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Vermont Secretary of State's Office Wins IACA Merit Award for Innovation

Montpelier, VT – Secretary of State Jim Condos today announced that the Corporations Division of the Secretary of State's office has won a 2014 International Association of Commercial Administrators (IACA) Merit Award.

Each year IACA recognizes those jurisdictions who have successfully implemented innovative changes in Government. Each application includes a detailed description of the change, reference specific benefits, and any lessons learned. The panel of judges is made up of national and international leaders in the area of Government IT, and Commercial Administration.

"The Vermont Secretary of State's Office won for Outstanding Achievement in Registry Innovation for its efforts in going paperless. The innovations include: a central inbox for every Vermont business; email delivery of notifications, confirmations, certificates, and receipts; a Business Fraud Alert system that includes SMS notifications and a smartphone app; and full online filing capabilities for every major function of the Division including Uniform Commercial Code filings and new Business Formations." Said Ali Sarafzade, Director of the Corporations Division, and project manager on the initiative.

"The Corporations Division has recently undergone a significant overhaul. We have worked very hard to create a system that makes it easier and more cost effective to transact your required filings with our office. More importantly, this is a small step towards making Vermont a more competitive place to do business. While I am grateful for the recognition IACA has shown our system; my greatest hope is that Vermonters find it easy to use, and that it improves the business filing process for all from small business owner to law firm, or farmer." Said Secretary Condos.

Vermont's achievements stood out among a competitive group of 15 international submissions. IACA named six Merit Award winners this year:

- Vermont – Transition to Paperless
- Australia – Co-design Personal Property Securities Register
- Jersey – Security Interest Register
- Colorado – Service Centre Model
- New Zealand – Australasian Mobile App
- Connecticut – Online Business Start Up Tool

For more information on IACA, please visit: <https://www.iaca.org/>

