



State of Utah  
Department of Commerce  
Division of Real Estate

JON HUNTSMAN, JR.  
Governor

FRANCINE GIANI  
Executive Director

MARK B. STEINAGEL  
Real Estate Division Director

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**MEDIA ALERT**

**Utah knocked out of Top Ten States for Highest Mortgage Fraud in new report**  
(For immediate release...)

**SALT LAKE CITY, Utah** – Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, announced today that Utah is no longer ranked in the Top Ten list of Highest Mortgage Fraud States according to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mortgage Asset Research Institute (MARI) report released this month. Utah was ranked fifth in MARI's Top Ten list released last spring. This year's report ranks Rhode Island number one for mortgage fraud followed by Florida, Illinois, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Michigan, California, Missouri and Colorado. The new report saw a 26% national increase in mortgage fraud from 2007 to 2008. The MARI report reflects loan data from the mortgage industry from the previous year and is collected by lenders, insurers, and regulatory agencies.

"I applaud the Division of Real Estate for their unwavering efforts on fighting mortgage fraud," said Francine A. Giani, "Together with Mortgage Fraud Task Force, Utah is putting fraudsters out of business!"

"I commend the Department of Commerce and the Mortgage Fraud Task Force for their tireless focus on fighting fraud," said Governor Huntsman, "This is welcome news for all Utah citizens because when we can conduct business without deceptive or illegal behavior, our whole state benefits."

"Utah's efforts to combat mortgage fraud are real and they are working! We applaud our Commissions and Boards for their decisive actions against bad actors," said Mark B. Steinagel, "While we are happy that Utah is no longer in the Top Ten, we will continue to fight mortgage fraud with a steadfast vision."

For more information on real estate fraud and how to avoid becoming a victim, contact the Utah Division of Real Estate by logging on to [www.realestate.utah.gov](http://www.realestate.utah.gov) or by calling 801-530-6747.

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