



# INDUSTRY NEWS

## ONLINE HOMEOWNER FORUM FOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

PropertyU.net, launched earlier this year in Illinois, is an exciting new website and knowledgebase that will bring board members and property managers together with experienced professionals to get qualified answers to the thousands of questions surrounding the serious business of running associations. PropertyU.net never stops growing. As new questions are asked, the answers given by contributors are added to the knowledgebase, increasing what is instantly available to the board member, property manager, or homeowner.

PropertyU.net will soon be available in Wisconsin and other metro areas to follow.

Mark Canteo, of Canteo Associates, CPAs, who specializes in associations, created PropertyU.net as a new resource for property managers, board members and homeowners to find information all in one place from trusted professionals in the association community. PropertyU.net's wealth of professionals' knowledge includes lawyers, accountants, reserve specialists, insurance specialists, bankers, landscapers, painters, roofers, tree care, pools, managers and many more. In addition to the question and answer database, there are resourceful articles and videos too. Webinars with PropertyU.net professionals are being scheduled for 2014.

**PropertyU.net • 1737 S. Naperville Rd., Suite 103, Wheaton, IL 60189 • <http://propertyu.net/>**

## KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT LAUNCHES TAX APPEAL DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

KSN is pleased to announce the launch of **KSN Tax**, a new department within the firm dedicated to obtaining property tax reductions for condominium, townhome and homeowner associations.

KSN is a law firm focused on the representation of community associations in the Chicagoland area. Already providing a wide spectrum of services to community associations, KSN has now broadened its practice even further to include prosecuting property tax assessment appeals on behalf of its association clients. With the creation of KSN Tax, KSN now provides its clients truly one law firm for all of their legal needs.

KSN Tax will skillfully appeal assessments utilizing a sophisticated case tracking system that will enable attorneys to monitor and reduce an association's property taxes. Additionally, in a feature that distinguishes KSN Tax from its competitors, KSN will handle initial collection efforts against unit owners who do not pay their share of the legal fee resulting from a successful appeal at no expense to the association.

**Why file an assessment appeal?** Values are down but taxes are up. The cost of running government increases every year and the assessment determines your share of this growing expense. Contesting your assessment aggressively keeps your property tax inflation in check. And even if your assessment decreases or remains relatively flat, you should appeal because your assessment may still be too high.

**How does it work?** Associations can file an assessment appeal on behalf of all owners in order to seek a reduction in the amount of property taxes assessed to each individual owner. The assessing officials prefer one appeal from an association since they have placed a single value on the entire complex, and reviewing that value is facilitated by analyzing the assessments of all units.

Kovitz Shifrin Nesbit has been an innovator in representing community associations for over thirty (30) years, and KSN Tax is the latest example. KSN Tax was designed to incorporate the firm's hands-on, approachable manner to representing associations in executing tax assessment appeals. Moreover, KSN Tax is keenly familiar with the unique circumstances involved in association tax appeals from filing the appeal to collecting the legal fee from unit owners after a positive result. To that end, KSN Tax will manage the entire appeal from beginning to end and do the heavy lifting allowing the association to focus on its other matters. Finally, KSN Tax will work on a contingency fee basis:

**no tax savings, no fee.**