JS-6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 Case no. SACV14-01033 JLS 12 (RNBx) FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, 13 Plaintiff, STIPULATED ORDER FOR 14 PERMANENT INJUNCTION AND MONETARY v. 15 JUDGMENT AS TO 16 CD CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, LLC, et al.) **DEFENDANT GABRIEL** DREWS STEWART 17 Defendant. 18 Judge: Hon. Josephine L. Staton 19 Plaintiff, Federal Trade Commission ("Commission") filed its Complaint, as 20 21 amended ("Complaint"), for permanent injunction and other equitable relief in this matter, pursuant to Section 13(b) and 19 of the FTC Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. 22 §§ 53b and 57b. 23 The Commission and Defendant Gabriel Drews Stewart have stipulated to 24 entry of this Stipulated Order for Permanent Injunction and Monetary Judgment as 25 to Defendant Gabriel Drews Stewart ("Order") to resolve all matters in dispute in 26 this action between them. 27 28 THERFORE, IT IS ORDERED as follows:

1 FINDINGS

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. The Complaint charges that the Stipulating Defendant participated in deceptive acts or practices in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, the Mortgage Assistance Relief Services Rule ("MARS Rule"), 16 C.F.R. Part 322, re-codified as Mortgage Assistance Relief Services ("Regulation O"), 12 C.F.R. Part 1015, in connection with the marketing and sale of mortgage loan modification and foreclosure relief services.
- 3. The Stipulating Defendant neither admits nor denies any of the allegations of the Complaint, excepted as specifically stated in this Order. Only for purposes of this action, the Stipulating Defendant admits the facts necessary to establish jurisdiction.
- 4. The Stipulating Defendant waives any claim that he may have under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, concerning the prosecution of this action though the date of this Order, and agrees to bear his own costs and attorney fees.
- 5. The Stipulating Defendant and the Commission waive all rights to appeal or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Order.
 - 6. Entry of this Order is in the public interest.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Order, the following definitions apply:

A. "Assisting others" includes:

- 1. performing customer service functions, including receiving or responding to consumer complaints;
- 2. formulating or providing, or arranging for the formulation or provision of, any advertising or marketing material, including any telephone sales script, direct mail solicitation, or the design,

1			text, or use of images of any Internet website, email, or other
2			electronic communication;
3		3.	formulating or providing, or arranging for the formulation or
4			provision of, any marketing support material or service,
5			including web or Internet Protocol addresses or domain name
6			registration for any Internet websites, affiliate marketing
7			services, or media placement services;
8		4.	providing names of, or assisting in the generation of, potential
9			customers;
10		5.	performing marketing, billing, or payment services of any kind
11			or
12		6.	acting or serving as an owner, officer, director, manager, or
13			principal of any entity.
14	B.	"Fin	ancial product or service" means any product, service, plan, or
15		progr	ram represented, expressly or by implication, to:
16		1.	provide any consumer, arrange for any consumer to receive, or
17			assist any consumer in receiving, a loan or other extension of
18			credit;
19		2.	provide any consumer, arrange for any consumer to receive, or
20			assist any consumer in receiving, credit, debit, or stored value
21			cards;
22		3.	improve, repair, or arrange to improve or repair, any
23			consumer's credit record, credit history, or credit rating; or
24		4.	provide advice or assistance to improve any consumer's credit
25			record, credit history, or credit rating.
26	C.	"Jud	gment Defendants" means Tuan D. Duong, Christian D.
27		Quez	ada, CD Capital Investments, LLC, CD Capital, LLC, and GDS
28		Infor	mation Services, Inc., each of whom is identified in and subject

- to the Court's Permanent Injunction and Order for Equitable Relief in this action dated August 22, 2016 (Docket No. 172).
- D. "Person" means a natural person, organization, or other legal entity, including a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, proprietorship, association, cooperative, or any other group or combination acting as an entity.
- E. "Secured or unsecured debt relief product or service" means:
 - 1. With respect to any mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation between a person and one or more secured or unsecured creditors or debt collectors, any product, service, plan, or program represented, expressly or by implication, to:
 - a. stop, prevent, or postpone any mortgage or deed of foreclosure sale for a person's dwelling, any other sale of collateral, any repossession of a person's dwelling or other collateral, or otherwise save a person's dwelling or other collateral from foreclosure or repossession;
 - b. negotiate, obtain, or arrange a modification, or renegotiate, settle, or in any way alter any terms of the mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation, including a reduction in the amount of interest, principal balance, monthly payments, or fees owed by a person to a secured or unsecured creditor or debt collector;
 - c. obtain any forbearance or modification in the timing of payments from any secured or unsecured holder or servicer of any mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation;
 - d. negotiate, obtain, or arrange any extension of the period of time within which a person may (i) cure his or her default on the mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation, (ii)

- reinstate his or her mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation, (iii) redeem a dwelling or other collateral, or (iv) exercise any right to reinstate the mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation or redeem a dwelling or other collateral;
- e. obtain any waiver of an acceleration clause or balloon payment contained in any promissory note or contract secured by any dwelling or other collateral; or
- f. negotiate, obtain, or arrange (i) a short sale of a dwelling or other collateral, (ii) a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, or (iii) any other disposition of a mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation other than a sale to a third party that is not the secured or unsecured loan holder.

The foregoing shall include any manner of claimed assistance, including auditing or examining a person's application for the mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation.

- 2. With respect to any loan, debt, or obligation between a person and one or more unsecured creditors or debt collectors, any product, service, plan, or program represented, expressly or by implication, to:
 - a. repay one or more unsecured loans, debts, or obligations;
 or
 - b. combine unsecured loans, debts, or obligations into one or more new loans, debts, or obligations.
- F. "Stipulating Defendant" means Gabriel Drews Stewart, by this name, and any other names by which he might be known.

ORDER

I. BAN ON SECURED AND UNSECURED DEBT RELIEF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

IT IS ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling or assisting others in the advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling, any secured or unsecured debt relief product or service.

Provided, that if the Stipulating Defendant holds a license in good standing from the appropriate licensing agency, or is employed by a broker that holds a license in good standing from the appropriate agency, Section I shall not prohibit the Stipulating Defendant from doing or negotiating to do one or more of the following acts for another, unless such act is marketed as a way to save a person's home from foreclosure or repossession: selling or offering to sell, buying or offering to buy, soliciting prospective sellers or purchasers of, soliciting or obtaining listings of, or negotiating the purchase, sale or exchange of real property in a purchase money real estate transaction; or arranging or negotiating to arrange a purchase money mortgage or the refinancing of a mortgage. This proviso shall not be construed to limit the licensing or regulatory powers of any federal, state, or local government agency or other entity regulating real estate agents.

II. PROHIBITION AGAINST MISREPRESENTATIONS RELATING TO FINANCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendant, his officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with him, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale or selling of any financial product or

service, are permanently restrained and enjoined from misrepresenting or assisting others in misrepresenting, expressly or by implication:

- A. the terms or rates that are available for any loan or other extension of credit, including:
 - 1. closing costs or other fees;
 - 2. the payment schedule, monthly payment amount(s), any balloon payment, or other payment terms;
 - 3. the interest rate(s), annual percentage rate(s), or finance charge(s), and whether they are fixed or adjustable;
 - 4. the loan amount, credit amount, draw amount, or outstanding balance; the loan term, draw period, or maturity; or any other term of credit;
 - 5. the amount of cash to be disbursed to the borrower out of the proceeds, or the amount of cash to be disbursed on behalf of the borrower to any third parties;
 - 6. whether any specified minimum payment amount covers both interest and principal, and whether the credit has or can result in negative amortization; or
 - 7. that the credit does not have a prepayment penalty or whether subsequent refinancing may trigger a prepayment penalty and/or other fees;
- B. the ability to improve or otherwise affect a consumer's credit record, credit history, credit rating, or ability to obtain credit, including that a consumer's credit record, credit history, credit rating, or ability to obtain credit can be improved by permanently removing current, accurate negative information from the consumer's credit record or history;
- C. that a consumer will receive legal representation; or

D. any other fact material to consumers concerning any good or service, such as: the total costs; any material restrictions, limitations, or conditions; or any material aspect of its performance, efficacy, nature, or central characteristics.

III. PROHIBITION AGAINST MISREPRESENTATIONS RELATING TO ANY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendant and his officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with him, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling of any product, service, plan, or program, are permanently restrained and enjoined from misrepresenting, or assisting others in misrepresenting, expressly or by implication:

- A. any material aspect of the nature or terms of any refund, cancellation, exchange, or repurchase policy, including 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;
- B. that any person is affiliated with, endorsed or approved by, or otherwise connected to any other person; government entity; public, non-profit, or other non-commercial program; or any other program;
- C. the nature, expertise, position, or job title of any person who provides any product, service, plan, or program; or
- D. any other fact material to consumers concerning any good or service, such as: the total costs; any material restrictions, limitations, or conditions; or any material aspect of its performance, efficacy, nature, or central characteristics.

IV.

MONETARY JUDGMENT AND PARTIAL SUSPENSION IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. Judgment in the amount of one million seven hundred eighty four thousand eight hundred sixty four dollars (\$1,784,864) is entered in favor of the Commission and against the Stipulating Defendant, jointly and severally with the Judgment Defendants, as equitable monetary relief.
- B. The Stipulating Defendant is ordered to pay the Commission one hundred five thousand four hundred eighty seven dollars (\$105,487).
 The remainder of the judgment is suspended as to the Stipulating Defendant, subject to the Subsections below.
- C. The Commission's agreement to the suspension of part of the judgment is expressly premised upon the truthfulness, accuracy, and completeness of Defendants' sworn financial statements and related documents (collectively, "financial representations") submitted to the Commission, namely the Financial Statement of Individual Defendant Gabriel Drews Stewart signed on September 22, 2016, including the attachments.
- D. The suspension of the judgment will be lifted as to the Stipulating Defendant if, upon motion by the Commission, the Court finds that the Stipulating Defendant failed to disclose any material asset, materially misstated the value of any asset, or made any other material misstatement or omission in the financial representations identified above.
- E. If the suspension of the judgment is lifted, the judgment becomes immediately due as to the Stipulating Defendant in the amount specified in Subsection A above (which the parties stipulate only for

- purposes of this Section represents the consumer injury alleged in the Complaint), less any payment previously made pursuant to this Section, plus interest computed from the date of entry of this Order.
- F. Upon Defendant's full payment of the amount set forth in Subparagraph B, he may request that the FTC file a notice of receipt of payment with the Court. In response, the FTC shall file such a notice within a reasonable time.

V.

ADDITIONAL MONETARY PROVISIONS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. The Stipulating Defendant relinquishes dominion and all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in all assets transferred pursuant to this Order and may not seek the return of any assets.
- B. The facts alleged in the Complaint will be taken as true, without further proof, in any subsequent civil litigation by or on behalf of the Commission, including in a proceeding to enforce its rights to any payment or monetary judgment pursuant to this Order, such as a nondischargeability complaint in any bankruptcy case.
- C. The facts alleged in the Complaint establish all elements necessary to sustain an action by the Commission pursuant to Section 523(a)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A), and this Order will have collateral estoppel effect for such purposes.
- D. The Stipulating Defendant acknowledges that his Taxpayer Identification Numbers (Social Security Numbers or Employer Identification Numbers), which the Stipulating Defendant must submit to the Commission, may be used for collecting and reporting on any delinquent amount arising out of this Order, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. §7701.

E. All money paid to the Commission pursuant to this Order may be deposited into a fund administered by the Commission or its designee to be used for equitable relief, including consumer redress and any attendant expenses for the administration of any redress fund. If a representative of the Commission decides that direct redress to consumers is wholly or partially impracticable or money remains after redress is completed, the Commission may apply any remaining money for such other equitable relief (including consumer information remedies) as it determines to be reasonably related to the Stipulating Defendant's practices alleged in the Complaint. Any money not used for such equitable relief is to be deposited to the U.S. Treasury as disgorgement. The Stipulating Defendant has no right to challenge any actions the Commission or its representatives may take pursuant to this Subsection.

VI.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendant, his officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with him, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, are permanently restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

- A. Failing to provide sufficient customer information to enable the Commission to efficiently administer consumer redress. If a representative of the Commission requests in writing any information related to redress, the Stipulating Defendant must provide it, in the form prescribed by the Commission, within 14 days.
- B. Disclosing, using, or benefitting from customer information, including the name, address, telephone number, email address, social security

number, other identifying information, or any data that enables access to a customer's account (including a credit card, bank account, or other financial account), that any Defendant obtained prior to entry of this Order in connection with the marketing of any financial product or service.

C. Failing to destroy such customer information in all forms in their possession, custody, or control within 30 days after entry of this Order Provided, however, that customer information need not be disposed of, and may be disclosed, to the extent requested by a government agency or required by law, regulation, or court order.

VII.

COOPERATION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendant must fully cooperate with representatives of the Commission in this case and in any investigation related to or associated with the transactions or the occurrences that are the subject of the Complaint. The Stipulating Defendant must provide truthful and complete information, evidence, and testimony. The Stipulating Defendant must appear for interviews, discovery, hearings, trials, and any other proceedings that the Commission representative may reasonably request upon 5 days written notice, or other reasonable notice, at such places and times as the Commission representative may designate, without the service of a subpoena.

VIII.

ORDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendant obtain acknowledgments of receipt of this Order:

A. The Stipulating Defendant, within 7 days of entry of this Order, must submit to the Commission an acknowledgment of receipt of this Order sworn under penalty of perjury.

- B. For 5 years, after entry of this Order, the Stipulating Defendant, for any business that he, individually or collectively with any other Defendant, is the majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must deliver a copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC managers and members; (2) all employees, agents, and representatives who participate in conduct related to the marketing of any financial product or service; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure as set forth in the Section titled Compliance Reporting. Delivery must occur within 7 days of entry of this Order for current personnel. For all others, delivery must occur before they assume their responsibilities.
- C. From each individual or entity to which a Defendant delivered a copy of this Order, the Stipulating Defendant must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

IX.

COMPLIANCE REPORTING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendant make timely submissions to the Commission:

- A. One year after entry of this Order, the Stipulating Defendant must submit a compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury that:
 - 1. identifies all telephone numbers and all physical, postal, email and Internet addresses, including all residences;
 - 2. identifies all business activities, including any business for which the Stipulating Defendant performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which the Stipulating Defendant has any ownership interest;

- 3. describes in detail the Stipulating Defendant's involvement in each such business, including title, role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control, and any ownership;
- 4. identifies the primary physical, postal, and email address and telephone number, as designated points of contact, which representatives of the Commission may use to communicate with the Stipulating Defendant;
- 5. identifies all of the Stipulating Defendant's businesses by all of their names, telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet addresses;
- 6. describes the activities of each business, including the goods and services offered, the means of advertising, marketing, and sales, and the involvement of any other Defendant (which the Stipulating Defendant must describe if he knows or should know due to his own involvement);
- describes in detail whether and how that the Stipulating
 Defendant is in compliance with each Section of this Order; and
- 8. provides a copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant to this Order, unless previously submitted to the Commission.
- B. For 20 years, after entry of this Order, the Stipulating Defendant must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in the following:
 - 1. any designated point of contact;
 - 2. the structure of any entity that the Stipulating Defendant has any ownership interest in or controls directly or indirectly that may affect compliance obligations arising under this Order, including: creation, merger, sale, or dissolution of the entity or

- any subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to this Order.
- 3. his name, including aliases or fictitious name, or residence address; or
- 4. his title or role in any business activity, including any business for which the Stipulating Defendant performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which the Stipulating Defendant has any ownership interest, and identify the name, physical address, and any Internet address of the business or entity.
- C. The Stipulating Defendant must submit to the Commission notice of the filing of any bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or similar proceeding by or against the Stipulating Defendant within 14 days of its filing.
- D. Any submission to the Commission required by this Order to be sworn under penalty of perjury must be true and accurate and comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, such as by concluding: "I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on: _____" and supplying the date, signatory's full name, title (if applicable), and signature.
- E. Unless otherwise directed by a Commission representative in writing, all submissions to the Commission pursuant to this Order must be emailed to DEbrief@ftc.gov or sent by overnight courier (not the U.S. Postal Service) to: Associate Director for Enforcement, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580. The subject line must begin: FTC v. CD Capital Investments, LLC, X140035.

2

3 4

6 7

5

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

21 22

23

24

25 26

27

28

X.

RECORDKEEPING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendant must create certain records for 20 years after entry of the Order, and retain each such record for 5 years. Specifically, the Stipulating Defendant, for any business that he, individually or collectively with any other Defendants, is a majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must create and retain the following records:

- accounting records showing the revenues from all goods or services A. sold;
- personnel records showing, for each person providing services, В. whether as an employee or otherwise, that person's: name; addresses; telephone numbers; job title or position; dates of service; and (if applicable) the reason for termination;
- records of all consumer complaints and refund requests, whether C. received directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response, concerning the subject matter of the Order;
- all records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each D. provision of this Order, including all submissions to the Commission; and
- E. a copy of each advertisement or other marketing material related to the marketing and telemarketing of any good or service, or the acquisition or sale of marketing leads for any good or service.

XI.

COMPLIANCE MONITORING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with this Order, including the financial representations upon which part of the judgment was suspended and any failure to transfer any assets as required by this Order:

- A. Within 14 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of the Commission, the Stipulating Defendant must: submit additional compliance reports or other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury; appear for depositions; and produce documents for inspection and copying. The Commission also is authorized to obtain discovery, without further leave of court, using any of the procedures prescribed by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including telephonic depositions), 31, 33, 34, 36, 45, and 69.
- B. For matters concerning this Order, the Commission is authorized to communicate directly with the Stipulating Defendant. The Stipulating Defendant must permit representatives of the Commission to interview any employee or other person affiliated with the Stipulating Defendant who has agreed to such an interview. The person interviewed may have counsel present.
- C. The Commission may use all other lawful means, including posing, through its representatives as consumers, suppliers, or other individuals or entities, to the Stipulating Defendant or any individual or entity affiliated with the Stipulating Defendant, without the necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits the Commission's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.
- D. Upon written request from a representative of the Commission, any consumer reporting agency must furnish consumer reports concerning the Stipulating Defendant, pursuant to Section 604(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §1681b(a)(1).

XII.

RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for all purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 21st day of February.

United States District Judge