ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In the Matter of the Loan Processor Activities of:

Respondent.

No. 19F-BD002-BNK

ALISON MESA

CONSENT ORDER

On October 31, 2018, the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions ("Department) issued a Notice of Hearing and Complaint to Suspend Alison Mesa From Participating in Any of the Affairs of a Financial Institution or Enterprise (the "Notice"), which alleged Alison Mesa ("Mesa") had violated Arizona statutes and regulations governing mortgage banking activities as a loan processor for Academy Mortgage Corporation ("Academy Mortgage"). Wishing to resolve this matter in lieu of an administrative hearing, Mesa enters into the Consent Order with the Department.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. In late January 2018, Academy Mortgage, an Arizona licensed mortgage banker, reported to the Department that it suspected that Mesa, in concert with other Academy Mortgage employees, was involved in illegal or improper business practices. The illegal or improper practices consisted of employees altering and/or forging documents and submitting those documents to Academy Mortgage. The purpose in submitting those inauthentic documents was to allow mortgage loan applicants who had applied for residential mortgage loans with Academy Mortgage to qualify for those mortgage loans.
- Following the information received from Academy Mortgage, the Department began
 an investigation to confirm whether Mesa had been involved in illegal or improper business practices
 while employed with Academy Mortgage.
- 3. In cooperation with Academy Mortgage, the Department's investigation disclosed that the illegal or improper business practices of altering and/or forging documents and submitting

those inauthentic documents to Academy Mortgage was isolated to the Academy Mortgage employees at the Williams Circle Office located in Tucson, Arizona. At that office, Nabel Mohamed Hamed ("Hamed") held a supervisory position over loan originators as a Loan Officer/Sales Manager.

- 4. Under A.R.S. § 6-943(F), Mesa was allowed to engage in mortgage banking activities as a loan processor, under the licensure of Academy Mortgage. As a loan processor, she was supervised by loan originators to assist them in preparing, gathering, collecting, and submitting mortgage documentation and information on behalf of mortgage applicants so they could obtain residential mortgage loans from Academy Mortgage.
- 5. Furthermore, Academy Mortgage's job description for a loan processor requires the loan processor "[to work] with loan officers, borrowers, and third party providers to obtain documentation and submit a thorough, accurate, and complete loan package to Underwriting. . . . Maintains control of the loan file, monitors dates for approval, appraisal, and closing, and ensures that all deadlines are met in a timely and efficient manner."
- 6. Under Academy Mortgage's mortgage banker license, Mesa as an employee was required to be a person of honesty, truthfulness and good character in conducting her affairs at Academy Mortgage. See A.R.S. §§ 6-161(A)(1), (6) (under 6-161(A)(6), employees or agents who violate statutes involving financial institutions or enterprises are held accountable for their actions).
- 7. The Department's investigation found that Mesa, as the assigned loan processor, was directed to submit to Academy Mortgage altered, forged and/or false documents for mortgage loan applicants. However, she was unaware that the documents that she submitted to Academy Mortgage were altered, forged and/or inauthentic mortgage documents and she took no part in the creation of these documents. The Department's investigation focused on these three mortgage loan applicants:
 - (a) Jack Hooker, ("Hooker"), loan file number XXX4760;
 - (b) Michael and Ann Marie Burgess, ("Burgess") loan file number XXX8759; and
 - (c) Kimberley Jackson, ("Jackson") loan file number XXX8859.

8. Furthermore, the Department's investigation disclosed that Mesa uploaded copies of the false documents (i.e., altered or forged documents) into the above files, and if the file contained a true copy of a document, she was directed to delete that authentic copy from the file in order to upload the false document. At the time of these events, Mesa was unaware that the newly uploaded documents were false or that her loan processing activities were being directed to promote illegal or improper business practices.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 9. Under A.R.S. §§ 6-941 *et seq.*, the Superintendent has the authority and duty to regulate all persons engaged in the mortgage banking business by applying the applicable statutes, rules, and regulations relating to mortgage banking activities.
- 10. Mesa's conduct as a loan processor engaged in mortgage banking activities, as fully described in the Findings of Fact, shows that she unknowingly submitted inauthentic documents to Academy Mortgage, which violated A.R.S. § 6-161(6).
- 11. Under A.R.S. § 6-132, Mesa's violation of the aforementioned statute constitutes grounds to assess a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for each violation for each day. Accordingly, Mesa is assessed a civil penalty for her activity of **two** thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00).

ORDER

WHEREFORE, the parties agree to the following:

- 12. Alison Mesa shall pay the Department a civil penalty of **two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00)**, due to her activity as a loan processor, within fifteen (15) days of the final order or judgment in this matter;
- 13. That the Office of Administrative Hearings shall promptly vacate Case No. 19F-BD002-BNK due to this Consent Order, which has eliminated any controversy between the Department and Mesa; and
 - 14. This Consent Order shall become effective upon execution by the Department's

| 1 | Superintendent or representative and shall remain effective and enforceable unless modified by the |
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| 2 | parties in writing. |
| 3 | DATED this 13th day of March, 2019. |
| 4 | Robert D. Charlton, Superintendent |
| 5 | Arizona Department of Financial Institutions |
| 6 | By: Dabul Macion |
| 7 | By: Gabriela Marcias, Division Manager |
| 8 | Mortgage Lending Arizona Department of Financial Institutions |
| 9 | |
| 10 | CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER |
| 11 | A. Mesa acknowledges that she has been served with a copy of the foregoing Findings of |
| 12 | Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order in the above-referenced matter, has read the same, is aware of |
| 13 | the right to an administrative hearing in this matter, and has knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily |
| 14 | waived that right. |
| 15 | B. Mesa admits to the jurisdiction of the Superintendent and consent to the entry of the |
| 16 | foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. |
| 17 | C. Mesa states that no promise of any kind or nature has been made to induce her to |
| 18 | consent to the entry of this Order, and that she has done so voluntarily. |
| 19 | D. Mesa agrees to cease from engaging in the conduct set forth above in the Findings of |
| 20 | Fact and Conclusions of Law. |
| 21 | E. Mesa acknowledges that the acceptance of this Consent to the Entry of Order by the |
| 22 | Superintendent is solely to settle this matter and does not preclude this Department, any other agency |
| 23 | or officer of this state or subdivision thereof from instituting other proceedings as may be |
| 24 | appropriate now or in the future. |
| 25 | F. Mesa acknowledges that failure to comply with this Order can result in the |

Department pursuing other administrative and judicial remedies against her.

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| 1 | G. Mesa represents that she has the authorization to consent to the entry of this Order or | |
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| 2 | her own behalf. | |
| 3 | H. Mesa waives all rights to seek any administrative or judicial review or otherwise to | |
| 4 | challenge or contest the validity of this Order before any court of competent jurisdiction. | |
| 5 | DATED this 8 day of March 2019. | |
| 6 | DATED this 8 day of March 2019. By: Warms | |
| 7 | Alison Mesa | |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this day of, 2019, in the office of: | |
| 10 | Robert D. Charlton, Superintendent | |
| 11 | Arizona Department of Financial Institutions ATTN: Lola Duncan | |
| 12 | 100 North 15 th Avenue, Suite 261 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 | |
| 13 | LDuncan@azdfi.gov | |
| 14 | COPY of the foregoing E-Filed same date to: Thomas Shedden, Administrative Law Judge | |
| 15 | Office of the Administrative Hearings 1740 West Adams Street, Lower Level | |
| 16 | Phoenix, AZ 85007 | |
| 17 | COPY of the foregoing emailed same date to: | |
| 18 | Gabriela Macias, Division Manager | |
| 19 | Richard Fergus, Examiner-in-Charge ATTN: Ana Starcevic | |
| 20 | 100 North 15 th Avenue, Suite 261 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 | |
| 21 | Gmacias@azdfi.gov Astarcevic@azdfi.gov | |
| 22 | Roberto Pulver, Assistant Attorney General | |
| 23 | Office of the Attorney General 2005 North Central Avenue | |
| 24 | Phoenix, Arizona 85004 Roberto.Pulver@azag.gov | |
| 25 | Teresa.Carranza@azag.gov COPY mailed same date by | |
| 26 | First Class U.S. Mail, to: | |

1 Alison Mesa

3 Respondent

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