

Dear Stewart Partners,

We've made it into April and Spring is in the air, with the temperatures creeping into the high 50s and daffodils beginning to bloom in many gardens.

In this week's update, we want to remind you that Shannon Coleman will be presenting as part of a panel on Bankruptcy issues next Tuesday. This seminar is being hosted by the Boston Bar Association. Information to register for this presentation can be found below. We're also including an item that Apple users may find useful. Specifically, last week, Apple released fixes for two critical zero-day vulnerabilities. For details on the issue and the patches, see below. Lastly, we've got two cybersecurity pieces we want to pass on to you. The first is a warning issued by the Biden-Harris administration that urges all businesses to take steps to secure their systems against potential cyberattacks. The warning provides several recommended practices. The second cybersecurity item relates to the release of the FBI's IC3 Internet Crime Report. Most shocking is the increase in cybercrime - losses amounted to over \$6.9 billion in 2021, with business email compromise (BEC) schemes accounting for \$2.4 billion of that amount. These sobering statistics make it clear that wire fraud diversion using BEC schemes is alive and well and we must continue to be vigilant. For details and links to both the cybersecurity warning and the IC3 report, see below.



Bankruptcy and Title Issues – Shannon Coleman, Esq will be presenting in a two-part series hosted by the Boston Bar Association

The Boston Bar Association is presenting a two-part educational webinar featuring panel discussions on the intersection of bankruptcy and real estate law. Attorney Shannon Coleman, one of our Stewart Massachusetts Underwriters, will be participating in the second panel discussion, focusing on the insurability of real estate that is part of a bankruptcy estate. The session is scheduled for April 12, 2022, at 12 PM. For details and registration information follow this link:

<https://bostonbar.org/membership/events/event-details?ID=38833>



Apple Released Fixes for Newly Detected Vulnerabilities

Apple recently released two fixes for iPhones, iPads, and Macs to address vulnerabilities that gave hackers the ability to access the operating systems. Apple released the basic details of the first flaw on its site, which can be accessed here: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT213219>

Details of the second discovered flaw can be accessed here: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT213220>

As a reminder, keeping your devices updated with the most up-to-date operating software is one of the most important aspects of maintaining the device's security. For Apple products, a list of available updates is posted on their website at: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201222>



Biden-Harris Administration Issues Cybersecurity Warning

Late last month, the White House issued a warning to businesses of the increased risks of cyberattacks. A Fact Sheet was published imploring businesses to act now to guard against attacks. Companies are urged to immediately implement various steps to protect against an attack, including the use of multi-factor authentication, backing up data to an off-line source, and educating employees about common tactics used by cyberthieves. To read the full warning and suggested actions, follow this link:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/21/fact-sheet-act-now-to-protect-against-potential-cyberattacks/>



FBI releases the 2021 Internet Crime Report

The FBI recently released its 2021 Internet Crime Report. The amount of losses exceeded last year's by more than \$2.5 billion. The number of complaints the IC3 received also increased by 7% over last year. The report notes that schemes involving Business Email Compromise (BEC) and Email Account Compromise (EAC) have become more sophisticated. Fraudsters are adapting to preventive measures put in place to combat wire diversion schemes. Newer schemes involve using virtual meeting platforms where "deep fake" audio is used in combination with still pictures to fool the call participant into thinking they are speaking with the company's CEO or CFO, when in fact it's a fraudster. To read the full report, follow this link:

https://www.ic3.gov/Media/PDF/AnnualReport/2021_IC3Report.pdf



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