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# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Consumer Loan Act of Washington by:

ACE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC., and RICHARD M. HALL, President and Treasurer, and ROBERT L. GREGORY JR., Executive Vice-President and Secretary,

NO. C-09-222-10-FO02

AMENDED FINAL ORDER

Respondents.

## I. DIRECTOR'S CONSIDERATION

A. Procedural History. This matter has come before the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Director), through his designee, Consumer Services Division Director Deborah Bortner, pursuant to RCW 34.05.440(1). On October 19, 2009, the Director, through Consumer Services Division Director Deborah Bortner, entered a Statement of Charges and Notice of Intention to Enter an Order to Revoke License, Prohibit from Industry, Impose Fine, Collect Annual Assessment, Collect Late Penalty, and Collect Investigation Fees (Statement of Charges). A copy of the Statement of Charges is attached and incorporated into this order by this reference. The Statement of Charges was accompanied by a cover letter dated October 23, 2009, a Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, and blank Applications for Adjudicative Hearing for Respondents. The Department served the Statement of Charges, cover letter dated October 23, 2009, Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, and blank Applications for Adjudicative Hearing for Ace Mortgage Funding Inc, Richard M. Hall, and Robert L. Gregory on Respondents' registered agent on October 23, 2009, by First-Class mail and Federal

Express overnight delivery. On October 26, 2009, the documents sent via Federal Express overnight delivery were delivered to the Respondents' registered agent. The documents sent via First-Class mail were returned to the Department as undeliverable.

Respondent did not request an adjudicative hearing within twenty calendar days after the Department served them with the Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, as provided for in WAC 208-08-050(2).

On December 7, 2009, the Department entered a Final Order of default (No. C-09-222-09-FO01) against all of the Respondents. Since the entry of the Final Order additional information came to the Department's attention. The Department entered into Consent Orders on July 28, 2010, with Respondents Richard M. Hall (C-09-222-10-CO01) and Robert L. Gregory (C-09-222-10-CO02). As a result of the Consent Orders, the Department is amending the original Final Order to remove Respondents Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory.

- B. <u>Record Presented</u>. The record presented to the Director's designee for her review and for entry of a final decision included the Statement of Charges, cover letter dated October 23, 2009, Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, and blank Application for Adjudicative Hearing for Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding, LLC, with documentation of service;
- C. <u>Factual Findings and Grounds For Order</u>. Pursuant to RCW 34.05.440(1), the Director's designee hereby adopts the Statement of Charges, which is attached hereto, as it relates to Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding, LLC.

#### II. FINAL ORDER

Based upon the foregoing, and the Director's designee having considered the record and being otherwise fully advised, NOW, THEREFORE:

A. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, That:

- 1. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC's license to conduct the business of a Consumer Loan Company is revoked;
- 2. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed consumer loan company, in any manner; for a period of five (5) years;
- 3. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC pay a fine of \$30,000;
- 4. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC pay the delinquent Annual Assessment due since office closure in 2009, which totals \$1,500;
- 5. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC provide to the Director completed a Consolidated Annual Report and Annual Assessment Worksheet, including all required supporting documentation, for the year ending December 31, 2008, and since office closure in 2009;
- 6. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC pay a late penalty of \$18,000 for failing to timely file 2009 Consolidated Annual Reports and Annual Assessment Worksheets;
- 7. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC maintain records in compliance with the Act and provide the Director with the location of the books, records and other information relating to Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC's consumer loan company business, and the name, address and telephone number of the individual responsible for maintenance of such records in compliance with the Act.
- B. Reconsideration. Pursuant to RCW 34.05.470, Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC has the right to file a Petition for Reconsideration stating the specific grounds upon which relief is requested. The Petition must be filed in the Office of the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions by courier at 150 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, Washington 98501, or by U.S. Mail at P.O. Box 41200, Olympia, Washington 98504-1200, within ten (10) days of service of the Final Order upon Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC. The Petition for Reconsideration shall not stay the effectiveness of this order nor is a Petition for Reconsideration a prerequisite for seeking judicial review in this matter.

A timely Petition for Reconsideration is deemed denied if, within twenty (20) days from the date the petition is filed, the agency does not (a) dispose of the petition or (b) serve the parties with a written notice specifying the date by which it will act on a petition.

- C. <u>Stay of Order</u>. The Director's designee has determined not to consider a Petition to Stay the effectiveness of this order. Any such requests should be made in connection with a Petition for Judicial Review made under chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 34.05.550.
- D. <u>Judicial Review</u>. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC has the right to petition the superior court for judicial review of this agency action under the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. For the requirements for filing a Petition for Judicial Review, see RCW 34.05.510 and sections following.
- E. <u>Non-compliance with Order</u>. If you do not comply with the terms of this order, the Department may seek its enforcement by the Office of Attorney General to include the collection of the fines, fees, and penalties imposed herein.
- F. <u>Service.</u> For purposes of filing a Petition for Reconsideration or a Petition for Judicial Review, service is effective upon deposit of this order in the U.S. mail, declaration of service attached hereto.

DATED this

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

DEBORAH BORTNER

**DIRECTOR** 

DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES



### STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Consumer Loan Act of Washington by:

ACE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC., and RICHARD M. HALL, President and Treasurer, and ROBERT L. GREGORY JR., Executive Vice-President and Secretary,

FINAL ORDER

NO. C-09-222-09-FO01

Respondents.

## I. DIRECTOR'S CONSIDERATION

A. Procedural History. This matter has come before the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Director), through his designee, Consumer Services Division Director Deborah Bortner, pursuant to RCW 34.05.440(1). On October 19, 2009, the Director, through Consumer Services Division Director Deborah Bortner, entered a Statement of Charges and Notice of Intention to Enter an Order to Revoke License, Prohibit from Industry, Impose Fine, Collect Annual Assessment, Collect Late Penalty, and Collect Investigation Fees (Statement of Charges). A copy of the Statement of Charges is attached and incorporated into this order by this reference. The Statement of Charges was accompanied by a cover letter dated October 23, 2009, a Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, and blank Applications for Adjudicative Hearing for Respondents. The Department served the Statement of Charges, cover letter dated October 23, 2009, Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, and blank Applications for Adjudicative Hearing for Ace Mortgage Funding Inc, Richard Hall, and Robert Gregory on Respondents' registered agent on October 23, 2009, by First-Class mail and Federal

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Express overnight delivery. On October 26, 2009, the documents sent via Federal Express overnight delivery were delivered to the Respondents' registered agent. The documents sent via First-Class mail were returned to the Department as undeliverable.

Respondents did not request an adjudicative hearing within twenty calendar days after the Department served them with the Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, as provided for in WAC 208-08-050(2).

- B. <u>Record Presented</u>. The record presented to the Director's designee for her review and for entry of a final decision included the Statement of Charges, cover letter dated October 23, 2009, Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, and blank Applications for Adjudicative Hearing for Respondents, with documentation of service;
- C. <u>Factual Findings and Grounds For Order</u>. Pursuant to RCW 34.05.440(1), the Director's designee hereby adopts the Statement of Charges, which is attached hereto.

#### II. FINAL ORDER

Based upon the foregoing, and the Director's designee having considered the record and being otherwise fully advised, NOW, THEREFORE:

## A. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, That:

- 1. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC's license to conduct the business of a Consumer Loan Company is revoked;
- 2. Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed consumer loan company, in any manner, for a period of five (5) years;
- 3. Respondent Richard M. Hall be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed consumer loan company, in any manner, for a period of five (5) years;
- 4. Respondent Robert L. Gregory Jr. be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed consumer loan company, in any manner, for a period of five (5) years;

- 5. Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., jointly and severally pay a fine of \$30,000;
- 6. Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., jointly and severally pay the delinquent Annual Assessment due since office closure in 2009, which totals \$1,500;
- 7. Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., provide to the Director completed a Consolidated Annual Report and Annual Assessment Worksheet, including all required supporting documentation, for the year ending December 31, 2008, and since office closure in 2009;
- 8. Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., jointly and severally pay a late penalty of \$18,000 for failing to timely file 2009 Consolidated Annual Reports and Annual Assessment Worksheets;
- 9. Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., jointly and severally pay an investigation fee of \$1,656.24; and
- 10. Respondents maintain records in compliance with the Act and provide the Director with the location of the books, records and other information relating to Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC's consumer loan company business, and the name, address and telephone number of the individual responsible for maintenance of such records in compliance with the Act.
- B. Reconsideration. Pursuant to RCW 34.05.470, Respondents have the right to file a Petition for Reconsideration stating the specific grounds upon which relief is requested. The Petition must be filed in the Office of the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions by courier at 150 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, Washington 98501, or by U.S. Mail at P.O. Box 41200, Olympia, Washington 98504-1200, within ten (10) days of service of the Final Order upon Respondents. The Petition for Reconsideration shall not stay the effectiveness of this order nor is a Petition for Reconsideration a prerequisite for seeking judicial review in this matter.

A timely Petition for Reconsideration is deemed denied if, within twenty (20) days from the date the petition is filed, the agency does not (a) dispose of the petition or (b) serve the parties with a written notice specifying the date by which it will act on a petition.

C.	Stay of Order.	The Director's designee has determined not to consider a Petition
to Stay the e	effectiveness of this order	r. Any such requests should be made in connection with a Petition
for Judicial 1	Review made under chap	oter 34.05 RCW and RCW 34.05.550.

- D. <u>Judicial Review</u>. Respondents have the right to petition the superior court for judicial review of this agency action under the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. For the requirements for filing a Petition for Judicial Review, see RCW 34.05.510 and sections following.
- E. <u>Non-compliance with Order</u>. If you do not comply with the terms of this order, the Department may seek its enforcement by the Office of Attorney General to include the collection of the fines, fees and restitution imposed herein.
- F. <u>Service.</u> For purposes of filing a Petition for Reconsideration or a Petition for Judicial Review, service is effective upon deposit of this order in the U.S. mail, declaration of service attached hereto.

DATED this \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_ecenter\_, 2009

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

DEBORAH BORTNER

DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES

## STATE OF WASHINGTON 1 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS 2 **CONSUMER SERVICES DIVISION** 3 IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING NO. C-09-222-09-SC01 Whether there has been a violation of the Consumer Loan Act of Washington by:

ACE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC., and RICHARD M. HALL, President and Treasurer, and ROBERT L. GREGORY JR., Executive Vice-President and Secretary.

Respondents.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES and NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER AN ORDER TO REVOKE LICENSE, PROHIBIT FROM INDUSTRY, IMPOSE FINE, COLLECT ANNUAL ASSESSMENT, COLLECT LATE PENALTY, AND COLLECT INVESTIGATION FEES

#### INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to RCW 31.04.093 and RCW 31.04.165, the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Director) is responsible for the administration of chapter 31.04 RCW, the Consumer Loan Act (Act)<sup>1</sup>. After having conducted an investigation pursuant to RCW 31.04.145, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Statement of Charges, the Director, through his designee, Division of Consumer Services Director Deborah Bortner, institutes this proceeding and finds as follows:

#### I. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

#### 1.1 Respondents.

- Ace Mortgage Funding LLC (Respondent Ace) was licensed by the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Department) to conduct business as a consumer loan company on September 22, 2005, and has continued to be licensed to date.
  - В. Richard M. Hall (Respondent Hall) is the President and Treasurer of Respondent Ace.
- Robert L. Gregory Jr. (Respondent Gregory) is the Executive Vice-President and Secretary of C. Respondent Ace.

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 31.04 (2001)

STATEMENT OF CHARGES C-09-222-09-SC01 ACE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC, RICHARD M. HALL AND ROBERT L. GREGORY JR.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Division of Consumer Services 150 Israel Rd SW PO Box 41200

Olympia, WA 98504-1200 (360) 902-8795

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1.2	Licensed Location: Respondent Ace is licensed to conduct the business of a co	onsumer loan company
at its	s main office located at 7820 Innovation Blvd Ste 300 Indianapolis, Indiana 46278.	Respondent Ace has 15
licens	nsed branch locations throughout the United States.	

- 1.3 Failure to Maintain Bond. On June 12, 2009, the Department received notice from Great American Insurance Company (Great American) that Respondents' surety bond would be cancelled, effective July 26, 2009. To date, Respondents have not provided the Department the required surety bond or an approved alternative.
- Respondents were required to submit their annual 2008 Consolidated Annual Report and worksheet, and pay any resulting annual assessment fee to the Department on or before the first day of March 2009. To date, Respondents have not provided the annual report relating to calendar year 2008. The Department filed a claim against Respondents' bond in the amount of the 2008 assessments due (\$14,251.60) and a late fee (\$14,600), totaling \$28,851.60, which was paid by Respondents' surety on October 2, 2009.
- 1.5 Failure to Submit Consolidated Annual Report and Worksheet and Pay Annual Assessment Fee Upon Closure. When a licensee ceases business, an annual report and assessment are due to the Department, within 30 days of closure concerning the business and operations conducted during the current calendar year. The annual report must be made under oath and must be in the form prescribed by the Director. To date, Respondents have not provided the annual report relating to the 2009 calendar year, due within 30 days of closure. As a result a \$100 late penalty has accrued (and continues to accrue) from the due date of the 2008 and 2009 reports.
- 1.6 Failure to Report Significant Developments to the Department. Respondents did not notify the Department it ceased operations in the State of Washington. In addition, the Respondents did not notify the Department that on November 5, 2008, they filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Delaware.

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1.7 Consumer Complaint 28003. On September 2, 2008, the Department received a consumer complaint alleging Respondent Ace had taken a loan application and conducted a credit check without the consumer's authority. Ultimately, the loan was denied and a Denial of Credit letter was sent to the consumer. On September 15, 2008, the Department issued a directive to Respondent Ace requesting the entire loan file and an explanation surrounding the complaint. On October 1, 2008, Respondent Ace responded to the directive by providing documents and an explanation, however, the documents failed to contain the Denial of Credit letter. On March 10, 2009, the Department sent another directive to Respondent Ace requesting a copy of the Denial of Credit letter, which was to be provided by March 25, 2009. Respondent Ace did not respond to the March directive. On April 29, 2009, the Department sent another directive to Respondent Ace requesting a copy of the Denial of Credit letter, which was to be provided by May 14, 2009. Respondent Ace did not respond to the April directive.

1.8 Failure to Comply with Directive and Investigative Authority. On July 16, 2009, the Department sent Respondents emails stating they needed to provide the Department with a replacement bond, reinstatement notice, or company closure/surrender forms by July 26, 2009. The Respondents did not respond to the email.

On February 10, 2009, the Department sent an email to the Respondents requesting they file the proper closure forms to surrender their license. In the email, the Department provided a link to which the Respondents could obtain the necessary closure forms. The Respondents did not respond to the email.

1.9 On-Going Investigation: The Department's investigation into the alleged violations of the Act by Respondents continues to date.

#### II. GROUNDS FOR ENTRY OF ORDER

- 2.1 Requirement to Maintain Surety Bond: Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 31.04.045(3) and WAC 208-620-320 for failing to file and maintain a surety bond or approved alternative with the Director.
- **2.2** Requirement to File Annual Report: Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 31.04.155 and WAC 208-620-430 for failing to provide an

Division of Consumer Services

Olympia, WA 98504-1200

150 Israel Rd SW

PO Box 41200

(360) 902-8795

C-09-222-09-SC01

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ACE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC, RICHARD M.

HALL AND ROBERT L. GREGORY JR.

#### III. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SANCTION

- 3.1 Authority to Revoke License: Pursuant to RCW 31.04.093(3)(a) and (b), the Director may revoke a license if a licensee fails to pay any fee due the state of Washington, fails to maintain in effect the required bond or permitted substitute, or fails to comply with any specific order or demand of the Director, or violates any provision of the Act or any rule adopted under the Act.
- 3.2 Authority to Prohibit from the Industry: Pursuant to RCW 31.04.093(6)(d) and (e), the Director may issue an order removing from office or prohibiting from participation in the affairs of any licensee, or both, any officer, principal, employee, or loan originator, or any person subject to the Act, for failure to comply with any order or subpoena issued under the Act, or for a violation of RCW 31.04.027.
- 3.3 Authority to Impose Fine: Pursuant to RCW 31.04.093(4), the Director may impose fines of up to one hundred dollars per day upon the licensee for any violation of the Act or failure to comply with any order or subpoena issued by the Director under the Act.
- 3.4 Authority to Collect Annual Assessments. Pursuant to WAC 208-620-430 every licensee is required to pay a fee based upon the amount of business conducted during the prior calendar year.
- Authority to Impose Late Penalties: Pursuant to RCW 31.04.155 and WAC 208-620-430, a licensee that fails to file a report required to be filed by the Act within the time required is subject to a penalty of fifty dollars per day, per report, for each day's delay.
- 3.6 Authority to Charge Investigation Fees: Pursuant to RCW 31.04.145(3) and WAC 208-620-590, every licensee investigated by the Department shall pay for the cost of the examination or investigation, calculated at the rate of \$69.01 per staff hour.
- 3.7 Authority to Issue Orders Directing Action: Pursuant to RCW 31.04.093(5)(b), the Director may issue an order directing a licensee to take such affirmative action as is necessary to comply with the Act.

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STATEMENT OF CHARGES C-09-222-09-SC01 ACE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC, RICHARD M. HALL AND ROBERT L. GREGORY JR.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Division of Consumer Services 150 Israel Rd SW

(360) 902-8795

PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200

#### IV. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER ORDER

Respondents' violations of the provis	ions of chapter 31.04 RCW and chapter 208-620 WAC, as set forth		
the above Factual Allegations and Grounds for Entry of Order, constitute a basis for the entry of an Order under			
RCW 31.04.093, RCW 31.04.165 and RCW 31.04.205. Therefore, it is the Director's intention to ORDER that:			
4.1 Respondent Ace Mortgage Fundi	ng LLC's license to conduct the business of a Consumer Loan		

- Company be revoked;
- 4.2 Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed consumer loan company, in any manner, for a period of five (5) years;
- 4.3 Respondent Richard M. Hall be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed consumer loan company, in any manner, for a period of five (5) years;
- 4.4 Respondent Robert L. Gregory Jr. be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed consumer loan company, in any manner, for a period of five (5) years;
- 4.5 Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., jointly and severally pay a fine, which as of the date of these charges totals \$30,000;
- Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., jointly and 4.6 severally pay the delinquent Annual Assessment due since office closure in 2009, which totals \$1,500;
- 4.7 Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., provide to the Director completed a Consolidated Annual Report and Annual Assessment Worksheet, including all required supporting documentation, for the year ending December 31, 2008, and since office closure in 2009;
- 4.8 Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., jointly and severally pay a late penalty which as of the date of this document totals \$18,000, calculated at \$50 per day per report, which continues to accrue daily, for failing to timely file 2009 Consolidated Annual Reports and Annual Assessment Worksheets;
- 4.9 Respondents Ace Mortgage Funding LLC, Richard M. Hall and Robert L. Gregory Jr., jointly and severally pay an investigation fee, which as of the date of these charges totals \$1,656.24, calculated at \$69.01 per hour for 24 staff hours devoted to the investigation; and
- 4.10 Respondents maintain records in compliance with the Act and provide the Director with the location of the books, records and other information relating to Respondent Ace Mortgage Funding LLC's consumer loan company business, and the name, address and telephone number of the individual responsible for maintenance of such records in compliance with the Act.

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STATEMENT OF CHARGES C-09-222-09-SC01 ACE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC, RICHARD M. HALL AND ROBERT L. GREGORY JR.

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Division of Consumer Services 150 Israel Rd SW PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200 (360) 902-8795

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#### V. AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

This Statement of Charges and Notice of Intention to Enter an Order to Revoke License, Prohibit from Industry, Impose Fine, Collect Annual Assessment, Collect Late Penalty, and Collect Investigation Fees is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 31.04.093, RCW 31.04.165, RCW 31.04.202 and RCW 31.04.205, and is subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW (The Administrative Procedure Act). Respondents may make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING accompanying this Statement of Charges.

> Director and Enforcement Chief Division of Consumer Services

Department of Financial Institutions

Dated this day of October, 2009.

Presented by:

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Financial Legal Examiner

16 Approved by:

MES R. BRUSSELBACK

Enforcement Chief