



Second Wednesday's

October 21, 2015

County Land Banks: Are They a Good Fit for Us?

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour "County Land Banks: Are They a Good Fit for Us?" webinar on October 21 at 9:30 a.m. Emerging in response to the foreclosure crisis, land banks serve as a way to strategically acquire properties, return them to productive use, reduce blight, increase property values and improve the quality of life for residents. Effective September 29, 2015, the state budget permits any county to establish a land reutilization corporation, also known as a land bank. Prior to this change, land banks were required to have a population of at least 60,000. This webinar will provide basic information about how to form and operate a successful land bank and if the fit is right for your county.

- What is a county land bank?
- 10 reasons you need a land bank
- Reasons not to create a land bank
- How to operate a county land bank

Speakers:

- **Jim Rokakis, Esq.**, is the Vice President of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the Director of the Thriving Communities Institute. Elected as the youngest member of Cleveland City Council at age 22, Jim served 19-years working to reverse neighborhood blight, redevelop downtown Cleveland, and create the Cleveland Housing Court. After becoming the Cuyahoga County Treasurer in 1997, Jim was faced with the county's mortgage foreclosure crisis. He helped write and pass HB 294, which streamlines the foreclosure process for abandoned properties. Jim was the driving force behind a bill that allowed for the creation of the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation, also known as the Cuyahoga County Land Bank.
- **Robin Darden Thomas** is the Land Bank Program Director for the Thriving Communities Institute. Robin served briefly as Interim Cuyahoga County Treasurer and as Chief Deputy Treasurer, where she was responsible for the collection of nearly \$2 billion of taxes annually and the investment of Cuyahoga County's \$500 million portfolio. Prior to joining the Treasurer's office, her public service experience included the coordination of property assessments and real estate taxation for the Cuyahoga County Auditor's office. Robin joined the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities Institute in 2011.

Registration: Webinar participants may pose questions during and after the presentation. To register for this exceptional educational opportunity, please click on this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/762577653357402370>

If you experience difficulty in connecting to the link above while registering, please contact [Amanda Jones](#), CCAO Program Assistant, and provide her with your name, title, and email address. **Webinar participation on October 21 is limited to the first 500 to sign-on to the webinar that morning.** For additional information regarding the topic for this webinar, please contact [Brad Cole](#), CCAO Managing Director of Research.

County Commissioners Association of Ohio
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