

Dear Stewart Partners,

Welcome to December. The holiday season is in full swing and we hope you are managing the holiday festivities and end of year closings with ease.

In this week's update we are sharing an announcement by Stewart Information Services Corp. and CertifID regarding the significant reduction in wire fraud risk to Stewart offices and agents who use CertifID's PayoffProtect service. Stewart has partnered with CertifID and Stewart's agents can enjoy a substantial fee reduction when they sign up for CertifID services. If you would like to take advantage of this service, see the information below. We also want to tell you about an upcoming webinar for Stewart agents, their colleagues and business partners entitled "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: An Outlook for Real Estate and the Economy" to be presented by Stewart's Chief Economist, Ted Jones. Lastly, if you are looking for an unusual gift or a way to give back before the end of the year, consider the gift of a tree from One Tree Planted. If that doesn't fit your plans, consider a post to help PropStream, a Stewart company, reach its goal of planting 20,000 trees. For every qualifying comment on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, LinkedIn, Twitter or YouTube, they will donate a tree. See links to qualifying posts below.



Stewart reports big drop in wire fraud risk with CertifID

Last year the FBI reported a sixty-four percent increase in overall cybercrime losses, and despite that increase, Stewart has seen a significant reduction in wire fraud risk to parties involved in transactions where CertifID's PayoffProtect service is used. Mortgage payoff fraud alone makes up approximately forty-five percent of fraud losses reported to CertifID. In 2022 CertifID launched PayoffProtect to address mortgage payoff fraud. Tom Cronkright, co-founder and Executive Chairman of CertifID says "The core mission of a title agency has always been to protect the homebuyer and seller. Now that protection includes zealously safeguarding their funds given the exponential rise of cybercrimes targeting our industry." In 2020, Stewart Information Services Corp. partnered with CertifID. The partnership makes substantial discounts available to Stewart agents through the Stewart Trusted Providers program. To learn more about using PayoffProtect and taking advantage of these discounts, contact your Agency Services Representative. To read the Stewart/CertifID announcement, go to this link: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20221121005607/en/CertifID-and-Stewart-Report-Significant-Reduction-in-Wire-Fraud-Risk-Over-Past-Two-Years>



Upcoming webinar: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: An Outlook for Real Estate and the Economy

Since the pandemic the U.S. has seen record-low 30-year fixed-rate conventional mortgage rates that have since more than doubled and are now edging to the highest seen in 20 years, the highest inflation rate cycle in four decades, all-time record employment numbers despite losing 22 million jobs in 60 days from February to April 2020, recent layoffs of 10s of thousands of high-tech workers, record commercial real estate sales in Q4 2021 -- almost double any other quarter in history, and now plunging existing housing sales -- with September 2022 closings down 29.5 percent versus a year ago. There are also recession

expectations for many in 2023-2024. So, where do we go from here? Come listen to Stewart's Chief Economist, Ted C. Jones, discuss these issues and more.

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Time: 2:00 pm (Eastern Time Zone)

[Click here to register](#) for this webinar. You will receive a You're Registered email from Microsoft Teams which will include your link to join this event. Click on the attachment in the You're Registered email to add this webinar to your calendar. NOTE: This national webinar does not provide individual state CE or CLE credit hours.

If you have any questions, contact: Gloria Prinz, Agency Training Manager, Stewart Title Guaranty Company, (703) 927-1406, gprinz@stewart.com



Give the gift of a tree

If you are looking for an unusual gift that also helps the environment, or for a way to give back before the end of the year, consider the gift of a tree through [One Tree Planted](https://onetreepanted.org) (onetreepanted.org). One Tree Planted is a nonprofit organization committed to the reforestation of our planet. Simply click the link above and choose "Gift trees." PropStream, a Stewart company, is joining the effort with a commitment to plant 10,000 trees throughout regions of the US. They are not stopping there though. PropStream is looking to plant an additional 20,000 trees and you can help simply by commenting on social media. Comment a tree emoji or something you're grateful for on one (or all!) of the posts linked here:

[Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#). PropStream will donate up to 20,000 trees based on the engagement they receive (1 comment = 1 tree planted). Happy Treecember!



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