

OCT 1 3 2022

DEPT. OF REAL ESTATE

By

Department of Real Estate 320 West 4th Street, Ste. 350 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105 Telephone: (213) 576-6982

In the Matter of the Accusation of

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On June 27, 2022, the ALJ issued a Proposed Decision, which revoked Respondent's licenses and endorsements; provided, however, that the revocation be stayed, and

## BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

) DRE No. H-05217 SD OAH No. 2021120886

## CARI ANN DROLET;

WEST RESIDENTIAL, INC. formerly The Edgar Fine Group, Inc.;

MICHAEL EDGAR WEST, individually and as designated officer of West Residential, Inc.,

Respondents.

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT; AND DECISION AFTER REJECTION

The California Department of Real Estate ("Department") filed a First Amended Accusation against CARI ANN DROLET ("Respondent") on November 24, 2021.

On May 23, 2022, a hearing was held before Administrative Law Judge Marion J. Vomhof ("ALJ") of the Office of Administrative Hearings of San Diego, California via teleconference. Department Counsel, Diane Lee, represented the Complainant. Respondent personally appeared at the hearing, and was represented by Frederick W. Pfister. Oral and documentary evidence were received, and the matter was submitted.

<sup>1</sup> Frederick W. Pfister and Melissa N. Engle are both attorneys at the law firm of White and Bright, LLP.

a restricted license be issued to Respondent pursuant to certain terms and conditions, including, but not limited to, paying \$1,050 in investigation and enforcement costs. On August 18, 2022, a Notice of the Commissioner rejecting the Proposed Decision of June 27, 2022 was filed.

The parties wish to settle this matter without further proceedings.

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between Respondent and Respondent's attorney, Melissa N. Engle, <sup>1</sup> and the Department, acting by and through Diane Lee, as follows for the purpose of settling and disposing of the First Amended Accusation filed on November 24, 2021 in this matter.

- 1. It is understood by the parties that the Real Estate Commissioner may adopt the Stipulation and Agreement ("Stipulation") as his decision in this matter, thereby imposing the penalty and sanctions on Respondent's real estate license as set forth in the below "Decision and Order." In the event the Commissioner in his discretion does not adopt the Stipulation, the Stipulation shall be void and of no effect; and the Commissioner will review the evidence in the case, and will issue his Decision After Rejection as his Decision in this matter.
- 2. This Stipulation is based on the First Amended Accusation filed on November 24, 2021 in this matter. The First Amended Accusation alleges the conduct, acts, or omissions of Respondent, as described in the First Amended Accusation, were in violation of California Business and Professions Code sections 10176(a) (misrepresentation), 10176(b) (false promises), 10176(i) (fraud/dishonest dealing), 10177(d) (violation of Real Estate Law or Regulations), and 10177(g) (negligence/incompetence) and/or 10177(j) (fraud/dishonest dealing) of the Real Estate Law.
- 3. Respondent stipulates the conduct, acts, or omissions of Respondent are in violation of only California Business and Professions Code sections 10177(d) (violation of Real Estate Law or Regulations) and 10177(g) (negligence/incompetence) of the Real Estate Law,

and are therefore a basis for discipline of Respondent's license and license rights as violations of the Real Estate Law. The Real Estate Commissioner shall not be required to provide further evidence to prove said allegations.

- 4. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation and Agreement,
  Respondent is waiving her right to obtain a dismissal of the First Amended Accusation through
  proceedings under California Government Code section 11517(c) if this Stipulation and
  Agreement is accepted by the Real Estate Commissioner. However, Respondent also
  understands that she is not waiving her rights to further proceedings to obtain a dismissal of the
  First Amended Accusation if this Stipulation and Agreement is not accepted by the Real Estate
  Commissioner.
- 5. By reason of the foregoing and solely for the purpose of settlement without further administrative proceedings, it is stipulated and agreed that the following shall be adopted as the Commissioner's Decision:

**ORDER** 

WHEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDER is hereby made:

I.

All licenses and licensing rights of Respondent CARI ANN DROLET under the Real Estate Law are revoked; provided, however, a restricted real estate salesperson license shall be issued to Respondent pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 10156.5 if Respondent makes application therefor, and pays to the Department of Real Estate the appropriate fee for the restricted license within ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Decision. The restricted license issued to Respondent shall be subject to all of the provisions of California Business and Professions Code section 10156.7 and to the following limitations, conditions, and restrictions imposed under authority of California Business and Professions Code section 10156.6:

1. The restricted license issued to Respondent may be suspended prior to the

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hearing by Order of the Real Estate Commissioner in the event of Respondent's conviction or plea of nolo contendere to a crime which is substantially related to the Respondent's fitness or capacity as a real estate licensee.

- 2. The restricted license issued to Respondent may be suspended prior to hearing by Order of the Real Estate Commissioner on evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner that Respondent has violated provisions of the California Real Estate Law, the Subdivided Lands Law, Regulations of the Real Estate Commissioner, or conditions attaching to the restricted license.
- 3. Respondent shall not be eligible to apply for the issuance of an unrestricted real estate license nor for the removal of any of the conditions, limitations, or restrictions of a restricted license until two (2) years have elapsed from the effective date of this Decision.
- 4. Respondent shall submit with any application for license under an employing broker, or any application for transfer to a new employing broker, a statement signed by the prospective employing broker on a form approved by the Department of Real Estate, such as the Restricted Salesperson Change Application (RE 214A), which shall certify:
- a. That the employing broker has read the Decision which granted the right to a restricted license; and
- b. That the employing broker will exercise close supervision over the performance by the restricted licensee relating to activities for which a real estate license is required.
- 5. Respondent shall, within nine (9) months from the effective date of this

  Decision, present evidence satisfactory to the Real Estate Commissioner that Respondent has,
  since the most recent issuance of an original or renewal real estate license, taken and
  successfully completed the continuing education requirements of Article 2.5 of Chapter 3 of the
  Real Estate Law for renewal of a real estate license. If Respondent fails to satisfy this condition,
  the Commissioner may order the suspension of Respondent's license until Respondent presents

such evidence. The Commissioner shall afford Respondent the opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to present such evidence.

6. Respondent shall, within three (3) months from the effective date of this

Decision, take and pass the Professional Responsibility Examination administered by the

Department of Real Estate including the payment of the appropriate examination fee. Proof of
completion of taking and passing the Professional Responsibility Examination must be delivered
to the Department of Real Estate, Flag Section. If Respondent fails to satisfy this condition,
suspension of Respondent's licenses shall go into effect automatically and remain in effect until
Respondent takes and passes the Professional Responsibility Examination, and delivers such
proof to the Department of Real Estate.

Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 10106, Respondent shall pay \$1,050.00 for the Commissioner's cost for investigation and enforcement of the matter. Said payment shall be made no later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of this Decision. Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check or certified check made payable to the Department of Real Estate.

II.

If payment is not timely made as provided for herein, suspension of Respondent's licenses shall go into effect automatically and remain in effect until payment is made in full, until Respondent enters into an agreement satisfactory to the Commissioner to provide for payment, or until a decision providing otherwise is adopted following a hearing held pursuant to this condition.

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III.

 All applications, payments, and proof required by this Decision shall be submitted to the Department of Real Estate at: Department of Real Estate, Flag Section at P.O.

Box 137013, Sacramento, CA 95813-7013.

DATED: 09/13/2022

DIANE LEE, Counsel for Department of Real Estate

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## **EXECUTION OF THE STIPULATION**

Respondent has read the Stipulation and Agreement. Its terms are understood by Respondent, and are agreeable and acceptable to Respondent. Respondent understands that Respondent is waiving rights given to Respondent by the California Administrative Procedure Act (including but not limited to California Government Code sections 11506, 11508, 11509, and 11513), and Respondent willingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives those rights, including, but not limited to, the right of requiring the Commissioner to prove the allegations in the First Amended Accusation at a hearing at which Respondent would have the right to cross-examine witnesses against Respondent and to present evidence in defense and mitigation of the charges.

## MAILING AND EMAIL

Respondent shall <u>mail</u> the original signed signature page of this Stipulation herein to Department of Real Estate, Attention: Legal Section – Diane Lee, 320 West Fourth Street, Suite 350, Los Angeles, California 90013-1105.

In the event of time constraints, Respondent may signify acceptance and approval of the terms and conditions of this Stipulation by emailing a scanned copy of the signature page, as actually signed by Respondent, to the Department counsel assigned to this case. Respondent agrees, acknowledges, and understands that by electronically sending the Department of Real

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