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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **THOMPSON TRIAL GROUP AND CITIZENS ANNOUNCE SINKHOLE SETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITY**

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Under an agreement reached between Florida-based law firm Thompson Trial Group, P.A. and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, approximately 300 homeowners with unresolved sinkhole claims will receive settlement offers to end litigation and make critical repairs to secure the safety of their homes and families.

Homeowners who accept the settlement will quickly receive professionally recommended repairs. Local communities and future buyers also will benefit through increased property values and the knowledge that professional repairs have been completed.

“After a long fight in the courts and a lengthy negotiation, we are really excited to have finally put in place a settlement opportunity for our clients that is fair and protects their valuable property rights,” said Lee Smith of Thompson Trial Group.

As part of the settlement, Citizens will pay for below-ground repairs recommended by a professional engineer, who also will monitor repair work and direct any additional necessary below-ground repairs. Policyholders will choose their below-ground repair contractor from a pre-approved list. Once those repairs have been completed, Citizens will pay for any additional related above-ground damages. Importantly, each Thompson Trial Group client who participates in this settlement will receive a 5-year warranty from the contractor who performs the below ground repairs.

“Citizens’ number one priority has always been to ensure the safety of our policyholders by making timely, appropriate repairs to their homes,” said Chris Gardner, chairman of Citizens’ Board of Governors. “This settlement allows us to do just that, providing much needed closure for homeowners on their most valuable investment.”

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Chris Gardner, Chairman, Orange County • Gary Aubuchon, Lee County  
Bette Brown, Monroe County • Juan Cocuy, Palm Beach County • Don Glisson, Jr., St. Johns County  
James Holton, Pinellas County • Tom Lynch, Palm Beach County • Freddie Schinz, Okaloosa County  
John Wortman, St. Johns County • Barry Gilway, President/CEO and Executive Director

In addition to quickly making the repairs necessary to secure the safety of affected homes, the agreement allows Citizens to avoid millions of dollars in potential litigation expenses. This agreement was forged with the help of Citizens' coordinating counsel as part of his oversight of Citizens' legal defense strategy.

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In 2002, the Florida Legislature created Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens), a not-for-profit alternative insurer, whose public purpose is to provide insurance to, and serve the needs of, property owners who cannot find coverage in the private insurance market.

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