

## PREMISE OF THE HERNANDO DE SOTO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The *International Index of Property Rights* (IPRI) is a product of the efforts of the Washington, DC-based Property Rights Alliance (PRA). The PRA is dedicated to the protection of property rights (physical and intellectual) in the U.S. and around the world. The PRA is an affiliate of the taxpayer advocacy organization, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR).

Despite the growing accessibility of international data and research regarding property rights, existing indices and studies traditionally focus on either the physical or intellectual aspects of property rights. Additionally, most global indices are dedicated to broader topic areas instead of a focused debate on property rights. However, noted exceptions include the Heritage Foundation/Wall Street Journal *Index of Economic Freedom* and the Fraser Institute *Economic Freedom of the World*, which do address property rights, although in the context of assembling a larger snapshot of each country. To overcome the consequent lack of a more broadly defined property rights gauge, the PRA introduced the Hernando de Soto Fellowship in 2006. The annually offered fellowship provides continuous data development and concept improvement for the annual publication of the *International Property Rights Index*, presented here in its fourth edition.<sup>1</sup>

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kyle Jackson is pursuing a doctoral degree in economics at George Mason University. He received his Bachelor of Arts in economics from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MI and a Master of Arts in economics from San Jose State University. Most recently he was a summer fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research where he was a recipient of the Roy A. Foulke, Jr. Award, given to the student fellow who demonstrates the highest potential for development as an economic scientist.

Mr. Jackson's previous research has been in the area of economic development, specifically the origin and nature of institutions that facilitate economic growth. Through this work he has come to appreciate the vital role property rights play in promoting prosperity and freedom and hopes to further our understanding of this role through the International Property Rights Index.

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

### **Nicole Alpert**

Ms. Nicole Idanna Alpert is The Lion Rock Institute's Editor of *Best Practice*, Lion Rock's first journal. Before joining Lion Rock in 2008, Ms. Alpert managed a boutique wine company and worked in cross-cultural literature for Lingnan University's Dept. of English and Dept. of General Education. She received her BA in Economics and International Relations from Washington College of Maryland.

### **Marius Doksheim**

Mr. Marius Doksheim is a Political Economy Adviser at Civita. He holds a BS in Economics from the University of Oslo and a MS in Political Economy from the Norwegian School of Management, BI. Mr. Doksheim has co-authored several books and papers, among them *Sviktl!*, on public choice, and *Migrasjon og frihet*, on immigration.

**Martin Krause**

Dr. Martin Krause is a professor of Economics at the Law School, University of Buenos Aires, and Director of the Center for Research on Institutions and Markets (CIIM-ESADE). The author of several books and academic articles, Dr. Krause is also a member of the Mont Pelerin Society. He earned his PhD in Management from the University of La Plata, Argentina.

**Krishna Neupane**

Mr. Krishna Neupane is the founder and president of Limited Government, Nepal's first free market think tank. After working at free market think tanks in India and the United States, Mr. Neupane served as the Technical Specialist for Ministry of Health and Population (Nepal) to reform its budgetary management in 2008 and 2009. He earned an MS in Development Planning and Management from Purbanchal University with distinction and also holds an MA in Economics from Wichita State University.

**Marcos Hidding Ohlson**

Mr. Marcos Hidding Ohlson is a Professor of International Economics at the School of Economics and Business Administration (ESEADE) in Buenos Aires, Argentina where he teaches microeconomics. Between 2002 and 2006 he worked as an economic analyst at Delphos Investment and IB & CP, after which he spent 6 months in South Africa as a missionary, living in a Township, where he gained firsthand experience of life in an informal settlement. The editor of the daily Republican Forum, he also serves as a City Councilor in San Isidro, a suburb of Buenos Aires. He holds a BA in Economics from the Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA) and a Masters in International Economics, JIBS (Jönköping International Business School), Sweden.

**Joseph Quesnel**

Mr. Joseph Quesnel is a policy analyst at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. Mr. Quesnel is the lead researcher on the Centre's Aboriginal Frontiers Project, which examines governance issues on First Nations communities and researches many other aboriginal related issues. He is from the Sudbury region of Northern Ontario, and has Metis ancestry from Quebec. He holds a BA in Political Science and History from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec and is completing a Master of Journalism degree at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario.

**Dr. Richard E. Wagner**

Richard Wagner is Holbart Harris Professor of Economics at George Mason University. He has published numerous books and articles in economic theory and political economy. The unifying thread running through that body of work is the continuing contest between liberty and servility, with a focus on seeking to understand better how liberty might expand and servility contract. His most recent books are *Fiscal Sociology and the Theory of Public Finance* (2007) and *Mind, Society, and Human Action: Time and Knowledge in a Theory of Social Economy* (2010). He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Virginia.