	Case 8:12-cv-00337-CJC-JPR Document 3	30 Filed 03/07/12 Page 1 of 29 Page ID #:8		
1 2 3 4 5 6		S DISTRICT COURT ICT OF CALIFORNIA		
7 8	<b>Federal Trade Commission</b> ,			
9	) Plaintiff,	Case No.: SACV 12-00337-CJC(JPR)		
0	v. )	EX PARTE TEMPORARY		
1	Sameer Lakhany, an individual;	RESTRAINING ORDER WITH ASSET FREEZE, APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RECEIVER,		
.3	The Credit Shop, LLC, a limited liability company;)Fidelity Legal Services LLC, a limited liability company;)	EXPEDITED DISCOVERY, AND OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF, AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY PRELIMINARY		
5	a infined flability company;       Titanium Realty, Inc.;     a corporation,	INJUNCTION SHOULD NOT ISSUE (LODGED UNDER SEAL)		
.7	<b>Precision Law Center, Inc.</b> , a corporation; and			
.8	Precision Law Center LLC, a limited liability company;       )			
20	Defendants.			
Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), pursuant to Sections 13(b)				
	19 of the Federal Trade Commission Ac	t ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b,		
23	and the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, Public Law 111-8, Section 626, 123 Stat.			
24	524, 678 (Mar. 11, 2009) ("Omnibus Act"), as clarified by the Credit Card			
25	Accountability Responsibility and Discl	osure Act of 2009, Public Law 111-24,		

<sup>26</sup> Section 511, 123 Stat. 1734, 1763-64 (May 22, 2009) ("Credit Card Act"), and

amended by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, 28

Public Law 111-203, Section 1097, 124 Stat. 1376, 2102-03 (July 21, 2010) ("Dodd-1 Frank Act"), has filed a Complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, 2 rescission or reformation of contracts, restitution, the refund of monies paid, 3 disgorgement of ill-gotten monies, and other equitable relief for Defendants' acts or 4 5 practices in violation of Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), and the Mortgage Assistance Relief Services Rule, 16 C.F.R. Part 322 ("MARS Rule") 6 (effective December 29, 2010, except for Section 322.5, which became effective on 7 January 31, 2011), recodified as Mortgage Assistance Relief Services (Regulation 8 O), 12 C.F.R. Part 1015 ("Regulation O") (effective December 30, 2011), in 9 connection with the marketing and sale of Mortgage Assistance Relief Services 10 ("MARS"), and applied for a temporary restraining order pursuant to Rule 65(b) of 11 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. 12

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

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This Court, having considered the FTC's Complaint, *ex parte* application, declarations, exhibits, and memoranda filed in support of the FTC's application, and the evidence presented by all parties, finds that:

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case, there is good cause to believe it will have jurisdiction over all the parties hereto, and venue in this district is proper;

20 2. There is good cause to believe that Defendants Sameer Lakhany, an 21 individual; The Credit Shop, LLC, a limited liability company; Fidelity Legal Services, a limited liability company; Titanium Realty, Inc., a corporation; Precision 22 Law Center, Inc., a corporation; and Precision Law Center, LLC, a limited liability 23 company have engaged and are likely to continue to engage in acts or practices that 24 violate Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), and the MARS Rule, 16 25 C.F.R. Part 322, recodified as Regulation O, 12 C.F.R. Part 1015 (effective 26 December 30, 2011), and that the FTC is therefore likely to prevail on the merits of 27 this action; 28

3. There is good cause to believe that immediate and irreparable harm will result from Defendants' ongoing violations of Section 5(a) of the FTC Act and the MARS Rule unless Defendants are restrained and enjoined by Order of this Court;

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4. There is good cause to believe that immediate and irreparable damage to 4 5 the Court's ability to grant effective final relief for consumers in the form of monetary restitution and disgorgement of ill-gotten gains will occur from the 6 transfer, dissipation, or concealment by Defendants of their assets or business 7 records unless Defendants continue to be restrained and enjoined by Order of this 8 Court; and that in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b), the interest of justice 9 requires that the FTC's application be heard *ex parte* without prior notice to 10 Defendants. Therefore, there is good cause for relieving the FTC of the duty to 11 provide Defendants with prior notice of the FTC's application; 12

5. Good cause exists for appointing a temporary receiver over Defendants
 The Credit Shop, LLC, Fidelity Legal Services LLC, Precision Law Center, Inc.,
 Precision Law Center LLC, and Titanium Realty, Inc.; permitting the FTC
 immediate access to Defendants' business premises; and permitting the FTC to take
 expedited discovery;

6. Weighing the equities and considering the FTC's likelihood of ultimate
success, a temporary restraining order with an asset freeze, expedited discovery as to
the existence and location of assets and documents, and other equitable relief is in
the public interest; and

7. No security is required of any agency of the United States for issuance
of a restraining order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65.

# ORDER DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

A. "Assets" means any legal or equitable interest in, right to, or claim to, any real,
personal, or intellectual property of any Defendants, or held for the benefit of

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any Defendants, wherever located, whether in the United States or abroad, including, but not limited to, chattel, goods, instruments, equipment, fixtures, general intangibles, effects, leaseholds, contracts, mail or other deliveries, shares of stock, commodities, futures, inventory, checks, notes, accounts, 4 credits, receivables (as those terms are defined in the Uniform Commercial 5 Code), cash, and trusts, including but not limited to any trust held for the 6 benefit of any Defendant, any of the Individual Defendant's minor children, or any of the Individual Defendant's spouses, and shall include both existing 8 assets and assets acquired after the date of entry of this Order.

- "Corporate Defendants" means The Credit Shop, LLC, Fidelity Legal Services B. 10 LLC, Titanium Realty, Inc., Precision Law Center, Inc., and Precision Law 11 Center LLC, and their successors, assigns, affiliates, or subsidiaries, and each 12 13 of them by whatever names each might be known.
- C. "Defendants" means the Individual Defendant and all of the Corporate 14 Defendants, individually, collectively, or in any combination, and each of 15 them by whatever names each might be known. 16
- "Document" and "Electronically Stored Information" are synonymous in 17 D. meaning and equal in scope to the usage of the terms in Rule 34(a) of the 18 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and include but are not limited to: 19
- The original or a true copy of any written, typed, printed, electronically 20 1. 21 stored, transcribed, taped, recorded, filmed, punched, or graphic matter or other data compilations of any kind, including, but not limited to, 22 letters, email or other correspondence, messages, memoranda, 23 interoffice communications, notes, reports, summaries, manuals, 24 25 magnetic tapes or discs, tabulations, books, records, checks, invoices, work papers, journals, ledgers, statements, returns, reports, schedules, or 26 files; and 27

2. Any electronically stored information stored on any Blackberries, flash drives, personal digital assistants ("PDAs"), desktop personal computer and workstations, laptops, notebooks, and other portable computers, or other electronic storage media, whether assigned to individuals or in pools of computers available for shared use, or personally owned but used for work-related purposes; backup disks and tapes, archive disks and tapes, and other forms of offline storage, whether stored onsite with the computer used to generate them, stored offsite in another company facility, or stored, hosted, or otherwise maintained offsite by a third-party; and computers and related offline storage used by Defendants or Defendants' participating associates, which may include persons who are not employees of the company or who do not work on company premises.

E. "Electronic Data Host" means any person or entity in the business of storing,
hosting, or otherwise maintaining electronically stored information.

- F. "Financial institution" means any bank, savings and loan institution, credit
  union, or any financial depository of any kind, including, but not limited to,
  any brokerage house, trustee, broker-dealer, escrow agent, title company,
  commodity trading company, or precious metal dealer.
- 20 G. "Individual Defendant" means Sameer Lakhany, a/k/a Sammy Lakhany, and
  21 any other names by which he might be known.

H. "Material fact" means any fact that is likely to affect a person's choice of, or
conduct regarding, goods or services.

I. "Mortgage assistance relief product or service" means any product, service,
plan, or program, offered or provided to the consumer in exchange for
consideration, that is represented, expressly or by implication, to assist or
attempt to assist the consumer with any of the following:

1	1. stopping, preventing, or postponing any mortgage or deed of trust	
2	foreclosure sale for the consumer's dwelling, any repossession of	
3	the consumer's dwelling, or otherwise saving the consumer's	
4	dwelling from foreclosure or repossession;	
5	2. negotiating, obtaining, or arranging a modification of any term of	
6	a dwelling loan, including a reduction in the amount of interest,	
7	principal balance, monthly payments, or fees;	
8	3. obtaining any forbearance or modification in the timing of	
9	payments from any dwelling loan holder or servicer on any	
10	dwelling loan;	
11	4. negotiating, obtaining, or arranging any extension of the period of	
12	time within which the consumer may (I) cure his or her default on	
13	a dwelling loan, (ii) reinstate his or her dwelling loan, (iii) redeem	
14	a dwelling, or (iv) exercise any right to reinstate a dwelling loan	
15	or redeem a dwelling;	
16	5. obtaining any waiver of an acceleration clause or balloon	
17	payment contained in any promissory note or contract secured by	
18	any dwelling; or	
19	6. negotiating, obtaining, or arranging (I) a short sale of a dwelling,	
20	(ii) a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, (iii) or any other disposition of a	
21	dwelling loan other than a sale to a third party that is not the	
22	dwelling loan holder.	
23	The foregoing shall include any manner of claimed assistance, including, but not	
24	limited to, auditing or examining a consumer's mortgage or home loan application	
25	and offering to provide or providing legal services.	
26	J. "Person" means any individual, group, unincorporated association, limited or	
27	general partnership, corporation, or other business entity.	
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Κ. "Receivership Defendants" means The Credit Shop, LLC, Fidelity Legal Services, LLC, Precision Law Center, Inc., Precision Law Center LLC, and Titanium Realty, Inc.; and their successors, assigns, affiliates, or subsidiaries, and each of them by whatever names each might be known, provided that the Temporary Receiver has reason to believe they are owned or controlled in whole or in part by any of the Defendants.

The words "and" and "or" shall be understood to have both conjunctive and L. disjunctive meanings as necessary to make the applicable phrase or sentence inclusive rather than exclusive.

# I.

# **PROHIBITED REPRESENTATIONS**

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Defendants and their successors, assigns, officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons or entities in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service, facsimile transmission, email, or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale or sale of any mortgage assistance relief product or service, are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from falsely representing, or from assisting others who are falsely representing, expressly or by implication, any of the following:

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- that any Defendant or any other person:
  - 1. generally will obtain for consumers mortgage loan modifications that will make consumers' payments substantially more affordable, or will help consumers avoid foreclosure;
  - 2. as a result of a loan audit, generally will obtain for consumers mortgage loan modifications that will make consumers' payments substantially more affordable or help consumers avoid foreclosure;

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- 3. are accredited non-profit organizations with superior techniques and qualifications for obtaining mortgage loan modifications that will make consumers' payments substantially more affordable;
- generally will give refunds to consumers if the defendant fails to 4. obtain a mortgage loan modification;
- 5. generally will obtain favorable mortgage concessions from consumers' lenders or stop foreclosure if consumers join mass joinder lawsuits initiated by the defendant or person;

B. The degree of success that any Defendant or any other person has had in 9 performing any mortgage assistance relief service; 10

The nature of any Defendant's or any other person's relationship with C. 11 any mortgage loan holder or servicer, or other secured or unsecured lender; 12

13 D. The amount of time it will take or is likely to take to obtain or arrange a renegotiation, settlement, modification, or other alteration of the terms of any 14 secured or unsecured debt, including but not limited to the modification of any term 15 of a consumer's home loan, deed of trust, or mortgage, including any recapitalization 16 or reinstatement agreement; 17

E. That any Defendant or any other person is affiliated with, endorsed or 18 approved by the government;

The refund policy of any Defendant or any other person, including but F. not limited to the likelihood of a consumer obtaining a full or partial refund, or the circumstances in which a full or partial refund will be granted to the consumer; or

The cost of any Defendants' service including that there will be no G. charge for all or a portion of such service.

#### DISCLOSURES REQUIRED BY AND REPRESENTATIONS PROHIBITED BY MARS RULE (REGULATION O)

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants and their successors, assigns, officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons or entities in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with the telemarketing, advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale or sale of any good or service, are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from engaging in, or assisting others in engaging in, the following conduct:

A. representing, expressly or by implication, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, sale or performance of any mortgage assistance relief service, that a consumer cannot or should not contact or communicate with his or her lender or servicer, in violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1015.3(a) (Dec. 30, 2011),

B. failing to make the following disclosure in all general and consumerspecific commercial communications: "[Name of Company] is not associated with the government, and our service is not approved by the government or your lender," in violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1015.4(a)(1) & 1015.4(b)(2) (Dec. 30, 2011),

C. failing to make the following disclosure in all general and consumerspecific commercial communications: "Even if you accept this offer and use our service, your lender may not agree to change your loan," in violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1015.4(a)(2) & 1015.4(b)(3) (Dec. 30, 2011),

D. failing to make the following disclosure in all consumer-specific commercial communications: "You may stop doing business with us at any time. You may accept or reject the offer of mortgage assistance we obtain from your lender [or servicer]. If you reject the offer, you do not have to pay us. If you accept

the offer, you will have to pay us [insert amount or method for calculating the amount] for our services." For the purposes of this paragraph, the amount "you will have to pay" shall consist of the total amount the consumer must pay to purchase, receive, and use all of the mortgage assistance relief services that are the subject of the sales offer, including but not limited to, all fees and charges, in violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1015.4(b)(1) (Dec. 30, 2011),

failing, in all general commercial communications, consumer-specific E. commercial communications, and other communications in cases where any defendant or person has represented, expressly or by implication, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or performance of any mortgage assistance relief service, that the consumer should temporarily or permanently discontinue payments, in whole or in part, on a dwelling loan, to place clearly and prominently, and in close proximity to any such representation the following disclosure: "If you stop paying your mortgage, you could lose your home and damage your credit rating," in violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1015.4(c) (Dec. 30, 2011).

#### III.

## **PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF ADVANCE FEES**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants and their successors, assigns, officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons or entities in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with the telemarketing, advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale or sale of any good or service, are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from asking for or receiving payment before consumers have executed a written agreement between the

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consumer and the loan holder or servicer that incorporates the offer obtained by Defendants.

#### IV.

## PRESERVATION OF RECORDS AND TANGIBLE THINGS

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants and their successors, assigns, officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons or entities in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service, facsimile transmission, email, or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, are hereby temporarily enjoined from destroying, erasing, mutilating, concealing, altering, transferring, or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, directly or indirectly, any documents or records that relate to the business practices, or business or personal finances, of Defendants, or an entity directly or indirectly under the control of Defendants.

## V.

#### **DISABLEMENT OF WEB SITES**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, immediately upon service of the Order upon them and pending determination of the FTC's request for a preliminary injunction, (1) any person hosting any Internet website for, or on behalf of, any Defendant, and (2) Defendants and their successors, assigns, officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons or entities in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, shall:

 A. Immediately do whatever is necessary to ensure that any Internet website used by Defendants for the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or provision of any mortgage assistance relief service, and containing

statements or representations prohibited by Section I of this Order cannot be accessed by the public; and

B. Prevent the destruction or erasure of any Internet website used by Defendants for the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or provision of any mortgage assistance relief service, including but not limited to FreeFedLoanMod.org, HouseHoldRelief.org and MyHomeSupport.org, by preserving such website in the format in which they are maintained currently.

#### VI.

## SUSPENSION OF INTERNET DOMAIN NAME REGISTRATIONS

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pending determination of the FTC's request for a preliminary injunction, any domain name registrar shall suspend the registration of any Internet website used by Defendants for the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or provision of any mortgage assistance relief service, and containing statements or representations prohibited by Section I of this Order, including, but not limited to FreeFedLoanMod.org, HouseHoldRelief.org and MyHomeSupport.org, and provide immediate notice to counsel for the FTC of any other Internet domain names registered by Defendants or their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with Defendants who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise.

#### VII.

## ASSET FREEZE

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Corporate Defendants, and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all persons or entities directly or indirectly under the control of any of them, including any financial institution, and all other persons or entities in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service, facsimile, email, or otherwise, each are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

Selling, liquidating, assigning, transferring, converting, loaning, A. 1 hypothecating, disbursing, gifting, conveying, encumbering, pledging, 2 concealing, dissipating, spending, withdrawing, or otherwise disposing of any 3 funds, real or personal property, or other assets or any interest therein, 4 wherever located, including any assets outside the territorial United States, 5 that are: 6

- in the actual or constructive possession of any Corporate Defendant; 1.
- owned or controlled by, or held, in whole or in part for the benefit of, or 2. subject to access by, or belonging to, any Corporate Defendant; or
- in the actual or constructive possession of, or owned or controlled 3. by, or subject to access by, or belong to, any corporation, partnership, trust or other entity directly or indirectly owned,
  - managed or under the control of any Corporate Defendant;
- Opening, or causing to be opened, any safe deposit boxes titled in the name of Β. 14 any Corporate Defendant, or subject to access by any Corporate Defendant; 15
- С. Incurring charges on any credit card, stored value card, debit card or charge 16 card issued in the name, singly or jointly, of any Corporate Defendant or any 17 other entity directly or indirectly owned, managed or controlled by any 18 Corporate Defendant; 19
- Obtaining a personal or secured loan; or D. 20

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Cashing any checks from consumers, clients, or customers of any Corporate E. Defendant. 22

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the funds, property, and assets affected by this Paragraph shall include: (a) all assets of each Corporate Defendant as of the time this Order is entered, and (b) those assets obtained or received after entry of this Order that are derived from the actions alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint.

#### VIII.

# APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RECEIVER

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**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Thomas W. McNamara is appointed Receiver for the business activities of Receivership Defendants (as defined in Definition K herein) with the full power of an equity receiver. The Temporary Receiver shall be the agent of this Court and solely the agent of this Court in acting as Temporary Receiver under this Order. The Temporary Receiver shall be accountable directly to this Court. The Temporary Receiver shall comply with all laws and Local Rules of this Court governing receivers, including but not limited to Local Rules 66-1 through 66-5.1 and Local Rule 66-8.

#### XIV.

## **DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF TEMPORARY RECEIVER**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Temporary Receiver is directed and authorized to accomplish the following:

 A. Assume full control of the Receivership Defendants by removing, as the Temporary Receiver deems necessary or advisable, any director, officer, independent contractor, employee, or agent of any of the Receivership Defendants, including any named Defendant, from control of, management of, or participation in, the affairs of the Receivership Defendants;

Take exclusive custody, control, and possession of all assets, documents, and Β. 20 electronically stored information of, or in the possession, custody, or under the 21 control of, the Receivership Defendants, wherever situated. The Temporary 22 Receiver shall have full power to divert mail and to sue for, collect, receive, 23 take into possession, hold, and manage all assets and documents of the 24 Receivership Defendants and other persons or entities whose interests are now 25 held by or under the direction, possession, custody, or control of the 26 Receivership Defendants. Provided, however, that the Temporary Receiver 27 shall not attempt to collect or receive any amount from a consumer if the 28

Temporary Receiver believes the consumer was a victim of the unlawful conduct alleged in the complaint in this matter;

- C. Take all steps necessary to secure the business premises of the Receivership
   Defendants. Such steps may include, but are not limited to, the following, as
   the Temporary Receiver deems necessary or advisable:
  - 1. serving and filing this Order;

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- 2. completing a written inventory of all Receivership assets;
- 3. obtaining pertinent information from all employees and other agents of the Receivership Defendants, including, but not limited to, the name, home address, social security number, job description, method of compensation, and all accrued and unpaid commissions and compensation of each such employee or agent, and all computer hardware and software passwords;
  - 4. videotaping and/or photographing all portions of the location;
  - 5. securing the location by changing the locks and disconnecting any computer modems or other means of access to the computer or other records maintained at that location; and
  - 6. requiring any persons present on the premises at the time this Order is served to leave the premises, to provide the Temporary Receiver with proof of identification, or to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Temporary Receiver that such persons are not removing from the premises documents or assets of the Receivership Defendants;
- D. Conserve, hold, and manage all Receivership assets, and perform all acts
   necessary or advisable to preserve the value of those assets, in order to prevent
   any irreparable loss, damage, or injury to consumers or to creditors of the
   Receivership Defendants, including, but not limited to, obtaining an
   accounting of the assets and preventing transfer, withdrawal, or misapplication
   of assets;

- E. Liquidate any and all securities or commodities owned by or for the benefit of
   the Receivership Defendants as the Temporary Receiver deems to be advisable
   or necessary;
- F. Enter into contracts and purchase insurance as the Temporary Receiver deems
  to be advisable or necessary;
- G. Prevent the inequitable distribution of assets and determine, adjust, and protect the interests of consumers and creditors who have transacted business with the Receivership Defendants;
- 9 H. Manage and administer the business of the Receivership Defendants until
   10 further order of this Court by performing all incidental acts that the Temporary
   11 Receiver deems to be advisable or necessary, which includes retaining, hiring,
   12 or dismissing any employees, independent contractors, or agents;
- I. Choose, engage, and employ, without prior approval of the Court, attorneys, accountants, appraisers, and other independent contractors and technical specialists, as the Temporary Receiver deems advisable or necessary in the performance of duties and responsibilities under the authority granted by this
   Order. The Temporary Receiver may engage the services of the law firm of which the Temporary Receiver is a member;
- 19J.Make payments and disbursements from the Receivership estate that are20necessary or advisable for carrying out the directions of, or exercising the21authority granted by, this Order. The Temporary Receiver shall apply to the22Court for prior approval of any payment of any debt or obligation incurred by23the Receivership Defendants prior to the date of entry of this Order, except24payments that the Temporary Receiver deems necessary or advisable to secure25assets of the Receivership Defendants, such as rental payments;
- K. Determine and implement measures to ensure that the Receivership
   Defendants comply with, and prevent violations of, this Order and all other

applicable laws, including, but not limited to, revising sales materials and implementing monitoring procedures;

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- L. Institute, compromise, adjust, appear in, intervene in, or become party to such actions or proceedings in state, federal, or foreign courts that the Temporary
   Receiver deems necessary and advisable to preserve or recover the assets of the Receivership Defendants, or that the Temporary Receiver deems necessary and advisable to carry out the Temporary Receiver's mandate under this Order;
- M. Defend, compromise, adjust, or otherwise dispose of any or all actions or proceedings instituted in the past or in the future against the Temporary Receiver in his role as Temporary Receiver, or against the Receivership
   Defendants, that the Temporary Receiver deems necessary and advisable to preserve the assets of the Receivership Defendants or that the Temporary Receiver deems necessary and advisable to carry out the Temporary Receiver's mandate under this Order;
- N. Continue and conduct the business of the Receivership Defendants in such manner, to such extent, and for such duration as the Temporary Receiver may in good faith deem to be necessary or appropriate to operate the business profitably and lawfully, if at all; *provided*, *however*, that the continuation and conduct of the business shall be conditioned upon the Temporary Receiver's good faith determination that the businesses can be lawfully operated at a profit using the assets of the receivership estate;
- O. Take depositions and issue subpoenas to obtain documents and records
   pertaining to the receivership estate and compliance with this Order.
   Subpoenas may be served by agents or attorneys of the Temporary Receiver
   and by agents of any process server retained by the Temporary Receiver;
   P. Open one or more bank accounts in the Central or Southern District of
   California as designated depositories for funds of the Receivership

Defendants. The Temporary Receiver shall deposit all funds of the Receivership Defendants in such a designated account and shall make all payments and disbursements from the receivership estate from such account(s);

- Q. Maintain accurate records of all receipts and expenditures that he makes as Temporary Receiver; and
- R.Cooperate with reasonable requests for information or assistance from any<br/>state or federal law enforcement agency.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Temporary Receiver will be responsible for maintaining the chain of custody of all of Defendants' records in his possession, pursuant to procedures to be established in writing with the approval of the FTC.

#### X.

#### IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO BUSINESS PREMISES AND RECORDS

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants and their officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors, assigns, and all other persons or entities directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, under their control, including Electronic Data Hosts, and all other persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service, facsimile, email, or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other entity, shall:

- A. Allow the Temporary Receiver, and its respective representatives, agents, attorneys, investigators, paralegals, contractors, or assistants immediate access to:
  - All of the Receivership Defendants' business premises, including but not limited to 1801 E. Edinger Ave., Suites 105 and 225, Santa Ana, CA 92705; 3240 El Camino Real, Suites 100 and 200, Irvine, CA 92602;

1		655 S. Main Street, Suite 200-127, Orange, CA 92868; 655 S. Main
2		Street, Suite 200-161, Orange, CA 92868; 2300 E. Katella Avenue,
3		Suite 450, Anaheim, CA 92806; 4000 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 900,
4		Newport Beach, CA 92660, and 6 Hutton Center Drive, Suite 600,
5		South Coast Metro, CA 92707, and such other business locations that
6		are wholly or partially owned, rented, leased, or under the temporary or
7		permanent control of any Receivership Defendant;
8	2.	Any other premises where the Receivership Defendants conduct
9		business, sales operations or customer service operations;
10	3.	Any premises where documents related to the Receivership Defendants'
11		businesses are stored or maintained;
12	4.	Any premises where assets belonging to any Receivership Defendant
13		are stored or maintained; and
14	5.	Any documents located at any of the locations described in this
15		Paragraph; and
16	B. Pro	vide the Temporary Receiver, and its respective representatives, agents,
17	atto	orneys, investigators, paralegals, contractors, or assistants with any
18	nec	essary means of access to, copying of, and forensic imaging of documents
19	ore	electronically stored information, including, without limitation, the
20	loc	ations of Receivership Defendants' business premises, keys and
21	con	nbinations to business premises locks, computer access codes of all
22	con	nputers used to conduct Receivership Defendants' business, access to
23	(ind	cluding but not limited to execution of any documents necessary for access
24	to a	and forensic imaging of) any data stored, hosted or otherwise maintained by
25	an	Electronic Data Host, and storage area access information.
26	IT	IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Temporary Receiver is authorized to
	amploy th	a assistance of law enforcement officers including but not limited to the

employ the assistance of law enforcement officers, including, but not limited to, the United States Postal Inspection Service, Internal Revenue Service, and Federal 28

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Bureau of Investigation, to effect service, to implement peacefully the provisions of this Order, and to keep the peace. The Temporary Receiver shall allow the FTC and its representatives, agents, contractors, or assistants into the premises and facilities described in this Section to inspect, inventory, image, and copy documents or electronically stored information relevant to any matter contained in this Order. The Temporary Receiver may exclude Defendants and their agents and employees from the business premises and facilities during the immediate access. No one shall interfere with the Temporary Receiver's inspection of the Defendants' premises or documents.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Temporary Receiver shall have the 10 right to remove any documents related to Defendants' business practices from the premises in order that they may be inspected, inventoried, and copied. The materials so removed shall be returned within five (5) business days of completing said inventory and copying. If any property, records, documents, or computer files 14 relating to the Receivership Defendants' finances or business practices are located in 15 the residence of any Defendant or are otherwise in the custody or control of any 16 Defendant, then such Defendant shall produce them to the Temporary Receiver within twenty-four (24) hours of service of this Order. In order to prevent the 18 destruction of computer data, upon service of this Order upon Defendants, any such 19 computers shall be powered down (turned off) in the normal course for the operating 20 systems used on such computers and shall not be powered up or used again until produced for copying and inspection, along with any codes needed for access. The 22 Temporary Receiver's representatives may also photograph and videotape the inside 23 and outside of all premises to which they are permitted access by this Order, and all 24 documents and other items found on such premises.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Temporary Receiver shall have the discretion to determine the time, manner, and reasonable conditions of such access.

## XI.

# COOPERATION WITH TEMPORARY RECEIVER IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

A. Defendants, and their officers, agents, directors, servants, employees, salespersons, independent contractors, attorneys, corporations, subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, and assigns, all other persons or entities in active concert or participation with them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, or any of them, shall fully cooperate with and assist the Temporary Receiver. Such cooperation and assistance shall include, but not be limited to:

- Providing any information to the Temporary Receiver that the Temporary Receiver deems necessary to exercising the authority and discharging the responsibilities of the Temporary Receiver under this Order, including but not limited to, allowing the Temporary Receiver to inspect documents and assets, and to partition office space;
  - 2. Providing any username or password and executing any documents required to access any computer or electronic files in any medium, including but not limited to electronically stored information stored, hosted or otherwise maintained by an electronic data host; and
  - Advising all persons who owe money to the Receivership Defendants that all debts should be paid directly to the Temporary Receiver.
- B. Defendants and their officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors, assigns, and all other persons or entities directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, under their control, and all other persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this

Order by personal service or otherwise, are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

1. Transacting any of the business of the Receivership Defendants;

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Destroying, secreting, erasing, mutilating, defacing, concealing, 2. altering, transferring or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, directly or indirectly, any documents, electronically stored information, or equipment of the Receivership Defendants, including but not limited to contracts, agreements, consumer files, consumer lists, consumer addresses and telephone numbers, correspondence, advertisements, brochures, sales material, sales presentations, documents evidencing or referring to Defendants' services, training materials, scripts, data, computer tapes, disks, or other computerized records, books, written or printed records, handwritten notes, telephone logs, "verification" or "compliance" tapes or other audio or video tape recordings, receipt books, invoices, postal receipts, ledgers, personal and business canceled checks and check registers, bank statements, appointment books, copies of federal, state or local business or personal income or property tax returns, photographs, mobile devices, electronic storage media, accessories, and any other documents, records or equipment of any kind that relate to the business practices or business or personal finances of the Receivership Defendants or any other entity directly or indirectly under the control of the Receivership Defendants;

3. Transferring, receiving, altering, selling, encumbering, pledging, assigning, liquidating, or otherwise disposing of any assets owned, controlled, or in the possession or custody of, or in which an interest is held or claimed by, the Receivership Defendants, or the Temporary Receiver;

4. Excusing debts owed to the Receivership Defendants;

5. Doing any act or refraining from any act whatsoever to interfere with the Temporary Receiver's taking custody, control, possession, or managing of the assets or documents subject to this Receivership; or to harass or to interfere with the Temporary Receiver in any way; or to interfere in any manner with the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court over the assets or documents of the Receivership Defendants; or to refuse to cooperate with the Temporary Receiver or the Temporary Receiver's duly authorized agents in the exercise of their duties or authority under any Order of this Court; and

 Filing, or causing to be filed, any petition on behalf of the Receivership Defendants for relief under the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11
 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, without prior permission from this Court.

#### XII.

#### **COMPENSATION FOR RECEIVER**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Temporary Receiver and all personnel hired by the Temporary Receiver as herein authorized, including counsel to the Temporary Receiver and accountants, are entitled to reasonable compensation for the performance of duties pursuant to this Order, and for the cost of actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred by them, from the assets now held by or in the possession or control of, or which may be received by, the Receivership Defendants. The Temporary Receiver shall file with the Court and serve on the parties periodic requests for the payment of such reasonable compensation, with the first such request filed no more than sixty (60) days after the date of this Order. The Temporary Receiver shall not increase the hourly rates used as the bases for such fee applications without prior approval of the Court.

# XIII. TEMPORARY RECEIVER'S REPORTS

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Temporary Receiver shall report to this Court on or before the date set for the hearing to Show Cause regarding the Preliminary Injunction, regarding: (1) the steps taken by the Temporary Receiver to implement the terms of this Order; (2) the value of all liquidated and unliquidated assets of the Receivership Defendants; (3) the sum of all liabilities of the Receivership Defendants; (4) the steps the Temporary Receiver intends to take in the future to: (a) prevent any diminution in the value of assets of the Receivership Defendants, (b) pursue receivership assets from third parties, and (c) adjust the liabilities of the Receivership Defendants, if appropriate; (5) the Temporary Receiver's assessment of whether the business can be operated in compliance with this Order; and (6) any other matters which the Temporary Receiver believes should be brought to the Court's attention. *Provided, however*, if any of the required information would hinder the Temporary Receiver's report containing such information may be filed under seal and not served on the parties.

#### XIV.

## PROHIBITION ON RELEASE OF CONSUMER INFORMATION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, except as required by a law enforcement agency, law, regulation or court order, Defendants, and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are temporarily restrained and enjoined from disclosing, using, or benefitting from consumer information, including the name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number, other identifying information, or any data that enables access to a consumer's account (including a credit card, bank account, or other financial account), of any person which any Defendant obtained prior to entry of this Order in connection with any mortgage assistance relief product or service.

#### XV.

#### **STAY OF ACTIONS**

#### IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

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A. Except by leave of this Court, during pendency of the Receivership ordered herein, Defendants and all other persons and entities be and hereby are stayed from taking any action to establish or enforce any claim, right, or interest for, against, on behalf of, in, or in the name of, the Receivership Defendants, any of their subsidiaries, affiliates, partnerships, assets, documents, or the Temporary Receiver or the Temporary Receiver's duly authorized agents acting in their capacities as such, including, but not limited to, the following actions:

- Commencing, prosecuting, continuing, entering, or enforcing any suit or proceeding, except that such actions may be filed to toll any applicable statute of limitations;
- 2. Accelerating the due date of any obligation or claimed obligation; filing or enforcing any lien; taking or attempting to take possession, custody, or control of any asset; attempting to foreclose, forfeit, alter, or terminate any interest in any asset, whether such acts are part of a judicial proceeding, are acts of self-help, or otherwise;
- 3. Executing, issuing, serving, or causing the execution, issuance or service of, any legal process, including, but not limited to, attachments, garnishments, subpoenas, writs of replevin, writs of execution, or any other form of process whether specified in this Order or not; or
- Doing any act or thing whatsoever to interfere with the Temporary Receiver taking custody, control, possession, or management of the assets or documents subject to this Receivership, or to harass or

1		interfere with the Temporary Receiver in any way, or to interfere in any
2		manner with the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court over the assets or
3		documents of the Receivership Defendants;
4	В.	This Paragraph XV does not stay:
5		1. The commencement or continuation of a criminal action or proceeding;
6		2. The commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by the
7		State Bar of California to enforce its police or regulatory power;
8		3. The commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by a
9		governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's police or
10		regulatory power;
11		4. The enforcement of a judgment, other than a money judgment, obtained
12		in an action or proceeding by a governmental unit to enforce such
13		governmental unit's police or regulatory power; or
14		5. The issuance to a Receivership Defendant of a notice of tax deficiency;
15		and
16	C.	Except as otherwise provided in this Order, all persons and entities in need of
17		documentation from the Temporary Receiver shall in all instances first attempt
18		to secure such information by submitting a formal written request to the
19		Receiver, and, if such request has not been responded to within thirty (30)
20		days of receipt by the Temporary Receiver, any such person or entity may
21		thereafter seek an Order of this Court with regard to the relief requested.
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26		XVII.
27		DURATION OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER;
28		SCHEDULING OTHER MATTERS
		Page 26 of 29

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the seal in this case shall dissolve on March 19, 2012.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Temporary Restraining Order granted herein shall expire on the 21st day of March, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., unless before that time, the Order, for good cause shown, is extended pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65 for a like period, not to exceed 14 days, or the adversary party consents to a longer extension.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(b), each of the Defendants shall appear before this Court on the 21st day of March, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., to show cause, if there is any, why this Court should not enter a preliminary injunction enjoining the violations of law alleged in the FTC's Complaint, continuing the freeze of their assets, and imposing such additional relief as may be appropriate.

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## IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

Defendants shall file any answering affidavits, pleadings, or legal memoranda A. 15 with the Court and serve the same on counsel for the FTC no later than March 16 16, 2012. The FTC may file responsive or supplemental pleadings, materials, 17 affidavits, or memoranda with the Court and serve the same on counsel for 18 Defendants no later than March 19, 2012. Provided that service shall be 19 performed by personal or overnight delivery, facsimile, or email, and 20 documents shall be delivered so that they shall be received by the other parties 21 no later than 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) on the appropriate dates listed in this 22 Subparagraph; and 23

B. The question of whether this Court should enter a preliminary injunction
pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure enjoining the
Defendants during the pendency of this action shall be resolved on the
pleadings, declarations, exhibits, and memoranda filed by, and oral argument
of, the parties. Live testimony shall be heard only on further order of this

Court on motion filed with the Court and served on counsel for the other parties no later than March 16, 2012. Such motion shall set forth the name, address, and telephone number of each proposed witness, a detailed summary or affidavit disclosing the substance of each proposed witness' expected testimony, and an explanation of why the taking of live testimony would be helpful to this Court. Any papers opposing a timely motion to present live testimony or to present live testimony in response to live testimony to be presented by another party shall be filed with this Court and served on the other parties no later than March 19, 2012. *Provided that* service shall be performed by personal or overnight delivery or by facsimile or email, and documents shall be delivered so that they shall be received by the other parties no later than 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) on the appropriate dates listed in this Subparagraph.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Order shall be personally served on the Defendants. Service shall be initiated by March 8, 2012.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Order may be served by facsimile transmission, email, personal or overnight delivery, or U.S. Mail, by agents and employees of the FTC or any state or federal law enforcement agency or by private process server, upon any financial institution or other entity or person that may have possession, custody, or control of any documents or assets of any Defendant, or that may otherwise be subject to any provision of this Order. Service upon any branch or office of any financial institution shall effect service upon the entire financial institution.

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d	ase 8:12-cv-00337-CJC-JPR Document 30 Filed 03/07/12 Page 29 of 29 Page ID #:36				
1	XIII.				
2	CORRESPONDENCE WITH PLAINTIFF				
3	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purposes of this Order, because mail				
4	addressed to the FTC is subject to delay due to heightened security screening, all				
5	correspondence ans service of pleadings on Plaintiff shall be sent either via				
6	electronic submission or via Federal Express to:				
7 8 9	Mark L. Glassman Federal Trade Commission 601 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Mail Drop NJ-3158 Washington, DC 20580 Mglassman@ftc.gov				
10	with a copy to:				
11 12	John D. Jacobs Federal Trade Commission 10877 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 700				
12	10877 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 700 Los Angeles, CA 90024 Jjacobs@ftc.gov XIV.				
14	<b>RETENTION OF JURISDICTION</b>				
15	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this				
16 17	matter for all purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.				
18	IT IS SO ORDERED, this 7th day of March, 2012, at 1:20 p.m., Pacific				
19	Standard Time.				
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21	6-1.6-7				
22	Dated: March 7, 2012				
23	CORMAC J. CARNEY				
24	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE				
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