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### In Memoriam

## Dr. Ronald R. Pollina, Ph.D.



Dr. Ronald R. Pollina Ph.D., 71, Chairman Emeritus of ITRA Global and Founder of Park Ridge, Illinois-based Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc., recently passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. While Ron was extraordinarily devoted to his family, he was also a friend and mentor to many. All who knew him felt fortunate to experience his unfailing work ethic, infectious sense of humor, enduring quest for knowledge, and willingness to share all that he had learned.

An entrepreneur and geoeconomist, Ron was the founder and president of Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc. in 1981. As a recognized expert in corporate location analysis, economic development, and geoeconomic trends, he represented numerous Fortune 500 clients both nationally and internationally. Ron authored over 70 published articles on the subjects of commercial real estate, corporate relocation, and economic development, and his opinions have been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *BusinessWeek*, *Forbes*, *The New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*.

From 2002 to 2010, Dr. Pollina served as Chairman of the ITRA Global Board of Directors and brought his unique leadership skills to the organization during a period of economic uncertainty and upheaval. Due to his extensive background on boards of other organizations, he was able to impart his tremendous knowledge of running an organization such as ITRA to its board. As such, the board, under Ron's leadership, rewrote the ITRA bylaws that have become the structure which still governs ITRA to this day. These bylaws were instrumental in ITRA's growth and its becoming the world's leading tenant representative organization.

After eight years as the ITRA chairman, Ron stepped down and became Chairman Emeritus of the board enabling him to continue his guidance of successive boards. He was also a key member at the ITRA semi-annual meetings, using his diplomatic but assertive management style to create consensus between members with divergent opinions. Ron was always the smartest person in the room and used a magical combination of self-deprecating humor peppered with unbridled honesty to overcome difficult issues. His enthusiasm and support for ITRA Global were limitless. All of the ITRA members who worked with Ron feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience his persona.

Ron and his son, Brent, were the authors of the highly respected annual Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States study, which has received national coverage by a multitude of news outlets, for over ten years. Four years in the making, Ron's book, *Selling Out a Superpower: Where the U.S. Went Wrong and How We Can Turn It Around*, was published by Prometheus Books in 2010.

In addition to being interviewed numerous times on television and radio, Ron made scores of presentations before national and international professional groups and several state legislatures. He also served on the faculties of the University of Illinois and DePaul University and on the Board of Directors of the International Development Research Council (IDRC). He also was Chairman of the Board for the International Association of Attorneys and Executives in Corporate Real Estate (AECRE). Ron is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary, daughter, Kristen, and son, Brent.

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