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8	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
9	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	* * *
11	In the Matter of the Accusation of No. H-05717-SD
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12	ACROPOLIS ENTERPRISE INC., C & C CAPITAL MORTGAGE & DEALED ADDRESS AND A CONSTRUCTION
13	REALTY INC., FARUQ DARCUIEL, individually and as designated officer
14	of Acropolis Enterprise Inc. and C & C Capital Mortgage & Realty Inc., and
16	LAWAN KENTON BROWN,
17	Respondents.
18	The Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, a Supervising Special Investigator for the
19	Department of Real Estate ("Department" or "DRE") of the State of California, for cause of
20	Accusation against ACROPOLIS ENTERPRISE INC. ("AEI"), C & C CAPITAL MORTGAGE
21	& REALTY INC. ("C&C"), FARUQ DARCUIEL ("DARCUIEL"), individually and as
22	designated officer of Acropolis Enterprise Inc. and C & C Capital Mortgage & Realty Inc., and
23	LAWAN KENTON BROWN ("BROWN"), collectively, "Respondents," is informed and alleges
24	in her official capacity as follows:
25	1. The Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, acting in her official capacity as a
26	Supervising Special Investigator, makes this Accusation against Respondents.
27	2. All references to the "Code" are to the California Business and Professions Code and
28	all references to "Regulations" are to Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations.
	ACCUSATION - 1 - DRE Case No. H-05717-SD

1	LICENSE HISTORY
2	3. Respondent AEI has been licensed by the Department as a real estate corporation
3	("REC"), license identification number ("License ID") 02054166, from on or about May 1, 2018,
4	through the present, with AEI's license scheduled to expire on April 30, 2026, unless renewed. AEI
5	is licensed through the real estate broker ("REB") license of DARCUIEL, License ID 01401759,
6	and DARCUIEL is AEI's designated officer ("D.O."). According to Department records to date,
7	AEI has no branch offices, maintains no fictitious business names with the DRE, employs one (1)
8	broker associate, and employs twenty-six (26) salespersons, including but not limited to:
9	a. Ronald Loguya Peterson ("Peterson"), License ID 02114963;
10	b. John Paul Bale ("Bale"), License ID 01809512;
11	c. Keaton Rodney English ("English"), License ID 02026461; and,
12	d. Anthony Allen McNichols II ("McNichols"), License ID 02120507.
13	4. Respondent C&C has been licensed by the Department as a REC, License ID
14	01524401, from on or about May 19, 2006, through the present, with C&C's license scheduled to
15	expire on May 18, 2026, unless renewed. C&C is licensed through the REB license of DARCUIEL,
16	who is also the D.O. of C&C. According to Department records to date, C&C has two branch
17	offices, employs three (3) broker associates and six (6) salespersons, and maintains no fictitious
18	business names with the DRE.
19	5. Respondent DARCUIEL has been licensed by the Department as a REB, License ID
20	01401759, from on or about February 24, 2005, through the present, with DARCUIEL's license
21	scheduled to expire on February 23, 2025, unless renewed. According to Department records to
22	date, DARCUIEL maintains the licensed fictitious business name, "C & C Capital Mortgage &
23	Realty" which has been active as of June 7, 2005. DARCUIEL was previously licensed as a real
24	estate salesperson ("RES") from on or about October 17, 2003 to February 23, 2005.
25	6. Respondent BROWN has been licensed by the Department as a Restricted RES,
26	License ID 02080684, from on or about November 19, 2020, through the present with BROWN's
27	license scheduled to expire on November 18, 2024, unless renewed. On or about April 16, 2021,
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	ACCUSATION
	- 2 - DRE Case No. H-05717-SD

# ACCUSATION DRE Case No. H-05717-SD

1	the DRE received a Prospective Employing Broker Certification for BROWN, signed by
2	DARCUIEL stating:
3	I will carefully review all transaction documents which the restricted salesperson licensee or holder of a restricted endorsement prepares and will otherwise exercise
4 5	close supervision over the licensed activity of the above named salesperson. Should he/she violate any of the conditions of the restricted license and/or endorsement, I will immediately notify the Real Estate Commissioner in writing.
6	On or about April 27, 2021, the DRE received a Restricted Salesperson Change Application from
7	BROWN, listing AEI as BROWN's new sponsoring broker. From on or about April 27, 2021,
8	BROWN has been employed by and licensed under AEI. According to Department records to date,
9	BROWN has not at any time been employed by or licensed under C&C.
10	PRIOR DISCIPLINE OF BROWN: DRE CASE NO. H-05122-SD
11	7. On or about January 16, 2020, in DRE Case No. H-05122-SD, the DRE filed a
12	Statement of Issues against BROWN, alleging the following:
13	a. On or about March 11, 2016, BROWN was convicted in the Commonwealth
14	of Virginia, General District Court, Fairfax County, Case No. GT15247213-00, for violation
15	of Virginia Code section 18.2-266 (Driving Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated), a
16	misdemeanor.
17	b. On or about May 5, 2016, BROWN was convicted in the Commonwealth of
18	Virginia, General District Court, Fairfax County, Case No. GC16079044-00, for violation
19	of Virginia Code section 18.2-206 (Procuring an Animal, Aircraft, Vehicle or Boat with
20	Intent to Defraud), a misdemeanor.
21	c. On or about April 17, 2017, BROWN was convicted in the Superior Court of
22	California, County of Sonoma, Case No. SCR696967, for violation of California Penal Code
23	section 243(b) (Battery Against Specified Officers), a misdemeanor.
24	d. The above convictions bear a substantial relationship under section 2910,
25	Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations to the qualifications, functions or duties
26	of a real estate licensee, and constitute cause for denial of Respondent's application for a
27	real estate license under Business and Professions Code sections 475(a)(2)-(3), 480(a)(1)-
28	(2), and 10177(b)(1).
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1	8. On or about November 12, 2020, in DRE Case No. H-05122-SD, the DRE filed a
2	Stipulation and Waiver for BROWN. Under the terms of the Stipulation and Waiver, BROWN
3	admitted that the allegations of the Statement of Issues filed against him in DRE Case No. H-05122-
4	SD were true and correct and requested that the Real Estate Commissioner ("Commissioner") in his
5	discretion issue a restricted RES license to BROWN pursuant to Code section 10156.5. Under the
6	terms of the Stipulation and Waiver, BROWN agreed and understood, among other things, that:
7	a. The Commissioner may suspend the right to exercise any privileges granted
8	under the restricted license in the event of:
9	(1) BROWN's conviction (including a plea of nolo contendere) of a
10	crime which bears a substantial relationship to BROWN's fitness or capacity as a
11	real estate licensee; or
12	(2) The receipt of evidence that BROWN has violated provisions of the
13	California Real Estate Law, the Subdivided Lands Law, Regulations of the
14	Commissioner, or conditions attaching to the restricted license.
15	b. BROWN shall not be eligible to petition for the issuance of an unrestricted
16	real estate license nor the removal of any of the conditions, limitations, or restrictions
17	attaching to the restricted license until two (2) years have elapsed from the date of issuance
18	of the restricted license to BROWN.
19	c. With BROWN's application for license, or with the application for transfer
20	to a new responsible broker, BROWN shall submit a statement signed by the prospective
21	responsible broker on a form approved by the Department wherein the responsible broker
22	shall certify as follows:
23	(1) That the broker has read the Statement of Issues which is the basis for
24	the issuance of the restricted license; and
25	(2) That the broker will carefully review all transaction documents
26	prepared by the restricted licensee and otherwise exercise close supervision over the
27	licensee's performance of acts for which a license is required.
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	ACCUSATION
	- 4 - DRE Case No. H-05717-SD

9. On or about November 4, 2020, the Commissioner signed the Stipulation and Waiver
 and ordered that a restricted RES license be issued to BROWN.

3 10. On or about November 19, 2020, the DRE issued the Restricted RES license to
4 BROWN.

11. As alleged above in paragraph 6, on or about April 16, 2021, the DRE received a
Prospective Employing Broker Certification for BROWN, which was signed by DARCUIEL, and
on or about April 27, 2021, the DRE received a Restricted Salesperson Change Application from
BROWN, listing AEI as BROWN's new sponsoring broker.

## **BROKERAGE: AEI**

10 12. At all times mentioned, in San Diego County, AEI acted as a real estate broker, 11 conducting licensed activities within the meaning of Code section 10131(a): selling and buying real 12 property for others. At all times mentioned, AEI conducted such licensed activities for compensation 13 or in expectation of compensation. At all times mentioned, AEI acted by and through DARCUIEL 14 as its D.O. pursuant to Code Section 10159.2, and DARCUIEL was responsible for ensuring 15 compliance with the Real Estate Law.

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## BROKERAGE: C&C

17 13. At all times mentioned, in the Counties of San Diego, Fresno, and Imperial, C&C
18 acted as a real estate broker, conducting licensed activities within the meaning of Code section
19 10131(a): selling and buying real property for others. At all times mentioned, C&C conducted such
20 licensed activities for compensation or in expectation of compensation. At all times mentioned,
21 C&C acted by and through DARCUIEL as its D.O. pursuant to Code Section 10159.2, and
22 DARCUIEL was responsible for ensuring compliance with the Real Estate Law.

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### FACTS DISCOVERED BY DRE

14. On or about April 15, 2022, the DRE received an anonymous complaint alleging that
BROWN, on behalf of a buyer, submitted an offer to purchase property located at 4765 Bayard
Street, San Diego, California ("Bayard Property") to the seller, but BROWN listed his broker as
C&C, which was inconsistent with the licensing information provided on the DRE public website
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showing that BROWN was licensed under AEI. The P.E.<sup>1/</sup> Living Trust, the seller of the Bayard
Property, received multiple offers, but the offer received from BROWN's client was the highest
offer, and the seller wanted to make a decision. The listing agent and broker for the seller of the
Bayard Property made numerous attempts to contact BROWN and DARCUIEL to discuss the issue
of BROWN listing his broker as C&C on the offer to purchase when BROWN was not licensed
under C&C, but was in fact licensed under AEI, however, the listing agent and broker for the seller
of the Bayard Property never received a response from BROWN or DARCUIEL.

# Transactions Involving BROWN

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9 15. Based on information obtained during DRE's investigation of the complaint, by
10 agreement dated December 20, 2020, BROWN signed an Independent Contractor Agreement with
11 C&C. C&C never notified the DRE that BROWN was employed by C&C.

12 16. On or about March 10, 2022, Skylark Partners Inc. ("SPI") ("Buyer"), represented
13 by BROWN as the Buyer's Agent, and C&C as the Buyer's Broker, executed California Residential
14 Purchase Agreement ("RPA") offering to purchase the Bayard Property from the P.E. Living Trust
15 for \$1,160,000.00. At the time of executing this RPA, BROWN was not licensed under nor
16 employed by C&C.

17 17. On or about May 25, 2022, SPI, represented by BROWN as the Buyer's Agent, and
18 C&C as the Buyer's Broker, executed an RPA offering to purchase property located at 13825
19 Fontanelle Place, San Diego, California ("Fontanelle Property"), for \$1,350,000.00. At the time
20 of executing this RPA, BROWN was not licensed under nor employed by C&C.

- 18. On or about May 26, 2022, SPI, represented by BROWN as the Buyer's Agent, and
  C&C as the Buyer's Broker, executed an RPA offering to purchase property located at 211 James
  Street, San Diego, California ("James Property"), for \$693,000.00. At the time of executing this
  RPA, BROWN was not licensed under nor employed by C&C.
  - 19. Also on or about May 26, 2022, SPI, represented by BROWN as the Buyer's Agent,
    and C&C as the Buyer's Broker, executed an RPA offering to purchase property located at 643

28 <sup>1/</sup> Initials are used in place of an individual's full name to protect their privacy. Documents containing the individuals' full names will be provided during the discovery phase of this case to Respondents and/or their attorney(s), after service of a timely and proper request for discovery on Complainant's counsel.

Hubbard Avenue, San Diego, California ("Hubbard Property"), for \$843,000.00. At the time of executing this RPA, BROWN was not licensed under nor employed by C&C.

<u>Transactions Involving Failure to Disclose Interest in SPI</u>

20. 4 On or about February 1, 2022, W.R. and E.R. ("Buyers"), represented by AEI as the 5 Buyer's Broker, executed an RPA offering to purchase property located at 642 Mariposa Circle, 6 Chula Vista, California ("Mariposa Property"), from SPI ("Seller") for \$920,000.00, and escrow 7 closed on or about March 22, 2022. The Seller, SPI, was also represented by AEI as the Seller's 8 Broker. In a Statement of Information filed for SPI with the California Secretary of State on July 9 15, 2020, DARCUIEL is listed as SPI's chief financial officer and as a director. AEI did not disclose 10 to the Buyers of the Mariposa Property that DARCUIEL had an ownership interest in the property as the Seller while also representing the Buyers. 11

12 21. On or about March 11, 2022, B.N. and A.N. ("Buyers"), represented by AEI as the 13 Buyer's Broker, executed an RPA offering to purchase property located at 6891 Cartwright Street, 14 San Diego, California ("Cartwright Property"), from SPI ("Seller") for \$1,275,000.00, and escrow 15 closed on or about April 8, 2022. The Seller, SPI, was also represented by AEI as the Seller's 16 Broker. In a Statement of Information filed for SPI with the California Secretary of State on July 15, 2020, DARCUIEL is listed as SPI's chief financial officer and as a director. AEI did not disclose 17 18 to the Buyers of the Cartwright Property that DARCUIEL had an ownership interest in the property 19 as the Seller while also representing the Buyers.

20 22. On or about April 6, 2022, J.E. and J.M. ("Buyers"), represented by AEI as the 21 Buyer's Broker, executed an RPA offering to purchase property located at 4731 Lithrop Place, San 22 Diego, California ("Lithrop Property"), from SPI ("Seller") for \$995,000.00, and escrow closed on 23 or about April 29, 2022. The Seller, SPI, was also represented by AEI as the Seller's Broker. In a 24 Statement of Information filed for SPI with the California Secretary of State on July 15, 2020, 25 DARCUIEL is listed as SPI's chief financial officer and as a director. AEI did not disclose to the 26 Buyers of the Cartwright Property that DARCUIEL had an ownership interest in the property as the 27 Seller while also representing the Buyers.

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23. 1 On or about April 28, 2022, S.H. and A.C. ("Buyers"), represented by AEI as the 2 Buyer's Broker, executed an RPA offering to purchase property located at 5159 Via Mindanao, 3 Oceanside, California ("Via Mindanao Property"), from SPI ("Seller") for \$1,101,000.00, and 4 escrow closed on or about June 1, 2022. The Seller, SPI, was also represented by AEI as the 5 Seller's Broker. In a Statement of Information filed for SPI with the California Secretary of State 6 on July 15, 2020, DARCUIEL is listed as SPI's chief financial officer and as a director. AEI did 7 not disclose to the Buyers of the Via Mindanao Property that DARCUIEL had an ownership 8 interest in the property as the Seller while also representing the Buyers.

## 9 Advertising Violations

10 24. On or about October 25, 2022, on RES Peterson's Facebook page, Peterson failed to disclose his DRE license identification number and responsible broker's identity and Peterson used 11 12 the unlicensed fictitious business names "Checkmate Real Estate," and "Loguya Estates," in violation of Code sections 10140.6 and 10159.5. On November 22, 2022, Peterson was also using 13 14 the unlicensed fictitious business name "Loguya Estates" on the website loguyaestates.com, and he 15 also failed to disclose his DRE license identification number and responsible broker's identity on 16 the website loguyaestates.com, in violation of Code sections 10140.6 and 10159.5 and Regulation 17 2731.

18 25. On or about October 25, 2022, RES Bale was using the unlicensed fictitious business
19 name "Ameritage Realty" on the website johnbale.com, in violation of Code section 10159.5 and
20 Regulation 2731.

21 26. On or about October 25, 2022, on RES English's website https://engishestates.us,
22 English used the unlicensed fictitious business name "English Estates," English's DRE license
23 identification number is listed at the bottom of the webpage in a type size that is smaller than the
24 next smallest type size used on the page, and English failed to disclose his responsible broker's
25 identity, in violation of Code section 10159.5 and Regulations 2731 and 2773.

26 27. On or about October 25, 2022, on RES McNichols's website anthonymcnichols.com,
27 McNichols used the unlicensed fictitious business name "McNichols Group," which also does not
28 meet the requirements for a team name, in violation of Code sections 10159.5 and 10159.6, and

Regulation 2731. McNichols also listed the unlicensed branch office location of 601-C E Palomar 1 2 St. #243, Chula Vista, CA 91911 on the website anthonymcnichols.com, in violation of Code 3 sections 10162 and 10163. 28. 4 DARCUIEL informed the DRE that he did not review his salespersons' advertising, 5 however, he did review some of the salespersons' social media advertising. 6 **VIOLATIONS OF THE REAL ESTATE LAW – CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE** 7 29. In the course of the activities described above in Paragraphs 11 and 12, and based on the facts discovered by the DRE, as described in Paragraphs 13 through 27 above, Respondents 8 9 acted in violation of the Code and Regulations as follows. 10 FIRST CAUSE OF ACCUSATION 30. 11 The Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations 12 contained in paragraphs 1 through 29 above with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein. 13 14 31. BROWN's acts and/or omissions in executing RPAs for the Bayard, Fontanelle, 15 James, and Hubbard Properties as the Buyer's Agent, and listing the Buyer's Broker as C&C, when 16 BROWN was not licensed under nor employed by C&C, and in failing to respond to inquiries by 17 the Seller of the Bayard Property when BROWN's client had made the highest offer on the Bayard 18 Property, are in violation of Code sections 10176(a), and 10177(d) and/or 10177(g) and constitute cause to suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of Respondent BROWN 19 pursuant to Code sections 10176(a), 10177(d) and/or 10177(g). 20 21 SECOND CAUSE OF ACCUSATION 22 32. The Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations 23 contained in paragraphs 1 through 31 above with the same force and effect as though fully set forth 24 herein. 25 33. At all relevant times herein, while acting as a real estate broker and agent of the 26 Buyers of the Mariposa, Cartwright, Lithrop, and Via Mindanao Properties, AEI owed the Buyers 27 fiduciary duties, including, but not limited to the following: duty of reasonable care and skill; duty 28 of good faith; duty of loyalty; duty of diligence; duty to avoid conflicts of interest; duty of fullest

disclosure of all material facts affecting the Buyers' rights and interests, and all material facts
 affecting the value of the properties.
 34. AEI's acts and/or omissions in failing to disclose to the Buyers that AEI had an

AEI's acts and/or offissions in failing to disclose to the Buyers that AEI had an ownership interest in each property as the Seller through DARCUIEL are in violation of Code sections 10176(a), 10177(o), and 10177(d) and/or 10177(g), constitute a breach of AEI's fiduciary duties to the Buyers, and constitute cause to suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of Respondent AEI pursuant to Code sections 10176(a), 10177(o), and 10177(d) and/or 10177(g).

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#### THIRD CAUSE OF ACCUSATION

35. The Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations
contained in paragraphs 1 through 34 above with the same force and effect as though fully set
forth herein.

36. C&C's acts and/or omissions in failing to notify the DRE that BROWN entered
into the employ of C&C within five days of executing the Independent Contractor Agreement with
BROWN are in violation of Code section 10161.8 and Regulation 2752, and constitute cause to
suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of Respondent C&C pursuant to Code
sections 10177(d) and/or 10177(g).

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### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACCUSATION

19 37. The Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations
20 contained in paragraphs 1 through 36 above with the same force and effect as though fully set
21 forth herein.

38. DARCUIEL as the broker and designated officer of AEI and C&C, as alleged
above in paragraphs 3 through 6, and 11 through 36, and in the First, Second, and Third Causes of
Accusation, did not exercise adequate supervision and control over the real estate activities
conducted on behalf of AEI and C&C by their employees and licensees to ensure compliance with
the Real Estate Laws and Regulations. DARCUIEL as the broker and designated officer of AEI
and C&C, in signing the Prospective Employing Broker Certification for BROWN, did not
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1 exercise adequate supervision and control over the real estate activities conducted by BROWN, as 2 alleged in paragraphs 14 through 19. 3 39. DARCUIEL failed to establish policies, rules, procedures, and systems to review, 4 oversee, inspect, and manage transactions requiring a real estate license by AEI's and C&C's 5 licensees and employees. DARCUIEL's acts and/or omissions are in violation of Code sections 6 10159.2, 10177(h), and 10177(d) and/or 10177(g), and Regulation 2725, and constitute cause to 7 suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of Respondent DARCUIEL pursuant 8 to Code sections 10177(h) and 10177(d) and/or 10177(g). 9 COSTS (INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT COSTS) 10 40. 11 Code section 10106 provides, in pertinent part that in any order issued in resolution 12 of a disciplinary proceeding before the DRE, the Commissioner may request the administrative law 13 judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation of this part to pay a sum not to exceed 14 the reasonable costs of investigation and enforcement of the case. 15 WHEREFORE, Complainant prays that a hearing be conducted on the allegations of this 16 Accusation and that upon proof thereof, a decision be rendered imposing disciplinary action against all the licenses and license rights of Respondents ACROPOLIS ENTERPRISE INC., C & C 17 18 CAPITAL MORTGAGE & REALTY INC., FARUQ DARCUIEL, and LAWAN KENTON 19 BROWN under the Real Estate Law, for the costs of investigation and enforcement as permitted by law, and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other applicable provisions of law. 20 Dated at San Diego, California this 13 day of 21 December , 2022. 22 Veronica Kilpátrick 23 Veronica Kilpatrick Supervising Special Investigator 24 25 cc: ACROPOLIS ENTERPRISE INC. C & C CAPITAL MORTGAGE & REALTY INC. 26 FARUO DARCUIEL LAWAN KENTON BROWN 27 Veronica Kilpatrick Sacto. 28