# Terms Completed

# **ORDER SUMMARY – Case Number: C-10-103**

Name(s):	Hunter Financial Group LLC			
	Peter Sokolovic			
Order Number:	C-10-103-10-FO			
Effective Date:	February 4, 2011			
License Number: Or NMLS Identifier [U/L]	DFI: 26574 [NMLS: 3100] DFI: 26983 [NMLS: 58411]  (Revoked, suspended, stayed, application denied or withdrawn) If applicable, you must specifically note the ending dates of terms.			
License Effect:	n/a			
Not Apply Until:	n/a			
Not Eligible Until:				
Prohibition/Ban Until:	n/a			
<b>Investigation Costs</b>	\$48	Due	Paid ⊠ Y □ N	Date
Fine	\$2,500	Due	Paid ⊠ Y □ N	Date
Assessment(s)	\$	Due	Paid Y N	Date
Restitution	\$	Due	Paid N	Date
Judgment	\$	Due	Paid N	Date
Satisfaction of Judgment Filed? [ No. of		□ Y □ N		
Victims:				
Comments:				



#### DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

#### BRIEF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING

IN THE MATTER OF INVESTIGATING Whether there has been a violation of the Washington Mortgage Broker Practices Act (Ch. 19.146 RCW) by:

HUNTER FINANCIAL GROUP LLC; PETER SOKOLOVIC, DESIGNATED BROKER,

Respondents.

No. C-10-103-10-FO

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

THIS MATTER having come before Scott Jarvis, Director ("Director") of the Department of Financial Institutions ("Department"), after the Initial Decision and Order ("Initial Order") in the above-referenced Brief Adjudicative Proceeding ("BAP") for the Division of Consumer Services ("Division"), in relation to a Statement of Charges and Notice of Intention to Enter an Order to Impose Fine and Collect Investigation Fee ("Statement of Charges") under the Washington Mortgage Broker Practices Act, Chapter 19.146 RCW ("Act"), against Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic, Designated Broker, Respondents ("Respondents"); and more than twenty (20) days having elapsed since service of the Initial Order without Respondent having filed a Petition for Review with the Director, and the time for Petition for Review under WAC 10-08-211 having now expired; and there appearing from the record to be good and sufficient cause for entry of a final decision and order consistent with the Initial Order;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. The Director affirms and incorporates herein by this reference the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in the Initial Order.
- 2. Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Director, as the Final Decision and Order of the Department, AFFIRMS the Initial Decision and Order in this matter, as follows:

a. Respondents, Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic, shall, jointly and

severally, pay a fine of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) as and for

untimely filing of the 2009 Mortgage Broker Annual Report; and

b. Respondents, Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic, shall, jointly and

severally, pay in addition an investigative fee of Forty Eight Dollars (\$48).

<u>RECONSIDERATION</u>. 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, Turnwater, 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.

4. STAY OF ORDER. The Director 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.

5. JUDICIAL REVIEW. 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

information regarding the requirements for filing a Petition for Judicial Review, see the

Notice to Parties following the Director's signature below.]

Brief Adjudicative Proceeding
Final Decision and Order
In re: Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic
No. C-10-103-10-FO

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- 6. <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.
- 7. <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 4th day of February, 2011, at Tumwater, Washington.

SCOTT JARVIS, Director

Washington State Department of Financial Institutions

#### NOTICE TO THE PARTIES

Judicial Review of this Final Decision & Order is available to a party according to the provisions set out in Part V of the Washington Administrative Procedures Act, RCW 34.05.510 through RCW 34.05.598, inclusive. Judicial Review may be made by filing a Petition for Judicial Review (RCW 34.05.6570) within thirty (30) days of the date of the Final Decision and Order, as permitted under RCW 34.05.542(2). The contents of the Petition for Review shall be according to the requirements of RCW 34.05.546.

This is to certify that the above FINAL DECISION AND ORDER has been served upon the following parties on <u>full party</u>, by depositing a copy of same in the United States mail, postage prepaid.

SUSAN PUTZIÉR

#### Mailed to the following:

Peter Sokolovic Hunter Financial Group LLC 1711 W. Greentree Dr., Suite 111 Tempe, AZ 85284

Jackie Mohr, General Counsel Hunter Financial Group LLC 1711 W. Greentree Dr., Suite 111 Tempe, AZ 85284

Brief Adjudicative Proceeding
Final Decision and Order
In re: Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic
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James R. Brusselback, Enforcement Chief Division of Consumer Services PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200

#### State of Washington

# DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES

#### BRIEF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING

IN THE MATTER OF INVESTIGATING
Whether has been a violation of the Washington
Mortgage Broker Practices Act (Ch. 19.146 RCW)
by:

DCS - BAP - C-10-103-10-IO

HUNTER FINANCIAL GROUP LLC; PETER SOKOLOVIC, DESIGNATED BROKER, INITIAL DECISION AND ORDER

Respondents.

THIS MATTER having come before Joseph M. Vincent, General Counsel for the Department of Financial Institutions ("Department"), sitting in his capacity as Presiding Officer ("Presiding Officer") for Brief Adjudicative Proceedings ("BAP") for the Division of Consumer Services ("Division"), in relation to a State of Charges and Notice of Intention to Enter an Order to Impose Fine and Collect Investigation Fee ("Statement of Charges") under the Washington Mortgage Broker Practices Act, Chapter 19.146 RCW ("Act"), against Hunter Financial Group LLC and the Designated Broker, Peter Sokolovic, the Respondents ("Respondents");

NOW THEREFORE, the Presiding Officer issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Initial Decision and Order:

#### 1.0 RECORD

The Presiding Officer has considered the following material documents, which comprise the relevant record in this matter ("Record"):

- 1.1 Statement of Charges, dated April 22, 2010;
- 1.2 Request for Brief Adjudicative Proceeding ("BAP"), received by the Division on April 26, 2010;
- 1.3 Letter from James Brusselback, Enforcement Chief of the Division, dated April 27, 2010, acknowledging Request for Brief Adjudicative Proceeding, and directing assignment to BAP Hearing Officer;

- 1.4 Notice of Assignment and Time to File Additional Materials, from the BAP Hearing Officer, dated April 30, 2010;
- 1.5 2009 Mortgage Broker Annual Report dated April 23, 2010;
- 1.6 Department's Resolution and Closure of Complaint dated September 9, 2009, evidencing prior failure to file or untimely filing of 2008 Mortgage Broker Annual Report;
- 1.7 Additional materials (if any) of record that Respondents filed (or may have filed) in response to Notice of Assignment and Time to File Additional Materials; and
- 1.8 Memorandum from the Division dated June 7, 2010, in response to Notice of Assignment and Time to File Additional Materials, or other request of the Presiding Officer.

#### 2.0 FINDINGS OF FACT

Based upon the Record, the following facts are undisputed as between the Division and the Respondents:

- 2.1 Respondents was required to file a Mortgage Broker Annual Report ("MBAR") of mortgage activity with the Division on or before March 31<sup>st</sup> of every year following any year in which it held a mortgage broker license.
- 2.2 The 2009 MBAR was due to the Division by March 31, 2010, but the Division did not receive it timely. The 2009 MBAR was not received until April 26, 2010.
- 2.3 The Department did not issue its Statement of Charges until April 22, 2010.
- 2.4 Respondents were on notice of the importance and legal requirement of timely filing of an MBAR on or before March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year for as long as Respondents remain a licensee and designated broker, respectively.
- 2.5 The MBAR is a tool for measuring the activity of Mortgage Broker Licensees so that the Division may allocate its scarce resources in determining such matters as which Mortgage Broker Licensees ought to be examined. It is not an "annual report" in the manner, for example, of renewing one's corporation license with the Secretary of State. Because of the MBAR's purpose, it is essential that it be filed and filed timely. Every licensee is on notice of this distinction by statute and by rule.

- 2.6 The record indicates that this is the second consecutive year in which Respondents failed to timely file an MBAR.
- 2.7 Based upon the untimely filed 2009 MBAR, the Respondents generated loan volume in Washington State in calendar 2009 in the amount of \$40,984,741.
- 2.8 The Presiding Officer finds that under the circumstances, a fine of \$2,500 is reasonable and appropriate in relation to the nature of the violation by Respondents, taking into consideration the amount of loan volume of the Respondents in Washington State for the calendar year 2009 (assuming the accuracy of the 2009 MBAR).
- 2.9 One staff hour was devoted to this investigation.

#### 3.0 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact above, the Presiding Officer must conclude, as follows:

- 3.1 In its failure to timely file the 2008 MBAR, Respondents violated RCW 19.146.290(1) and WAC 208-660-400(1), (2), (3) and (4).
- 3.2 Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(2)(e), the Department may impose fines on a Mortgage Broker Licensee for any violation of the Act.
- 3.3 A fine of \$2,500 is permitted under the Act.
- 3.4 Pursuant to RCW 19.146.228(2), WAC 208-660-520 and WAC 208-660-550(4), upon completion of any investigation of the books and records of a licensee, the Department will furnish to the licensee a billing to cover the cost of investigation.
- 3.5 The investigative charge will be calculated at the rate of \$48 per hour for each staff person of the Department devoted to the investigation.

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### 4.0 INITIAL DECISION AND ORDER

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 4.1 Respondents, Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic, pay a fine of \$2,500 as and for untimely filing of the 2009 MBAR; and
- 4.2 Respondents, Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic, pay in addition an investigative fee of \$48.00.

Dated and mailed on January 5, 2011, at Tumwater, Washington.

Joseph M. Wincent, Presiding Officer

Brief Adjudicative Proceedings Division of Consumer Services

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

P.O. Box 41200

Olympia, Washington 98504-1200

Phone: (360) 902-0516 E-Fax: (360) 704-7036

#### FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS

Under the Washington Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 34.05 RCW, and WAC 10-08-211, any party to an adjudicative proceeding may file a *Petition for Review* of this Initial Decision and Order. Any *Petition for Review* shall be filed with the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions within twenty (20) days of service of the Initial Decision and Order. The deadline to file a Petition for Review is January 25, 2011.

## Address for filing the Petition for Review:

Scott Jarvis, Director
Washington State Department of Financial Institutions
P.O. Box 41200
Olympia, Washington 98504-1200

A copy of any such *Petition for Review* must also be served upon the Division of Consumer Services, Washington State Department of Financial Institutions, P.O. Box 41200, Olympia, Washington 98504-1200, at the time the *Petition for Review* is filed with the Director.

A *Petition for Review* shall specify the portions of the *Initial Decision and Order* to which exception is taken and shall refer to the evidence of record which is relied upon to support the *Petition for Review*. Any party may file a reply to a *Petition for Review*. Replies must be filed with the Director within ten (10) days of the date of the service of the *Petition for Review*, and copies of the reply must be served upon all other parties or their representatives at the time the reply is filed with the Director.

At the time for filing a *Petition for Review* has elapsed, the Director of the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions will issue a *Final Decision and Order* in this matter. In accordance with RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 10-08-215, any *Petition for Reconsideration* of such *Final Decision and Order* must be filed with the Director within ten (10) days of the service of the *Final Decision and Order*. NOTE: *Petitions for Reconsideration* do <u>not</u> stay the effectiveness of the *Final Decision and Order*.

Judicial Review of the Final Decision and Order is available to a party according to the provisions set out in the Washington Administrative Procedures Act, at RCW 34.05.570.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Susan Putzier, certify that I personally delivered or mailed a copy of the Initial Decision and Order to parties named below at their respective addresses, postage pre-paid, on the date stated hereinabove.

# Mailed to the following:

Peter Sokolovic Hunter Financial Group LLC 1711 W. Greentree Dr., Suite 111 Tempe, AZ 85284

Jackie Mohr, General Counsel Hunter Financial Group LLC 1711 W. Greentree Dr., Suite 111 Tempe, AZ 85284

James R. Brusselback Enforcement Chief Division of Consumer Services PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200

### STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES**

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Mortgage Broker Practices Act of Washington by:

**HUNTER FINANCIAL GROUP LLC;** PETER SOKOLOVIC, DESIGNATED BROKER,

NO. C-10-103-10-SC01

STATEMENT OF CHARGES and NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER AN ORDER TO IMPOSE FINE AND COLLECT **INVESTIGATION FEE** 

Respondents.

#### INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220 and RCW 19.146.223, the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Director) is responsible for the administration of chapter 19.146 RCW, the Mortgage Broker Practices Act (Act). After having conducted an investigation pursuant to RCW 19.146.235, and based upon the facts available as 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.** Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic, Designated Broker (Respondents) were licensed by the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Department) to conduct business as a mortgage broker at all times relevant to the conduct alleged. At all times relevant to the Statement of Charges, Peter Sokolovic was the Designated Broker for the company.
- 1.2 Failure to File Mortgage Broker Annual Report. By March 31, 2010, Respondents were required to file an annual report of mortgage broker activity to include the total number of closed loans originated and the total volume of closed loans originated. As of the date of this Statement of Charges Respondents have not filed the 2009 mortgage broker annual report.
- 1.3 On-Going Investigation. The Department's investigation into the alleged violations of the Act by Respondents continues to date.

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STATEMENT OF CHARGES HUNTER FINANCIAL GROUP LLC; PETER SOKOLOVIC C-10-103-10-SC01

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Division of Consumer Services 150 Israel Rd SW PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200 (360) 902-8703

#### II. GROUNDS FOR ENTRY OF ORDER

2.1 Requirement to File Mortgage Broker Annual Report. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.290(1), WAC 208-660-250(7) and WAC 208-660-400(1), (2), (3), and (4) for failing to file the mortgage broker annual report.

#### III. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS

- 3.1 Authority to Impose Fine. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(2)(e) the Director may impose fines on a licensee or other person subject to the Act for any violations of the Act.
- 3.2 Authority to Collect Investigation Fee. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.228(2), WAC 208-660-520, and WAC 208-660-550(4), upon completion of any investigation of the books and records of a licensee or other person subject to the Act, the Department will furnish to the licensee or other person subject to the Act a billing to cover the cost of the investigation. The investigation charge will be calculated at the rate of \$48 per hour that each staff person devoted to the investigation.

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

Respondents' violations of the provisions of chapter 19.146 RCW and chapter 208-660 WAC, as set forth in the above Factual Allegations, Grounds for Entry of Order, and Authority to Impose Sanctions, constitute a basis for the entry of an Order under RCW 19.146.220, RCW 19.146.221 and RCW 19.146.223. Therefore, it is the Director's intention to ORDER that:

- 4.1 Respondents Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic jointly and severally pay a fine of \$100 per day for every day starting April 1, 2010, until the 2009 Mortgage Broker Annual Report is filed; and
- 4.2 Respondents Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic jointly and severally pay an investigation fee, which as of the date of these charges is \$48 calculated at \$48 per hour for one staff hour devoted to the investigation; and
- **4.3** Respondents Hunter Financial Group LLC and Peter Sokolovic file the 2009 annual report of mortgage broker activity.

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#### V. AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

This Statement of Charges and Notice of Intention to Enter an Order to Impose Fine and Collect Investigation Fee (Statement of Charges) is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 19.146.220, RCW 19.146.223 and RCW 19.146.230, and is subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW (The Administrative Procedure Act). Respondents may make a written request for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING accompanying this Statement of Charges.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2010.



DEBORAH BÖRTNER

Director

Division of Consumer Services Department of Financial Institutions

Presented by:

FATIMA BATIE

Approved by:

Financial Legal Examiner Supervisor

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JAMES R. BRUSSELBACK Enforcement Chief

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#### STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES

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by:

**BROKER** 

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No. C-10-103-10-SC01

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO:

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING

Whether there has been a violation of the

HUNTER FINANCIAL GROUP LLC;

PETER SOKOLOVIC, DESIGNATED

Mortgage Broker Practices Act of Washington

Hunter Financial Group LLC Peter Sokolovic, Designated Broker

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a STATEMENT OF CHARGES has been issued by the Department of Financial Institutions, a true and correct copy of which is attached and made a part hereof.

Respondents.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you may file a Request for Brief Adjudicative Proceeding before the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions on the Statement of Charges. Service of this notice is deemed complete upon deposit in the United States mail. YOUR REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU RECEIVED THIS NOTICE. If you request a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding, you will be notified of the schedule and oral argument, if any, at least seven (7) days in advance.

The Brief Adjudicative Proceeding will be as informal as is practical within the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (see chapter 34.05 RCW). If you are limited English- speaking or hearing impaired, you have the right to have an interpreter appointed at no cost to you, as discussed below.

INTERPRETER AVAILABILITY. If you are a person who, because of non-English-speaking cultural background, cannot readily speak or understand the English language, or if you are a person who, because of a hearing impairment or speech defect, cannot readily understand or communicate in spoken language, including persons who are deaf, deaf and blind, or hard of hearing, AND YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER, then a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to you. You may request the appointment of a qualified interpreter by indicating your request on the attached Request for Brief Adjudicative Proceeding form.

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YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if the Department of Financial Institutions does not <u>RECEIVE</u> the Request for Brief Adjudicative Proceeding form within twenty (20) days from the date you received this notice, this will constitute a waiver of your right to a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding and the Director will find that you do not contest the allegations of the Statement of Charges. Upon such a finding by the Director a final order will be immediately entered disposing of this matter as described in the Statement of Charges. If you desire a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding in this matter, please return the attached Request for Brief Adjudicative Proceeding to:

Department of Financial Institutions Division of Consumer Services Attn: Fatima Batie PO Box 41200 Olympia, Washington 98504-1200

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2010.



Debrah Bohnen

**DEBORAH BORTNER** 

Director

Division of Consumer Services
Department of Financial Institutions