

Breaking Ground

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TRENDS

Joseph Perry Inducted into University of Illinois at Chicago Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame

Joseph Perry, President and CEO of Perry Group, Ltd. was inducted into the *University of Illinois at Chicago Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame* at a ceremony held on February 24, 2004 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers.

The Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, the oldest and most prestigious program honoring Chicago-area entrepreneurs, was first presented in 1984. The University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies sponsors the annual event jointly with Grant Thornton, LLP; LaSalle Bank; Levy Venture Management, Inc., and Lord, Bissell & Brook. With Perry, the inductees included Chicago area innovators and leaders in technology, software, manufacturing, financial consulting and electronic communication. Honorees were interviewed and evaluated by a panel of judges consisting of previous nominees, business media representatives and executives of sponsoring organizations. The award highlights Perry as an example of a successful leader who recognizes opportunities with creativity, persistence and sound business judgement.

Starting as a salesman in the firm (formerly *The Commercial Real Estate Group*) in 1988 after working for a commercial general contractor following college, Joe learned the commercial real estate business literally from the "ground up". In 1994 Joe started an affiliate company, *J.M. Perry Development Corp.*, which developed smaller commercial and industrial build-to-suits as well as market-rate multi-family residential subdivisions. This led to a very specialized segment of the multi-family development business with the advent of the use of Federal Tax Credits to develop affordable senior housing developments around the Midwest. Since the first project in 1995, this entity has developed over \$60 million in affordable senior housing projects and remains a leader in the market today.

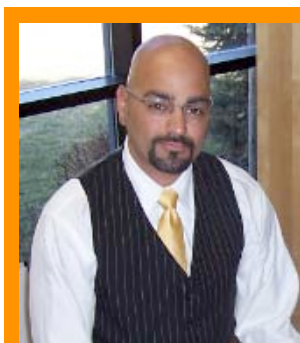
During this time, Joe maintained a real estate license and continued to perform brokerage services. In 2000, Joe purchased the real estate brokerage firm from his father and, merging the company with his development firm, renamed the new entity *Perry Group, Ltd.*, and expanded from a \$15 million business in 1999 to over \$120 million in 2007. The firm has expanded into the greater Chicago area with offices in Chicago, Bradley and Frankfort, Illinois.

Additionally, Joe has completed over 60 hours of graduate level commercial and investment real estate curriculum through the nationally acclaimed Commercial-Investment Real Estate Institute.

Professional Affiliations and Civic Organizations

Joe is an active member of the ***Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR)***. SIOR members are considered the most skilled, ethical, and respected industry practitioners with only 1,900 active members worldwide and 107 members in the State of Illinois achieving such designation. Other active Professional Memberships include:

- * International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Illinois Regional Development Alliance (Founder, current President)
- * Real Estate Investment Association (REIA) Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich Transition Team
- * Illinois Housing Council (Charter Board Member, Multi-Family Tax Credit Specialist)



Personal Background

Joe was born in 1967 into a large Italian-American family in Kankakee, Illinois and attended Eastern Illinois University and University of Colorado studying journalism.

Joe, his wife Mechelle and daughter, Giovanna live in Frankfort, Illinois along with their ultra-hyper German Pinscher dog, Chili.

Besides loving his family and profession, he is an avid snow skier and spends his free time (and some of his working hours) on his custom Harley-Davidsons.

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