

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

MASSACHUSETTS—President Corinne Fitzgerald, President Elect Annie Blatz, Secretary-Treasurer Ron Rusin, Immediate Past President Peter Ruffini, CEO Robert Authier

1. **Monell v Boston Pads** (independent contractor lawsuit) -- As you may know, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is about to rule in Monell v Boston Pads, a case challenging certain limited aspects of real estate independent contractor status. We hope that the SJC supports the trial court decision, which preserved IC status based on confirming license law passed in 2010. Nevertheless, our staff has spent the past several months with extensive contingency planning on behalf of members...which we hope we'll never have to use. We can prepare a written and verbal report once the decision is reached...very likely before the NAR Legislative Conference.
<https://www.marealtor.com/members/legal-resources/monell-v-boston-pads-llc>
2. **WORKFORCE HOUSING** -- Massachusetts is a "home rule" state. After years/decades of addressing various anti-development measures in municipalities across the state, we assembled a task force to consider legislative measures which would improve the opportunities for production of workforce housing. Due to the relatively short supply of housing in Massachusetts, potential homeowners continue to face increasing housing costs. One of the many issues driving the reduced housing stock is the presence of barriers to production, many of which are found in current zoning laws. The Massachusetts Association of REALTORS® in conjunction with the Greater Boston Real Estate Board has filed legislation addressing these barriers. Several of the provisions include: Easing the production of cluster development housing; Allowing in-law apartments by right; Allowing multifamily housing construction by right; Simplifying the dimensional variance burden; Approving special permits by a majority vote.
<https://www.marealtor.com/docs/default-source/government-affairs/2015-2016-legislative-priorities-%28no-second-header%29.pdf?sfvrsn=0>
3. **ENHANCING FPC AND SPC PROGRAM** -- Last year we began holding regular meetings of our Federal Political Coordinators to facilitate discussion and build on our FPC structure. We now continue to meet regularly and have put in place a number of new element, including the development of teams for each FPC, an FPC page on MAR's website, a Facebook group page, virtual sign up for Hill visits, branded handouts for members of congress and more. Meanwhile, we pioneered a new State Political Coordinator effort (modeled after the NAR program) which is gaining considerable momentum in the Commonwealth. <https://www.marealtor.com/members/government-affairs/federal-political-coordinators>
4. **20 APPS IN 20 MINUTES** -- We created a fast paced and engaging presentation series on the best apps to have in your pocket for 2015. From Business and Communication, to Lifestyle and Travel - this presentation helps keep members mobile-ready. After piloting the program at one local association, it has since been requested by boards and chapters all over the state. The value in this is that we were able to provide technology expertise to members through the local Associations.. Today's topic is mobile apps but the format and presentation style can be adapted easily to the next hottest technology topic.
<http://goo.gl/9Lzpla>