

## 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.