



# **2024 SPRING SEMINAR - MARCH 22, 2024**

## **LAND SURVEYING IN WASHINGTON DC**

**CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE CENTER**

Please *circle the date* for DCALS' '**Land Surveying in the District of Columbia**' educational seminar — **Friday March 22, 2024** at Catholic University — featuring the following sessions . . .

1) **TRAVERSING DC: UNVEILING THE SERVICES AND PROCEDURES OF THE OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR, D.C.** . . . Joseph Snider, Surveyor for D.C. and his Deputy, Ramon Labrador, will offer a brief overview of the operations of the Surveyor's Office followed by an introduction to SurDocs for newer users. In addition, Mr. Snider will highlight the recent changes in SurDocs and planned improvements to the platform.

2) **INTERPRETING D.C. SURVEY PAPERS.** . . . DC Survey Paper drafting and annotation methodologies are unique to DC and can be a challenge to interpret without basic knowledge of how they are prepared and utilized in property surveys today. Using a row house survey sample, this presentation will provide an overview of how survey papers are prepared, their intended uses and how to interpret the information they provide to make accurate property boundary determinations.

3) **PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR SURVEYORS.** . . . Ethical behavior is not just required after becoming a "Professional Surveyor". Ethics are a prerequisite before one is even qualified to seek licensure to practice the profession. This course looks at the Historic context of Standards for Surveyors' Ethics, quoting and discussing the writings of respected authors. A look at Modern Ethical Standards includes Voluntary Standards (specifically the Surveyor's Creed and Canons published by the National Society of Professional Surveyors); and Mandatory Standards, as found in some state Codes and Rules. The material is customized to include material from the host state's code and rules. The presentation includes several case studies for group discussion with a focus on DC Ethics discussed in Chapter 14, "DC's Code of Professional Conduct" in the DCALS January 2017 "LAND SURVEYING IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" manual and Chapter 17-15, Title 17 of the "District of Columbia Municipal Regulations".

**District of Columbia Association of Land Surveyors**

P.O. Box 11448

Washington, DC 20008-1448

Phone: 202-291-1001



4) **WHAT IS THE NSRS? . . .** This presentation will provide an update on the fundamental improvements needed for industry and the user community and the preparative measures associated with the modernization of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). Scheduled for completion in 2025, the modernized NSRS will provide improved 3-dimensional positional accuracy **through time** for improved comparisons of diverse GIS data sets, development of parcel-based Land Information Systems and an array of other uses including precision navigation, intelligent transportation systems, etc. Discussion will include how modernization might impact current surveyor's day-to-day practice, and how the design and implementation of the new NSRS can implicitly improve surveyor's products. Time permitting, NGS online tools for accessing the NSRS and to assist with transitioning work-flow between datums will be discussed.

5) **ALTA SURVEYS IN D.C. . . .** ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys are prepared and issued every day in Washington DC. Multimillion-dollar land developments rely on them. Yet, do some of ALTA's 2021 Standards even apply here – in an early American city with conflicting official boundary dimensions, no coordinate system for property lines, confusing survey records, scarce monumentation and unconventional boundary practices? How many surveyors in DC check property markers by the "length of the semi-major axis, expressed in feet or meters, of the error ellipse representing the uncertainty due to errors in measurement in the location of the monument?" Can Relative Positional Precision be certified at a '95 percent confidence level' in a city like Washington? And what of 'Optional' Table A – when the lawyer demand all 20 items? There are good ATLA seminars given by national experts. None of them ever teach city ALTAs. Steve Jones, a 45-year Washington area surveyor with CPJ Associates, will explain how to prepare accurate, certifiable ALTA surveys in dense urban environments like Washington DC.

So please *save the date* — **March 22** — and join us at **Catholic University Conference Center**, close to Metro's **CUA-Brookland** stop on the Red Line. 8 CPC Credits will be awarded. Everyone is invited.

**For more information - simply click on the following DCALS link to our ([WEBSITE REGISTRATION SYSTEM.](#))**  
Discount pricing until midnight March 17. To register, login to our website using your username: **rickdreist**

With highest professional regards,

**DCALS**

**District of Columbia Association of Land Surveyors**

P.O. Box 11448

Washington, DC 20008-1448

Phone: 202-291-1001