



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Metro Atlanta Relocation Council (MARC) Educational Forum Held on February 8, 2007**

Atlanta, GA – The Metro Atlanta Relocation Council hosted its annual MARC Educational Forum on February 8, 2007 at the Cobb Galleria Centre with various Atlanta area organizations participating in the event. The Forum consisted of four sessions –

**Session 1 – Tax and Legal Update**

*David Oltman of Relocation Taxes, LLC hosted an informative discussion regarding tax and legal matters within the relocation industry.*

**Session 2 – Who wants to be a Relocation Professional?**

*The audience participated in a fun-filled interactive quiz show with an emphasis on relocation issues using ERC statistics.*

**Session 3 – Mortgage Fraud**

*Josefina Knapp of O'Kelley & Sorohan, LLC and Sandra Sheley of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance reviewed the issue of mortgage fraud and how it affects the real estate professional in Georgia. Recommendations about how employees, realtors and mortgage companies can avoid being involved in a fraud scheme were reviewed.*

**Session 4 – How a Slow Real Estate Market Impacts Relocation (Part One)**

*Arnold Schwartz of Arnold Schwartz and Associates reviewed the housing bubble and provided information about Mortgage Appraisals versus Relocation Appraisals. Joe Wilber of Gables Residential spoke about the Atlanta home buying and rental markets and John Ures of Oakwood Worldwide reviewed corporate housing costs in the U.S. Finally, Nate Burden of Fidelity Inspection & Consulting Services presented information about the risks of mold and what can be done to mitigate this risk.*

**Session 4 - How a Slow Real Estate Market Impacts Relocation (Part Two)**

*Rick Gebhart of Fannie Mae provided an overview of the U.S. housing market while Judy Bailie of Coldwell Banker Upchurch Realty reviewed the process of selling a home through an auction process. Lastly, Casey Sellers of Prudential Georgia Realty spoke about the reasons individuals rent and why in some cases it is the financially prudent thing to do when moving to a new area.*

**The Metro Atlanta Relocation Council is a non-profit professional association committed to providing corporate and service industry relocation professionals the opportunity to meet and work together on a regular basis; to educate, learn and share knowledge and experiences about current relocation practices and emerging relocation issues in an effort to better serve and address the diverse needs of relocating employees and their families. Additional information on the organization can be found at [www.marcatlanta.org](http://www.marcatlanta.org).**