



Emerald Coast Association of REALTORS®



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Realtors Stay Informed and Involved on Oil Spill

**(Emerald Coast, Fla)** – On June 17, the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors (ECAR) conducted a webcast to educate Realtors about filing claims with BP. Led by ECAR President Mary Anne Windes, a panel of local experts led members through the claims process and answered some of the most commonly asked questions from ECAR members. “ECAR has resourced attorneys and CPAs to help our Realtors face this economic challenge, and we are moving forward with more information as it changes,” states Mary Anne Windes, ECAR President.

Local attorneys Mike Chesser & Ashley Rogers from Chesser & Barr, PA, along with CPAs, Tracy Conerly and Glenn Gillyard from Carr, Riggs, & Ingram gave members detailed information regarding the claims process. They have all spoken with BP claims adjusters in the past and their information was based on how the system should work, while recognizing that every individual case is unique and may present its own challenges.

“We have also spurred Florida Realtors to join forces with neighboring Gulf-front facing state Associations in a collaborative effort to overcome the challenges for our members as well as to offer opinions from their legal staff to help answer so many of the questions that Realtors are asking,” continues Windes.

ECAR supports local community efforts to protect our beaches and waterways and other efforts to inform, educate, and protect citizens. “The ECAR Board of Directors passed a Resolution in support of the heroic actions taken by the Okaloosa County Commissioners to move forward with the protection of our area waters despite the regulatory fences they faced impeding the progress of their protective measures because of the bureaucratic red tape,” says Windes, broker-owner of The Real Estate Professionals of Destin.

“ECAR leadership has stayed in contact with Senator Don Gaetz, Representative Matt Gaetz, Senate President Jeff Atwater, and other elected officials to encourage legislation that would benefit affected homeowners, action that would permanently stop the flow of oil, and dialogue for overcoming the various new challenges that so many are facing,” continues Windes.



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ECAR will continue to work with local officials, Florida Realtors, and Realtors and officials from across the Gulf Coast region to make sure Realtors and their customers can stay as informed as possible, and will host and record more webcasts in the coming weeks and months to make sure our members are as educated as possible on this ever-changing situation.

The local market is constantly changing, and Realtors must stay educated in order to keep up with those changes. The tragic oil spill is no different. Realtors are educating themselves about how to protect their livelihood and how to inform their buyers and sellers about what the oil spill means to them.

ECAR has created a page on the [EmeraldCoastRealtors.com](http://EmeraldCoastRealtors.com) website with video from the webcast, a frequently asked questions section, information on where to file a claim, and real estate news about the oil spill. To view the most updated oil spill information, go to [www.EmeraldCoastRealtors.com/oilspill](http://www.EmeraldCoastRealtors.com/oilspill).

*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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