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11		); ?
12	DISTRICT COU	
13	CLARK COUNTY, N	NEVADA A 587791
	DONNA A. RUTHE, an individual; TODAY'S	) Case No.
14	REALTY, INC., a Nevada Corporation; CDR INVESTMENTS, LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability	) Dept. No.
15	Company; DONNA A. RUTHE as attorney in fact for: CHARLES L. RUTHE, in his individual and in	Ó COMPLAINT
16	representative capacities as trustee for the	) <u>compant</u>
17	CHARLES L. RUTHE TRUST and on behalf of his Individual Retirement Account; CALOGERO S.	) REQUEST FOR TRANSFER
18	GRANIERI in his representative capacity as trustee for RICHARD F. ACOVINO IRREVOCABLE	) TO BUSINESS COURT
19	TRUST; FRANK E. GRANIERI, in his representative capacity as trustee for the FRANK E.	) Date of Hearing: N/A
20	GRANIERI REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST; and RICHARD ACOVINO, an individual,	) )
21	Plaintiffs,	) )
22	vs.	) )
23	ASPEN FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., a Nevada	)  EXEMPT FROM ARBITRATION:
24	corporation; ASPEN FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company;	) Amount in Dispute in Excess of ) \$50,000.00; Action for Injunctive and
25	JEFFREY B. GUINN, an individual; DOES I through X, inclusive; and ROE BUSINESS ENTITIES I through X, inclusive,	Declaratory Relief
26		, )
27	Defendants.	<i>)</i> )
28		)

Plaintiffs, Donna A. Ruthe, an individual, Today's Realty, Inc., a Nevada Corporation ("Today's Realty"), CDR Investments, LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company ("CDR Investments"), and Donna A. Ruthe as attorney in fact for Charles L. Ruthe, in his individual and in representative capacities as trustee for the Charles L. Ruthe Trust ("Ruthe Trust") and on behalf of his individual retirement account ("Ruthe IRA"); Calogero S. Granieri, Trustee in his representative capacity as trustee for the Richard F. Acovino Irrevocable Trust ("Acovino Trust"); Frank E. Granieri in his representative capacity as trustee for the Frank E. Granieri Revocable Living Trust ("Granieri Trust"); and Richard Acovino, individually (collectively, "Plaintiff"), by and through its attorneys, the law firm of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer, Ltd., hereby complain and allege against Defendants Aspen Financial Services, Inc., a Nevada corporation, Aspen Financial Services, LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and Jeffrey B. Guinn, an individual (collectively, "Aspen" or "Defendant") as follows:

# I. PARTIES

- 1. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff Donna A. Ruthe, an individual, was a resident of Clark County, Nevada.
- 2. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff Today's Realty was a Nevada corporation authorized to conduct business in Clark County, Nevada.
- 3. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff CDR Investments was a Nevada limited liability company authorized to conduct business in Clark County, Nevada.
- 4. Plaintiff Donna A. Ruthe is the authorized attorney in fact for Charles L. Ruthe, an individual, who at all relevant times is a resident of Clark County, Nevada.
- 5. Plaintiff Donna A. Ruthe is the authorized attorney in fact for Charles L. Ruthe in his representative capacities as Trustee of the Charles L. Ruthe Trust, a trust formed under the laws of Nevada, and which is administered out of Clark County, Nevada, and for his individual retirement account, which at all relevant times is a validly existing individual retirement account with business interests in Clark County, Nevada.
- 6. Plaintiff Donna A. Ruthe is the authorized attorney in fact for Richard Acovino, Trustee of the Acovino Trust, a trust formed under the laws of Nevada, and which is administered out of

Clark County, Nevada.

- 7. Plaintiff Donna A. Ruthe is the authorized attorney in fact for Calogero S. Granieri, Trustee of the Granieri Trust, a trust formed under the laws of Nevada, and which is administered out of Clark County, Nevada.
- 8. Plaintiff Donna A. Ruthe is the authorized attorney in fact for Richard Acovino, an individual who at all relevant times herein was a resident of Clark County, Nevada.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Defendant Aspen Financial Services, Inc., is a Nevada domestic corporation that at all relevant times herein was duly authorized to conduct business in Clark County, Nevada.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendant Aspen Financial Services, LLC, is a Nevada limited liability company authorized to conduct business in Clark County, Nevada.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendant Jeffrey B. Guinn ("Guinn"), is a resident of Clark County, Nevada and was the majority owner/investor in Aspen, and served as Aspen's president, manager and/or chief executive officer at all relevant times herein.
- 12. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of Defendant named and identified herein as Does I through X, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff. Plaintiff, therefore, sue said Defendant by such fictitious names and will amend its Complaint to show their true names and capacities upon ascertaining the same. Upon information and belief, each of the Defendant sued herein as Doe has some responsibility for the damages to Plaintiff as a result of the matters herein alleged.
- 13. The true names of Defendant Roe Business Entities I through X, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff. Plaintiff, therefore, sue said Defendant by such fictitious names and will amend its Complaint to show their true names upon ascertaining the same. Upon information and belief, each of the Defendant sued herein as Roe Business Entity has some responsibility for the damages to Plaintiff as a result of the matters herein alleged.
- 14. Through its wrongful acts and omissions, as set forth herein, Defendant have subordinated Plaintiff's interests to Aspen's interests, and in so doing, Aspen has breached its statutory, contractual, and fiduciary duties owing to Plaintiff.

# II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

15. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter since all actions described herein occurred within Clark County, Nevada. Venue is proper in Clark County because the activities giving rise to the causes of action took place in Clark County and the causes of action arose therein.

# III. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

# A. OVERVIEW OF ASPEN'S OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS PRACTICES

- 16. Aspen is an maker, broker and servicer of loans in Nevada within the context of Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 645B and Nevada Administrative Code 645B.
- 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Aspen's business practice of arranging and brokering loans involves various borrowers approaching Aspen to request loans for the purpose of acquiring and/or developing real estate situated in Clark County, Nevada. In response to these requests, Aspen solicits local investors (such as Plaintiff) to invest in these various loans brokered by Aspen.
- 18. In depositing funds with Aspen, the lenders place their trust and confidence in Aspen because Aspen represents itself as having special expertise and knowledge in the area of arranging, brokering and servicing loans for real estate acquisition and/or development.
- 19. Due to the large principal amounts of the loans Aspen arranges, brokers and services (typically exceeding a million dollars and frequently exceeding ten million dollars) the investment from one lender is generally not sufficient to fund an entire loan. Aspen therefore combines the deposits from several lenders into one loan package that is then loaned to the borrowers.
- 20. As there may be numerous lenders on one loan, the borrowers grant the lenders pro rata fractional interests in the loan agreement, promissory note evidencing the loans, and recorded deed of trust on the subject property as security for the loans. The loans are also generally secured by individual guarantees from principals of the borrowers.
- 21. In consideration for arranging and brokering such loans, Aspen received "points" from the loan proceeds paid out of escrow from the borrower's proceeds, typically approximating 3% of the of the principal balance of the loan.
  - 22. When a loan matures and the principal amount is repaid by the borrowers, Aspen often

provides the lenders, frequently verbally, with the option to reinvest or "roll-over" their deposited funds in another loan investment package arranged and brokered by Aspen.

- 23. As a condition of the initial deposit of funds with Aspen for investment, Aspen requires each lender to execute a standard Loan Servicing Agreement (effective for the initial and any future loans the lender participates in with Aspen) authorizing Aspen to service loans it arranges and brokers and to protect and enforce the lender's rights with respect to such loans.
- 24. In exchange for acting as a servicer of the loans, Aspen receives a servicing fee from the interest payments paid by borrowers to lenders. Thus, upon investing with Aspen, the lenders must consider whether Aspen is a trustworthy loan servicer at the same time the lenders are considering whether to invest with Aspen, as the two functions are made indivisible by Aspen.
- 25. With respect to each loan participated in by a lender, Aspen requires the lender to execute a "Special Power of Attorney" authorizing Aspen to service a particular loan in accordance with the terms of the Loan Servicing Agreement. The Special Power of Attorney consists of a revocable power of attorney and purports to have been approved by the Commissioner of Mortgage Lending. Additionally, the Special Power of Attorney expressly states (as required by NRS § 645B.330) that such power "shall not be effective to authorize any transaction that subordinates the priority of the recorded deed of trust that secures the Loan (the "Deed of Trust") to any other monetary encumbrance, unless accompanied by a writing executed by Lender that consents to such subordination."
- 26. However, concurrent with the execution of each Special Power of Attorney, Aspen also requires the lender to execute a separate "Subordination Addendum," which modifies the Special Power of Attorney and purports to grant Aspen a "durable irrevocable power of attorney" authorizing Aspen "to subordinate the lien position of Lenders … to a deed of trust in favor of another lender making a loan enabling the Borrower to construct improvements upon the [subject] Property." Unlike the Special Power of Attorney, the Subordination Agreement does not purport to have been approved by the Commissioner of Mortgage Lending.
- 27. From 2001 through 2007, Plaintiff was solicited by and deposited funds with Aspen for various loans arranged, brokered and serviced by Aspen ("Aspen Loans"). Plaintiff presently has

invested substantial sums on at least twenty six (26) loans arranged, brokered and serviced by Aspen. Plaintiff's corresponding percentage interests in the various Aspen Loans are set forth in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto.

- 28. Pursuant to the terms of the Loan Servicing Agreements executed by and between Plaintiff and Aspen, Plaintiff appointed Aspen as its agent "to service each Note, to protect the interest of Lender in and enforce the rights of Lender under each Note, Deed of Trust and any other Loan Documents." Aspen accepted such appointment as agent for Plaintiff and "agree[d] to exercise diligent and good faith efforts in the execution of its duties as agent...."
- 29. Plaintiff has recently become aware of certain representations, acts and/or omissions by Aspen relating to the arranging, brokering and servicing of Plaintiff's loans indicating that Aspen has materially breached its statutory, fiduciary and contractual duties owing to Plaintiff.
- 30. Plaintiff has requested that Aspen provide her with further information and Plaintiff has attempted to investigate the representations, acts and/or omissions by Aspen with respect to the various loans. However, Aspen has refused to fully disclose information to Plaintiff and has obstructed Plaintiff's efforts to obtain further information.
- 31. A review of the limited information to which Plaintiff has been made privy to reveals substantial causes for concern, as set forth below. Plaintiff intends to amend this Complaint upon the receipt of further information.

# B. THE MILANO RESIDENCES, LLC LOAN (#60-00277-1)

32. Beginning in or about 2005, Aspen arranged, brokered and refinanced loans with Milano Residences, LLC ("Milano") for the development of a 100 unit condominium project on property situated near the intersection of Cactus and Bermuda in Clark County, Nevada ("Milano Property"). Milano is owned and managed by Susan Mardian ("Mardian"), who Plaintiff is informed and believes is a long-time friend of Defendant Guinn and a partner with Guinn in other business transactions.

Recital B of the Loan Servicing Agreement defines "Loan Documents" as "the Note, the Deed of Trust and any other agreements, security instruments and other documents executed in connection therewith."

- 33. Pursuant to the construction contract entered into between Milano and its general contractor, Dayside Construction, Inc. ("Dayside"), dated April 25, 2005, the cost of the condominium project was not to exceed \$9,771,530.00 and was to be substantially completed no later than 240 days after the "commencement date," defined as "two weeks after receipt of [the] Building Permit" from Clark County.
- 34. As of March 6, 2006, Aspen was then servicing first and second priority loans with Milano in the respective amounts of \$17.7 million and \$5 million.
- 35. On or about March 6, 2006, Mardian requested that Aspen arranged a refinance of its then existing \$5 million second priority loan.

# (1) Aspen's Solicitation of Today's Realty as an Investor in the Milano Loan

- 36. In connection with Mardian's loan request, on March 14, 2006, Milano, by and through Mardian as its manager, executed a Loan Agreement, Promissory Note and Deed of Trust for a new second priority loan in the principal amount of \$10 million to be financed for a period of eighteen months ("Milano Loan") in favor of "Exhibit A" lenders, which were to be solicited by Aspen. In conjunction with the Milano Loan, Mardian also executed a personal Guaranty guaranteeing Milano's performance under the respective loan documents.
- 37. In paragraph 1.02 of the Deed of Trust, Milano represented, *inter alia*, that as of March 14,2006, "all costs arising from construction of any improvements and the purchase of all equipment located on [the Milano Property] have been paid" and "the proceeds of the indebtedness advanced by Beneficiary and evidenced by the Note are to be used only for the purposes of acquiring [the Milano Property] and reimbursement of capital improvements made to [the Milano Property]."
- 38. However, on March 15, 2006, the day after Milano and Mardian had made such representations, Mardian caused Joshua Tree, LLC ("Joshua Tree"), a Nevada limited liability company likewise owned and managed by Mardian, to record a \$3 million third priority deed of trust on the Milano Property. Plaintiff is informed and believes no consideration was given by Joshua Tree in exchange for the deed of trust placed upon the Milano Property.
- 39. On or about March 16, 2006, Aspen solicited Plaintiff Today's Realty for participation as an "Exhibit A" lender in the \$10 million Milano Loan. In the Milano Loan solicitation package

 Aspen's then-existing second priority loan (without reference to the principal balance of such loan) and "other costs related to the project, loan fees and interest reserves for both the 1st and 2nd Mortgages." Aspen further represented that it was also servicing the first mortgage on the project in the amount of \$17,700,000 and that the "combined [loan to value ratio] on the project including both the 1st and 2nd mortgages is 91% of the appraised value of \$30.3 million."

- 40. In soliciting the Loan, Aspen did not disclose details concerning the construction contract entered into between Milano and Dayside, including the contract price or the anticipated date of completion. Rather, Aspen represented to Today's Realty that the "Site has been inspected by Aspen" and that the project consisted of "a 100 Unit Condominium Project [that] is under construction."
- 41. On March 24, 2006, in reliance upon Aspen's representations concerning the Milano Loan and Aspen's promise under the Loan Servicing Agreement to service the Milano Loan and protect and enforce Today's Realty's rights and interests, Today's Realty deposited funds with Aspen and invested as an "Exhibit A" lender in the Milano Loan.
- 42. On March 28, 2006, Aspen (in its capacity as agent for Today's Realty and the other "Exhibit A" lenders of the Milano Loan) executed escrow instructions authorizing the close of escrow and directing the disbursement of the Milano Loan proceeds.
- 43. However, unknown to Today's Realty, undisclosed by Aspen, and contrary to the representations made by Aspen, Plaintiff is informed and believes that the condominium project was not under construction as of the close of escrow because the Clark County had not issued a building permit for the project. Indeed, based upon a recent review of Clark County permit records, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Dayside Construction did not receive a building permit for the Milano Property until May 18, 2006.
- 44. Additionally, unknown to Today's Realty, undisclosed by Aspen, and contrary to the representations made by Aspen, in the escrow instructions executed by Aspen, Aspen directed that the escrow agent disburse loan proceeds in the amount of \$1.1 million directly to Joshua Tree. At no time prior or subsequent to the disbursement of the Milano Loan proceeds did Aspen disclose to

Today's Realty the relationship between Joshua Tree and Milano or that Aspen had authorized disbursement of such proceeds to Joshua Tree.

45. Consequently, by the at the closing of the Milano Loan and the disbursement of the "Exhibit A" lenders' proceeds Aspen knew and failed to disclose to Today's Realty: (1) Joshua Tree was owned and controlled by Mardian; (2) Mardian had recorded the Joshua Tree deed of trust on the Milano Property the day after she executed the Milano Loan documents; and (3) Aspen authorized and directed the escrow agent to disburse Milano Loan proceeds directly to Joshua Tree to pay a third priority trust deed that was subordinate to the refinanced second priority trust deed and did not represent a payment for acquiring the Milano Property or reimbursing capital improvements made to the Milano Property.

# (2) <u>Aspen's Failure to Notify Today's Realty of Material Events Concerning the Milano Loan</u> and Failure to Require Additional Deposits By Milano

- 46. Pursuant to the Loan Agreement and other loan documents executed by Milano, it agreed to maintain a funds account for the loan proceeds ("Funds Account"), governed by a Deposit Account Control Agreement and Disbursement Agreement, and agreed to deposit additional sums into the Funds Account as necessary to enable Milano to perform and satisfy all of its covenants under the loan documents and to maintain the 91% loan to value ratio.
- 47. Milano further agreed pursuant to the terms of the Milano Loan Agreement that, should the "Exhibit A" lenders determine the amounts held in the Funds Account were insufficient for such purposes, then it would deposit the deficiency amount within seven (7) business days of the lenders' written demand.
- 48. Pursuant to the Loan Servicing Agreement, Aspen agreed to protect and enforce Today's Realty's rights and interest as an "Exhibit A" lender under the Loan Agreement and further agreed to "promptly notify [Today's Realty] of the occurrence and nature" of any event of default by Milano under the Milano Loan documents. Aspen received consideration for the performance of such services.
  - 49. Plaintiff is informed and believes the Milano Property was supposed to be fully

 constructed, marketed and sold on or before June 2007.2

- 50. However, on or prior to April 20, 2007, Aspen was notified by Milano that its original contractor had been replaced, that the project had been delayed and that construction would not be underway until May 1, 2007. Aspen failed to inform Today's Realty of this development and the resulting delay in the completion of the project.
- 51. On July 25, 2007, Aspen received a Nevada Construction Services Project Draw Request Report that notified Aspen the project was 25% over budget, with 50% of the \$18 million project budget having been disbursed but only a calculated completion of 25%. Aspen failed to notify Today's Realty of these material facts and failed to demand that Milano deposit additional funds into the Funds Account to bring construction and interest reserves to acceptable level under the terms of the Milano Loan documents.
  - (3) Aspen's Failure to Monitor Liens on the Property, Failure to Notify Today's Realty of the Existence of Liens Upon the Milano Property, and Failure to Enforce Today's Realty's Rights Regarding the Existence of Such Liens
- 52. Additionally, Plaintiff is informed and believes that pursuant to the Milano Loan Agreement, Milano agreed to keep the property free and clear of any claim of lien on the property and agreed that an event of default would occur in the event that such claim of lien was not discharged or otherwise satisfied within twenty (20) days.
- 53. Pursuant to the Loan Servicing Agreement, Aspen agreed to protect and enforce Today's Realty's rights and interest as an "Exhibit A" lender under the Loan Agreement and further agreed to notify Today's Realty of any default on the property. Aspen received consideration for the performance of such services.
- 54. On or about May 10, 2007, the prior general contractor for Milano, Dayside Construction, Inc., recorded a Mechanic's Lien on the property in the amount of \$381,661.40 ("Dayside Lien").
  - 55. On or about May 17, 2007, Peri Formwork Systems, Inc. recorded a Mechanic's Lien on

Plaintiff's information and belief is based upon both the terms of the construction contract dated April 25, 2005, and correspondence from Mardian to "Aspen Financial First and Second Trust Deed Investors" dated on January 28, 2009.

the property in an amount Plaintiff is informed and believes to be approximately \$196,849.14 ("Periforms Lien").

- 56. As of May 30, 2007, the Dayside Lien remained on the subject property, thereby rendering Milano in default under the Loan Agreement.
- 57. As of June 7, 2007, the Periforms Lien remained on the subject property, thereby rendering Milano in default under the Loan Agreement.
- 58. On or about November 14, 2007, Peri Formwork Systems, Inc. recorded a *lis pendens* on the subject property ("Periforms *Lis Pendens*").
- 59. As of November 24, 2007, the Periforms *Lis Pendens* remained on the subject property, thereby rendering Milano in default under the Loan Agreement.
- 60. Aspen knew or should have known of the recordation of the Dayside Lien, the Periforms Lien, and the Periforms Lis Pendens. Aspen failed to timely notify Today's Realty of the existence of such liens and encumbrances and that the Milano Loan was in default under the Milano Loan Agreement.

# (4) <u>Aspen's Failure to Notify Today's Realty of the Conditions Precedent for Granting a Loan</u> <u>Extension and Improper Retention of Loan Extension Proceeds</u>

- 61. Plaintiff is informed and believes that pursuant to the Milano Loan Agreement, Milano possessed a conditional right to extend the term of the Milano Loan for up to six months, but only upon, *inter alia*: (a) no default or event of default had occurred under the loan documents; (b) the "Exhibit A" lenders had determined that no material adverse change had occurred in the financial condition of Milano or Mardian, as guarantor; (c) the "Exhibit A" lenders had determined that the interest reserve portion allocated to the disbursement budget is sufficient to pay interest over the extended term as it accrues or Milano deposited sufficient additional funds to redress such shortfall; and (d) Milano paid to the "Exhibit A" lenders an extension fee equal to 0.5% of the principal balance of the loan.
- 62. On or about August 14, 2007, Milano provided Aspen written notice that it was requesting a six month extension of the Milano Loan from October 1, 2007, to April 1, 2008. At that time, Milano also provided to Aspen a check payable to Aspen for a "loan extension fee" in the

 amount of \$50,000.00.

- 63. On or about August 31, 2007, Aspen, through Guinn, executed a consent to loan extension on the Milano Loan.
- 64. On August 31, 2007, Aspen sent Today's Realty an "extension notice" letter stating that Milano had exercised its right to a six month extension of the loan and notified Today's Realty that the new maturity date on the loan was April 1, 2008.
- 65. Aspen failed to inform Today's Realty that Milano's right to seek a six month extension was conditioned upon the aforementioned events or conditions which had not occurred or been satisfied.
- 66. Aspen failed to inform Today's Realty that Milano had been in default under the loan documents, including Milano's failure to remove the Dayside Lien and Periforms Lien, prior to its request for extension and that it remained in default at the time Aspen consented to the extension on behalf of the "Exhibit A" lenders.
- 67. Aspen failed to inform Today's Realty that the construction on the Milano Property was behind schedule and over budget.
- 68. Aspen failed to require Milano to replenish the interest and construction reserve balances in the Funds Account as a condition to the loan extension.
- 69. Aspen never informed Today's Realty that Milano had paid a \$50,000.00 extension fee in violation of the Loan Agreement.
- 70. Aspen never paid Today's Realty its pro rata share of Milano's extension fee in violation of the Loan Agreement.
  - (5) Aspen's Failure to Enforce the Loan to Value Ratio Covenants on the Milano Property and Improper Subordination of Today's Realty's Deed of Trust by an additional \$1.5 Million
- 71. As a condition precedent to the Loan Agreement, Milano agreed to maintain a combined first and second mortgage loan to value ratio of 91% on the property, and agreed that it would deposit additional funds into the Funds Account sufficient to keep the loan to value ration no greater than 91%. Additionally, to protect this loan to value ratio covenant, Milano agreed that every six

months the Exhibit A lenders could retain an appraiser at Milano's expense to appraise the property, whereupon the Exhibit A lenders could demand deposit upon five days' notice into the Funds Account to bring the loan to value ration to the required percentage to the extent of any deficient equity.

- 72. Pursuant to the Loan Servicing Agreement, Aspen agreed to protect and enforce Today's Realty's rights and interest as an "Exhibit A" lender under the Loan Agreement and received consideration for such services.
- 73. Pursuant to the terms of the Loan Agreement, on or about October 1, 2006, the "Exhibit A" lenders possessed the right to request an appraisal on the property at Milano's expense and to demand that Milano deposit additional funds into the Funds Account in the event the loan to value ratio increased above 91%. Aspen failed to notify Today's Realty of this right and Plaintiff is informed and believes that Aspen failed to exercise this right on behalf of Today's Realty.
- 74. Plaintiff is informed and believes that as of October 2006, the condominium market in Clark County began to decline, as evidenced by GLVAR statistics showing that since March 2006, the median value for condominiums sold in Clark County had declined by approximately -2.4%, with the number of sales declining by -31.7% and the number of units available for sale increasing by 40%.
- 75. On or about December 29, 2006, Aspen authorized the refinance of the first deed of trust without informing Today's Realty that the amount of first deed of trust had increased from \$17.7 million to \$19.2 million and without receiving Today's Realty's consent to a subordination of its interest by another \$1.5 million in indebtedness.
- 76. Additionally, Plaintiff is informed and believes that the substantial majority of the \$1.5 million in additional indebtedness was incurred to allow payment, unknown and undisclosed to Today's Realty but with Aspen's knowledge and consent, to Joshua Tree on its then-existing third deed of trust, thereby impermissibly subordinating Today's Realty's second deed of trust interest in favor of the holder of a third deed of trust.
- 77. Aspen did not notify Today's Realty of the subordination to additional indebtedness and did not provide Today's Realty with an updated appraisal on the property. Based on March 2006

 appraisal Aspen previously supplied Today's Realty, the newly refinanced first deed of trust in the amount of \$19.2 million would have placed the combined loan to value ration for the first and second mortgages at approximately 96%, in violation of the 91% loan to value ratio covenant.

- 78. Pursuant to the terms of the Loan Agreement, on or about April 1, 2007, the "Exhibit A" lenders possessed the right to request an appraisal on the property at Milano's expense and to demand that Milano deposit additional funds into the Funds Account in the event the loan to value ratio increased above 91%. Aspen failed to notify Today's Realty of this right and Plaintiff is informed and believes that Aspen failed to exercise this right on behalf of Today's Realty.
- 79. Plaintiff is informed and believes that as of April 2007, the condominium market in Clark County continued to exhibit weakness, as evidenced by GLVAR statistics showing that, based upon year-over-year comparisons, the median value for condominiums sold in Clark County had declined by -2.5% and the number of sales had declined -47.2% while the number of available units for sale had increased +63.5%.
- 80. On August 31, 2007, Aspen knew or should have known the condition of the real estate market in Clark County and failed to request an appraisal on the Milano Property at Milano's expense and to demand that Milano deposit additional funds into the Funds Account to bring the loan to value ratio current to 91% when it authorized and consented to Milano's aforementioned six month loan extension.
- 81. Pursuant to the terms of the Loan Agreement, on or about October 1, 2007, the "Exhibit A" lenders possessed the right to request an appraisal on the property at Milano's expense and to demand that Milano deposit additional funds into the Funds Account in the event the loan to value ratio increased above 91%. Aspen failed to notify Today's Realty of this right and Plaintiff is informed and believes that Aspen failed to exercise this right on behalf of Today's Realty.
- 82. Plaintiff is informed and believes that as of October 2007, the condominium market in Clark County had substantially deteriorated, as evidenced by GLVAR statistics showing that, in the intervening eighteen months since April 2006, the median value for condominiums sold in Clark County had declined by -14.6%, with the number of sales declining by -66.8% and the number of available units increasing by 68.2%.

- 83. On February 19, 2009, Aspen informed Today's Realty in a written letter to the "Exhibit A" lenders that it had obtained a current appraisal on the subject property and that value of the subject property had declined from \$30.3 million to a value of \$3.81 million as of January 2009.
- 84. On or about March 23, 2009, Aspen represented to counsel for Plaintiff that other than the 2009 appraisal, no other appraisal for the Milano property had been performed for the benefit of the "Exhibit A" lenders since the March 2006 appraisal.
- 85. Thus, at no point during the term of the loan or the six month extension did Aspen notify Today's Realty of its rights to enforce the 91% loan to value ratio and Aspen failed to enforce such loan to value ratio covenant, all to the detriment of Today's Realty.

# (6) Aspen's Failure to Halt Disbursement of Loan Proceeds from the Funds Account

- 86. In addition to having power to request additional deposits into the Funds Account under the Milano Loan Agreement, Today's Realty also possessed a perfected security interest in the Funds Account managed by Nevada Construction Services as disbursement agent.
- 87. Pursuant to the Milano Loan Agreement, Today's Realty, as an "Exhibit A" lender possessed the right to require Milano to deposit funds into the Funds Account necessary to retain sufficient interest reserves and construction reserves balances to guarantee performance during the life of the loan.
- 88. As of August 27, 2007, the interest reserve portion of the Funds Account reached \$0, while \$4.9 million in the Funds Account.
- 89. Aspen failed to notify Today's Realty that the interest reserve balance reached \$0. Aspen failed to demand that Milano replenish the interest reserve balance in the Funds Account and failed to halt the disbursement of funds from the Funds Account until Milano replenished such reserves. Rather, Aspen continued to authorize disbursement from the Funds Account for Milano's benefit until the account reached \$0 in or about December 2008.
- 90. On March 10, 2008, Aspen notified Today's Realty that Milano could no longer meet its obligations under the Milano Loan. Shortly thereafter, in April 2008, Aspen received a financial statement from Milano and Mardian that displayed the net value of Milano as negative nine million dollars (-\$9,000,000). At the time of receiving this information, in excess of \$2 million remained

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91. Aspen failed to notify Today's Realty that \$2 million remained in the Funds Account and failed to halt the disbursement of funds upon receipt of Milano's notice of intent to breach the Milano Loan and upon receipt of notice that Milano's financial condition had suffered a material adverse change. Rather, Aspen continued to authorize disbursement from the Funds Account for Milano's benefit until the account reached \$0 in or about December 2008.

# (7) Aspen Has Prevented Today's Realty From Further Investigating Milano Loan Issues

- 92. On February 19, 2009, Aspen notified Today's Realty and the other "Exhibit A" lenders that Milano was walking away from the project. Further, for the first time, Aspen notified Today's Realty that despite having loaned Milano \$29.2 million on property, including the Milano Loan, for the construction on the project, the current value of the property is only \$3.8 million.
- 93. Upon subsequent investigation, Plaintiff is informed and believes that construction on the Milano Property is only 50-60% complete and will take another \$9 million in construction costs before the property is marketable as condominium units.
- 94. Moreover, Plaintiff's recent investigation of documents recorded at the Clark County Recorder's office reveal that of the \$29.9 million in loans brokered and serviced by Aspen, it appears that Aspen authorized the disbursement of as much as \$11.5 million directly to Joshua Tree through the continued recordation of deeds of trust by Joshua Tree and reconveyances upon the funding of loans brokered by Aspen.
- 95. In connection with researching these issues and requesting additional answers, Plaintiff requested that Aspen make available its entire file concerning the Milano Loan and to produce copies of documents within such file.
- 96. In addition to its general fiduciary duties to maintain records and provide information to Plaintiff's agent, Aspen expressly acknowledged in the Loan Servicing Agreement that it "has no rights in such executed originals of the Loan Documents<sup>3</sup>," further acknowledged its

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Loan Documents" is defined under the Loan Servicing Agreement as "the Note, the Deed of Trust and any other agreements, security instruments and other documents executed in connection therewith"

appointment as Plaintiff's "agent to hold the executed originals of the Loan Documents on its behalf," and agrees to "maintain full and accurate records of its receipts, maintenance and disbursements of all Payments."

- 97. However, Aspen has only permitted Plaintiff's counsel to review portions of the Milano file and asserts that Plaintiff is not entitled to review the remaining portions of the Milano file or various Aspen Loan files.
- 98. Further, Aspen has failed and refused to produce copies of the selected documents which Plaintiff's counsel were permitted to review and tag for copying.
- 99. Additionally, on March 26, 2009, Plaintiff called Nevada Construction Services ("NCS") to inquire about the Funds Account disbursements for the Milano Loan. NCS informed Plaintiff that it would not disclose any information without the prior approval from Aspen. Later that day, NCS contacted Plaintiff, and stated that Aspen expressly refused to authorize NCS to disclose such information to Plaintiff.
- 100. Accordingly, despite its fiduciary and contractual duties, Aspen is denying Plaintiff access to her own documents and is actively preventing Plaintiff from acquiring information from other agents ultimately acting on Plaintiff's behalf.

# C. Plaintiff Has Substantial Insecurity Concerns Regarding the Other Aspen Loans

- 101. Plaintiff has substantial concerns relating to Aspen's representations, acts and/or omissions with respect to their other Aspen Loans, particularly in light of Aspen's apparent refusal (1) to enforce or protect Plaintiff's respective rights under the various loan agreements, promissory notes, and deeds of trust; and (2) act with the fidelity, honesty and good faith required of an agent pursuant to the principal-agent relationship established pursuant to the various Loan Servicing Agreements and related documents.
- 102. Plaintiff has requested to review Aspen's files related to the other Aspen Loans and has requested the production of documents relevant thereto. However, Aspen has failed and refused to make available adequate files concerning these other loans and has permitted Plaintiff's counsel only a cursory review of limited documents concerning such transactions. Due to the limitations

imposed by Aspen upon Plaintiff's review, Plaintiff cannot adequately determine to what extent whether Aspen has similarly breached its duties owing to Plaintiff on the other Aspen Loans. However, Plaintiff's cursory review of records has revealed a number of serious and substantial concerns, including the following:

# (1) Monarch Ridge Project, LLC Loan (#60-00313-5)

- 103. In or about May 2007, Aspen provided a letter of instruction to Equity Title of Nevada regarding Monarch Ridge Project 60-00313-5, a second trust deed for \$5,221,000 in which Plaintiffs Ruthe Trust, Ruthe IRA and CDR Investments are investors ("Monarch Loan"). In its letter of instruction on the Monarch Loan, Aspen instructed Equity Title of Nevada to distribute \$900,000 to "Coronado South, LLC" as "Seller Proceeds" from the net loan proceeds. Aspen failed to disclose to Plaintiffs Ruthe Trust, Ruthe IRA and CDR Investments that \$900,000, or 17.2% of the loan proceeds, were going to Coronado South, LLC, an entity of which Guinn is a member.
- 104. To the contrary, on or about May 16, 2007, and as part of its solicitation of the Monarch Loan, Aspen presented a Loan Officer Analysis to Plaintiffs Ruthe Trust, Ruthe IRA, and CDR Investments that represents that the loan proceeds "will be used to payoff the remaining balance on the existing second mortgage (60-00283-1)."
- 105. At the time of the undisclosed \$900,000 transfer to one of Guinn's entities, Guinn and Todd Stratton were business partners in one or more entities, including Monarch Ridge Estates, LLC, in which Guinn and Stratton were co-managers.

# (2) Aspen Self Storage, LLC Loan (#60-00292-2)

# (a) Disbursement of Loan Proceeds to Joshua Tree

- 106. As it did in the Milano Loan transaction, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Aspen may have similarly authorized disbursement of loan proceeds to Joshua Tree in connection with a loan to Aspen Self Storage, LLC ("Aspen Self Storage"), a Nevada entity likewise controlled and owned by Mardian.
- 107. On July 26, 2006, Aspen Self Storage, LLC, by and through Mardian, executed a loan agreement, promissory note, and deed of trust for a \$2 million loan with a term of 18 months to be brokered by Aspen pursuant to the terms of a loan agreement and promissory note ("Aspen Self

Storage Loan") and secured by a deed of trust on property situated near the intersection of Cactus and Bermuda in Clark County, Nevada ("Aspen Self Storage Property").

- 108. On that same day, July 26, 2006, Mardian caused Joshua Tree to record a deed of trust on the Aspen Self Storage Property. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the Joshua Tree deed of trust recorded on this property was without consideration.
- 109. At or about that same time, Plaintiff Ruthe IRA, deposited funds with and/or otherwise authorized reallocation of previously invested funds brokered by Aspen for investment in the Aspen Self Storage Loan.
  - 110. On August 4, 2006, escrow closed on the Aspen Self Storage Loan.
- 111. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Aspen, without Ruthe IRA's knowledge or permission, authorized and directed disbursement of some or all of the Aspen Self Storage Loan proceeds to Joshua Tree in a manner similarly done in the Milano Loan transaction.
  - (b) Loan Extension on the Aspen Self Storage Loan
- Plaintiff is likewise informed and believe that pursuant to the Loan Agreement, Aspen Self Storage possessed a right to extend the term of the Aspen Self Storage Loan for up to six months, which right was conditioned upon, *inter alia*: (1) no default or event of default having occurred under the loan documents; (2) the "Exhibit A" lenders determining that no material adverse change had occurred in the financial condition of Aspen Self Storage or Mardian, as guarantor; (3) the "Exhibit A" lenders determining that the interest reserve portion allocated to the disbursement budget is sufficient to pay interest over the extended term as it accrues or Milano deposits sufficient additional funds to redress such shortfall; and (4) Milano paying to the "Exhibit A" lenders an extension fee equal to 0.5% of the principal balance of the loan.
- 113. On or about May 21, 2007, Mardian presented to Aspen a signed financial statement dated May 21, 2007, that set forth the net value of Aspen Self Storage as only \$416,059.
- 114. On or about December 10, 2007, Aspen Self Storage provided Aspen written notice that it was requesting a six month extension of the Milano Loan from February 1, 2008, through August 1, 2008. At that time, Aspen Self Storage also provided to Aspen a check made payable to Aspen for a "loan extension fee" in the amount of \$10,000.

- 115. On or about January 22, 2008, Aspen, through Guinn, executed a consent to loan extension on the Aspen Self Storage Loan.
- 116. On December 21, 2007, Aspen sent Ruthe IRA an "extension notice" letter stating that Aspen Self Storage had exercised its right to a six month extension of the loan and notified Today's Realty that the new maturity date on the loan was August 1, 2008.
- 117. Aspen failed to inform Ruthe IRA that Aspen Self Storage's right to seek a six month extension was conditioned upon several events or conditions which had not occurred or been satisfied.
- 118. Aspen failed to inform Ruthe IRA that Aspen Self Storage's net asset value had declined to only \$400,000, rendering the Aspen Self Storage lenders under-secured on the project at the time of the extension request and at the time Aspen consented to the extension on behalf of the "Exhibit A" lenders.
- 119. Aspen never informed Ruthe IRA that Aspen Self Storage had paid a \$10,000 extension fee to Aspen.
  - 120. Aspen never paid Ruthe IRA its pro rata share of Aspen Self Storage's extension fee.
  - (3) Celebrate Homes 46, LLC, Loan (#10-0325-9), Celebrate Investments, LLC Loan (#10-00337-1), Celebrate Investments, LLC Loan (#60-00302-4), and Celebrate Properties, LLC Loan (#10-00326)
- 121. Plaintiff Ruthe Trust is an investor in Celebrate Homes 46, LLC (#10-00325-9) ("Celebrate Homes 46 Loan").
- 122. Plaintiff Ruthe Trust is an investor in the 1<sup>st</sup> priority loan for Celebrate Investments (#10-00337-1) ("Celebrate Investment #1 Loan"). Plaintiffs Ruthe Trust, Acovino Trust, Charles L. Ruthe and Donna A. Ruthe, Donna A. Ruthe and Richard Acovino, Ruthe IRA and CDR Investments are investors in the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority loan for Celebrate Investments (#60-00302-4) ("Celebrate Investment #2 Loan," collectively, "Celebrate Investments #1 and #2").
- 123. Plaintiff Ruthe Trust is an investor in the Celebrate Properties (#10-00326) ("Celebrate Properties Loan").
  - 124. Each of the aforementioned Plaintiffs executed a separate standardized special power

of attorney form for each of the loans serviced by Aspen.

- 125. Each special power of attorney expressly limited the authority of Aspen and was "not ... effective to authorize the use or release of money in which the Lender owns a beneficial interest for any purpose except for the provision of the services described above relating to the Loan unless accompanied by written authorization executed by Lender for the use or release of the money for the other purpose."
- 126. As a holder of a perfected security interest in the Funds Account for its respective loan for which the aforementioned Plaintiffs had invested, each Plaintiff held a respective "beneficial interest" in such Funds Account.
- 127. From a review of a portion of the Nevada Construction Project Draw Request Reports, it appears that prior to March 23, 2007, interest reserve draws in the amount of \$19,416.72 were paid monthly to investors in the Celebrate Homes 46 Loan. On March 23, 2007, the balance of the interest reserve for the Celebrate Homes 46 Loan was \$5,519.08, or \$13,897.64 short of the previous \$19,416.72 payments made to the investors.
- 128. On or about May 2, 2007, Aspen instructed Nevada Construction Services to transfer \$13,862.08 from Celebrate Investments #1 and #2 to the Celebrate Homes 46 Loan.
- 129. On or about June 5, 2007, Aspen instructed Nevada Construction Services to transfer \$19,416.72 from Celebrate Investments #1 and #2 to the Celebrate Homes 46 Loan.
- 130. On or about July 3, 2007, Aspen instructed Nevada Construction Services to transfer \$19,416.72 from Celebrate Investments #1 and #2 to the Celebrate Homes 46 Loan.
- 131. On or about August 2, 2007, Aspen instructed Nevada Construction Services to transfer \$19,416.72 from Celebrate Investments #1 and #2 to the Celebrate Homes 46 Loan.
- 132. On or about August 2, 2007, Aspen instructed Nevada Construction Services to transfer \$19,416.72 from Celebrate Investments #1 and #2 to the Celebrate Homes 46 Loan.
- 133. On or about September 11, 2007, Aspen instructed Nevada Construction Services to transfer \$5,700 from Celebrate Investments #1 and #2 to the Celebrate Properties Loan.
- 134. Accordingly, Plaintiff is informed and believes improper transfers from one account to another were performed without Plaintiff's knowledge or consent and in violation of the special

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27 28 power of attorney. Further, Plaintiff is informed and believes that these transfers effectively (a) transfer Funds Accounts from which Plaintiff holds a greater percentage issue to Funds Accounts in which Plaintiff possesses a lesser percentage or no interest, and (b) allowed Aspen to continue disbursing interest payments on the various Celebrate Loans after some loans would otherwise become non-performing.".

#### (4) Golshan Weber AGA Kahrobai (#80-00064-0)

135. Section 7.18 of the Loan Agreements states:

Borrower shall have the right to extend the term of the Loan for a period not to exceed six months from its original maturity date. . . (b) On or before the original maturity date, borrower shall pay Lender an extension fee in immediately available funds on the amount of one half of one percent (0.5%) of the total of (I) the outstanding disbursed principal of the Loan and (ii) the undisbursed principal balance of the Loan (both as determined on the original maturity date).

136. Aspen violated its duties and obligations to Plaintiff by failing to pay the lenders a pro rata distribution of the extension fees. For example, on or about March 1, 2008, Kevin Golshan, Geraldine Weber, AGA, LLC, Ebrahim Kahrobai, Masoud I. Kahrobaie and Lancaster Real Estate Holdings, LLC presented Aspen with an application for modification of terms of note to extend the maturity date of the loan from March to September 2008 and an extension fee check in the amount of \$49,450. On or about August 29, 2008, Kevin Golshan, Geraldine Weber, AGA, LLC, Ebrahim Kahrobai, Masoud I. Kahrobaie and Lancaster Real Estate Holdings, LLC presented Aspen with a second application for modification of terms of note to extend the loan from September 2008 to March 2009 and an extension check in the amount of \$98,900. Aspen failed to disclose to Plaintiff Ruthe Trust the payment of these extension fees and Aspen failed to pay Ruthe Trust a pro rata payment of these loan extension fees.

# (5) Coronado Eastern, LLC Loan (#80-00065-1)

137. Additionally, it appears Aspen did not obtain extension fees for loans in which Guinn owned an interest in the borrowing entity. Specifically, in or about March 2008, Coronado Eastern, LLC (80-00065-1), which is 50% owned by Jeff Guinn through his Trust, presented Aspen with an

application for modification of terms of note extending the maturity date of the loan from April to October 2008 with no accompanying extension check to Aspen.

138. In our about October 2008, Coronado Canyons (60-00321-3), of which Jeff Guinn is a principal, presented Aspen with an application for modification of terms of note to extend the maturity date of the loan from November 2008 to May 2009. No accompanying extension check to Aspen was located within the loan filed present to Plaintiff's counsel for review.

# (6) Aspen's Misrepresentation to Plaintiff as to the Use of Loan Proceeds

- 139. On March 23, 2009, during a limited on-site inspection of documents at Aspen's offices, Aspen denied Plaintiff's counsel access to any construction reserve files related to the Plaintiff's loans, except for Milano Loan.
- 140. In response to a demand to make these files available, on April 2, 2009, Aspen, by and through a letter drafted by its counsel, notified Plaintiff that "Milano is the only loan with a construction draw file, as none of the other loans was a construction loan."
- 141. Such notification contradicts the prior representations made by Aspen to Plaintiff in soliciting the Aspen Loans for investment. For example:
  - i. On or about May 8, 2007, Aspen presented Plaintiff Ruthe Trust and Ruthe IRA with a Loan Officer Analysis for a 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage with Coronado Horizon/Boulder, LLC (Loan 60-00322-4), an entity in which Guinn possesses either a direct or indirect ownership interest, which states that a portion of the loan proceeds would be used to fund the "construction reserve." Aspen also presented Ruthe Trust and Ruthe IRA with a Loan Summary and Investors Authorization form which classifies the loan type as "Construction."
  - ii. On or about March 16, 2007, Aspen presented Plaintiffs CDR Investments, LLC and the Frank Granieri Trust with a Loan Officer Analysis for a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage with Coronado Eastern, LLC (Loans 80-00065-1 and 60-00317-1), yet another entity in which Guinn owns a direct and/or indirect ownership interest, which states that a portion of the loan proceeds would be used to "payoff the existing construction loan on the project, costs and fees related to the transaction" and "if necessary tenant improvements." Aspen

- also presented Plaintiffs CDR Investments, LLC and the Frank Granieri Trust with a Loan Summary and Investors Authorization form which lists the loan type as "Construction."
- iii. On April 10, 2007, Aspen presented Plaintiff Ruthe Trust with a Loan Summary and Investors Authorization form for a 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage with Christopher Homes Ridges, LLC (Loan 60-00320-2), which states the loan proceeds would be used for "Construction" and further represented that the loan collateral is "in various stages of construction and development."
- iv. On April 17, 2007, Aspen presented Plaintiffs Ruthe Trust, CDR Investments, LLC, and Ruthe IRA with a Loan Summary and Investors Authorization form, which classified the collateral as "85 single family residential lots in various stages of construction or development" and listed the loan type as "Construction."
- 142. Moreover, substantially all of Plaintiff's other Aspen Loans at a minimum funded the interest reserve accounts for construction loans on the respective property. As such, as to the other Aspen Loans Plaintiff necessarily obtained an interest in the progress and financing contained in the construction reserve files for the construction loans. Thus, Aspen's misrepresentations and attempts to deny Plaintiff's access to the construction reserve files is unreasonable and unfounded.
- 143. Further, many of the appraisals Aspen provided to Plaintiff while soliciting the Loans, and which Aspen used to calculate the Loan to Value ratio, are based upon the value of the subject property with the completed residential/commercial structures, forming a material inducement to Plaintiff for the purpose of making such a loan, *i.e.* the amounts in the construction and interest reserves.

# (7) Aspen's Directions to Escrow Companies to Withhold Documents from Plaintiff

144. In or about November 2008, Plaintiff contacted Chicago Title and Lawyers Title to request information concerning the escrow accounts for transactions in which Aspen had authorized partial reconveyances of property securing the Coronado Horizon Loan (Loan No.60-00322-4) in which Plaintiffs Ruthe Trust and Ruthe IRA had invested. On that same day, both title companies informed Ms. Ruthe that Aspen instructed them not to provide the requested escrow documents to

145. Further, on December 10, 2008, Aspen, through a letter written by its counsel, threatened to take action against Ms. Ruthe if she persisted in requesting such documents from escrow companies.

# (8) Aspen's overcharge of loan service fees on partially performing loans

146. On numerous occasions, Aspen failed to reduce their monthly fee for servicing Plaintiff's Loans despite a reduction in the interest payments made on such Loans to Plaintiff. For example, prior to receiving partial payments, Plaintiff Today's Realty, Inc. received monthly payments in the amount of \$1,218.75 from the Milano Loan and Aspen charged a monthly service fee of \$31.25. In or about March 2008, Aspen reduced Plaintiff Today's Realty, Inc. future monthly payments on the Milano Loan to \$302.08 but failed to reduce its \$31.25 service fee charge.

# (9) Aspen's Failure to Render an Account and Supporting Detail.

- 147. In or about October 2008, Aspen began requesting that Plaintiff pay additional fees and costs on the Aspen Loans for purported expenses, including "attorney's fees," "appraisal fees," and "accounting fees," on account that the substantial majority of the Aspen Loans were non-performing.
- 148. On November 10, 2008, Plaintiff, by and through her counsel, requested that Aspen account for the expenditure of such "fees" and "costs" it attempted to pass on to Plaintiff and requested supporting detail for such fees and costs incurred.
- 149. Aspen has failed and refused to either account for such fees and costs or provide supporting detail for such alleged fees and costs purportedly incurred on Plaintiff's behalf.

# (10) Aspen's Failure to Provide Lists of Names and Addresses of Other Lenders on Loans

- 150. For each of the Aspen Loans, Aspen and the respective Plaintiff executed a Mortgage Investment Disclosure Form, wherein Aspen, through Guinn, notifies Plaintiff that the loan servicing agreement executed by and between Aspen and such Plaintiff "should address issues such as: ... (6) The right to obtain the names, addresses and phone numbers of other persons with beneficial interests in the loan."
  - 151. However, Aspen's Loan Servicing Agreements do not contain any provision

concerning the production of names, addresses and phone numbers of other persons with beneficial interests in the loan.

- 152. On April 8, 2008, Plaintiff sent a letter to Aspen requesting "the most recent list of all current lenders on each of the [then] Nonperforming Loans, their most recent addresses and all telephone numbers" for the purpose of contacting those individuals and organizing "a lender meeting, with Aspen representatives present, in order to collectively discuss, evaluate, and make an informed decision about how to proceed on those [Nonperforming] loans."
- 153. In response, Sean Corrigan, the President of Aspen, telephoned Ms. Ruthe and stated that, although Aspen possessed this information, it was not obligated to give Ms. Ruthe such information, it would not give Ms. Ruthe such information, such information was public record and she could go "get it herself."

# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 154. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 155. As Plaintiff's agent, Defendant owes fiduciary duties to Plaintiff, including (but not by way of limitation) full disclosure, due diligence, fairness, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, upmost good faith, and, more specifically, the duty to use its best efforts to protect, service and collect Plaintiff's share of the Aspen Loans.
  - 156. Defendant has breached these duties as set forth above.
- 157. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, which were done with oppression, fraud, and/or malice entitling Plaintiff to an award of actual damages and punitive damages, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 158. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 159. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
  - 160. Defendant executed numerous promissory notes, deeds of trusts, contracts, loans,

assignments, transfers, exchanges, and/or other transactions ("Subject Agreements") with or on behalf of Plaintiff.

- 161. These Subject Agreements imposed various duties upon Defendant including, *inter alia*, the duties to safeguard and enforce Plaintiff's rights under the Subject Agreements, pay all sums due to Plaintiff under the Subject Agreements, properly manage and account for the assets of Plaintiff, to keep adequate books and records, and make such books and records available for inspection by Plaintiff.
- 162. As set forth herein, Defendant breached its duty owing to Plaintiff under the Subject Agreements.
- 163. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 164. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 165. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 166. Each Subject Agreement executed by Defendant contained an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.
- 167. Additionally, there existed a relationship of trust and reliance between Plaintiff on one side, and Defendant, on the other side arising from its fiduciary duties owing to Plaintiff as set forth herein.
- 168. Defendant contractually and/or tortiously breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing as set forth above.
- 169. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the tortious conduct of Defendant, as set forth herein, is intentional, malicious, express or implied, fraudulent, oppressive and in violation of the rights of Plaintiff under the Subject Agreements. As a result of the acts and omissions of Defendant, which were done with malice, express or implied, Plaintiff is entitled to an

& Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

- 182. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 183. At the time Defendant and Plaintiff entered into their respective Loan Servicing Agreements, Aspen represented that it would protect and enforce Plaintiff's rights in the respective Aspen Loans in which Plaintiff had invested.
- 184. At the time Defendant solicited Plaintiff as lenders in the Aspen Loans, Aspen represented that the loans would be used for the purposes stated in solicitation materials.
- 185. Defendant either (i) had an insufficient basis upon which to make its representations contained in the Loan Servicing Agreements and loan solicitation materials; (ii) knew or had reason to believe such representations were false when made; or (iii) learned after making such representations that they were false, and failed to advise Plaintiff of such falsity.
- 186. Defendant intended to induce Plaintiff to rely and act upon such representations.
  - 187. Plaintiff justifiably and reasonably relied upon Aspen's representations.
- 188. As a result of Aspen's concealment and suppression of material facts, Plaintiff has sustained damages in excess of \$50,000.00.
- 189. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# **SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

- 190. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 191. Defendant, either explicitly or tacitly agreed with or conspired, and aided and abetted Milano and other borrowing entities to defraud Plaintiff by seizing upon the power of serving as agent of Plaintiff to intentionally harm Plaintiff and benefit itself as demonstrated herein.
  - 192. Plaintiff is informed and believe and thereon allege that the conduct of

Defendant, as set forth herein, is intentional, malicious, express or implied, fraudulent, oppressive and in violation of the rights of Plaintiff under the terms of the Subject Agreements.

- 193. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 194. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 195. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 196. At the time Defendant and Plaintiff entered into their respective Loan Servicing Agreements and Special Power of Attorney agreements, Aspen represented that it would protect and enforce Plaintiff's rights in the respective Aspen Loans in which Plaintiff had invested.
- 197. At the time Defendant solicited Plaintiff as lenders in the Aspen Loans, Aspen represented that the loans would be used for the purposes stated in solicitation materials.
- 198. The disbursement of the loan proceeds in conformity with the representations made in the loan solicitation materials and Aspen's protection and enforcement of Plaintiff's rights in the respective Aspen Loans was material to Plaintiff.
- 199. Defendant either (i) had an insufficient basis upon which to make its representations contained in the Loan Servicing Agreements and loan solicitation materials; (ii) knew or had reason to believe such representations were false when made; or (iii) learned after making such representations that they were false, and failed to advise Plaintiff of such falsity.
- 200. Defendant intended to induce Plaintiff to rely and act upon such representations.
  - 201. Plaintiff justifiably and reasonably relied upon Defendant's representations.
- 202. As a result of Defendant's false representations, Plaintiff is entitled to rescind the Loan Servicing Agreements Plaintiff entered into with Defendant.
  - 203. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon

Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# **NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

- 204. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 205. In light of the allegations contained in this Complaint, Plaintiff is entitled to a full and complete accounting from Defendant in regard to any of its transactions or activities which have affected or may affect Plaintiff's interests under the Subject Agreements.
- 206. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 207. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# **TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

- 208. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 209. Plaintiff provided contributions to Defendant for the sole purpose of funding the development of the properties that were the subject of the Loans. Despite the known limitations on its use of Plaintiff's contributions, Defendant exercised dominion and control over such contributions such that it deprives Plaintiff of the ownership, possession, and benefits of its monies.
- 210. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant acts and omissions, which were done with oppression, fraud, and/or malice entitling Plaintiff to an award of actual damages and punitive damages, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 211. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins& Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# **ELEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

212. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

- 213. Under NRS.32.010, a receiver should be appointed to take charge of the Aspen Loans being serviced by the Defendant, the proceeds of the Aspen Loans Aspen has in its possession held on behalf of the lenders, and/or the balance of any funds in the Funds Accounts for the Loan Agreements.
- 214. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# TWELFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 215. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 216. Plaintiff, in expectation that such money would be used to further the development of the properties that were the subject of the Loans, contributed money to Defendant.
- 217. On information and belief, the money was not used to fund the development of property, but was instead used by Defendant for its own gain.
- 218. Defendant has been unjustly enriched to the detriment of Plaintiff. To permit Defendant to retain the benefit of Plaintiff's investment funds without making just compensation therefor would result in an unjust and unconscionable investment.
- 219. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 220. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins& Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

## THIRTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 221. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 222. Defendant have wrongfully exercised ownership and dominion over Plaintiff's assets and has retained control of such assets and other proceeds for its own benefit.
- 223. The Defendant has an equitable duty to convey Plaintiff's share of such monies to the Plaintiff to avoid being unjustly enriched.
  - 224. In equity, a constructive trust in favor of Plaintiff should be imposed over their

rightful share of all monies, and the benefits thereof, that pertained to the Subject Agreements which are in possession or control of Defendant or in the possession or control of any other entity or individual because of Defendant's self dealing, mismanagement, and other bad acts. Plaintiff is entitled to an equitable decree that Defendant and such entity or individuals hold such monies in a constructive trust for Plaintiff's benefit because such an action is essential to the effectuation of justice.

- 225. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 226. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# FOURTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 227. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 228. A present, ripe, and justiciable controversy exists between Plaintiff, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, Defendant, with regard to said Defendant's self dealing and mismanagement pursuant to its duties as Plaintiff's agent.
- 229. Defendant's malicious attempts to deny Plaintiff access to its own records and interest in the Subject Agreements and to convert that interest to their own use made this litigation necessary. Plaintiff should have declaratory relief to this effect: that Plaintiff is entitled to a complete inspection of the Loan Documents, that Plaintiff is entitled to its fair share of monies Defendant wrongfully converted to its own use and that any such proceeds in the hands of Defendant or other entity(s) or individual(s) are held in constructive trust for the benefit of the Plaintiff.
- 230. Plaintiff also desires and is entitled to a binding judicial declaration of its rights under NRS § 30.040, and/or a judicial amendment to the Subject Agreements, pursuant to its equity interest therein.
- 231. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.

232. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# FIFTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 233. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 234. If Plaintiff is not allowed to inspect the Loan Documents Defendant holds as their agent, then Plaintiff will be irreparably harmed and will have no adequate remedy at law to wit: thoroughly and accurately analyze, forecast, and/or protect the value of Plaintiff's substantial interests in the respective loan agreements, promissory notes and deeds of trust.
- 235. Plaintiff will be immediately and irreparably harmed unless the Court issues a preliminary injunction ordering that Defendant allow the Plaintiff to immediately inspect and copy of Aspen's documents relating to the loans and Aspen's servicing thereof, and a permanent injunction ordering future inspection of the Loan Documents upon Defendant receiving reasonable notice of such inspection.
- 236. The continued decrease in value of Plaintiff's interests in the Loans described in this Complaint are imminent.
- 237. Absent the requested preliminary injunction, the irreparable harm which would be suffered by Plaintiff would greatly outweigh the harm which such injunctions might cause Defendant, namely, making the Loan Documents available for Plaintiff's inspection.
- 238. Granting the requested preliminary injunction will not disserve the public interest.
- 239. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 240. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

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#### SIXTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 241. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 242. Defendant defrauded Plaintiff by making misrepresentations to Plaintiff and seizing upon the power of serving as agent of Plaintiff to intentionally harm Plaintiff and benefit itself as demonstrated herein.
- 243. Defendant made material misrepresentations with the fraudulent intent and purpose to induce Plaintiff into acting on such misrepresentations.
- 244. Plaintiff relied to their detriment on Defendant's intentional misrepresentations by way of the Subject Agreements.
  - 245. Plaintiff's reliance was reasonable and foreseeable.
- 246. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the conduct of Defendant, as set forth herein, is intentional, malicious, express or implied, fraudulent, oppressive and in violation of the rights of Plaintiff under the terms of the Subject Agreements.
- 247. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 248. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# SEVENTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 249. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 250. Aspen, misrepresented, concealed and suppressed material facts in its dealings with Plaintiff, which material facts Aspen had a duty to disclose to Plaintiff.
- 251. Aspen was under a duty to disclose to the Plaintiff the facts it concealed and suppressed.
- 252. Aspen misrepresented, suppressed and concealed the facts alleged in order to defraud Plaintiff.

253. Plaintiff was unaware of the concealed, suppressed or true facts that were misrepresented, and would have acted differently if they had been informed of the concealed, suppressed material facts.

- 254. As a result of Aspen's concealment and suppression of material facts, Plaintiff has sustained damages in excess of \$50,000.00.
- 255. Aspen's fraudulent misrepresentation, suppression and concealment were done maliciously and constituted a reckless disregard of Plaintiff's rights, thereby justifying an award of exemplary and punitive damages to Plaintiff.
- 256. It has been necessary for Plaintiff to retain the services of Solomon Dwiggins & Freer to bring this action, and Plaintiff are entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

# EIGHTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 257. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 258. As to the acts and allegations regarding the wrongful acts and breach of obligations not arising from contract, Defendant has been guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice, express or implied, thereby entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages, in an amount to be proved at trial.
- 259. To discourage such conduct by Defendant in the future, Plaintiff should be awarded exemplary damages for the wrongful acts and breach of obligations not arising from contract, in an amount to be determined at trial.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully request judgment against Defendant as follows:

- 1. For an injunction ordering Defendant to allow the immediate inspection of Loan Documents by Plaintiff pertaining to its rights and interests in the Loans and related documents;
- 2. For judgment declaring the rights, duties and legal relations of Plaintiff and Defendant with regard to Plaintiff's rights to inspect the Loan Documents as provided in the Loan Servicing Agreements and related documents;
  - 3. For damages in excess of \$50,000, plus prejudgment interest on those damages;

# EXHIBIT "A"

LOAN	LOAN NO.	INVESTOR	INVESTOR'S INTEREST	TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOAN
Aspen Self Storage	60-00292-2	Charles L. Ruthe IRA	.165%	\$2,000,000.00
Canyons Edge Homes	20-00080-4	Charles L. Ruthe Trust CDR Investments, LLC	.03354%	\$13,815,000.00
Canyons Edge Homes	9-09700-09	Charles L. Ruthe IRA Charles L. Ruthe Trust CDR Investments, LLC	5.5959% 7.0834% 4.4271%	\$5,950,000.00
Canyons Edge Homes	60-00304-2	Charles L. Ruthe IRA Richard F. Acovino Irr Trust Frank E. Granieri Trust	.04864% .006947% .006742%	\$7,195,000.00
Celebrate Homes 46	10-00325-9	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	.11392%	\$1,345,500.00
Celebrate Investments	10-00337-1	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	%500000000.	\$18,196,000.00
Celebrate Investments (33 acres)	60-00302-4	Charles L. Ruthe IRA Charles L. Ruthe Trust Donna A. Ruthe or Richard Acovino Richard F. Acovino Irr. Trust CDR Investments, LLC	.03164% .00672% .00769% .00759%	\$7,900,000.00
Celebrate Properties (2.69 acres)	10-00326-0	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	.12218%	\$1,755,000.00
Centennial Lamb (17.38 acres)	60-00323-5	Charles L. Ruthe Trust Richard F. Acovino Irr Trust Frank E. Granieri Trust	.03340% .00824% .00154%	\$4,850,000.00

LOAN	LOAN NO.	INVESTOR	INVESTOR'S INTEREST	TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOAN
Centennial Lamb (9.57 acres)	60-00324-8	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	13.5397%	\$2,585,000.00
Christopher Homes Ridges	60-00320-2	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	.05132%	\$5,700,000.00
City Crossing 9	10-00338-8	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	.02208%	\$7,000,000.00
City Crossing 10	10-00343-3	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	.02208%	\$4,832,000.00
Coronado Canyons	60-00321-3	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	.001455%	\$5,910,000.00
Coronado Eastern, LLC	60-00317-1	CDR Investments, LLC Frank E. Granieri Trust	.02308% .05217%	\$2,300,000.00
Coronado Eastern, LLC	80-00065-1	Charles L. Ruthe IRA	.4818%	\$19,550,000.00
Coronado Horizon Boulder	60-00322-4	Charles L. Ruthe IRA Charles L. Ruthe Trust	1.6284% 2.5680%	\$2,960,000.00
Flamingo TC	60-00294-6	Charles L. Ruthe IRA Charles L. Ruthe Trust Donna A. Ruthe or Richard Acovino CDR Investments, LLC	.01217% .03140% .00182% .01128%	\$21,850,000.00
Golshan Weber AGA Kahrobai	80-00064-0	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	2.2750%	\$9,890,000.00
Grand Teton Residential	60-00318-2	Charles L. Ruthe IRA Charles L. Ruthe Trust CDR Investments, LLC	3.6514% 13.6301% .3352%	\$2,600,000.00
HDB LLC	60-00301-7	Charles L. Ruthe IRA Charles L. Ruthe Trust	.04476%	\$5,585,000.00
HK Investments	60-00311-3	Charles L. Ruthe IRA	5.1667%	\$600,000.00

LOAN	LOAN NO.	INVESTOR	INVESTOR'S INTEREST	TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOAN
Milano Residences	60-00277-1	Today's Realty Inc.	1%	\$10,000,000.00
Monarch Ridge Project	60-00313-5	Charles L. Ruthe IRA Charles L. Ruthe Trust CDR Investments, LLC	2.8730% 4.4305% 4.4305%	\$5,221,000.00
Pay Dirt Development	60-00272-6	Charles L. Ruthe Trust	13.2645%	\$577,100.00
Phillips Homes Mountains Edge	60-00326-0	Donna A. Ruthe or Richard Acovino	.4259%	\$3,145,000.00
Rising Sun Land Development	60-00310-4	CDR Investments, LLC	1.6374%	\$1,141,000.00