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**For immediate release**

## **GCAAR introduces 2026 Board of Directors**

### **Russell Brazil steps into leadership role from Samantha Damato**

ROCKVILLE, Md. -- The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® (GCAAR) today introduced its 2026 Board of Directors.

#### **OFFICERS**

- President: Russell Brazil, RLAH @properties
- President-elect: M. Jacqueline Bennett, RE/MAX Excellence Realty
- First Vice President: Ileann Jimenez-Sepulveda, Long & Foster Real Estate Inc.
- Treasurer: Marilyn Emery, RLAH @properties
- Immediate Past President: Samantha Damato, Long & Foster Real Estate Inc.

#### **DIRECTORS**

- Bruce Cotting, RLAH @properties
- Dan Cumberland, Moyer & Sons Moving & Storage\*
- Christopher Darby, Counselors Title\*
- Nelson Fuentes, Keller Williams Capital Properties
- Yves Jean Baptiste, Keller Williams Capital Properties
- Hank May, Long & Foster Real Estate Inc.
- D'Ann Melnick, eXp Realty
- Theresa Nielson, Sotheby's International Realty
- Jessica Olevsky, JP&R Stellar Living
- Tim Phelps, Compass
- Christopher Rhodes, Long & Foster Real Estate Inc.
- Monique Van Blaricom, RLAH @properties
- Kirsten Williams, TTR Sotheby's International Realty
- Michelle Young, Compass

\* Non-voting affiliate member

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“We’re so fortunate to have such a dedicated group of board members who make vital contributions to our association, as well as to the local real-estate industry and our community,” said Ed Krauze, GCAAR CEO. “I look forward to collaborating with the 2026 leadership team to help further our mission of advocating for homeownership and affordable housing in Montgomery County and Washington, D.C.”

“I’m honored to team up with these smart, dynamic leaders to serve our GCAAR community this year,” said Russell Brazil, 2026 GCAAR president.

The new board members began their terms with GCAAR effective January 1, 2026.

#### **About GCAAR**

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS®, one of the largest local REALTOR® associations in the U.S., is the voice for REALTORS® in Washington, D.C. and Montgomery County, Maryland. Representing more than 11,000 real estate professionals in the greater capital area, GCAAR provides services vital to its members' daily business needs and works with lawmakers to ensure public policy that encourages homeownership and supports the real estate industry. For more information, visit [www.GCAAR.com](http://www.GCAAR.com).

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