



the REALTOR[®] Report

News for you from the ND Association of REALTORS[®]
July 16, 2015

NAR Call for Action: Stop Patent Trolls

On July 13, 2015, NAR issued a Call for Action (CFA) on H.R. 9, “The Innovation Act”, which is common-sense comprehensive patent litigation reform to protect Main Street businesses and REALTORS[®] from patent troll abuse. REALTORS[®] are targeted by patent trolls at alarming rates for simply using common business technologies like dropdown menus and search functions on websites or scan-to-email technologies found in every office scanner. Patent trolls exist solely to purchase old patents and to use the threat of expensive lawsuits to extort money from legitimate businesses. The legislation is scheduled for House floor consideration the week of July 20th. NAR asks members to contact their Representative and urge them to support H.R. 9. [Click here](#) to participate in the CFA.

This happened to a real estate company in our Region and puts the "real life" into how this can impact you. "If an agent or broker is investing in anything tech in their offices, online or on mobile, they can potentially be at risk from these trolls who hold "patents" on the tech. It helps to have a personal story. My former real estate firm had the launch of their app shelved for six months because some dude threw a C&D and lawsuit at them over a geol-location feature - the little red thumbtack on the map. It was maddening and cheaper to settle and pay off the troll rather than shelve the app for a year-plus to fight it in co

- I should add that the settlement was in the high five to low six figures if I remember correctly. Your brokers and members will care about that. And E&O doesn't cover it.
 - These people don't care about protecting patents, they're monetizing them. And it's wrong." Remember that next time you are searching for properties
- [http://enews.realtor.org/a/hBVpp\\$oB8fW5BB9DiAaAAAY3-FH/aein20](http://enews.realtor.org/a/hBVpp$oB8fW5BB9DiAaAAAY3-FH/aein20)

Are You Registered for the 2015 REALTOR[®] Convention of the Dakotas?

“REALTORS[®] The Crystal Clear Choice” September 16-18, 2015 – Watertown, South Dakota
Reduced registration expires on July 31st! Register today and save \$45!

- Convention kick off with Riedel wine tasting at the Redlin Art Center Pavilion
- Top notch education including a REALTOR[®] safety and self-defense class
- Golf at the Prairie Winds Golf Club
- Entertainment by two of Minneapolis’ best bands!

For all registration, hotel, and event information please visit

<http://www.sdrealtor.org/realtorconventionofthedakotas/>

TAXBOT- NDAR Provides Special Offer for REALTOR[®] Members

The North Dakota Association of REALTORS[®] is excited to announce our partnership with Taxbot. Taxbot is an expense tracking system designed to save THOUSANDS every year. NDAR members get a huge discount on the service. Try it now. Guaranteed to save you at least 20 times your investment in your first 30 days or your money back! Members get these premium features...

- ❖ Track your mileage with the Taxbot integrated GPS system on your smartphone
- ❖ Take pics of receipts
- ❖ All your records stored in the cloud

- ❖ Integrates with your bank or credit card
- ❖ A full training library

For detailed information please visit <http://ndrealtors.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/nd-partnership.pdf>

BE HERE San Diego- It's Your Time to Shine (November 13-16)

Did you know REALTORS® Conference & Expo attendees make two times the average real estate income? Attend the 2015 REALTORS® Conference & Expo, Nov. 13-16 in San Diego, and network with some of the most successful pros in the industry, who are very willing to share ideas as to what works in their markets – and referrals

The [REALTORS® Conference & Expo](#) is the largest meeting exclusively for real estate professionals. Be here this November in sunny San Diego, and see how one long weekend can make a year-long impact on your business.

This year's event includes:

- 100 [education sessions](#) led by industry experts
- 400 [exhibitors](#) in real estate's largest marketplace
- Four affordable [registration options](#)
- 20,000 REALTORS® and guests to network and idea share with

Internet Scammers

NAR has put together a five-minute video demonstrating how to prevent listings from being scammed as rental properties. The video highlights three helpful tips and some will specifically address the Craigslist scams that we keep hearing about. <http://www.realtor.org/videos/how-to-protect-your-property-listings-from-rental-scams>

Rural Real Estate Safety Tips

REALTORS® working in rural settings face a variety of unique safety hazards. In this new article, NAR and the REALTORS® Land Institute outline some of the potential dangers REALTORS® face working in rural areas and what they can do to stay safe on the job. [Read more.](#)

NDAR Leadership Training October 13

NDAR will be holding a leadership training with Adorna Carroll in Bismarck. This training will be for state and local board incoming leadership, chairs, and chair elects. Mark your calendars to save the date, but there will be more detailed information to come at a later time.