

## **TOP 14 REASONS WHY OIL SPILL CLAIMANTS NEED A LAWYER**

1. Feinberg is being paid by BP Oil; he is not truly independent; he is basically a super claims adjuster for BP and is pushing a quick, cheap settlement.
2. You will be dealing with a claims adjuster; lawyers are trained and have experience in dealing with claims adjusters.
3. Feinberg has indicated that he may consider some claims to be "too remote" and therefore, not "legitimate," which means that they may not be compensable under the Fund; lawyers can provide a legal basis for an argument that a particular Claimant's claim is proximately caused by the BP Oil Spill and, therefore, should be compensable.
4. Claimants may underestimate their losses.
5. Claim information submitted by claimants may be used against them later if they do file suit.
6. Many claimants get paid in cash which is more difficult to prove and has possible tax consequences.
7. Attorneys have access to experts to assist in adequately evaluating claims.
8. Claimants may not realize that the cost of expert evaluation is recoverable under OPA.
9. There are certain statutory requirements for filing suit w/i 6 months or important legal rights and remedies may be lost.
10. In order to obtain a final settlement of your claim, you will be required to sign a release that will prevent you from filing a lawsuit or making future claims, even if you later discover that you suffered losses that are presently unknown and unknowable. Anyone signing a release should always seek legal advice as to their rights before doing so.
11. Attorneys' fees may be recoverable under Florida statute and/or laws of other states but not under Oil Pollution Act (OPA).
12. BP/Feinberg plan does not provide for punitive damages which may be available due to willful and wanton actions by BP and other defendants in taking risks and shortcuts to save time and money in drilling.
13. There are several defendants who are liable for damages in addition to BP.
14. BP has a lawyer – lots of them.