NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

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Oregon State Bar warns of new timeshare scam

PORTLAND, OR… The Oregon State Bar is warning the public of a new scam in which scammers could be impersonating Oregon lawyers in a con targeting timeshare owners.

Scammers impersonate the identity of a licensed attorney, including setting up a law firm web site and online presence in the name of an actual lawyer. A consumer checking OSB license status will see that the lawyer is licensed and in good standing; and then will see what appears to be a legitimate web site in that lawyer’s name. The individual is then asked to provide upfront legal fees to facilitate the sale of the timeshare.

The Oregon Department of Justice has also warned of this and other timeshare scams in the past year. They have shared several key steps to take before selling a timeshare: https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/scam_alert_05-28-13.pdf. If concerned, call the AG’s office at 1-877-877-9392.

Consumers wishing to confirm the status of an Oregon lawyer are encouraged to check the OSB’s online directory for accurate contact information, and then confirm that contact with a phone call to the number listed. They can also contact the OSB Client Assistance Office at (503) 620-0222 to confirm contact information or report a problem.

Lawyers approached by potential victims should be aware, and contact the PLF if they have questions or concerns.

The Oregon State Bar licenses and regulates Oregon’s lawyers, and administers the state’s system of lawyer discipline. Additionally, the bar provides a variety of services to help the public understand and access the justice system. Finally, it offers numerous programs, including continuing legal education, to enhance the service and professionalism of its 15,000 member lawyers. For more information, see our web site at www.osbar.org. ##