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#### ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In the Matter of the Removal and Prohibition of:

No. 08F-BD057-BNK

#### **CHRIS BARTLEMUS**

1814 East Patrick Lane Phoenix, AZ 85024 **CONSENT ORDER** 

Respondent.

On April 24, 2008, the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions ("Department") issued a Notice of Hearing, alleging that Respondent had violated Arizona law. Wishing to resolve this matter in lieu of an administrative hearing, Respondent does not contest the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and consents to the entry of the following Order.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent Chris Bartlemus ("Mr. Bartlemus") was employed as an escrow officer by Security Title Agency, Inc. dba Security Title Agency ("Security Title") at its Raintree Branch #47, from on or about early 2001 to June 2007.
  - 2. Mr. Bartlemus was terminated from Security Title on or about June 2007.
- 3. Security Title is licensed by the Department as an escrow agent, License Number EA-000878.
- 4. On or around September 5, 2006, the Department conducted an examination of Security Title's business affairs. As a result of the examination, the Department discovered Mr. Bartlemus:
  - a. Failed to obtain and maintain adequate escrow file documentation; and
  - b. Failed to account properly for escrow property by improperly disbursing escrow funds, specifically:
    - Failed to account properly for escrow property as required by the terms of the escrow;
    - ii. Failed to disburse funds in accordance with the provisions of the HUD-1 escrow; and

1	iii. Failed to follow written escrow instructions; specifically:
2	SECURITY TITLE AGENCY BRANCH #47, RAINTREE
3	1. Buyer: Darwin Hunter / Seller: Gerald Collier—Escrow #47-3852-CB
4	Open Date: 03-21-06 Close Date: 04-28-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$556,000.00
5	Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus
6	Cash-out: \$26,000 to April Lucero; invoice for D.L.A. Development, LLC
7	Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Sale scheduled for 12-05-07
8	1. The Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement shows the contract sales price as \$556,000.00. The Purchase Contract shows \$580,000.00 as the sale price. The
9	addendum #1 dated 4-16-06 shows the sales price as \$556,000.00.  The Final HITD -1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicated on line #1307 that
10	\$26,000.00 was to be paid to D.L.A. Development, LLC. The pre-audit of 4-21-06 shows that \$60,000.00 was to be paid to D.L.A. Development, LLC. A
11	subsequent pre-audit of 4-26-06 indicates D.L.A. Development, LLC was to be paid \$26,000,00.
12	An invoice for \$26,000.00 from D.L.A. Development, LLC dated 4-24-06 for Assignment/Declaration Fee is included in the escrow file. There is no detailed
13	explanation or adequate description in the file to determine what "Assignment/Declaration Fee" means or the purpose of the invoice. On the
14	invoice there is a handwritten note saying "Bof A Acct 4188 April Lucero / wire info for D.L.A. Development."
15	3. On 5-1-06 an outgoing wire for \$26,000.00 was sent to Bank of America for the benefit of April Lucero, account #XXXXXXXX4188. April Lucero is a mortgage loan officer at Sterling Home Mortgage, who signed the Fannie Mae
16 17	Form 1003 Loan Application as the loan applicant's interviewer on 4-3-06.  According to information provided to the examiners, April Lucero was no longer
18	employed at Sterling Home Mortgage as of the end of February 2006. It is unclear why April Lucero, agent for Lamp Light Marketing, received \$26,000.00.
19	2. Buyer: Kevin Williams / Seller: Eric D. Ford—Escrow #47-3723-CB
20	Open Date: 01-24-06 Close Date: 02-28-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$525,000.00
21	Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus
22	Cash-out: \$106,000 Lamp Light Marketing, LLC (April Lucero)
23	Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed sale 6-25-07
24	1. The Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicates on line #1304 that \$106,000.00 was to be paid to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC. Escrow instructions
25	dated 2-28-06 state that "\$106,000.00 is to be paid to Lamp Light Marketing LLC." An invoice for \$106,000.00 from Lamp Light Marketing for Assignment / Declaration fees is included in the escrow file. There is no detailed explanation or
26	Declaration fees is included in the escrow file. There is no detailed explanation of adequate description in the file to determine what "Assignment/Declaration Fee"

1 2	means or the purpose of the invoice. April Lucero is the Statutory Agent for Lamp Light Marketing, LLC.  2. The disbursement listing shows all funds (except one receipt of 1-24-06) on Francy File #2722 were received and disbursed the same day the funds were
3	Escrow File #3723 were received and disbursed the same day the funds were received, 2-28-06. A personal money order was receipted in on 2-28-06 for \$883.14 drawn on Wells Fargo Bank. Non-postal money orders funds are
4	available on the 5th business day of the deposit; therefore these funds were not available until 3-7-06.
5	3. On 3-24-06 Lamp Lighting Marketing issued a quit claim deed to D.L.A. Development LLC.
6	3. Buyer: Kevin D. Williams / Seller: Sandra Rubio—Escrow #47-3635-CB
7	Open Date: 01-04-06 Close Date: 04-06-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$365,000.00
8	Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus
9	Cash-Out: \$51,000 to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC
10	Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed Sale on 5/21/07
11	1. The Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement shows the contract price as
12	\$365,000.00. The Purchase Contract dated 1-18-06 states the contract sales price as
13	\$365,000.00. The Purchase Contract was subsequently amended by Addendum #1 stating, "Buyer reserves the right to borrow additional monies as it related to
14	this transaction at buyer's expense. Seller will be paid \$314,000.00 gross minus seller's traditional closing costs and related payoffs. All additional fees if any paid by buyer." Assignment of Contract signed by both buyer and seller dated 1-3-06
15	shows sales price as \$314,000.00.  2. The Final HUD -1 Escrow Settlement Statement shows on line #603 Cash to
16	seller as \$112,318.94. The Certified HUD shows \$112,500.70 to the seller. The pre-audit of 1-13-06,
17	shows \$114, 844.29 cash to seller. 3. An out going wire #2300 for \$59,318.94 was sent to Bank of America for benefit
18	of Sandra Rubio, the seller, for account number # XXXXX8419 on 2-1-06. Pre-Audit Escrow Settlement Statement of 2-1-06, shows cash to seller for
19	\$59,318.94. Line #1305 shows \$51,000.00 to be paid to Lamp Lighting Development LLC
20	and line #1304 shows \$2,000.00 to Anastasia Lisa Daly. Invoice dated 1-27-06 from Lamp Light Marketing LLC shows "Assignment /
21	Declaration fee" of \$51,000.00 due to Lamp Light Marketing. No description or explanation of "Assignment/Declaration fee," was provided.
22	Escrow Amendment/Supplement shows \$51,000.00 to be disbursed to Lamp Light Marketing, \$2,000.00 disbursed to Anastasia Lisa Daly and the remaining
23	proceeds to Sandra Rubio. On 2-1-06, Security Title Agency issued check #4702556 for \$51,000.00 payable
24	to Lamp Light Marketing LLC. On 2-1-06 Security Title Agency issued check #47025560 for \$2,000.00 payable
25	to Lisa Daly. The Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement form does not show any
	disbursements for the \$51,000.00 to Lamp Lighting Development or the \$2,000.00 to Lisa Daly.
26	The loan application, Freddie Mac form #65, shows April Lucero as the mortgage

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1	loan officer at Sterling Home Mortgage; she is also the owner of Lamp Light
2	Marketing. Note: There are discrepancies on the Uniform Residential Loan application form
3	of 1-27-06 between this escrow file #47-3635 and # 47-3543. On escrow file #47-3635, Kevin William's base monthly income is listed as \$8,900.00. Escrow
4	file #47-3543 shows a different amount as income. Both files show Kevin employed at the BJ's Group Home in Chandler, AZ.
5	4. On 2-1-06 Security Title Agency issued check #47025565 for \$2,920.00 payable to Sterling Mortgage. On 4-6-06 the transaction is marked cancelled on the
	Receipts and Disbursement sheet; however the original check is not marked void. On 4-6-06, another check for \$2,920.00, check # 47026449 was issued to Sterling
6	Mortgage.
7	4. Buyer: Christine Shipett / Seller: Compass Development Inc.—Escrow #47-4677-CB
8	Open Date: 01-09-07 Close Date: 02-22-07 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$935,000.00
9	Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus
10	Cash-Out: \$120,000 to JC Development (owned by the buyer, Christine Shiplett)
11	Loan Status: Trustee Sale Scheduled for 12/19/07
12	NOTE: This is the second cash-out and second property flip for this condo facilitated through
13	the same escrow officer. See Escrow #47-3464-CB, referenced at paragraph 6 herein.
14	1. The final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement form line #1307 shows J.C.  Development to be paid \$120,000.00. Escrow instructions dated 2-12-07 state
15 16	\$120,000.00 is to be paid to JC Development. The escrow instructions lacked a detailed explanation and / or description for the disbursement to JC Development. On 2-22-07 an outgoing wire was sent to Wells Fargo Bank for \$120,000.00,
17	account #XXXXXX7201 for the benefit of JC Development.  Per Arizona State Corporate Commission, JC Development is owned by Christine Shiplett which is the buyer on this escrow.
18	It is unclear as to why the buyer received money through a company owned by the buyer.
19	5. Buyer: Stephanie McWilliams / Seller: Aaron Scott Mikolic—Escrow #47-3926-CB
20	Open Date: 05-02-06 Close Date: 05-31-06 Escrow Amount: \$600,000.00
21	Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus
22	Cash-Out: \$114,600 to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC
23	Loan Status: This was the first cash-out for this property. The same escrow officer did the
24	subsequent escrow, #47-4541-CB, referenced at paragraph 7 herein. The subsequent cash-out
25	was for \$35,602.87. The property was subsequently foreclosed and the Trustee Deed sale was
26	on 11/09/07.

1	1. The Final HUD-1 Escrow Statement shows the contract sales price as \$600,000.00.
2	The Purchase Contract states the contract price as \$600,000.00. An Addendum dated 4-28-06 states. "Seller will be paid \$485,400.00 gross as per line # 8. Buyer
3	reserves the right to borrow additional monies as it related to this transaction; all additional fees, if any with paid by buyer. Buyer will pay the escrow and title
4	fees that represent the difference from \$485,400.00 to the purchase price as per line # 8." (sic)
5	2. The Final HUD -1 Escrow Settlement Statement, line # 1303 stated \$114,600.00 to be paid to DLA Development.
6	Escrow instructions dated 5-24-06 state \$114,600.00 to be paid to DLA Development.
7	Invoice # 17264 dated 5-30-06 from DLA Development states balance due of \$114,600.00.
8	An outgoing wire dated 6-1-06 for \$114,600.00 was sent to Chase Bank for the benefit of Lamp Light Marketing, LLC account #XXXXX4971.
9	6. Buyer: Tahki Banister / Seller: SLL Enterprises L.L.C.—Escrow #47-3464-CB
10	Open Date: 10-27-05 Close Date: 12-06-05 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$675,000.00
11	Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus
12	Cash-Out: \$50,469.43 to Compass Development
13	Loan Status: See escrow 47-4677-CB, referenced at paragraph 4 herein, for the subsequent
14	cash-out of \$120,000 and property flip with a sales price of \$935,000 Now in foreclosure
15	with Trustee Sale scheduled for 12-19-07.
16	1. The Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement form states the contract sales price as \$675,000.00. The Purchase Contract states the contract price as
17	\$675,000.00. 2. The Final HUD-1 on line #1301 shows \$55,000.00 to be paid to Compass
18	Development. Escrow instructions dated 11-29-05 states a separate check is to be issued to
19	Compass Development for \$55,000.00 after the close of escrow. 12-6-05, check #47024731 was issued for \$50,469.43 to Compass Development.
20	3. The Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement form shows Cash to Borrower for \$1.469.43.
21	The Receipts and Disbursements sheet does not show any checks for \$1,469.43 payable to the buyer. Tahki Banister.
22	4. The Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement shows closing funds totaling \$10,000.00 on line # 204. Only \$4,000.00 was received from Broker Credit,
23	leaving a difference of \$6,000.00.  5. A copy of Funds Wired In, form # 1052665 for \$10,000.00 dated 12-5-05
24	stamped certified copy by Security Title Agency, was in the escrow file; however it does not show as an incoming receipt. The \$10,000.00 wire does not show
25	booked as an incoming wire on the Receipts/Disbursements sheet. The examiners verified with Clara Seager, Account Department Supervisor that the wire has
26	never arrived using that reference number. Clara confirmed using Security Title's internal on line system as well as back up internal reports / print outs that no wire



with that particular reference number existed. It is unclear why the incoming wire form was in the file if the wire was not actually received at Security Title Agency.

6. A Bank One Official check # 828862384 for \$1,000.00 was issued on 11-1-05. This check was receipted 11-22-05. It is unclear when Security Title Agency received this check and or where the check was for twenty one (21) days prior to depositing at the bank.

7. The Receipts and Disbursement sheet shows three (3) checks payable to Security Title Agency each for \$1,000.00. It is unclear why these checks were payable to Security Title Agency. Nothing is noted on the Final HUD Settlement Statement to explain the reason for the disbursements nor is there adequate backup documentation in the file to support the \$1,000.00 checks payable to Security Title Agency.

## 7. Buyer: Christine Shiplett / Seller: Stephanie McWilliams—Escrow #47-4541-CB

Open Date: 12-04-06 Close Date: 02-08-07 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$655,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-Out: \$35,602.87 to AMB Consulting Corp

Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed Sale on 11/09/07

NOTE: This was the second cash-out and second flip for this property through the same escrow officer. See escrow #47-3926-CB, referenced at paragraph 5 herein, for the other cash-out of \$114,600.

1. The Pre Audit HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement of 1-29-07, line #1304, shows \$55,000.00 to be paid to AMB Consulting. Invoice # 186601 from AMB Consulting Corp. shows \$55,000.00 due to AMB Consulting. There was no detailed explanation or adequate description provided on the invoice or in the escrow file to explain why \$55,000.00 was due to AMB Consulting. Escrow instructions dated 1-29-07 instructed \$55,000.00 to be disbursed / wired to AMB Consulting Corp.

The Final Escrow Settlement Statement HUD-1, line #1304 shows \$35,602.87 to

The Final Escrow Settlement Statement HUD-1, line #1304 shows \$35,602.87 to AMB Consulting Corp.

The receipts and disbursements log shows an outgoing wire for \$35,602.87 was sent to Wells Fargo on 2-8-07. A copy of the Security Title Agency Inc Wire out Form shows \$35,602.87 to Wells Fargo for benefit of AMB Consulting, account #XXXXXX6473.

2. A cashier's check drawn on Wells Fargo Bank dated 1-30-07 for \$13,770.94 shows as an incoming receipt #XXXX4641 on 2-8-07. It is unclear when Security Title Agency received the check or if the check was held prior to depositing it at the bank on 2-8-07. The Receipts and Disbursement log shows an incoming receipt for \$500.00 on 12-

8-06.

There are two Security Title Agency receipts for the same \$500.00 check in the escrow file.

One Security Title Agency receipt is dated 12-4-06 and the receipt is marked "void 12-8-06". A copy of a check for \$500.00, drawn on Chase Bank, maker of the check is Lamp Light Marketing, dated 11-30-06 and payable to Chris Bartlemus, Escrow Officer, was attached to the receipt of 12-4-06. "Earnest" is

written in the memo section of the check. The second Security Title Agency receipt is dated 12-8-06. The copy of the check is the same check number with the same information as above; however this copy of the check shows Chris Bartlemus' name crossed out and Security Title written in on the "payable to" line. The correction was initialed by what appears to be April Lucero the owner of Lamp Light Marketing. The Lamp Light Marketing name does not show anywhere on the HUD-1 Settlement Statement form. It is unclear why Lamp Light Marketing would be supplying earnest money for this particular escrow. The purpose of this check is not known, why it was voided, where the check was held during 11-30 to 12-8-06, and if it was a returned /denied item from the bank. There is nothing in the escrow file to substantiate a reason why AMB Consulting received money from the seller.

# 8. Buyer: Kevin D. Williams / Seller: Robert and Leah Varner—Escrow #47-03650-CB

Open Date: 01-09-06 Close Date: 01-31-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$347,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-out: \$60,000 to Lamplight Marketing, LLC (April Lucero)

Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed sale on 6-21-07

1. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicated on line #1306 that \$60,000 was to be paid from seller funds to Lamplighting, LLC. While signed authorization exists in the escrow file to support this payment, the company invoice, which described the \$60,000 as an Assignment / Declaration Fee, was from an entity named Lamplight Marketing LLC. It should be noted that actual disbursement check was made payable to Lamplight Marketing, LLC, whose sole member / owner is April Lucero. April Lucero is also the mortgage loan officer at Sterling Home Mortgage, who signed the loan application (Form 1003) as the applicant's interviewer.

2. Correspondence from Sandy Mager, West USA Realty dated 1-17-06 to escrow officer Bartlemus states that "the buyer is borrowing well above the sales price to use cash for another venture". Ms. Mager quotes the actual contract sales price as \$287,000 rather than the \$347,000 appearing on the HUD-1, with the buyer taking \$60,000 as cash. The escrow file contains two purchase contracts, both signed by the seller on 01-06-06. One contract has a stated purchase price of \$280,000 (counter offer of \$287,000) and the other contract lists a purchase price of \$347,000 (an increase of \$60,000).

3. Earnest Money check (#137) in the amount of \$1,000 was receipted on 1-9-06, held by Security Title, and then voided on 1-26-06. While a copy of the Earnest Money receipt was faxed to West USA Realty (listing agent) on 1-9-06, the check was never deposited. Escrow monies must be deposited immediately on receipt or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable. The voided earnest money receipt was subsequently replaced with a \$1,000 Official Check, which was receipted and disbursed on 1-31-06 (the same day). The disbursement should not have occurred until the next business day.

# 9. Buyer: Christine Shiplett / Seller: D.L.A. Development, LLC—Escrow #47-04542-CB

Open Date: 12-15-06 Close Date: 02-26-07 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$400,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus 1 Loan Status: Notice of Default filed 8/08/07 was scheduled for Trustee Deed Sale for 11/07/07. 2 1. Official Check funds are available the next business day after the date of deposit. 3 The receipts and disbursement listing shows two official checks (\$9,670.00 and \$2,856.00) were received and disbursed on 02-26-07 (the same day). The 4 disbursement should not have occurred until the next business day. 5 10. Buyer: Kevin D. Williams / Seller: Glen and Collette Kelly—Escrow #47-03632-CB 6 Open Date: 01-04-06 Close Date: 01-24-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$261,000.00 7 Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus 8 Loan Status: Notice of Trustee Sale recorded 7/31/07; Scheduled for Trustee Sale for 11/07/07 9 per Maricopa County Recorder. 1. The purchase contract (dated 12-31-05) states that "\$1,200.00 earnest money 10 already deposited by buyer at Title to be applied to buyers closing costs....". Earnest Money check (#136) in the amount of \$1,200 was receipted on 1/9/06, 11 held by Security Title, and then voided on 1/24/06 (COE). While a copy of the earnest money receipt was faxed to Mike Ryan (listing agent) on 1/9/06, it was 12 never deposited. Closing funds of \$3,722.10 were received from the buyer on 1/23/06. Quit Claim, D. Hunter to D.L.A. Dev. LLC. on 4-26-06. 13 11. Buyer: Kevin D. Williams / Seller: MLS Property IV LLC—Escrow #47-03645-CB 14 Open Date: 01-06-06 Close Date: 02-02-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$355,000.00 15 Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus 16 Cash-out: \$28,000 Lamplight Marketing, LLC (Loan Officer - April Lucero) 17 Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed Sale 5-29-07 18 1. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicated on line #1304 that \$28,000 19 was to be paid from seller escrow funds to Lamplight Marketing, LLC. While signed authorization exists in the escrow file to support this third party payment, 20 the accompanying invoice from Lamp Light Marketing LLC, describes the \$28,000.00 as an Assignment / Declaration Fee. It should be noted that 21 Lamplight Marketing, LLC's sole member/owner is April Lucero. April Lucero is also identified in the file as the broker contact at Sterling Home Mortgage, the 22 mortgage broker on this transaction. Earnest Money check (#133) in the amount of \$1,500 was receipted on 1/9/06, held by Security Title, and then voided on 1/31/06. While a copy of the Earnest 23 Money receipt was faxed to the seller on 1/10/06, it was never deposited. Escrow monies must be deposited immediately on receipt or as soon thereafter as is 24 reasonably practicable (A.R.S. Section 6-834). It was replaced with a \$1,500.00

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official check, which was receipted on 1/31/06.

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12.	Buver:	Deborah	Bredenburg	/ Seller:	<b>Brett Maring</b>	Escrow	<u>#47-04540-CB</u>

Open Date: 12-15-06 Close Date: 01-04-07 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$450,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-Out: \$56,000 to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC (April Lucero)

Loan Status: In Foreclosure; Notice of Trustee Sale recorded 10/23/07; Trustee Deed sale scheduled for 01/23/08.

1. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicates on line #508 that the amount due the seller was to be reduced by \$56,000 for a payoff to an unnamed party. Although the payee was not disclosed on the HUD-1, escrow file documentation revealed that, based upon written instruction from the seller, such amount was disbursed to Lamplight Marketing, LLC for renovation and remodeling. It is unclear whether the lender was aware of the actual payee and nature of this disbursement. It should be noted that Lamplight Marketing, LLC's sole member/owner is April Lucero.

#### 13. Buyer: Darwin Hunter / Seller: Brandon Hansen—Escrow #47-03810-CB

Open Date: 03-13-06 Close Date: N/A (Cancelled) HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$500,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

1. Although this escrow was cancelled, the pre-audit HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicated on line #1306 that \$95,100 was to be paid from escrow funds to Lamplighting, LLC. While signed authorization exists in the escrow file to support this payment to Lamplighting, LLC, the seller's authorization lacked a stated purpose or reason for issuance of the disbursement check. It should be noted that Lamplight Marketing, LLC's sole member/owner is April Lucero. April Lucero is also identified in the file as the lender contact at Sterling Home Mortgage. Direction to cancel this escrow came from April Lucero on or about 4-21-06.

## 14. Buyer: Jonathan Shachar / Seller: Maher Arekat—Escrow #47-04493-CB

Open Date: 11-22-06 Close Date: 11-28-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$545,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-Out: \$95,000 to Nogara Financial

1. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicates on line #505 that the amount due the seller was to be reduced by \$95,000 for a payoff of a Private Note to an unnamed party. Although the payee was not disclosed on the HUD-1, escrow file documentation revealed that, based upon written instruction from the seller, such amount was disbursed to Nogara Financial for renovation/consulting. It is unclear whether the lender was aware of the actual payee and true nature of this disbursement.

## 15. Buyer: Deborah Bredenburg / Seller: Bret Marino-Escrow #47-04469-CB

Open Date: 11-06-06 Close Date: 02-06-07 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$570,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-Out: \$37,000 to Phoenix Development LLC

Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed Sale held on 11/05/07

1. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicated on line #1303 that \$37,000 was to be paid from escrow funds to Phoenix Development. While signed authorization exists in the escrow file to support this third party payment, the seller's instruction lacked a stated purpose or reason for the disbursement. Escrow file documentation indicates that \$37,000 was wired to US Bank, for the benefit of Phoenix Development Company, L.L.C., on 2-6-07.

# 16. Buyer: Stephanie McWilliams / Seller: Addison L. Lawrence—Escrow #47-03980-CB

Open Date: 11-06-06 Close Date: 02-06-07 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$460,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-Out: \$60,000 to First American Title Agency; \$174,831.90 to Amber Ceccarelli Loan Status: This is the first cash-out for this property. A second cash-out and property flip occurred on 02/15/07 for \$17,752.57 as shown in escrow file 47-04544-CB, referenced at paragraph 17 herein, which was prepared by the same escrow officer. In foreclosure; Trustee Deed Sale scheduled for 12/19/07

- 1. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicated on line #1304 that \$60,000 was to be paid from escrow funds to D.L.A. Development LLC. While signed authorization exists in the escrow file to support this third party payment, neither the seller's written instruction nor the vendor invoice contained a stated purpose or reason for the disbursement. File documentation indicates that \$60,000 was to be wired to Chase Bank, for the benefit of D.L.A. Development, LLC on 6-23-06; however, such wire was voided and the monies disbursed First American Title Agency instead. Due to the absence of written instruction/authorization or related correspondence in the escrow file, the circumstances surrounding the disbursement to First American Title Agency are unknown.
- 2. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicated on line #1301 that \$174,831.90 was to be paid from escrow funds to Amber Ceccarelli. There are no escrow instructions or other documentation authorizing such disbursement. Escrow officer Chris Bartlemus sent an unauthorized disbursement wire in the amount of \$174,831.90 to Chase Bank, for the benefit of Amber Ceccarelli, on 6-23-06
- 3. The stated sales price on the Affidavit of Value is \$461,000, which differs from the \$460,000 sales price stated on the Purchase Contract and Final HUD-1.



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not the same as the Final HUD-1 produced during the examination. Escrow file

documentation indicates that a certified copy of the Final HUD-1 was faxed to the

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lender, WMC Mortgage Corp., on 6-16-06. However, the certified copy failed to show a \$111,000 third party disbursement, which was sent via wire to Chase Bank, for the benefit of D.L.A. Development, LLC, on the same day. It should be noted that the pre-audit HUD-1 dated June 5 (signed by the seller) and the final HUD-1 produced during the examination included the disbursement to D.L.A. Development on line #1307. The pre-audit HUD-1 dated 6-9, (signed by the buyer) did not show the disbursement.

2. The escrow file also contained conflicting disbursement documentation. While the escrow file contains written instruction from the seller to disburse \$110,000 to D.L.A. Development, the supporting invoice is on the letterhead of L.J.L Development and is for a larger amount (\$111,000). Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus disbursed the larger amount, which was \$1,000 more than specifically authorized by the seller.

19. Buyer: Kevin D. Williams / Seller: Darin D. Ray—Escrow #47-03543-CB

Open Date: 01-09-06 Close Date: 01-27-06 HUD-1 Sales Contract Price: \$550,000.00.

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-Out: \$40,000 to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC (April Lucero, Owner of Lamp Light

Marketing, LLC and Sterling Loan Officer)

Loan Status: Property was flipped again in 6/2006 to another accomplice, Stephanie

McWilliams, who was the seller in Escrow #47-04544-CB, referenced at paragraph 17 herein,

for \$690,000 via Security Escrow 47-47-03961-CB; Scheduled to be sold on 2-20-08

1. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement indicated on line #1304 that \$40,000.00 was to be paid to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC. There are no escrow instructions, lender's instructions or other documentation authorizing the issuance of any escrow disbursement to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC, from loan and escrow In the package of documents faxed to the lender on 1-30-06 for final loan funding approval, the Certified Final HUD-1 faxed to the lender, Crevcor Mortgage, Inc., failed to show the provision for a \$40,000.00 disbursement to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC. Instead, line #1304 on that Certified HUD-1 shows a payment of \$60.00 to Title Accounting Services Corporation for a Release Tracking Fee. Certified copies of each of the HUD-1 settlement statements issued to the buyer and sellers show a provision for the \$40,000.00 disbursement to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC on line #1304. Both of those Certified HUD-1 settlement statements issued to the buyer and seller show the payment of \$60.00 to Accounting Services Corporation for a Release Tracking Fee on the next line, line #1305 of the escrow settlement statement. Contrary to the provisions of the HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement provided to Crevcor Mortgage, Inc. for loan and funding approval, Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus issued unauthorized disbursement check #47025558, dated 2-1-06 for \$40,000.00 to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC. Lamp Light Marketing, LLC is wholly owned by its only member April Lucero, the mortgage broker loan officer at Sterling Home Mortgage. April Lucero signed the Freddie Mac Form 1003

Loan Application as the loan applicant's interviewer. Neither April Lucero nor



Lamp Light Marketing, LLC, are parties to the escrow transaction. Neither were in any way authorized by the escrow parties or mortgage lender to receive any escrow or loan proceeds.

. The Certified Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement provided to the lender was not the same as either of the Final HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statements provided to the buyer and sellers. The escrow disbursements exhibited on the Certified Final HUD-1 escrow settlement statement issued to Crevcor Mortgage, Inc., the lender, are inconsistent with the Certified HUD-1 escrow settlement statements issued to the buyer and sellers

Inconsistencies regarding the selling price of the property were discovered during the review of the escrow file. The "Seller's Certification for Compliance with Real Estate Reporting Requirements - 1986 Tax Reform Act" form issued in lieu of IRS Form 1099'S, signed and certified by the sellers as a true and accurate account of the real estate transaction, stated the amount of the contract sales price was \$510,000.00. The Security Title Agency Inc., form "1099 Information for Escrow #47-03543-CB stated the Total Consideration was \$550,000.00. The total amount on the 1099's issued to the sellers was \$550,000.00. The Affidavit of Value notarized by Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus on 1-27-06 stated the sale price of the property to be \$540,000.00 and indicated that the property was "to be rented to someone other than family member." The loan application Freddie Mac Form 1003 stated the property to be the buyer's/borrower's primary residence. The Purchase Contract effective 11-15-05 states the purchase price to be \$540,000.00 as compared to the HUD-1 Sale Price of \$550,000.00.

4. The Purchase Contract dated 11-15-05 states that the Buyer is Marc Winfrey. Kevin D. Williams is not mentioned in the purchase contract. The Crevcor Mortgage, Inc. Freddie Mac Form 1003 loan application forms dated 1-27-06, for the 80% LTV \$440,000.00 and 20% LTV \$110,000.00 mortgage loans, the two deeds of trust, the title policy issuing instructions, the title insurance policies, the Affidavit of Value and the mortgage documents all state the buyer/borrower to be Kevin D. Williams.

On 2-13-2006, a Quit Claim Deed, dated 1-26-06, and notarized by Escrow

Officer Chris Bartlemus on 2-10-06, was recorded at the Maricopa county Recorder's Office just eighteen (18) days after the close of escrow, deeding all of the buyer's, Kevin D. Williams, interests in the property to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC, the company 100% owned by April Lucero, the mortgage loan officer employed by Sterling Home Mortgage, the licensed mortgage broker.

## 20. Buyer: Darwin Hunter /Seller: Ronald B. & Shannon M. Ducharme-Escrow #47-03778-CB

Open Date: 03-02-06 Close Date: 04-24-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$350,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-Out: \$70,000 to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC (April Lucero, Owner of Lamp Light

Marketing, LLC and Sterling Loan Officer)

Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed Sale held on 10/01/07

1. The original Purchase Price stated in the Purchase Contract dated 2-15-06 was \$350,000. The Purchase Contract was subsequently amended by undated Addendum #1 stating, "Seller will be paid \$280,000 gross, minus seller's traditional closing costs/commissions as related to payoff." Addendum #1 also stated, "Buyer reserves the right to borrow additional monies as related to this

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transaction." The \$350,000 escrow proceeds disbursed represent 120% of the \$280,000 amended purchase price of the property to be paid to the seller. The First Deed of Trust dated 4-19-06 secures the \$280,000 loan #906040239 by Concord Mortgage Company to Darwin Hunter, the buyer.

2. Line #1303 of the HUD-1 escrow settlement statement provides for \$70,000 of the seller's proceeds to be paid to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC, a company that is wholly owned by April Lucero, the mortgage broker loan officer of Sterling Home Mortgage, a mortgage broker. Through this transaction, the Buyer obtained the additional \$70,000 paid to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC, from loan #906040240 advanced by Concord Mortgage Company and secured by a Second Deed of Trust dated 4-19-06.

3. Contrary to the provisions of the HUD-1 escrow settlement statement line #1303, and in the absence of adequate written escrow instructions, Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus issued an unauthorized outgoing wire #00002473 in the amount of \$70,000 to Chase Bank for the benefit of D.L.A. Development LLC. D.L.A. Development, LLC is wholly owned by Amanda Adorno, its only member. Amanda Adorno is a mortgage loan officer of Sterling Home Mortgage, a licensed mortgage broker. Sterling Home Mortgage, the mortgage brokerage company, received mortgage related fees including \$500 loan origination fees, \$395 loan processing fees, and a \$700 yield spread premium paid by the mortgage lender, Concord Mortgage Company, paid outside the escrow closing.

4. The Affidavit of Value dated 4-20-06 states the value of the property to be \$350,000. Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus notarized two conflicting signatures of Darwin Hunter on the Affidavit of Value on 4-20-06 indicating that he was

both the Buyer/Agent and the Seller/Agent.

5. An Assignment of Deed of Trust dated 4-30-07, and recorded by the Maricopa County Recorder's Office, transferred all beneficial interest under the Deed of Trust dated April 19, 2006, from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary to U.S. Bank National Association as Trustee for CSMC ARMT 2006-3.

6. A Notice of Trustee Sale dated 4-30-07 was filed with the Maricopa County Recorder's Office by the Trustee/Successor Trustee on behalf of U.S. Bank National Association, the beneficiary of the two deeds of trust. The property is scheduled to be sold by public auction to the highest bidder on July 31, 2007, at the office of the Trustee/Successor Trustee.

# 21. Buyer: Deborah Bredenburg / Seller: Scott & Jodie Wilson Escrow #47-04527-CB

Open Date: 11-16-06 Close Date: 11-30-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$465,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

Cash-Out: \$31,033.62 to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC

Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed sale held on 11/12/07

1. The Addendum to Purchase Contract dated 10-3-06 changed the terms of the purchase agreement to read: "Property to be purchased at full market value \$465,000. Seller will be paid \$390,000 minus seller's payoffs and seller's closing cost. Seller will credit \$37,500 to Phoenix Development LLC and \$37,500 to QD Development LLC." An "Instructions to Escrow" document dated 11-18-06 instructs the escrow officer to disburse \$37,500 of the seller's proceeds to Phoenix Development Co. LLC and \$30,322.05 to QD Development LLC.

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HUD-1 Continuation Page 3 of the HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement states the amount paid to QD Development LLC was to be \$31,033.62, contrary to the amended terms of the purchase contract and the instructions to the escrow officer. The HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement provisions failed to conform to the terms of the Addendum to Purchase Contract dated 10-3-06 or the "Instructions to Escrow" document dated 11-18-06.

2. On 11-30-06, Outgoing Wire #2998 in the amount of \$31,033.62 was sent to Chase Bank crediting Lamplight Marketing LLC's checking account #XXXXX4971 as provided for by the HUD-1 Escrow Settlement Statement, but contrary to the Addendum to the Purchase Contract or the "Instructions to

Escrow" document signed by the seller.

3. An undated and unsigned "verbal" instructions memo, present in the escrow file, instructed the escrow officer to wire the escrow proceeds to Chase Bank and to credit checking account # XXXXX4971 in the name of Lamplight Marketing LLC, to benefit QD Development LLC. QD Development LLC is wholly owned by Quintin Graves, the company's only Manager and Member.

4. Quintin Graves is also a mortgage broker loan officer of Achievers Mortgage Co., the mortgage broker receiving loan origination and processing fees totaling \$1,400 through this escrow transaction. Quintin Graves is stated on the Form 1003 Loan Application as the loan officer and interviewer that obtained the buyer/borrower's application credit and other information from the buyer and the person who completed the Freddie Mac Form 1003 Loan Application form, dated

and signed by the buyer on 11-18-06.

5. Escrow Receipt #644222 dated 11-16-06, documented the \$2,000 Chase Bank N.A. official check earnest money deposit of the buyer, Deborah Bredenberg. The Receipts and Disbursements Ledger, created, maintained and under the sole control of Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus, indicated the Receipt #644222, \$2,000 posting date of 11-28-06, twelve days after the true receipt of funds by the Company. That Escrow Receipt was also shown as posted to the Company's official escrow accounting receipts and disbursement system ledger on 11-28-06. In an interview with Ms. Clara Seager, Accounting Department Supervisor, Ms. Seager stated that the Receipts and Disbursements Ledger created and maintained solely by the branch is created using a separate program and is not linked in any way to the official escrow accounting systems of the Company. No explanation or reason for the twelve (12) day delay in the posting of the earnest money deposit to the Company's escrow accounting system was available, other than the possibility that an un-inventoried "courtesy" receipt was provided to the depositor and the check presented for deposit by the buyer was held in the escrow file or was otherwise withheld from being deposited into the escrow trust bank depository account until the official posting date. Courtesy receipts often used by branches, although numbered, are not inventoried, controlled or otherwise accounted for by the Company and do not receive any of the follow-up impressed by the Corporate accounting system. Corporate receipts used by the Company are inventoried and controlled through the accounting software systems.

# 22. Buyer: Darwin Hunter / Seller: Bradford L. Drake—Escrow #47-03722-CB

Open Date: 01-31-06 Close Date: 04-10-06 HUD-1 Contract Sales Price: \$359,000.00

Escrow Officer: Chris Bartlemus

DT Recorded: 4-11-06. Quit Claim Deed Dated 4-11-06, Recorded 4-18-06: Hunter, a

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Married Man (Buyer) to DLA Development, LLC.

Property Parcel No.: Lot 30, Olive Acres.

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Cash-Out: \$50,900 to Lamp Light Marketing, LLC

Loan Status: Foreclosed; Trustee Deed Sale was on 9/14/2007

1. The 90% LTV, \$323,910 adjustable rate mortgage loan was funded 4-10-06 by Decision One Mortgage, Co. LLC. On 4-11-06, the day after the close of escrow, Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus dated and notarized a Quitclaim Deed for Darwin Hunter, the Buyer, quit-claiming Hunter's interest in the newly purchased and financed property to DLA Development, LLC. On 4-18-06, only eight days after the close of escrow, Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus recorded the Quitclaim Deed for Darwin Hunter, the Buyer/Borrower. DLA Development, LLC is wholly owned by Amanda Adorno, a mortgage broker loan officer of Sterling Home Mortgage, LLC. Loan officer and interviewer April Lucero, also of Sterling Home Mortgage, LLC, assisted Hunter, the buyer, in completion of the Freddie Mac Form 1003 Loan Application forms and signed the loan application dated 4-2-06. April Lucero is also the sole owner and member of Lamp Light Marketing LLC. Escrow proceeds totaling \$50,900 were disbursed to Lamp Light Marketing LLC, the loan officer's wholly owned company. The Quitclaim Deed by the Buyer, transferring the property to DLA Development, LLC, also appears to constitute a breach of paragraph #11 of the Adjustable Rate Note #XXXXXXXXXX54210 dated 4-6-06. Additionally, the Quit Claim Deed by the Buyer/Borrower, Hunter, dated 4-11-06 and recorded on 4-18-06, quit-claiming his interest in the newly purchased and financed property to DLA Development, LLC, appears to constitute a breach of Paragraph #18 of the Deed of Trust recorded 4-11-06, MERS MIN#XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX68759.

2. Conflicting escrow instructions to the escrow officer were exhibited in the escrow file, illustrated by: A separate document dated 2-21-06, and signed by the Seller, Drake, the Escrow Agent was instructed to, "Pay Lamp Light Marketing, LLC \$50,900,00."

The Escrow Agent subsequently received an incomplete invoice, dated 3-20-06, from D.L.A. Development LLC, for payment of an "Assignment/Declaration Fee" of \$50,900.00, to be paid from the escrow proceeds. The invoice was unsigned by any escrow party or by any representative of D.L.A. Development

LLC or any other person or entity.

3. On 4-18-06, only eight days after the close of escrow, Darwin Hunter (Buyer/Borrower) recorded a Quit Claim Deed dated and notarized on 4-11-2006, one day after the Close of Escrow, by Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus. By that Quit Claim Deed, the Buyer, Hunter, transferred his interest in his newly purchased and financed property to DLA Development, LLC, company wholly owned by the mortgage broker loan officer, Amanda Adorno.

4. An Affidavit of Property Value dated 3-23-06 was unsigned by the buyer and seller or their agents, but the form's blank signature lines were notarized by

escrow employee Jesse T. Reynolds on 3-23-06.

5. Respondent improperly disbursed \$1,335,190.39 (One million, three hundred thirty five thousand, one hundred ninety dollars and thirty nine cents) contrary to the provisions of HUD-1 escrow statements or written escrow instructions.

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#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. Pursuant to Title 6, Chapter 7, of the Arizona Revised Statutes, the Superintendent has the authority and duty to regulate all persons engaged in the escrow agent business and with the enforcement of statutes, rules, and regulations relating to escrow agents.
- 2. By the conduct set forth above, Mr. Bartlemus has violated statutes governing escrow agents as follows:
  - a. A.R.S. §§ 6-837(B) and 6-841(B) by failing to maintain adequate escrow file documentation; and
  - b. A.R.S. §§ 6-841, 6-834(A) and 6-841.01 by failing to properly account for escrow property by improper disbursement of escrow funds, specifically:
    - i. A.R.S. § 6-834(A) by failing to properly account for escrow property as required by the terms of the escrow;
    - ii. A.R.S. § 6-834(A) and A.R.S. § 6-841 by failure to disburse funds in accordance with the provisions of the HUD-1 escrow; and
    - iii. A.R.S. § 6-834(A) and A.R.S. § 6-841 by failing to follow written escrow instructions;
- 3. Mr. Bartlemus' conduct, as set forth above, constitutes acts, omissions, and practices which demonstrate personal dishonesty or unfitness to continue in office or to participate in the conduct of the affairs of any financial institution or enterprise and is grounds for removal and the prohibition of Mr. Bartlemus within the meaning of A.R.S. § 6-161(A)(1).
- 4. Mr. Bartlemus' violations of A.R.S. §§ 6-837(B) and 6-841(B) constitute grounds for the removal and prohibition of Mr. Bartlemus from participating in any manner in the conduct of the affairs of any financial institution or enterprise, pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-161(A)(6).
- 5. Mr. Bartlemus' violations of A.R.S. §§ 6-841, 6-834(A) and 6-841.01 constitute grounds for the removal and prohibition of Mr. Bartlemus from participating in any manner in the conduct of the affairs of any financial institution or enterprise, pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-161(A)(6).



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6. The violations, set forth above, constitute grounds for the Superintendent to order the removal and the prohibition of Mr. Bartlemus from further participation in any manner as a director, officer, employee, agent or other person in the conduct of the affairs of any financial institution or enterprise, pursuant to A.R.S. §6-161.

#### **ORDER**

- 1. Mr. Bartlemus shall be prohibited from further participation in any manner in the conduct of the affairs of any financial institution or enterprise, pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-161.
- 2. This Order shall become effective upon service, and shall remain effective and enforceable until such time as, and except to the extent that, it shall be stayed, modified, terminated, or set aside.

By: Pobert D. Cl

Assistant Superintendent of Financial Institutions

## CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

- 1. Respondent acknowledges that he has been served with a copy of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the above-referenced matter, has read the same, is aware of her right to an administrative hearing in this matter, and has waived the same.
- 2. Respondent admits the jurisdiction of the Superintendent and consents to the entry of the Foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.
- 3. Respondent states that no promise of any kind or nature has been made to induce him to consent to the entry of this Order, and that he has done so voluntarily.
- 4. Respondent agrees to refrain from seeking any future employment with any financial institution or enterprise.
- 5. Respondent acknowledges that the acceptance of this Agreement by the Superintendent is solely to settle this matter and does not preclude the Department, any other agency or officer of this

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1	state or subdivision thereof from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the
2	future.
3	6. Respondent waives all rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest
4	the validity of this Consent Order.
5	DATED this 9th day of JUNE, 2008.
6	
7	ByChris Bartlemus
8	Respondent
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12	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this 124 day of 2008, in the office of:
13	N /
14	Felecia A. Rotellini Superintendent of Financial Institutions
15	Arizona Department of Financial Institutions ATTN: Susan L. Longo
16	2910 N. 44th Street, Suite 310 Phoenix, AZ 85018
17	COPY mailed/delivered same date to:
18	Thomas Shedden
19	Administrative Law Judge Office of Administrative Hearings
20	1400 W. Washington, Suite 101 Phoenix, AZ 85007
21	Craig A. Raby
22	Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General
23	1275 W. Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007
24	Robert D. Charlton, Assistant Superintendent
25	Arizona Department of Financial Institutions 2910 N. 44th Street, Suite 310 Phoenix, AZ 85018

(h)

1	COPY MAILED SAME DATE by Regular Mail and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and
2	SERVED SAME DATE by Process Server, to:
3	Chris Bartlemus 1814 East Patrick Lane
4	Phoenix, AZ 85024 Respondent
5	Jonathan J. Goebel, Esq.
6	2141 E. Broadway Road, Suite 220 Tempe, AZ 85282-1705
7	Attorneys for Respondent
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#### ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Felecia A. Rotellini Superintendent of Financial Institutions Janet Napolitano Governor

#### **CERTIFIED MAIL**

June 12, 2008

Mr. Chris Bartlemus 1814 East Patrick Lane Phoenix, AZ 85024

Reference:

Docket # 08F-BD057-BNK / CHRIS BARTLEMUS

Dear Mr. Bartlemus:

Please find the enclosed executed <u>Consent Order</u>. This order is final. You may contact Craig Raby, Assistant Attorney General (602) 542-8889, with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Robert D. Charlton

Polito. Cht

Assistant Superintendent

RDC:sll

Enclosure

cc: Craig Raby, Assistant Attorney General