



Emerald Coast Association of REALTORS®



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ECAR New Location to File Real Estate Claims

(Emerald Coast, Fla) – Florida Realtors are the beneficiary of \$25 million of a \$60 million emergency fund approved for real estate claims by Kenneth Feinberg, claims administrator for the BP Oil Spill Fund. Real estate licensees will be able to file claims against loss of income or loss of commission on a cancelled transaction and will be paid out of this special fund.

The Emerald Coast Association of Realtors (ECAR) is one of several locations from Escambia to Gulf County where Realtors and non-Realtors can come to file their claim. Commercial real estate income, rental income, and rental commission claims will still be filed with the Gulf Coast Claims facilities. Appointments are required to meet with an adjustor at ECAR and can be made by calling 1-888-498-6944 or going online to www.fl.gulfreclaims.com.

Until recently, Kenneth Feinberg did not consider loss of real estate sales and income part of the claims process for the \$20 billion trust. After countless meetings with Realtors from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, he reached a decision and the result is the \$60 million fund for real estate claims. Florida Realtors will be the administrator of Florida's portion of the funds.

“We are pleased that [ECAR] was able to use combined resources to bring much needed claim benefits for members and non-members alike,” states Mary Anne Windes, ECAR President.

“The strength of numbers in gaining attention to an untenable situation is just one of the many benefits to being a member of [ECAR].”



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ECAR had a seat at the table with Kenneth Feinberg when he came down to the Gulf Coast area to hear what different industries had to say about their loss. Windes, along with Carmela Bell, broker with ResortQuest Real Estate and Ed McMullen, Jr. of Legendary Realty in Destin were among Realtors from across the panhandle to meet with Feinberg. Tasked with getting Feinberg the information he needed to help in his decision-making process, Realtors were instrumental in crafting the new real estate claims process.

“I’m confident that individual brokers alone could never have made the progress that [ECAR] was able to gain for the individual members, especially in the short amount of time that it was accomplished,” says Windes, broker-owner of the Real Estate Professionals of Destin.

To find out more about the claims process, go to www.fl.gulfreclaims.com. For more information about ECAR, go to www.emeraldcoastrealtors.com.

The Emerald Coast Association of Realtors is a not-for-profit trade association with over 2300 members. The mission of the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors is to assist all members in promoting their success through education, marketing, and member services.

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