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Department of Real Estate P. O. Box 137007 Sacramento, CA 95813-7007

Telephone: (916) 576-8700

MAR 13 2020

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

No. H-3278 FR

## BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of

REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT and KATHLEEN SCOTT,

Respondents.

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## ORDER VACATING "DEFAULT ORDER"

The original Accusation in these proceedings was filed on November 18, 2019. On November 18, 2019, the Accusation, together with an RE 505 "Statement To Respondent" form, an uncompleted RE 503 "Notice of Defense on Accusation" form, and an RE 505A "Discovery Provisions" form were duly served upon Respondents by certified mail, return receipt requested, and regular First-Class mail at the last mailing and business addresses provided to the Department of Real Estate by Respondents.

On February 25, 2020, no Notice of Defense having been filed herein within the time prescribed by Section 11506 of the Government Code, Respondents' Default was entered.

On March 11, 2020, good cause was presented to set aside the Default Order of February 25, 2020, and to vacate the Decision of March 2, 2020, and to have the matter remanded to the Office of Administrative Hearings as a contested matter.

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT THE Default Order of February 25, 2020, is set aside and the Default Decision of March 2, 2020, is vacated and that the Matter of the Accusation filed on November 18, 2019, is remanded to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

This Order shall b	e effective	immediately.
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DATED: 3/12 LO

SANDRA KNAU ACTINO REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER

FILED

MAR 0 3 2020

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
By Laway

# BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

\* \* \*

In the Matter of the Accusation of

No. H-3278 FR

REALTY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC., and KATHLEEN REBECCA SCOTT.

Respondents.

#### **DECISION**

This Decision is being issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 11520 of the Government Code, on evidence of compliance with Section 11505 of the Government Code and pursuant to the Order of Default filed on February 25, 2020, and the findings of fact set forth herein, which are based on one or more of the following: (1) Respondents' express admissions; (2) affidavits; and (3) other evidence.

This Decision revokes real estate licenses on grounds that Respondents violated Real Estate Regulations and Law.

The right to reinstatement of a revoked real estate license is controlled by Section 11522 of the Government Code. A copy of Section 11522 and a copy of the Commissioner's <u>Criteria of Rehabilitation</u> are attached hereto for the information of Respondent.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1

On November 18, 2019, Brenda Smith made the Accusation ("Exhibit A") in her official capacity as a Supervising Special Investigator of the State of California. The Accusation, Statement to Respondent, and Notice of Defense were mailed, by certified mail, return receipt

requested, to Respondent's last known mailing address on file with the Department on November 18, 2019.

2

On February 25, 2020, no Notice of Hearing having been received or filed herein within the time prescribed by Section 11560 of the Government Code, Respondent's default was entered herein.

3

REALTY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC. (RPM) is presently licensed and/or has license rights under the Real Estate Law, Part 1 of Division 4 of the California Business and Professions Code (the Code) as a corporate real estate broker.

4

KATHELEEN REBECCA SCOTT (SCOTT) is presently licensed and/or has license rights as a real estate broker.

5

Beginning on April 5, 2018, and continuing intermittently through August 30, 2019, an audit was conducted at RPM's office located at 2750 N. Clovis Avenue, St. 127, Fresno, California, and at the Department's district office located at 2550 Mariposa Mall, Fresno, California, where the auditor examined records for the period of January 1, 2018, through October 1, 2018 (the audit period).

6

In the course of conducting property management activities, in connection with the collection and disbursement of trust funds, it was determined that:

- (a) An accountability was performed on Trust Account #1 and, as of August 31, 2018, a shortage of \$73,919.65 was revealed in violation of Section 10145 of the Code;
- (b) An accountability was performed on Trust Account #1 and, as of September 30, 2018, a shortage of \$59,121.97 was revealed in violation of Section 10145 of the Code:
- (c) RPM failed to obtain written permission from owners of trust funds in Trust Account #1 to allow the balance to drop below accountability, in violation of Section 2832.1 of the Regulations;
- (d) RPM failed to maintain accurate records of all funds received and disbursed for Bank Account #1, as required by Section 2831 of the Regulations;

- (e) RPM failed to maintain accurate separate beneficiary records for Bank Account #1, as required by Section 2831.1 of the Regulations; and
- (f) RPM failed to perform monthly reconciliations of the separate beneficiary records and control records for Bank Account #1, as required by Section 2831.2 of the Regulations.

At all times herein above mentioned, SCOTT was responsible, as the supervising designated broker/officer for RPM, for the supervision and control of the activities conducted on behalf of RPM's business by its employees to ensure its compliance with the Real Estate Law and Regulations. SCOTT failed to exercise reasonable supervision and control over the property management activities of RPM. In particular, SCOTT permitted, ratified and/or caused the conduct described above to occur, and failed to take reasonable steps, including but not limited to, the handling of trust funds, supervision of employees, and the implementation of policies, rules, and systems to ensure the compliance of the business with the Real Estate Law and the Regulations.

#### Prior Administrative Discipline

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Effective August 29, 2011, in Case No. H-2505 FR, the Real Estate Commissioner revoked RPM's corporate real estate broker license, granting it the right to apply for a restricted corporate real estate broker license.

#### **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

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The acts and/or omissions of RPM as alleged above violate Sections 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, and 2832.1 of the Regulations and Section 10145 of the Code and are cause for disciplinary action against RPM pursuant to Sections 10177 (d) and 10177(g) of the Code.

The acts and/or omissions of SCOTT as alleged above violate Section 2725 of the Regulations and Section 10159.2 of the Code and are cause for disciplinary action against RPM pursuant to Sections 10177 (d), 10177(g), and 10177(h) of the Code.

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The standard of proof applied was clear and convincing proof to a reasonable certainty.

### **ORDER**

All licenses and licen MANAGEMENT, INC., and KATH of Division 4 of the Business and Pr	nsing rights of Respondents REALTY PR HELEEN REBECCA SCOTT, under the professions Code.	OPERTY provisions of Part I
	pecome effective at 12 o'clock noon on _	MAR 2 4 2020
DATED:	3/2/20	

SANDRA KNAU ACTING REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER

1	RICHARD K. UNO, Counsel III (SBN 98275)	
2	Department of Real Estate P. O. Box 137007	
3	Sacramento, CA 95813-7007  FILED	
4	Telephone: (916) 576-8700 NOV 1 8 2019	
5	(916) 263-3767 (Fax) DEPARTMENT OF DEAL SOLUTION	
6	(916) 576-7848 (Direct)  By Lager	
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9	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE	
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
11	***	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation of	
13	REALTY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.,	
14	and KATHLEEN REBECCA SCOTT,  ACCUSATION	
15	Respondents.	
16	The Complainant, BRENDA SMITH, a Supervising Special Investigator of the	
17	State of California, for Accusation against REALTY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.	
18	(RPM) and KATHLEEN REBECCA SCOTT (SCOTT), sometimes collectively referred to as	
19	Respondents, is informed and alleges as follows:	
20	1	
21	The Complainant makes this Accusation against Respondents in her official	
22	capacity.	
23	2	
24	RPM is presently licensed and/or has license rights under the Real Estate Law,	
25	Part 1 of Division 4 of the California Business and Professions Code (Code), by the Department	
26	///	
27	EXHIBIT	

as a corporate real estate broker whose license has at all times mentioned herein since August 28, 2019, been and now is a restricted real estate salesperson license subject to terms, conditions, and restrictions pursuant to Sections 10156.6 and 10156.7 of the Code.

SCOTT is presently licensed and/or has license rights under the Code as a real estate broker.

At all times mentioned herein, SCOTT was the designated broker-officer of RPM. As the designated broker-officer, SCOTT was responsible, pursuant to Section 10159.2 of the Code, for the supervision of the activities of officers, agents, real estate licensees and employees of RPM, for which a real estate license is required to ensure the compliance of the corporation with the Real Estate law and the Regulations.

At all times herein mentioned, Respondents engaged in the business of, acted in the capacity of, advertised, or assumed to act as real estate brokers within the State of California within the meaning of Section 10131(b) of the Code, including the operation and conduct of a property management business with the public wherein, on behalf of others, for compensation or in expectation of compensation, Respondents leased or rented, or offered to lease or rent, or placed for rent, or solicited listings of places for rent, or solicited for prospective tenants, or negotiated the sale, purchase or exchange of leases on real property or on a business opportunity, or collected rents from real property, or improvements thereon, or from business opportunities.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Complainant refers to Paragraphs 1 through 5, above, and incorporates the same herein by reference.

Beginning on April 5, 2018, and continuing intermittently through August 30, 2019, an audit was conducted at RPM's office located at 2750 N. Clovis Avenue, Suite 127, Fresno, California, and at the Department's district office located at 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 3070, Fresno, California, where the auditor examined records for the period of January 1, 2018, through October 1, 2018 (the audit period).

While acting as a real estate broker as described in Paragraph 5, above, and within the audit period, RPM accepted or received funds in trust (trust funds) from or on behalf of property owners, lessees, and others in connection with property management activities, and deposited or caused to be deposited those funds into bank accounts maintained by RPM, at Pacific West Bank, 775 E. Shaw, #101, Fresno, California, as described below:

	TRUST ACCOUNT #1
Account No.:	XXXXXX2962
Entitled:	Realty Property Management, Inc. Property Management Trust Account

and thereafter from time to time made disbursement of said trust funds.

In the course of the activities described in Paragraph 5, in connection with the collection and disbursement of trust funds, it was determined that:

- (a) An accountability was performed on Trust Account #1 and, as of August 31, 2018, a shortage of \$73,919.65 was revealed in violation of Section 10145 of the Code;
- (b) An accountability was performed on Trust Account #1 and, as of September 30, 2018, a shortage of \$59,121.97 was revealed in violation of Section 10145 of the Code;

1	(c) RPM failed to obtain written permission from owners of trust funds in
2	Trust Account #1 to allow the balance to drop below accountability, in
3	violation of Section 2832.1 of the Regulations;
4	(d) RPM failed to maintain accurate records of all funds received and
5	disbursed for Bank Account #1, as required by Section 2831 of the
6	Regulations;
7	(e) RPM failed to maintain accurate separate beneficiary records for Bank
8	Account #1, as required by Section 2831.1 of the Regulations; and
9	(f) RPM failed to perform monthly reconciliations of the separate beneficiary
10	records and control records for Bank Account #1, as required by Section
11	2831.2 of the Regulations.
12	10
13	The acts and/or omissions described above constitute violations of Sections 2831
14	(control records), 2831.1 (separate beneficiary records), 2831.2 (monthly reconciliations), and
15	2832.1 (written permission balance below accountability) of the Regulations and of Section
16	10145 (trust fund handling) of the Code and are grounds for discipline under Sections 10177(d)
17	(willful disregard of real estate laws) and 10177(g) (negligence/incompetence licensee) of the
18	Code.
19	SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
20	11
21	Complainant refers to Paragraphs 1 through 10, above, and incorporates them
22	herein by reference.
23	12
24	At all times herein above mentioned, SCOTT was responsible, as the supervising
25	designated broker/officer for RPM, for the supervision and control of the activities conducted on
26	behalf of RPM's business by its employees to ensure its compliance with the Real Estate Law
27	and Regulations. SCOTT failed to exercise reasonable supervision and control over the property

management activities of RPM. In particular, SCOTT permitted, ratified, and/or caused the 1 conduct described above to occur, and failed to take reasonable steps, including, but not limited 2 to, the handling of trust funds, supervision of employees, and the implementation of policies, 3 rules, and systems to ensure the compliance of the business with the Real Estate Law and the 4 5 Regulations. 6 13 7 The above acts and/or omissions of SCOTT violate Section 2725 (broker supervision) of the Regulations and Section 10159.2 (responsibility/designated officer) of the 8 Code and constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the provisions of Sections 10177(d), 9 10177(g), and 10177(h) (broker supervision) of the Code. 10 11 Prior Administrative Discipline 12 14 13 Effective August 29, 2011, in case No. H-2505 FR, the Real Estate Commissioner revoked RPM's corporate real estate broker license, granting it the right to apply for a restricted 14 15 corporate real estate broker license. 16 15 Effective December 26, 2007, in Case No. H-2112 FR, the Real Estate 17 18 Commissioner suspended RPM's corporate real estate broker license for a period of thirty (30) 19 days. 20 16 21 **Audit Costs** 22 The acts and/or omissions of Respondents, as alleged above, entitle the Department to reimbursement of the costs of its audits pursuant to Section 10148(b) (audit costs 23 for trust fund handling violations) of the Code. 24 25 /// 26 27

# Costs of Investigation and Enforcement

Section 10106 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the Department, the Commissioner may request the Administrative Law Judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation of this part to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

WHEREFORE, Complainant prays that a hearing be conducted on the allegations of this Accusation and that, upon proof thereof, a decision be rendered imposing disciplinary action against all licenses and license rights of Respondents under the Real Estate Law and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other provisions of law.

BRENDA SMITH

Supervising Special Investigator

Dated at Fresno, California,

this 15 day of November, 2019.

## DISCOVERY DEMAND

The Department of Real Estate hereby requests discovery pursuant to Section 11507.6 of the California Government Code. Failure to provide discovery to the Department may result in the exclusion of witnesses and/or documents at the hearing and other sanctions as the Administrative Law Judge deems appropriate.

1	Department of Real Estate
2	P. O. Box 137007 Sacramento, CA 95813-7007
3	Telephone: (916) 576-8700 FEB 2 5 2020
4	DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
5	By X- Knapp
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9	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	***
12	In the Matter of the Accusation of ) No. H-3278 FR
13	REALTY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC., and KATHLEEN REBECCA SCOTT.
	}
14	Respondents.
15	Respondents, REALTY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC., and
16	KATHELEEN REBECCA SCOTT, having failed to file a Notice of Defense within the time
17	required by Section 11506 of the Government Code, are now in default. It is, therefore, ordered
18	that a default be entered on the record in this matter.
19	IT IS SO ORDERED FEB 2 5 2020
20	SANDRA KNAU
21	ACTING REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER
22	
23	Bu (
24	By:
25	Assistant Commissioner, Enforcement
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