

Real estate fees could fall after settlement with US agents

Description

Article:

A legal settlement in a case targeting US real estate agents could signify a decrease in the cost of real estate transactions. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) and property firms were implicated in lawsuits for allegedly inflating sales commissions.

The settlement allocated a substantial **reparation** of \$418m (£328m) in damages and was declared last Friday. This decision necessitates NAR to lessen commissions and facilitate buyers to **bargain** fees, which may decrease costs associated with buying and selling a house.

The NAR, based in Chicago, stated that approximately a million of its members are encompassed by the settlement, still subject to court approval. They operate a database named the multiple listing service, or MLS, and mandate homeowners to offer a set commission rate before their properties are listed.

With no such requirement, potential homebuyers now have the **liberty** to negotiate lower commission rates or agree on a fixed-price fee for sales. The settlement also encompasses provisions that might reduce transaction costs. Nykia Wright, NAR's interim CEO, applauded the settlement, saying it preserved consumer choice and protected their members.

The **provisions** of the settlement, commencing in July, do not necessitate the property companies or NAR to confess any wrongdoing. Numerous other lawsuits have not been resolved yet, and there's a potential federal investigation underway.

Robert Braun, a Chicago-based lawyer, described the settlement as a significant **deviation** from the norm but remained uncertain whether it would influence housing prices.

Vocabulary Definitions:

1. **Reparation**: Compensation paid for harm or injury. In this context, it refers to the damages that NAR has to pay in the settlement.
2. **Bargain**: Negotiate the terms and conditions of a transaction. Here, it refers to buyers negotiating lower commission fees.
3. **Liberty**: The state of being free; the power to do as one pleases. In the article, buyers now have the "liberty" to negotiate commission rates, giving them more freedom and choice.
4. **Provisions**: The act of providing or supplying something for use. In legal terms, it can refer to a clause in a contract or agreement. The settlement includes provisions that may reduce costs.
5. **Deviation**: An action, behavior, or condition that is different from what is usual or expected. Here, it refers to the significant changes brought by the settlement in real estate practices.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Cancellation** // (noun): The act of calling off or postponing an event.
2. **Refunded** // (verb): Given back money that was paid.
3. **Transparency** // (noun): The quality of being open and honest.
4. **Compensation** // (noun): Something typically money awarded to someone in recognition of loss/suffering or injury.
5. **Allegedly** // (adverb): Used to convey that something is claimed to be the case or have taken place although there is no proof.
6. **Implicated** // (verb): Show to be involved in a crime.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What action might a company take after a product cancellation?

Option: Refunded
Option: Transparency
Option: Compensation
Option: Anticipation

2. What term is used when someone is accused in a situation?

Option: Implicated
Option: Subscribers
Option: Content
Option: Opt out

3. Who typically provides insights on stock performance?

Option: Analyst
Option: Share price
Option: Gains
Option: Updates

4. What evaluation is given to a company's performance by experts?

Option: Rating
Option: Tumultuous
Option: Losses
Option: Downward Trajectory

5. What word describes something that is expected to happen?



Option: Inconsistent
Option: Anticipated
Option: Valuation
Option: Influential

6. What should investors exercise to prevent risks in uncertain markets?

Option: Warning
Option: Caution
Option: Analysts
Option: Inconsistent

7. What concept aims to ensure long-term environmental and social health?

Option: Subscribers
Option: Opt out
Option: Sustainability
Option: Commercial

8. What term typically represents positive investment returns?

Option: Opt out
Option: Gains
Option: Updates
Option: Predictions

9. What may contain various bundled items for sale?

Option: Content
Option: Discount
Option: Package
Option: Anticipated

10. What process determines the current worth of a company or asset?

Option: Influential
Option: Grappled
Option: Valuation
Option: Commercial

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Frequent _____ on market trends help investors make informed decisions.

12. Customers have the choice to _____ of receiving

promotional emails.

13. A special sale offers a 20% _____ on selected items.

14. The _____ sector comprises companies that engage in business activities.

15. _____ performance may lead to uncertainty among investors.

16. Market analysts often provide future _____ based on current data.

17. In case of inconvenience customers may receive _____ for their troubles.

18. Investors should pay attention to market _____ to adjust their strategies.

19. Sudden market downturns can result in significant financial _____.

20. Companies aim to increase their number of paying _____ for financial stability.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The company's commitment to in operations increased customer trust.
22. Investors closely monitor the movement of to gauge market performance.
23. Regular market help traders make timely decisions.
24. The agency provided a positive for the company's financial health.
25. The market experienced a period with volatile price fluctuations.
26. Key stakeholders in the industry issued statements on the new regulations.
27. The company with the challenges of digital transformation.
28. The company was involved in a financial scandal.
29. The vacation deal included a complete tour for a hassle-free holiday experience.
30. The new ad campaign targeted a wider audience to boost sales.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Refunded 2. Implicated 3. Analyst 4. Rating 5. Anticipated 6. Caution 7. Sustainability
8. Gains 9. Package 10. Valuation

Gap-Fill: 11. Updates 12. Opt out 13. Discount 14. Commercial 15. Inconsistent 16. Predictions
17. Compensation 18. Warnings 19. Losses 20. Subscribers

Matching sentence: 1. Transparency 2. Share price 3. Updates 4. Rating 5. Tumultuous 6. Influential 7.
Grappled 8. Allegedly 9. Package 10. Commercial

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

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