawyer service organization for the benefit of the public."

ATG was founded in 1964 thanks to the efforts of Urbana attorney **Stanley B. Balbach** and his law partners **Richard L. Thies** and **Charles M. Webber**. Balbach's early efforts built the foundation, and he remained active with the organization until his retirement from the board of directors in 2007. Balbach died in 2012 at the age of 92. Birnbaum cites newly elected Board Chair Ward F. McDonald, who served as CEO from 1970-1983, as the person most responsible for bringing ATG from a concept into a thriving business. "It was Ward's unique ability to promote the ATG mission that built it into a grassroots movement, and over time—a formidable force in the legal and real estate communities."

In addition to providing title insurance and related services to homeowners and lenders through its members, ATG offers additional services for lawyers and their clients through its subsidiaries, including ATG Trust Company, ATG Legal Education, ATG LegalServe, Auctions by ATG, NLT Title, LLC, and The Judicial Sales Corporation.

In the lead-up to its 50th anniversary, ATG continues in its tradition of being a good corporate citizen. ATG is a leading supporter of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the Chicago Bar Foundation, Mercy Housing, the Jesse White Foundation, The Cara Program, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Urban Initiatives, University of Illinois College of Law, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, and many area bar associations. "Many of our members and a high percentage of our staff and Board of Directors have been with ATG for more than 20 years," says Birnbaum, who joined the company in 1981, and has been CEO since 1991. "For 50 years ATG has succeeded in the face of formidable odds—we should all be proud of the organization we have built."

About Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Inc.

Through its nearly 4,000 member attorneys across Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana, [ATG](#) has presided over nearly three million home closings and provided homebuyers with competitively priced title insurance since 1964. The only Bar-Related® title insurance company based in Illinois, ATG has built a significant market share by providing excellent service at competitive prices. It has been assigned a Financial Stability Rating® (FSR) of A' (A Prime), Unsurpassed, by the independent ratings bureau, Demotech, Inc. In addition to title insurance, ATG offers other law- and housing-related services through its subsidiary companies. See www.atgf.com for more information.

Posted on Jul 07, 2014 by Chris Bonjean | Comments (0)

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