

# Press Release

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## More Hurricane Lawsuits Predicted for Busy 2006 Season

**Pensacola, FL - April 17, 2006** – According to *USA TODAY* (April 5, 2006), the upcoming hurricane season will pack a punch. Prediction: “Busy, again.”

The Tropical Meteorology Project at Colorado State University determines a 64% chance that a major hurricane – Category 3 or higher – will hit the East coast this year. “That’s more than double the 31% average probability over the past century,” according to the article. The central Gulf Coast – Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama – devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, rates a 30% probability for a major hurricane. That, too, is double the last century’s 15% for the region.

Despite the devastation and destruction that typically follow these storms, folks can always depend on their insurance companies to help them rebuild their lives and their homes.

Or can they?

According to Samuel Bearman, Pensacola attorney who has personally handled more than 50 Hurricane Opal and 100 Hurricane Ivan claims against insurance companies, “There are many reasons why folks may need to involve an attorney to handle their insurance claims. Typically it’s usually that the insurance company is either refusing to pay for the damage entirely or is making a ridiculous low-ball offer.”

“People forget insurance companies are in the business of *making* money – not paying it out. They don’t like writing checks unless they absolutely have to – and that usually happens when a lawyer gets involved,” he adds.

Bearman, who is a national speaker on hurricane law and litigation, has a prediction of his own: “As the number and intensity of hurricanes increases, so will the lawsuits. People are gaining a stronger awareness of their rights – and that they’re entitled to challenge their insurance company on hurricane claims. Often, the insured is entitled to much more than what they’re being offered, but don’t realize it. That’s where a hurricane law attorney comes in.”

Now is a good time to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season and review your home insurance policy. For questions, call your agent or a hurricane law attorney. To contact Mr. Bearman call (800) 760-6065, go to <http://www.bearmanlaw.com>, or email: sbearman@bellsouth.net.

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