

GOING FOR THE CCIM DESIGNATION ... N'AWLINS STYLE

I am on the airplane headed home from the CCIM designation exam in New Orleans, finally having the chance to reflect on the experience. What an amazing city. The food, the entertainment and the energy parallel Las Vegas in so many ways, but on a smaller, more manageable scale. I arrived a few days early with my managing broker, Cassie Catania, to unwind and ease the pre test jitters. We walked miles through the French Quarter and along the riverfront, rode the streetcar to Tulane University, ate beignets and jambalaya and partied on Bourbon Street. We were the stereotypical tourists and I enjoyed every minute of it. One memorable experience worth mentioning was our tour of the Lower 9th Ward, "Ground Zero" from Hurricane Katrina, seeing firsthand the devastation caused, not by the hurricane, but by a breach in the levee. In midst of the destruction and blight sprang new life in the form of



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sustainable homes built by Brad Pitt's Make It Right foundation and Harry Connick, Jr.'s Musicians' Village. Alas, my few days as a tourist gave way to intense preparation for the CCIM exam.

I urge anyone sitting for the CCIM designation to take the CCR review course, a fast-paced, intense review of the concepts learned in CI 101, 102, 103 and 104. The instructors laid out the road map for the exam in a way that even the most astute candidate benefitted. Additionally, the review class was another fantastic opportunity for networking with peers from around the world. The exam itself, however, was not "the big easy." As prepared as I felt

going into the exam, I found it most challenging and was surprised that so many candidates had taken the full allotted six hours, most struggling to fill in answers at the last second. The afternoon was filled with anxiety as I waited to hear the results. A phone call was bad news, but

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