# FILED

DEC - 9 2011

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
BY:

# BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of

ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC.,
a corporate real estate broker
doing business as Eagle Funding
and Phoenix Realty; MICHAEL LEWIS
POOLE, individually and as
designated officer of Rockwell
Financial Network Inc.; and
JOSE J. LOPEZ,
Respondents,

# **DECISION**

This Decision is being issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 11520 of the Government Code, on evidence of compliance with Section 11505 of the Government Code and pursuant to the Order of Default filed on November 4, 2011, and the findings of fact set forth herein are based on one or more of the following: (1) Respondents ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC. and JOSE J. LOPEZ express admissions; (2) affidavits; and (3) other evidence.

## **FACTUAL FINDINGS**

1.

On September 20, 2010, Robin Trujillo made the Accusation in her official capacity as a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California. The

Accusation, Statement to Respondent and Notice of Defense were mailed by certified mail, to Respondents last known mailing addresses on file with the Department on September 29, 2010. All references to the "Code" are to the California Business and Professions Code and all references to "Regulations" are to Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations.

2.

On November 4, 2011, no Notice of Defense having been filed herein within the time prescribed by Section 11506 of the Government Code, Respondent ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC. and JOSE J. LOPEZ's default were entered herein.

3.

A. At all times mentioned, ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC. ("RFNI"), was licensed or had license rights issued by the Department of Real Estate ("Department") as a corporate real estate broker. RFNI was originally licensed on April 10, 2004. RFNI became Non-Broker-Affiliated on September 12, 2009.

B. At all times mentioned, JOSE J. LOPEZ ("LOPEZ"), was licensed or had license rights issued by the Department as a real estate salesperson. LOPEZ was originally licensed as a real estate salesperson on October 2, 1985. Between July 7, 2006 until September 11, 2008, LOPEZ was employed by RFNI. LOPEZ is RFNI's sole shareholder and Treasurer.

## **Brokerage**

4.

At all times mentioned, in the City of Mission Hills and County of Los Angeles, RFNI acted as a real estate broker conducting licensed activities within the meaning of:

- A. Code Section 10131(a). Respondent doing business as Phoenix Realty operated a realty resale brokerage engaged in the business of, acted in the capacity of, advertised or assumed to act as real estate brokers, including the solicitation for listings of and the negotiation of the sale of real property as the agent of others.
- B. Code Section 10131(d). Respondent doing business as Eagle Funding operated a mortgage and loan brokerage engaged in activities with the public wherein lenders and borrowers were solicited for loans secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property, wherein such loans were arranged, negotiated, processed and consummated on behalf of others for compensation or in expectation of compensation and for fees often collected in advance.

## (Audit Examination)

5.

On October 31, 2008, the Department completed an audit examination of the books and records of RFNI pertaining to the residential resale and mortgage loan brokerage activities described in Paragraph 4, that require a real estate license. The audit examination covered a period of time beginning on January 1, 2006 to July 31, 2008. The audit examination revealed violations of the Code and the Regulations as set forth in the following paragraphs, and more fully discussed in Audit Report LA 080018 and the exhibits and work papers attached to said audit report.

6.

No trust account was kept during the audit period.

7.

In the course of activities described in Paragraph 4, above, and during the examination period described in Paragraph 5, Respondents RFNI and LOPEZ, acted in violation of the Code and the Regulations in that:

- (a)(1) The Gilberto Torres Transaction. During November 2006, LOPEZ aka Jesse Lopez, RFNI's owner and sole shareholder, acting on behalf of RFNI, solicited Gilberto Torres to invest \$200,000 into the development of the property located at 30554 Bouquet Canyon, Saugus, California (the Bouquet Canyon property) until the Bouquet Canyon was developed, investor Torres was to receive interest payments of \$4,000 monthly from RFNI. The \$200,000 was to be secured by a Deed of Trust on the Bouquet Canyon property. LOPEZ represented that LOPEZ and RFNI were owners of the Bouquet Canyon property.
- (a)(2) On or about November 6, 2006, LOPEZ and Gilberto Torres entered into an agreement entitled "Note Secured by Deed of Trust". LOPEZ, on behalf of RFNI caused RFNI to issue a Deed of Trust to Gilberto Torres as security for his investment into the development of the Bouquet Canyon property which neither LOPEZ nor RFNI owned or had legal title.
- (a)(3) After receiving approximately twelve interest payments and several NSF payments as of February 15, 2008, no further payments from RFNI or LOPEZ were made. To date, the sum of \$200,000 remains due and owing to Gilberto Torres.

Respondents RFNI or LOPEZ' conduct acts and/or omissions in misrepresenting the ownership of the Bouquet Canyon to investor Gilberto Torres, constitutes fraud and dishonest dealing, misrepresentation and breach of fiduciary duty and negligence, in violation of Code Sections 10176(a), 10176(i) and 10177(g).

In the course of activities described in Paragraphs 4, above, and during the examination period described in Paragraph 5, Respondent RFNI acted in violation of the Code and the Regulations in that Respondent RFNI:

- (a) Failed to retain all records of RFNI's activity during the audit period requiring a real estate broker license, in violation of Code Section 10148.
- (b) Failed to place trust funds, including earnest money deposits, accepted on behalf of another into the hands of the owner of the funds, a neutral escrow depository or into a trust fund account in the name of the trustee at a bank or other financial institution not later than three business days following receipt of the funds by the broker or by the broker's salesperson, in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832(d). Earnest money deposits for buyers were held beyond three days following receipt by Respondent.
- (c) Failed to maintain a control record in the form of a columnar record in chronological order of all "Trust Funds Received, Not Placed Broker's Trust Account", in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.
- (d) Failed to deliver a Lender Purchaser Disclosure Statement to investor/lender Gilberto Torres for the Bouquet Canyon property, in violation of Code Sections 10232.4 and 10232.5.
- (e) Failed to retain the salesperson license certificates for Joel Henderson, Alenjandra Figueroa and Jose Alva, in violation of Code Section 10160 and Regulation 2753.
- (f) Failed to notify the Department of the termination of salespersons Alenjandra Figueroa and Jose Alva, in violation of Code Section 10161.8 and Regulation 2752.

# **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

1.

The conduct, acts and/or omissions of Respondent ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC. as described above, is in violation of Business and Professions Code Sections 10145, 10148, 10160, 10161.8, 10232.4 and 10232.5 and Sections 2752, 2753, 2831 and 2832(d), Title 10, Chapter 6 of the California Code of Regulations and is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Code Sections 10176(a), 10176(i), 10177(d) and 10177(g).

The conduct, acts and/or omissions of Respondent <u>JOSE J. LOPEZ</u> as described in Paragraph 7, herein above, is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections <u>10176(a)</u>, 10176(i) and <u>10177(g)</u>.

3.

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

# <u>ORDER</u>

The real estate broker license and license rights of Respondents

ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC. and JOSE J. LOPEZ, under the

provisions of Part I of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code are revoked.

This Decision shall become effective at	
2 o'clock noon on December 29	_, 2011
DATED: ////6	, 2011

BARBARA J. BIGBY Acting Real Estate Commissioner

Department of Real Estate FILED 320 West 4th Street, Ste. 350 2 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105 NOV - 4 2011 (213) 576-6982 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE 9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 In the Matter of the Accusation of No. H-36832 LA 11 ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC., 12 a corporate real estate broker doing business as Eagle Funding 13 and Phoenix Realty; MICHAEL LEWIS POOLE, individually and as 14 designated officer of Rockwell Financial Network Inc.; and 15 JOSE J. LOPEZ, 16 Respondents, 17 **DEFAULT ORDER** 18 Respondent ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC., having failed to file a 19 Notice of Defense within the time required by Section 11506 of the Government Code, is now in 20 default. It is, therefore, ordered that a default be entered on the record in this matter. 21 IT IS SO ORDERED LOVEUR EN Y. 22 23 Acting Real Estate Commissioner 24 25 By: PHILLIP IHDE 26 Regional Manager

FILED Department of Real Estate 320 West 4th Street, Ste. 350 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105 (213) 576-6982 5 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA In the Matter of the Accusation of No. H-36832 LA 10 ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC., 11 a corporate real estate broker doing business as Eagle Funding 12 and Phoenix Realty; MICHAEL LEWIS POOLE, individually and as 13 designated officer of Rockwell 14 Financial Network Inc.; and JOSE J. LOPEZ, 15 Respondents, 16 **DEFAULT ORDER** 17 Respondent JOSE J. LOPEZ, having failed to appear at a duly scheduled Hearing 18 on October 18, 2011, after notice, is now in default. It is, therefore, ordered that a default be 19 entered on the record in this matter. 20 21 IT IS SO ORDERED APULURE 22 **Acting Real Estate Commissioner** 23 24 By: PHILLIP INDE 25 Regional Manager 26

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# BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Accusation of
ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC., a corporate real estate broker
doing business as Eagle Funding
and Phoenix Realty; MICHAEL LEWIS  POOLE, individually and as
designated officer of Rockwell Financial Network Inc.; and
JOSE J. LOPEZ,
Respondent.

No. H-36832 LA

# DISMISSAL

The Accusation filed against MICHAEL LEWIS POOLE on September 29, 2010,

is dismissed.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17 day of Youender, 2011.

BARBARA J. BIGBY Acting Real Estate Commissioner

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ELLIOTT MAC LENNAN. SBN 0006674 Department of Real Estate FILED 320 West 4th Street, Ste. 350 2 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105 3 (213) 576-6911 (direct) Telephone: SEP 29 2010 4 (213) 576-6982 (office) -or-DEPARTMENT/OF REAL ESTATE 5 6 7 8 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE q STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 In the Matter of the Accusation of No. H-36832 LA 11 ACCUSATION 12 ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC., a corporate real estate broker 13 doing business as Eagle Funding and Phoenix Realty; MICHAEL LEWIS 14 POOLE, individually and as designated officer of Rockwell 1.5 Financial Network Inc.; and JOSE J. LOPEZ, 16 Respondents, 17 18 The Complainant, Robin Trujillo, a Deputy Real Estate 19 Commissioner of the State of California, for cause of Accusation 20 against ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC. dba Eagle Funding and 21 Phoenix Realty; MICHAEL LEWIS POOLE, individually and as 22 designated officer of ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC.; and JOSE 23 J. LOPEZ aka Jesse Lopez and JJ Lopez, alleges as follows: 24 25 111 26 111 27

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The Complainant, Robin Trujillo, makes this Accusation in her official capacity.

2.

All references to the "Code" are to the California

Business and Professions Code and all references to "Regulations"

are to Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations.

# License History

3.

- A. At all times mentioned, ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC. ("RFNI") was licensed or had license rights issued by the Department of Real Estate ("Department") as a corporate real estate broker. RFNI was originally licensed on April 10, 2004. RFNI became Non-Broker-Affiliated on September 12, 2009.
- B. At all times mentioned, MICHAEL LEWIS POOLE ("POOLE") was licensed or had license rights issued by the Department as a real estate broker. On November 5, 1988, POOLE was originally licensed as a real estate broker.
- C. At all times mentioned JOSE J. LOPEZ ("LOPEZ") was licensed and had license rights as a real estate salesperson.

  LOPEZ was originally licensed as a real estate salesperson on October 2, 1985. Between July 7, 2006 until September 11, 2008, LOPEZ was employed by RFNI. LOPEZ is RFNI's sole shareholder and Treasurer.

D. At all times material herein, RFNI was licensed by the Department as a corporate real estate broker by and through POOLE, as the designated officer and broker responsible, pursuant to Code Section 10159.2 of the Business and Professions Code for supervising the activities requiring a real estate license conducted on behalf RFNI of by RFNI' officers, agents and employees, including POOLE. RFNI was originally licensed as a corporate real estate broker on April 10, 2004 and became Non-Broker-Affiliated on September 12, 2008, upon the cancellation of designated officer POOLE. POOLE was initially licensed as a real estate broker on November 5, 1988. RFNI's designated officers since RFNI's inception have been:

Designated Officers	From	То
Michael Lewis Poole	April 10, 2008	September 12, 2008
Guerra G. Ramon	July 2, 2007	April 9, 2008
Raymond Martinez	June 28, 2006	April 9, 2008

#### Brokerage

4.

At all times mentioned, in the City of Mission Hills and County of Los Angeles, RFNI acted as a real estate broker conducting licensed activities within the meaning of:

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A. Code Section 10131(a). Respondents doing business as Phoenix Realty operated a realty resale brokerage engaged in the business of, acted in the capacity of, advertised or assumed to act as real estate brokers, including the solicitation for listings of and the negotiation of the sale of real property as the agent of others.

B. Code Section 10131(d). Respondent's doing business as Eagle Funding operated a mortgage and loan brokerage engaged in activities with the public wherein lenders and borrowers were solicited for loans secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property, wherein such loans were arranged, negotiated, processed and consummated on behalf of others for compensation or in expectation of compensation and for fees often collected in advance.

# Audit Examination

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5.

On October 31, 2008, the Department completed an audit examination of the books and records of RFNI pertaining to the residential resale and mortgage loan brokerage activities described in Paragraph 4, that require a real estate license. The audit examination covered a period of time beginning on January 1, 2006 to July 31, 2008. The audit examination revealed violations of the Code and the Regulations as set forth in the following paragraphs, and more fully discussed in Audit Report LA 080018 and the exhibits and workpapers attached to said audit report.

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#### Trust Account

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6.

No trust account was kept during the audit period. Violations of the Real Estate Law

7.

In the course of activities described in Paragraphs 4 and 6, above, and during the examination period described in Paragraph 5, Respondents RFNI and LOPEZ, acted in violation of the Code and the Regulations in that Respondents:

November 2006, LOPEZ aka Jesse Lopez, RFNI's owner and sole shareholder, acting on behalf of RFNI, solicited Gilberto Torres to invest a principal sum of \$200,000 into the development of the property located at 30554 Bouquet Canyon, Saugus, California (the Bouquet Canyon property) until Bouquet Canyon was developed, investor Torres was to receive interest payments on the principal sum of \$4,000 monthly from RFNI. The principal sum was to be secured by a Deed of Trust on the Bouquet Canyon property.

(a)(2) On or about November 6, 2006, LOPEZ and Gilberto Torres entered into an agreement entitled "Note Secured by Deed of Trust". LOPEZ, on behalf of RFNI caused RFNI to issue a Deed of Trust to Gilberto Torres as security for his principal investment into the development of the Bouquet Canyon property which neither LOPEZ nor RFNI owned or had legal title.

(a)(3) After receiving approximately twelve interest payments and several NSF payments as of February 15, 2008, no further payments from RFNI or LOPEZ were made. To date, the sum of \$200,000 remains due and owing to Gilberto Torres.

Respondents RFNI or LOPEZ' conduct in misrepresenting the ownership of the Bouquet Canyon to investor Gilberto Torres, constitutes fraud and dishonest dealing, misrepresentation and breach of fiduciary duty and negligence, in violation of Code Sections 10176(a), 10176(i) and/or 10177(g).

8.

In the course of activities described in Paragraphs 4 and 6, above, and during the examination period described in Paragraph 5, Respondents RFNI and POOLE, acted in violation of the Code and the Regulations in that Respondents:

- (a) After notice and subpoena on September 3, 2008, failed to retain all records of RFNI's activity during the audit period requiring a real estate broker license, in violation of Code Section 10148.
- (b) Failed to place trust funds, including earnest money deposits, accepted on behalf of another into the hands of the owner of the funds, a neutral escrow depository or into a trust fund account in the name of the trustee at a bank or other financial institution not later than three business days following receipt of the funds by the broker or by the broker's

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salesperson, in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832(d). Earnest money deposits for buyers were held beyond three days following receipt by Respondents.

- (c) Failed to maintain a control record in the form of a columnar record in chronological order of all "Trust Funds Received, Not Placed Broker's Trust Account", in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.
- (d) Failed to deliver a Lender Purchaser Disclosure Statement to investor/lender Gilberto Torres for the Bouquet Canyon property, in violation of Code Sections 10232.4 and 10232.5.
- (e) Failed to retain the salesperson license certificates for Joel Henderson, Alenjandra Figueroa and Jose Alva, in violation of Code Section 10160 and Regulation 2753.
- (f) Failed to notify the Department of the termination of salespersons Alenjandra Figueroa and Jose Alva, in violation of Code Section 10161.8 and Regulation 2752.
- (g) POOLE had no system in place for regularly monitoring compliance with the Real Estate Law especially in regard to establishing, systems, policies and procedures to review trust fund handling, in violation of Code Sections 10159.2, 10177(h) and Regulation 2725.

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# Disciplinary Statues and Regulations

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The conduct of Respondents RFNI and POOLE described in Paragraph 7, above, violated the Code and the Regulations as set forth below:

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6	PARAGRAPH	PROVISIONS VIOLATED
7	8 (a)	Code Section 10148
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10	8 (b)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation
11		2832(d)
12		
13	8(c)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation
14		. 2831
15		
16	8 (d)	Code Sections 10232.4 and 10232.5
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18		Orde Costice 10160 and Damilation
19	8(e)	Code Section 10160 and Regulation
20		2753
21.		
22	8(f)	Code Section 10161.8 and Regulation
23		2752
24		
25	8 (g)	Code Section 10159.2, 10177(h) and
26		Regulation 2725 (POOLE)
27		

The foregoing violations constitute cause for the suspension or revocation of the real estate license and license rights of RFNI and POOLE, under the provisions of Code Sections 10176(a), 10176(i), 10177(d) and/or 10177(g)).

# Negligence

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10.

The overall conduct of Respondents RFNI and POOLE constitutes negligence. This conduct and violation are cause for the suspension or revocation of the real estate license and license rights of said Respondents pursuant to Code Section 10177(g).

# Breach of Fiduciary Duty

11.

The conduct, acts and omissions of Respondents RFNI and POOLE constitute a breach of fiduciary duty with respect to but not limited to the Gilberto Torres Bouquet Canyon mortgage loan, in violation of Code Sections 10176(i) and/or 10177(g).

# Supervision and Compliance

12.

The overall conduct of Respondent POOLE constitutes a failure on Respondent's part, as officer designated by a corporate broker licensee to be responsible for the supervision and control over the activities conducted on behalf of RFNI by its officers and employees as necessary to secure full compliance with the Real Estate Law including the supervision of

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salespersons licensed to the corporation, RFNI, as required by Code Section 10159.2. This conduct is cause for discipline of the real estate license and license rights of POOLE pursuant to the provisions of Code Sections 10177(d), 10177(g) and/or 10177(h).

# Broker Supervision of Salespersons

13.

Respondent POOLE had no system in place for regularly monitoring compliance with the Real Estate Law especially in regard to establishing policies to review trust fund handling, retention of records and transactions files, correctness of disclosure statements and for the self dealing of LOPEZ regarding the lender-purchaser Gilberto Torres loan specifically with respect to the preparation and delivery of the Lender Purchaser Disclosure Statement, in violation of Code Section 10177(h) and Regulation 2725.

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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 the license and license rights of Respondents ROCKWELL FINANCIAL NETWORK INC., MICHAEL LEWIS POOLE and JOSE J. LOPEZ, under the Real Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code) and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other applicable provisions of law. Dated at Los Angeles, California this 20 days September 2010.

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c/o Michael Lewis Poole D.O.
Jose J. Lopez
Robin Trujillo

cc:

Sacto Audits - Godswill Keraoru

Rockwell Financial Network Inc.