

# War On Meth *versus* War On Homeowners

Dec. 3, 2009 -- Rob McKenna, Attorney General of Washington, is a two-handed lawyer. On the one hand, McKenna claims he's an aggressive consumer advocate, a believing Christian, and that he wants to eradicate the manufacture and use of methamphetamine in Washington.

On the other hand, McKenna permits the Northwest's largest real estate syndicate -- Windermere Real Estate -- to conduct a false advertising campaign and deceive the public.<sup>1</sup> Even when Windermere endangers public health (Windermere knowingly sold a contaminated meth lab as a residence to unsuspecting home buyers), McKenna does not object. In fact, McKenna's office even lies about state law to protect Windermere. Could it be that Windermere sends campaign money his way?

Look at what McKenna does, not what he says. Here are the facts, verified by the courts:

**Windermere's Meth Lab Sale:** The house in Cowlitz County had been a rental managed by agents of LC Realty, Inc. in Longview, Washington, aka "Windermere Real Estate /Allen & Associates." Lance Miller was Windermere's property manager. Renters used the property to grow marijuana and cook meth. In April, 2004, the house was raided and the renters arrested. Windermere evicted them.

A few months later, the owners decided to sell -- without decontaminating the house. They simply applied a coat of paint and installed new floor coverings, and listed the house with the same Windermere agency. Lance Miller, who managed the rental when it was raided, looked on when the owners filled out the mandatory disclosure form and checked "No" to the question "Has the property been used as an illegal drug manufacturing site?"

**Enter The Innocent Homebuyers.** In 2004 Eddie and Eva Bloor and their family had just moved from Missouri to Washington and wanted to buy a home. Windermere sold them the meth lab house without mentioning its drug history. The fraudulent disclosure form was given to the Bloors, and Lance Miller wrote the sales contract.

Soon after the Bloors moved in, they learned about their home's drug history. Eva Bloor called the Health Department to ask about decontamination. The Health Department immediately condemned the house and forced the Bloors to leave with only the clothes on their backs. Eddie Bloor was forced to abandon the tools by which he earned his living.

The Bloors sued the sellers, Lance Miller, LC Realty aka Windermere Real Estate/Allen & Associates, Windermere Real Estate Services Company, and Cowlitz County. The Bloors won and Windermere appealed. But Windermere lost the appeal, too. (For court documents, see <http://windermere-victims.com> under "Meth Lab House.")

**State Collusion in Homeowner Rip-off:** Washington real estate law requires reasonable skill and care, honesty, good faith, and disclosure all existing material facts. State real estate law also forbids moral turpitude, dishonesty, corruption, false advertising, and malpractice that results in harm to others. ((RCW 18.85.361, 18.86.30, 18.235.130.) Despite the court-established facts, Washington's Department of Licensing issued no sanctions against Windermere in the Bloor case. Many other Windermere victims have noticed the same pattern: No matter how egregious and well documented the facts, the Department of Licensing routinely takes no action against Windermere.

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<sup>1</sup> Windermere advertises "*The highest ethical standards. Uncompromising honesty and integrity.*" But when its agents do wrong, Windermere refuses to make up the damage, insists the customers sue, and then attempts to outspend and defeat the homeowners by use of aggressive litigation strategy.

## **A Salute to Rob McKenna . . .**

**McKenna's Collusion in Homeowner Rip-Off.** That's the way McKenna's office wants it. The proof? See our correspondence with McKenna's office at: <http://RenovationTrap.com/ag/index.html> . Read Items 14 through 23, summarized here:

June 15, 2009: We wrote to McKenna asking him to stop the DOL colluding with Windermere to flout Washington real estate law. We gave him specific examples and court decisions with documentation, citing *Bloor* and nine other cases.

McKenna's representative wrote back, stating his office supported DOL's decisions, would do nothing to enforce state law, and would defend DOL in court if anyone challenged DOL's decisions.

We wrote back asking why McKenna thinks it's OK to allow Windermere to sell a contaminated meth lab house to unsuspecting buyers -- without even a hint of disapproval? How does this permissiveness help Washington consumers and the AG's war on meth, we asked.

**Obeying The Law Is An Option.** McKenna's representative dodged our questions and told us: "My role is to give the Department option-based advice, but any advice I give my client is subject to the attorney-client privilege."

Since when is ignoring state law an "option" for a state agency? And aren't we taxpayers footing the bill so that the Attorney General will enforce the law? In a democratic society, who is protected from what by a governmental "attorney client privilege"?

**McKenna's Office Lies About The Law.** We sent two more letters, asking which sections of the Revised Code of Washington and which legal precedents give the Department of Licensing the "option" to ignore state law. McKenna's representative responded by accusing us of holding a personal grudge against a Windermere real estate agent . . . but significantly, she provided no legal cites showing that DOL has the "option" to ignore state law.

Not surprising! State law (RCW 18.85.040) actually **requires** the director of the Department of Licensing to "enforce all laws, rules, and regulations . . . ."

McKenna's office lies about the law, lies about its responsibilities . . .

**McKenna's Penchant For Cow Manure.** Recall it was Rob McKenna who permitted WaMu's shenanigans to go on right under his nose: it was the New York Attorney General who finally brought suit against WaMu appraisers.

If Rob McKenna won't prosecute big banks and big real estate agencies (Windermere was founded by banker John Jacobi), who will he prosecute?

McKenna prosecuted a Whatcom dairy farmer for improperly dumping cow manure. The farmer got a two-year suspended jail sentence, had to pay a \$5,000 criminal fine and \$30,000 civil fine, and had to agree not to own or manage a dairy farm ever again.  
<http://www.atg.wa.gov/pressrelease.aspx?id=5864>

McKenna, Washington's meth warrior and consumer advocate, is a cow manure kinda guy . . .

For more information, see <http://Windermere-Victims.com>  
See the New York Times July 14 article on the health hazards of meth-labs.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/14/us/14meth.html>  
See also: <http://methlabhomes.com/>

This publication brought to you by Mark & Carol DeCoursey, webmasters of  
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