

Who Owns Land Title?

A petroleum company has a real estate manager who is exceedingly meticulous about title flaws. In a correspondence with a lawyer regarding the titles to some land in Louisiana, the lawyer gave information only as far back as 1803.

The real estate manager wrote the lawyer asking who owned the land before that. He received the following reply:

"Louisiana was purchased from France in 1803. The title to the land was acquired by France by right of conquest from Spain.

"The land came into the possession of Spain by right of discovery made in 1492 by Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by Queen Isabella.

"The Queen, being a pious woman and careful about titles (almost as careful as you are), secured the blessings of the Pope upon the voyage. The Pope is the emissary of Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God and God made the world.

"Therefore, I believe you are safe in assuming that the original title goes back to God—and I hope to Hell you are satisfied."