JUL 27 1988

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By Sapontiel

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of) No. H-5273 SF VINCENT EARL BROWN,) Respondent.

ORDER DENYING REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE

On July 10, 1984, a Decision was rendered herein revoking the real estate broker license of respondent, but granting respondent the right to the issuance of a restricted real estate broker license. A restricted real estate broker license was issued to respondent on August 1, 1985, and respondent has operated as a restricted licensee without cause for disciplinary action against him since that time.

On September 23, 1987, respondent petitioned for reinstatement of said real estate broker license and the Attorney General of the State of California has been given notice of the filing of said petition.

OURT PAPER TATE OF CALIFORNIA TO: 113 (REV. 8-72

I have considered respondent's petition and the evidence and arguments in support thereof. Respondent has failed to demonstrate to my satisfaction that he has undergone sufficient rehabilitation to warrant the reinstatement of his real estate broker license, in that less than three years has elapsed since the revocation of respondent's license based on his failure to exercise reasonable control of the activities of the corporations which he was responsible for. Said failure of respondent resulted in a large corporate trust fund shortage and, under the circumstances, insufficient time has elapsed since the revocation to warrant the granting of a plenary real estate broker license to respondent at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that respondent's petition for reinstatement of his real estate broker license is denied.

This Order shall be effective at 12 o'clock noon on

August 16th

, 1988.

DATED:

June 29, 1988

JAMES A. EDMONDS, JR. Real Estate Commissioner

By:

JOHN R. LIBERATOR

Chief Deputy Commissioner

COPY



DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By Mary A. Morelle

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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11 In the Matter of the Accusation of)

12 ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION,

13 UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC.,

14 VINCENT EARL BROWN, and

HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU,

16 Respondents.

NO. H-5273 SF

ORDER DENYING RECONSIDERATION

On July 10, 1984, a Decision was rendered in the above-entitled matter. The Decision was to become effective on July 30, 1984, but said effective date was stayed until August 29, 1984 with respect to respondents VINCENT EARL BROWN and UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC. only.

On July 30, 1984, respondent UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC. petitioned for reconsideration of the Decision of July 10, 1984.

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I have given due consideration to the petition of respondent UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC. I find no good cause to reconsider the Decision of July 10, 1984 and reconsideration is hereby denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED

, 1984.

JAMES A. EDMONDS, JR. Real Estate Commissioner

By:

-2-

ROBERT P. MARTINEZ

Chief Deputy Commissioner

JUL 30 1984
DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By <u>Roshni</u> R. Kalidin Roshni R. Kalidin

No. H-5273 SF

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TO

In the Matter of the Accusation of)
ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION,)
UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC.,)
VINCENT EARL BROWN, and

HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU,

Respondents.

ORDER STAYING EFFECTIVE DATE

On July 10, 1984, a Decision was rendered in the above-entitled matter to become effective July 30, 1984.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the effective date of the Decision of July 10, 1984, with respect to respondent UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC. only, is stayed for a period of 30 days.

The Decision of July 10, 1984, with respect to respondent UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC. only, shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on August 29, 1984. With respect to all respondents other than UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC. and

-1-

VINCENT EARL BROWN, the effective date of said Decision shall remain July 30, 1984.

DATED: July 30, 1984.

JAMES A. EDMONDS, JR. Real Estate Commissioner

Ehrond V. Chilo

BY:

EDWARD V. CHIOLO

Deputy Real Estate Commissioner

COPY



DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By Mary A. Morelle

NO. H-5273 SF

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of)
ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION,)

UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC.,

VINCENT EARL BROWN, and

HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU,

Respondents.

ORDER STAYING EFFECTIVE DATE

On July 10, 1984, a Decision was rendered in the above-entitled matter to become effective July 30, 1984.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the effective date of the Decision of July 10, 1984, with respect to respondent VINCENT EARL BROWN only, is stayed for a period of 30 days.

The Decision of July 10, 1984, with respect to respondent VINCENT EARL BROWN only, shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on August 29, 1984. With respect to all respondents other than VINCENT EARL BROWN, the effective date

of said Decision shall remain July 30, 1984.

DATED: July 19, 1984

JAMES A. EDMONDS, JR. Real Estate Commissioner

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By:

EDWARD V. CHIOLO
Deputy Real Estate Commissioner

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DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By Indy Diket

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * *

In the Matter of the Accusation of

ALLSTATE INVESTMENT
CORPORATION
UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC.
VINCENT EARL BROWN
HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU,

Respondents.

No. H-5273 SF

DECISION

The above-entitled matter was heard before Philip V. Sarkisian, Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings, at San Francisco, California, on November 2, 3 and 4, 1983.

The complainant was represented in the proceeding by Francis M. Lyons, Counsel, Department of Real Estate.

Respondents Allstate Investment Corporation, United Mortgage Service, Inc., and Hubert Beckwith Grabau were represented by Keck, Mahin and Cate and Joseph S. Wager, attorneys at law.

Respondent Vincent Earl Brown was represented by Chickering

COURT PAPER STATE OF CALIFORNIA STD, 113 IREV, 8-72:

and Gregory and John M. Gregory and Monte S. Travis, attorneys at law.

This Accusation was consolidated for hearing with Department of Real Estate case number H-5265 SF, an Order to Desist and Refrain issued by the Department of Real Estate to Allstate Investment Corporation, United Mortgage Service, Inc., and Hubert Beckwith Grabau.

Evidence was received, the hearing was closed and the matter submitted for decision on November 4, 1983.

On November 18, 1983, Administrative Law Judge Sarkisian submitted a Proposed Decision which I declined to adopt as the Decision in this case. Pursuant to Section 11517(c) of the Government Code of the State of California, each respondent was served with a copy of the Proposed Decision and with a notice that the case would be decided by me upon the record including the transcript of proceedings held on November 2, 3 and 4, 1983, and upon written arguments offered by respondents and complainant.

Written argument has been submitted on behalf of Vincent Earl Brown by Attorney John R. Cosgrove, on behalf of United Mortgage Service, Inc., by Attorney Samuel S. Stevens and on behalf of complainant by Counsel Francis M. Lyons. Written argument has not been submitted on behalf of respondents Allstate Investment Corporation or Hubert Beckwith Grabau.

I have given careful consideration to the record in this case including the transcript of proceedings of November 2, 3 and 4 and to the written arguments submitted. The following

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shall constitute the Decision of the Real Estate Commissioner in this proceeding:

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ι

Allstate Investment Corporation (hereafter Respondent Allstate), United Mortgage Service, Inc. (hereafter Respondent UMS), Vincent Earl Brown (hereafter Respondent Brown) and Hubert Beckwith Grabau (hereafter Respondent Grabau) are presently licensed or have license rights under Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code.

II

From April 1, 1981, through August 31, 1982, Respondent Allstate under the corporate names ALLSTATE EQUITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF AMERICA and ALLSTATE EQUITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION was licensed as a real estate broker in the State of California by and through Respondent Brown as its designated broker-officer. Effective September 1, 1982, and at all times hereinafter referred to, Respondent Allstate was licensed as a real estate broker by and through Respondent Grabau as its designated broker-officer.

III

Effective June 23, 1982, and from that date through August 31, 1982, Respondent UMS was licensed to act as a real estate broker by and through Respondent Brown as its designated broker-officer. Effective September 1, 1982, and at all times hereinafter referred to, Respondent UMS was licensed as a real

estate broker by and through Respondent Grabau as its designated broker-officer.

IV

At all times herein referred prior to September 1, 1982, Respondent Brown was the designated broker-officer for Respondents Allstate and UMS.

V

At all times herein referred to on and after September 1, 1982, Respondent Grabau was the designated brokerofficer for Respondents Allstate and UMS.

VI

The complainant, Edward V. Chiolo, made this Accusation in his official capacity as a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California.

VII

At all times herein referred to, Respondent Allstate acting through its officers, employees and subsidiary corporations including, but not limited to, Respondent UMS, engaged in business as a real estate broker in the State of California within the meaning of subdivisions (d) and (e) of Section 10131 of the Business and Professions Code (hereafter the Code) and Section 10131.1 of the Code including the operation of a mortgage loan brokerage business wherein lenders and borrowers were solicited from among members of the public for loans secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property, wherein loans secured directly or collaterally by real property were arranged or sold on behalf of others and wherein loans

COURT PAPER STATE OF CALIFORNIA STD. 113 (REV. 8-72) secured by real property were serviced and payments were collected on behalf of others.

VIII

At various times herein referred to during and prior to August 1982, Respondents Allstate and UMS in conducting the activities described in Finding VII received funds in trust from and on behalf of lenders and borrowers and deposited those funds into Account Number 17-014-196 at Imperial Bank, West Brokaw Road, San Jose, California (hereafter the Trust Bank Account).

IX

From July 1982 through November 1982, the Department of Real Estate (hereafter DRE) conducted an examination of the trust account books and records of Respondents Allstate and UMS and the records of the Trust Bank Account. Through this examination DRE determined that on August 31, 1982, the aggregate liability of Respondents Allstate and UMS for trust funds received from or on behalf of the owners of those funds was One Million Twenty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Ninety-Three Cents (\$1,028,865.93). Through its examination DRE also determined that as of August 31, 1982, the adjusted balance of funds in the Trust Bank Account was Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars and Fifty-Eight Cents (\$583,156.58).

X

The examination referred to in Finding IX was based upon books and records furnished to DRE by Respondents Allstate and UMS and by Imperial Bank. The records, particularly those

of Respondent Allstate, were inadequate and inaccurate by all accounts and because of this fact, the actual trust fund shortage as of August 31, 1982, may actually have been slightly less than the Four Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Nine Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents (\$443,709.35) reflected in the DRE report. An unaudited report as of an accounting date of August 31, 1982, prepared for Respondent UMS by the accounting firm of Coopers and Lybrand reflects a deficit in the Trust Bank Account of Four Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$435.470).

The contention on behalf of Respondent Allstate,
Respondent UMS and Respondent Grabau that there was no trust
fund shortage and no violation of Section 10145 in light of the
"account receivable" representing advances by Respondent
Allstate to investors is patently spurious. Were that argument
a valid one, there could be no violation of Section 10145 even
if a broker used trust funds to purchase a boat or automobile
for himself so long as he evidenced the withdrawal of funds with
an IOU to the trust account.

The trust account shortage of August 31, 1982, resulted from "advancing" of payments to investors by Respondents Allstate and UMS. "Advancing" is the practice of making regularly scheduled payments to investors on loans for which respondents as collection agents have not received the borrower's payment. Respondent Allstate had regularly advanced prior to Respondent Brown becoming the designated broker and

XI

chief executive officer of Respondent Allstate in April 1981.

Prior to Respondent Brown's assuming control of Respondent

Allstate's business operations, and for several months after he took control, the amounts advanced each month from the Trust

Bank Account were relatively small and the Trust Bank Account was promptly replenished from Respondent Allstate's general operating account.

While Respondent Brown perceived "advancing" to be an imprudent business practice soon after taking over as chief executive officer of Respondent Allstate, he did not order the practice stopped because of the operational difficulties that discontinuance would have entailed. This was due to the fact that for some time Respondent Allstate had been operating on two unintegrated computer programs, one for the processing of payments received from borrowers and the other for processing of disbursements to its investor clients. Due to the lack of integration or correlation, monthly disbursements to investors were made according to the terms of the promissory notes being serviced by Respondent Allstate regardless of whether the borrower on the note had made his regular payment on the note. Because of the lack of correlation between the two computer systems, Respondent Allstate's employees had to resort to manual reconciliation to determine the amount of the monthly payment from the general account necessary to replenish the trust account for the advances that had been automatically disbursed.

The discontinuance of "advancing" was further complicated by the fact that many of the loans being serviced by

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Respondent Allstate were fractionalized loans, i.e., loans in which anywhere from two to ten investors were beneficiaries of undivided beneficial interests in a promissory note from a single borrower secured by a single parcel of real property.

In mid 1981 Respondent Allstate was servicing approximately 3,000 loans with an aggregate principal balance of approximately Fifty-Five Million Dollars (\$55,000,000). Respondent Brown and his management team decided that it would be too disruptive to discontinue advancing until an integrated computer system could be installed to replace the two systems that did not "talk to each other". As a result of this decision, advancing did not cease until June 1, 1982, the date on which an integrated computer system was placed into operation.

By the end of 1981, borrower delinquencies had increased dramatically. As a result, Respondent Allstate's advances approached the level of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) per month. By this time Respondent Brown had every reason to believe that Respondent Allstate would soon be unable to fully reimburse the Trust Bank Account for advances made to investors. He knew or should have known that the "advancing" that he had first looked upon as an imprudent business practice was now putting investors' funds at serious risk. Respondent Brown nevertheless did not order the immediate discontinuance of "advancing". Instead he persisted in the decision to continue advancing until the integrated computer system was on line while at the same time seeking new sources of operating capital.

XII

There is no evidence that the acts and omissions done or omitted to be done on behalf of Respondent Allstate or Respondent UMS by Respondent Brown or any of the other corporate officers or employees were fraudulent, dishonest or done with the intent of taking advantage of borrowers or lenders for whom the corporations were servicing accounts. The evidence indicates that the acts and omissions described above were well-intentioned but highly imprudent business decisions. Respondent Brown has been a real estate licensee in California for approximately 24 years without prior disciplinary action. He is very well regarded by those with whom he was associated in conducting the business activities of Respondent Allstate and has been significantly involved for many years in professional, civic and charitable activities in the Soquel area. Respondent Brown nonetheless bears primary responsibility under Section 10159.2 of the Business and Professions Code for Respondent Allstate's and Respondent UMS' violations of Section 10145 of the Code and of Section 2832.1, Title 10, California Administrative Code.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FINDINGS OF FACT

]

Findings I through XI in the First Cause of Action are incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

II

In May 1982, Respondent Grabau and his brother, John Grabau, acquired a controlling interest in Respondent Allstate.

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Respondent Brown then ceased to be chief executive officer of Respondent Allstate, but continued as designated broker for the corporation and became designated broker for Respondent UMS on June 23, 1982, on the first issuance of a real estate broker license to it.

III

In August 1982 Respondent Allstate was insolvent and on the brink of bankruptcy. Business operations were at a virtual standstill. Borrower delinquencies on promissory notes being serviced by Respondent UMS were at an all time high. Business creditors of Respondent Allstate were pressing for payment of overdue accounts. Under a Management Consulting Agreement, Respondent Grabau and other shareholders of Respondent Allstate gave management and control of the business affairs of Respondent Allstate and Respondent UMS to Leffler Industries, Inc., an Oregon corporation (LI West) on or about August 22, 1982. Effective September 1, 1982, Respondent Grabau became the designated broker-officer for Respondents Allstate and UMS.

IV

LI West with the knowledge and consent of Respondent Grabau embarked upon a policy designed to recoup funds previously advanced by Respondent Allstate to investors. This recoupment was to be effected by withholding payments received for investors' accounts from borrowers who were not delinquent and was to be accomplished without the prior consent of an investor for whose account the payment had been received.

LI West anticipated that funds obtained through the recoupment of advances would represent a major source of income to Respondents Allstate and UMS to meet their current financial obligations.

V

On or about October 7, 1982, management of Respondent Allstate with the knowledge and consent of Respondent Grabau caused a transfer of One Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Dollars and Fifty-Seven Cents (\$182,370.57) from the Trust Bank Account to the general operating account of Respondent Allstate. Of this amount transferred out of the trust account to the general operating account, Thirty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$38,685) was transferred without the consent of the owners of the funds. The Thirty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$38,685) in trust funds was held by Respondent Allstate for a period of longer than 60 days without the written consent of the owners of the funds.

VI

The transfer of funds referred to in Finding V was purportedly done by management of Respondent Allstate on advice of legal counsel, but management of Respondent Allstate was at all times aware that DRE regarded the recoupment policy as a violation of Section 10145 of the Code unless done with the consent of the owner of the funds in question.

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VII

With the exception of the Thirty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$38,685) referred to in Finding VI, there is no evidence of a misapplication of trust funds during the period that Respondent Grabau was the designated broker-officer for Respondents Allstate and UMS. The evidence, while not conclusive, indicates that the trust account shortage was in fact reduced after Respondent Grabau became designated broker-officer for Respondents Allstate and UMS though the evidence is inconclusive on whether the trust account shortage increased or decreased from the time that Respondent Grabau became chief executive officer to the date of the hearing of this case.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ι

Findings I through XI of the First Cause of Action are incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

II

Respondent Allstate failed to file with DRE by December 31, 1982, in accordance with Section 10232.2 of the Code, the report of a review, performed by a licensed California independent public accountant, of Respondent Allstate's trust fund financial statements for the company's fiscal year ending in June 1982.

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COURT PAPER STATE OF CALIFORNIA STD, 113 (REV. 8-72

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

Not only were the advancing and recoupment practices of respondents in violation of provisions of the Real Estate Law and the regulations of the Real Estate Commissioner, they were also foreseeably disadvantageous, if not injurious, to investors. This was particularly true because so many of the respondents' investors were owners of undivided interests in fractionalized loans. The advancing lulled investors on so-called nonperforming loans into a false sense of security that their obligors were reliable borrowers who would continue to make regular payments on time until the obligation was completely discharged. Had investors not been fulled into this false sense of security, they might well have modified their style of living or otherwise made rainy day financial arrangements. Due to the combination of respondents' imprudent judgments and improper practices, investors on so-called nonperforming loans were left with virtually no viable options when Respondents Allstate and UMS ceased advancing and began the program to recover its advances by recouping from payments made on nondelinquent loans.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Ι

The acts and omissions of Respondents Allstate, UMS and Brown are subject to disciplinary action under subdivision (d) of Section 10177 of the Business and Professions Code for

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violations of Section 10145 of the Code and Section 2832.1, Title 10, California Administrative Code.

ΙI

The acts and omissions of Respondent Brown are subject to disciplinary action under subdivision (h) of Section 10177 of the Business and Professions Code.

III

No cause for disciplinary action has been established under subdivision (i) of Section 10176 of the Business and Professions Code.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Ι

The acts and omissions of Respondents Allstate, UMS and Grabau are subject to disciplinary action under subdivision (d) of Section 10177 of the Business and Professions Code for the respondents' violation of Sections 10145 and 10231.1 of the Code.

II

The acts and omissions of Respondents Allstate, UMS and Grabau are subject to disciplinary action under subdivision

(e) of Section 10176 of the Business and Professions Code.

III

The acts and omissions of Respondent Grabau are subject to disciplinary action under the provisions of subdivision (h) of Section 10177 of the Business and Professions Code.

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IV

No cause for disciplinary action exists under subdivision (i) of Section 10176 of the Business and Professions Code.

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

The acts and omissions of Respondents Allstate and Grabau are subject to disciplinary action under subdivision (d) of Section 10177 of the Business and Professions Code for the failure of respondents to comply with Section 10232.2 of the Code.

The acts and omissions of Respondent Grabau are subject to disciplinary action under subdivision (h) of Section 10177 of the Business and Professions Code.

ΙI

ORDER

- 1. All licenses and license rights of Respondent
 Allstate under Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and
 Professions Code are revoked.

2.A. All licenses and license rights of Respondents

UMS and Brown under Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and

Professions Code are revoked.

B. A restricted real estate broker license shall be issued to either Respondent Brown or Respondent UMS pursuant to Section 10156.5 of the Business and Professions Code upon receipt by the Department of Real Estate of an application and the appropriate fee for the license within 90 days from the

COURT PAPER STATE OF CALIFORNIA STD. 113 (REV. 8-72)

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effective date of this Decision.

- The restricted license issued to either respondent shall be subject to all of the provisions of Section 10156.7 of the Business and Professions Code and to the following limitations, conditions and restrictions imposed under authority of Section 10156.6 of said Code:
 - (1) The restricted license may be suspended prior, to hearing by order of the Real Estate Commissioner in the event of respondent's conviction or plea of nolo contendere to a crime which bears a significant relation to respondent's fitness as a real estate licensee.
 - (2) The restricted license may be suspended prior to hearing by order of the Real Estate Commissioner on receipt of 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. All licenses and license rights of Respondent Grabau under Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code are suspended for 90 days provided however that 75 days of the suspension shall be stayed on the condition that no further cause for disciplinary action against a real estate license of Respondent Grabau shall occur within two years from the effective date of this Decision.

If it is determined pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act that further cause for disciplinary action against a real estate license of Respondent Grabau has occurred within two years from the effective date of this Decision, the stay of suspension hereby granted, or such portion thereof as the Real Estate Commissioner shall deem to be appropriate, shall be vacated.

If no further cause for disciplinary action against a real estate license of Respondent Grabau shall occur within two years from the effective date of this Decision, the stay hereby granted shall become permanent.

This Decision shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on July 30, 1984.

IT IS SO ORDERED July 10TH, 1984.

JAMES A. EDMONDS, JR. Real Estate Commissioner

By:

ROBERT P. MARTINE

Chief Deputy Commissioner

E OF CALIFORNIA 113 (REV. 8-72)

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

Kalidin

Roshni R. Kalidin

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Accusation of

ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION. UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC., VINCENT EARL BROWN and

HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU.

Respondents.

NO. H-5273 SF

N 20587

NOTICE

ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC., and HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU, Respondents

JOSEPH S. WAGER and KECK, MAHIN & CATE, their Counsel

VINCENT EARL BROWN, Respondent

JOHN M. GREGORY, MONTE'S. TRAVIS and CHICKERING & GREGORY, his Counsel

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Proposed Decision

herein dated November 18, 1983, of the Administrative Law Judge is

not adopted as the Decision of the Real Estate Commissioner.

copy of the Proposed Decision dated November 18, 1983, is attached for your information.

In accordance with Section 11517(c) of the Government

Code of the State of California, the disposition of this case will be determined by me after consideration of the record herein including the transcript of the proceedings held on November 2, 3 and 4, 1983, and any written argument hereafter submitted on behalf of respondents and complainant.

Written argument of respondents to be considered by me must be submitted within 15 days after receipt of the transcript of the proceedings of November 2, 3 and 4, 1983, at the San Francisco office of the Department of Real Estate unless an extension of the time is granted for good cause shown.

Written argument of complainant to be considered by me must be submitted within 15 days after receipt of the argument of respondents at the San Francisco office of the Department of Real Estate unless an extension of the time is granted for good cause shown.

DATED: 2-9-94

JAMES A. EDMONDS, JR. Real Estate Commissioner

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COURT PAPER



BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Roshni R. Kalidin

In the Matter of the Accusation of

ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICE, INC., VINCENT EARL BROWN, and HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU,

Respondents.

NO. H-5273 SF N 20587

PROPOSED DECISION

This matter came on regularly for hearing before Philip V. Sarkisian, administrative law judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings, State of California, at San Francisco, California, on November 2, 3 and 4, 1983. The complainant was represented by Francis M. Lyons, counsel, Department of Real Estate. Respondents Allstate Investment Corporation, United Mortgage Service, Inc., and Hubert Beckwith Grabau were represented by Joseph S. Wager and Keck, Mahin & Cate, attorneys at law. Respondent Vincent Earl Brown was represented by John M. Gregory, Monte S. Travis, and Chickering & Gregory, attorneys at law.

This case was consolidated for hearing with case No. H-5265 SF, involving an order to desist and refrain from specified activities directed to Allstate Investment Corporation, United Mortgage Service, Inc., and Hubert Beckwith Grabau. Oral and documentary evidence was introduced and, following oral arguments by the parties, the matter was deemed submitted.

The following decision is proposed, certified, and recommended for adoption:

FINDINGS OF FACT

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

1

Allstate Investment Corporation, United Mortgage Service, Inc., Vincent Earl Brown, and Hubert Beckwith Grabau

are presently licensed or have license rights under the Real Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code).

II

As of April 1, 1981, Allstate Equity Investment Corporation of America was a California corporation and was licensed to act as a real estate broker by and through Vincent Earl Brown (hereinafter respondent Brown) as designated brokerofficer. Effective April 5, 1982, Allstate Equity Investment Corporation of America changed its corporate name to Allstate Investment Corporation, a California corporation licensed to act as a real estate broker by and through respondent Brown as designated broker-officer. Effective June 23, 1982, United Mortgage Service, Inc., a California corporation, was licensed to act as a real estate broker by and through respondent Brown as designated broker-officer. Effective September 1, 1982, Allstate Investment Corporation and United Mortgage Service, Inc. (hereinafter the Corporations) were, and presently are, licensed by the Department of Real Estate to act as real estate brokers by and through Hubert Beckwith Grabau (hereinafter respondent Grabau) as designated broker-officer.

III

At all times herein mentioned, respondent Brown was licensed by the Department as a real estate broker, both individually and from April 1, 1981 through and including August 31, 1982, as designated broker-officer for one or both of the Corporations.

IV .

At all times mentioned, respondent Grabau was licensed by the Department as a real estate broker, both individually and from September 1, 1982 to the present as designated broker-officer for the Corporations.

\mathbf{v}

The complainant, Edward V. Chiolo, a deputy real estate commissioner of the State of California, acting in his official capacity as such and not otherwise, made the accusation against respondents.

VI

At all times herein mentioned, Allstate Investment Corporation, by and through respondent Brown and respondent Grabau, and at times by and through subsidiary corporations including but not limited to United Mortgage Service, Inc.,

subject to the management and control by the officers, directors, employees or agents of Allstate Investment Corporation, engaged in the business of, acted in the capacity of, advertised, or assumed to act as a real estate broker in the State of California within the meaning of sections 10131(d), 10131(e), or 10131.1 of the Business and Professions Code (hereinafter the Code) including the operation of a mortgage loan brokerage business with the public, wherein lenders and borrowers were solicited for loans secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property, wherein loans were arranged, negotiated, processed, and consummated on behalf of others, and wherein such loans were serviced and payments were collected thereon on behalf of others, all for or in expectation of compensation; and wherein, on occasion, the Corporations engaged as a principal in the business of buying from, selling to, or exchanging with the public promissory notes secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property.

VII

At all times herein mentioned, in connection with the aforesaid mortgage loan activities, the Corporations and respondent Brown or respondent Grabau accepted or received funds in trust (hereinafter trust funds) from or on behalf of lenders and borrowers and at times thereafter made disbursements of such funds.

VIII

During the month of August, 1982, and thereafter, an investigative audit was made by the Department of the records and bank records of the Corporations and of respondent Brown as said records related to the Corporations and respondent Brown's activities as a mortgage loan broker.

IX

It was ascertained by said audit that the Corporations and respondent Brown maintained a trust bank account at Imperial Bank, West Brokaw Road, San Jose, California, account No. 17-014-196 (hereinafter the "trust account."), and that the adjusted cash balance of said trust account as of August 31, 1982, was five hundred eighty-five thousand one hundred fifty-six and 58/100 dollars (\$585,156.58).

X

It was further ascertained by said audit that the Corporations' and respondent Brown's trust liability for trust funds received by the Corporations and respondent Brown from

lenders and borrowers as of August 31, 1982, amounted to approximately one million twenty-eight thousand eight hundred sixty-five and 93/100 dollars (\$1,028,865.93). The Corporations and respondent Brown, as of August 31, 1982, had a trust fund deficiency and shortage of approximately four hundred forty-three thousand seven hundred nine and 35/100 dollars (\$443,709.35). The audit was based upon records furnished to the Department by the respondents and the actual amount of the deficiency may be somewhat less than the figure stated. In any event, the shortage was no less than \$350,000.00.

ΧI

- A. The trust fund shortage was caused by the respondents' practice of "advancing"; that is, the practice of making regular monthly payments to investors even on loans for which the borrowers' payments have not been received. The Corporations had made advances prior to respondent Brown's becoming the designated broker in April, 1981, and his investment group's acquisition of the business at that time. During the early months of respondent Brown's tenure at Allstate, the amounts advanced each month were relatively small and were promptly made up by transfers from the operating cash. Respondent Brown recognized the danger of the policy of advancing and early in his tenure he decided to cease the practice.
- B. Respondent Brown and his management team had inherited an antiquated computer batch service in use by Allstate in April of 1981. This batch service operated on two completely separate programs which were incapable of "talking" to each other, one for the processing of borrower payments, and the other for payments to investors. Because the two programs were not integrated, payments automatically went out to all Allstate investors at the end of each month regardless of whether or not their individual borrowers had made timely payments during that month. Thereafter, reconciliation had to be done by hand, and a compensating payment was made from the general account into the servicing trust account to make up for any deficiency in borrower payments.

Allstate in mid-1981 was servicing a portfolio of approximately 3,000 loans with an aggregate principal balance of approximately \$55,000,000. A large proportion of these loans were "fractionated," i.e., owned by more than one, and sometimes as many as ten, separate investors. Management decided that the sheer number of the individual calculations and postings required each month to properly service this portfolio effectively ruled out a manual system as a solution to the problem. Aside from

the factor of human error inherent in a manual system, there was genuine doubt among Brown and his management team as to whether a manual system was possible to implement at all given the limitations of available staff. Going to a manual system did not seem to represent a viable or reasonable long-term solution to the problem.

Brown therefore decided, as early as June of 1981, that the Company should switch to a single, integrated computer software program that would be capable of accurate monthly reconciliation of borrower payments to investor payments. For a variety of reasons, largely beyond the control of the Company, and respondent Brown, such an integrated system did not become operational until June of 1982, when the policy of advancing effectively ceased.

During the interim, advances continued to climb to near catastrophic levels. By the end of 1981, monthly advances were approaching \$100,000. The Company and respondent Brown made efforts to locate sources of financing to cover the advances and provide working capital.

During the first five months of 1981 alone, the Company transferred approximately \$350,000 from operating funds and borrowed funds into the trust account to cover advances. Respondent Brown himself, in May, 1982, loaned the Company \$75,000 in addition to his initial investment in the Company.

XII

By virtue of the facts set forth above, the Corporations and respondent Brown are guilty of a violation of Business and Professions Code section 10145 in that the Corporations and respondent Brown failed to place the trust funds either into a neutral escrow depository, into the hands of a principal on whose behalf such funds were received, or into a trust fund account at a bank or other financial institution and to retain them in such account until disbursed in accordance with instructions from the principals in the transaction.

TIIX

The Corporations and respondent Brown disbursed or allowed the disbursement of trust funds from the trust fund account without the prior written consent of every principal who then was an owner of funds in said account. The disbursement of said funds reduced the balance of funds in the account to an amount less than the existing aggregate trust fund liability of the Corporations and respondent Brown to all owners of said funds, in violation of section 2832.1 of Title 10 of the California Administrative Code (hereinafter the Regulations).

XIV

There is no evidence to indicate that respondent Brown engaged in any conduct constituting fraud or dishonest dealing, however he failed to exercise reasonable supervision and control over the activities of the Corporations for which a real estate license is required.

XV

Respondent Brown has been licensed as a real estate broker since approximately 1972. He is significantly involved in professional, civic, and charitable activities in the Soquel area. There is no evidence of any other disciplinary action against him. Future violations are highly unlikely.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

I

The facts set forth in the First Cause for Discipline are incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

II

- A. In August of 1982, Allstate was insolvent and on the brink of bankruptcy. Business operations were almost at a standstill, the delinquency rate on loans was at an all-time high, creditors were pressing for payment of amounts due, and the business faced a financial crisis. Effective September 1, 1982, respondent Grabau agreed to serve as designated broker-officer for the new management group which took over operation of the business.
- B. As part of an overall plan by new management to stabilize the operation of the business, it was decided to pursue a policy of recouping advances previously made to investors on nonperforming loans. The Company had arranged additional financing as part of its overall plan. Recoupment of advances was the major source of funds available to the Company to meet its obligations.

Acting on advice of its legal counsel, the Company, on or about October 7, 1982, applied \$38,685.00 in current loan payments received for investors on their notes against advances made to the same investors on other notes they held on which payments had not been received. The procedure for recoupment had been discussed with the Department at various meetings. The respondents were aware that the Department objected to the recoupment policy as to those investors who did not expressly consent thereto.

- from the trust account to operating accounts of the Company. These were trust funds payable to investors according to the terms of promissory notes secured by trust deeds. The money was held for a period longer than sixty days without the written consent of the owners of the funds, a violation of Business and Professions Code section 10231.1.
- p. Throughout this period of time, a substantial trust fund shortage resulting from the advancing policy continued to exist. The amounts due to the Company from investors who received advances were and are assets of the Company, but they are in the nature of receivables and are not immediate cash funds available to balance the trust account for the purposes or the requirements of Busines and Professions Code section 10145. It is noteworthy that except as to the \$38,685.00 referred to above, respondent Grabau was not the designated broker-officer during the creation of the trust account deficiency. On the contrary, the deficiency has been reduced during his tenure. There is no evidence of any other misconduct on his part and any future violations appear highly unlikely.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

I

All facts set forth in the First and Second Causes for Discipline are incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

ΙI

Allstate Investment Corporation and respondent Grabau failed to file with the Department by December 31, 1982, the report of a review, by a licensed California independent public accountant, of trust fund financial statements for the Corporations' fiscal year ending in June, 1982, in violation of section 10232.2 of the Code.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

I

Notwithstanding the poor quality of many of the loans, the decline in the value of the security for loans caused by the economic problems of the times, and the antiquated computer system used by the Company as described above, management should have taken steps to notify those investors whose loans were in default of that fact rather than pursuing the policy of advancing funds. It is clear that the Company continued to arrange new

loans at the same time as it was making advances on defaulted loans. Indeed, before the present management group imposed servicing fees, commissions on new loans were the main source of revenue for the Company.

ΙI

With respect to the recoupment policy, although it is a violation of the real estate law, as specified above, the evidence did not establish any actual harm to investors directly affected. Were the Company to enter a receivership, or a chapter proceeding under the Bankruptcy Act, recoupment even without consent of investors would probably be allowed. The evidence indicates that unless the many thousands of dollars advanced to investors whose loans were in default are recovered in some manner, other investors whose payments are actually received on time may suffer.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

1. FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

- A. The respondent companies and respondent Vincent Earl Brown are subject to discipline pursuant to the provisions of Business and Professions Code section 10177, subdivisions (d) and (h).
- B. No cause for discipline exists pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 10176, subdivision (i).

2. SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

Grounds for discipline were established against the respondent companies and respondent Grabau pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 10176, subdivision (e), and section 10177, subdivisions (d) and (h).

3. THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

Grounds for discipline were established against the respondent companies and respondent Grabau pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 10177, subdivisions (d) and (h).

ORDER

Respondents' licenses are suspended for sixty (60) days, provided execution of the entire suspension is stayed and respondents are placed on probation for a period of one (1) year upon condition that they obey all laws and regulations governing

their activities as real estate brokers. If respondents do not comply with the terms and conditions of probation, the real estate commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing is afforded respondents, terminate probation and reimpose all or any portion of the stayed suspension. If they do comply with the terms of probation, at the expiration of one year from the effective date of this decision, the stay shall become permanent.

DATED:

November 18,1983

PHILIP V. SARKISIAN

Administrative Law Judge

PVS:1hj

STEPHEN W. THOMAS, Counsel DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE 185 Berry Street, Room 5816 San Francisco, CA 94107

(415) 557-3220

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

Roshni R. Kalidin

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION,

UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC.,

VINCENT EARL BROWN, and HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU,

Respondents.

No. H-5273 SF

ACCUSATION

The complainant, EDWARD V. CHIOLO, a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California, for cause of accusation against ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., VINCENT EARL BROWN, and HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU, is informed and alleges as follows:

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

That ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., VINCENT EARL BROWN, and HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU are presently licensed and/or have license rights under the Real Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Ćođe).

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That as of April 1, 1981, ALLSTATE EQUITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF AMERICA was a California corporation and was licensed to act as a real estate broker by and through VINCENT EARL BROWN (hereinafter respondent Brown) as designated brokerofficer; that effective April 5, 1982, ALLSTATE EQUITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF AMERICA changed corporate name to ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, a California corporation licensed to act as a real estate broker by and through respondent Brown as designated broker-officer; that effective June 23, 1982, UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., a California corporation, was licensed to act as a real estate broker by and through respondent Brown as designated broker-officer; that effective September 1, 1982, ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION and UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC. (hereinafter the Corporations) were, and presently are, licensed by the Department of Real Estate to act as real estate brokers by and through HUBERT BECKWITH GRABAU (hereinafter respondent Grabau) as designated broker-officer.

III

That at all times herein mentioned, respondent Brown was licensed by the Department as a real estate broker, both individually and from April 1, 1981 through and including August 31, 1982, as designated broker-officer for one or both of the Corporations.

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That at all times mentioned, respondent Grabau was licensed by the Department as a real estate broker, both individually and from September 1, 1982 to the present as designated broker-officer for the Corporations.

V

That the complainant, EDWARD V. CHIOLO, a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California, acting in his official capacity as such and not otherwise, makes this accusation against respondents.

·VI

That at all times herein mentioned, ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, by and through respondent Brown and respondent Grabau, and at times by and through subsidiary corporations including but not limited to UNITED MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., subject to the management and/or control by the officers, directors, employees or agents of ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, engaged in the business of, acted in the capacity of, advertised, or assumed to act as a real estate broker in the State of California within the meaning of Sections 10131(d), 10131(e), or 10131.1 of the Business and Professions Code (hereinafter the Code) including the operation of a mortgage loan brokerage business with the public, wherein lenders and borrowers were solicited for loans secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property, wherein loans were arranged, negotiated, processed, and consummated on behalf of others; and wherein such loans were serviced and payments were collected thereon

DURT PAPER TATE OF GALIFORNIA 7D. 113 (REV. 8-72) on behalf of others, all for or in expectation of compensation; and wherein, on occasion, the Corporations engaged as a principal in the business of buying from, selling to, or exchanging with the public promissory notes secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property.

VII

That at all times herein mentioned, in connection with the aforesaid mortgage loan activities, the Corporations and respondent Brown or respondent Grabau accepted or received funds in trust (hereinafter trust funds) from or on behalf of lenders and borrowers and at times thereafter made disbursements of such funds.

VIII

That during the month of August, 1982, and thereafter, an investigative audit was made by the Department of the records and bank records of the Corporations and of respondent Brown as said records related to the Corporations and respondent Brown's activities as a mortgage loan broker.

IX

That it was ascertained by said audit that the Corporations and respondent Brown maintained a trust bank account at Imperial Bank, West Brokaw Road, San Jose, California, Account No. 17-014-196 (hereinafter the "trust account"), and that the adjusted cash balance of said trust account as of August 31, 1982 was FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX and 58/100 DOLLARS (\$585,156.58).

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That it was further ascertained by said audit that

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the Corporations'and respondent Brown's minimum trust liability for trust funds received by the Corporations and respondent Brown from lenders and borrowers as of August 31, 1982 amounted to approximately ONE MILLION TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE and 93/100 DOLLARS (\$1,028,865.93); that the Corporations and respondent Brown, as of August 31, 1982, had a minimum trust fund deficiency and shortage of approximately FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINE and 35/100 DOLLARS (\$443,709.35).

That the Corporations and respondent Brown failed to place the trust funds either into a neutral escrow depository, into the hands of a principal on whose behalf such funds were received, or into a trust fund account at a bank or other financial institution and to retain them in such account until disbursed in accordance with instructions from the principals in the transaction, in violation of Section 10145 of the Code; that the Corporations and respondent Brown converted or appropriated all or part of the trust funds to their own use and benefit, and to uses and purposes not authorized by their principals.

XII

That the Corporations and respondent Brown disbursed or allowed the disbursment of trust funds from the trust fund account without the prior written consent of every principal who

then was an owner of funds in said account; that the disbursement of said funds reduced the balance of funds in the account to an amount less than the existing aggregate trust fund liability of the Corporations and respondent Brown to all owners of said funds, in violation of Section 2832.1 of Title 10 of the California Administrative Code (hereinafter the Regulations).

XIII

That respondent Brown, as designated broker-officer for the Corporations, failed to exercise reasonable supervision and control over the activities of the Corporations for which a real estate license is required, as those activities are alleged in Paragraphs VI, VII, XI and XII above.

XIV

That by reason of the facts as hereinabove alleged, the Corporations and respondent Brown violated Section 10145 of the Code and Regulations 2832.1 and said acts and omissions constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the provisions of Sections 10176(i), 10177(d) and (h) of the Code.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

There is hereby incorporated into this second, separate and distinct cause of action all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs I through VII of the First Cause of Action with the same force and effect as if more fully set forth herein.

Ι

That during the month of November, 1982, and thereafter, an investigative audit was made by the Department of the records and bank records of the Corporations and respondent Grabau as

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said records related to the Corporations' and respondent Grabau's activities as a mortgage loan broker.

ΙI

That it was ascertained by said audit that on or about October 7, 1982, the Corporations and respondent Grabau disbursed or caused to be disbursed from the trust account and deposited or caused to be deposited into the general bank account maintained by the Corporations and respondent Grabau, the sum of approximately THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$38,685) in trust funds; that the Corporations and respondent Grabau failed to retain said trust funds in the trust account until disbursed in accordance with instructions from their principals, and failed to place said trust funds in a neutral escrow depository or the hands of the principals on whose behalf such funds were received, in violation of Section 10145 of the Code; that the Corporations and respondent Grabau commingled and converted all or part of said trust funds to their own use and benefit, and to uses and purposes not authorized by their principals.

III

That it was further ascertained by said audit that during the months of September and October, 1982, the Corporations and respondent Grabau collected and thereafter retained trust funds payable according to the terms of promissory notes secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property in the approximate amount of THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EITHTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$38,685) for a period longer than sixty

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days without the written consent of the owners of the trust funds, in violation of Section 10231.1 of the Code.

IV

That respondent Grabau, as designated broker-officer for the Corporations, failed to exercise reasonable supervision and control over the activities of the Corporations for which a real estate license is required, as those activities are alleged in Paragraphs II and III above.

V

That by reason of the facts as hereinabove alleged, the Corporations and respondent Grabau violated Sections 10145 and 10231.1 of the Code, and said acts and omissions constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the provisions of Sections 10176(e), (i), 10177(d) and (h) of the Code.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

There is hereby incorporated into this third, separate and distinct cause of action all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs I through VII of the First Cause of Action with the same force and effect as if more fully set forth herein.

Ι

That ALLSTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION and respondent Grabau failed to file with the Department by December 31, 1982, the report of a review, by a licensed California independent public accountant, of trust fund financial statements for the Corporations' fiscal year ending in June, 1982, in violation of Section 10232.2 of the Code.

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That by reason of the facts as hereinabove alleged, the Corporations and respondent Grabau violated Section 10232.2 of the Code, and said acts and omissions constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the provisions of Sections 10177(d) and (h) of the Code.

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 (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Code) and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other applicable provisions of law.

Shund V. Chilo

EDWARD V. CHIOLO

Deputy Real Estate Commissioner Dated at San Francisco, California

this 31st day of January, 1983.