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FILED

## OCT 212011 \_

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE BY: Dumala Malenu

No. H-36993 LA

#### BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of

STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE and RAMIN

LAVI,

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 September 20, 2011 and the findings of fact set forth herein are based on one or more of the following: (1) Respondent's express admissions; (2) affidavits; and (3) other evidence.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

#### 1.

On October 14, 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, return receipt requested, and by regular mail to STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE's ("Respondent") last known mailing address on file with the Department on December 23, 2010. Both mailings were returned to sender by the postal service with an expired forwarding address for Respondent. On January 6, 2011, the Accusation was mailed to another known address of Respondent by certified and regular mail. Both mailings were returned to sender by the postal service with no forwarding address.

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On May 19, 2010, Robin Trujillo made the First Amended Accusation in her official capacity as a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California. On June 3, 2011, the First Amended Accusation, Statement to Respondent, and Notice of Defense were mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail to the expired forwarding address of Respondent, which was listed by the post office on the December 23, 2010 mailing. The June 3, 2011 mailing was returned to sender by the postal service with no forwarding address. No response has been received to date.

On September 20, 2011, no Notice of Defense having been filed herein within the time prescribed by Section 11506 of the Government Code, Respondent's default was entered herein.

2.

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

3.

On July 10, 2008, Respondent filed Articles of Incorporation with the California Secretary of State, naming him as the incorporator and agent for service of process for EQ Group, Inc ("EQ").

4.

On or about August 11, 2009, Sylvia Miranda signed an agreement on EQ letterhead, authorizing Respondent "of EQ Group, Inc." to represent her and negotiate on her behalf regarding all matters pertaining to her home loan. Sylvia Miranda also submitted advance fees of \$1,000 to EQ, for the purpose of performing a loan modification, on August 11, 2009.

5.

On or about August 18, 2008, Mylah Balitao signed an agreement on EQ letterhead, authorizing Respondent "of EQ Group, Inc." to represent her and negotiate on her behalf regarding all matters pertaining to her home loan. Mylah Balitao also submitted advance fees of \$1,900 to EQ, for the purpose of performing a loan modification, on August 18, 2008. On or about October 28, 2008, Joshua Linstrom signed an agreement on EQ letterhead, authorizing Respondent "of EQ Group, Inc." to represent him and negotiate on his behalf regarding all matters pertaining to her home loan. EQ also requested and received advance fees of \$3,500 from Linstrom for the purpose of performing a loan modification.

7.

On or about August 4, 2008, Charlie Clark was solicited over telephone regarding loan modification services provided by EQ. On this date, Mr. Clark entered into an agreement for EQ to provide loan modification services for his home loan. Charlie Clark also submitted advance fees of \$3,000 to EQ, for the purpose of performing a loan modification, on August 4, 2008. On August 15, 2008, Respondent sent a letter to Countrywide loans on EQ letterhead, indicating that he represented Charlie Clark. On November 4, 2008, LAVI sent a letter to Mr. Clark on EQ letterhead, requesting tax returns "in order to finish your loan modification". On April 9, 2009, Charlie Clark received a release agreement from EQ, which would authorize transferring Mr. Clark's advance fees to Respondent.

8.

On or about February 9, 2011, Respondent was disbarred from the practice of law in California by the Supreme Court of California, in Case No. S188651. The disbarment was based upon a Decision and Order of Involuntary Inactive Enrollment filed by the State Bar Court of California against Respondent on October 6, 2010.

9.

The Decision and Order of Involuntary Inactive Enrollment contained factual findings, based upon clear and convincing evidence that Respondent failed to maintain client funds in a trust account, Respondent misappropriated client funds, Respondent engaged in unauthorized practice of law in another jurisdiction and Respondent failed to refund unearned fees paid to EQ.

#### DETERMINATION OF ISSUES .

#### 1.

The agreements described in Paragraphs 4 through 7 above, constitute advance fee agreements within the meaning of Code Section 10026. Respondent failed to submit the advance fee agreements referred to in Paragraphs 4 through 7 above, to the Commissioner ten days before using them, in violation of Code Section 10085 and Section 2970 of Title 10, California Code of Regulations ("Regulations").

2.

The conduct, acts and/or omissions of Respondent, as set forth in paragraphs 4 through 7 above, are cause for the suspension or revocation of the licenses and license rights of Respondent, pursuant to Code Sections 10085, 10177(d) and 10177(g).

#### 3.

The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 8 and 9 above constitute cause under Section 10177(f) of the Code for the suspension or revocation of the license and license rights of Respondent under the Real Estate Law.

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

#### ORDER [

The license and license rights of Respondent STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE under the provisions of Part I of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code are revoked.

noon on <u>NOV 1 0 2011</u>. DATED: <u>/0/ /7///</u>.

> BARBARA J. BIGBY Acting Real Estate Commissioner

 7. X.			FILED
	1 2	Department of Real Estate 320 West Fourth Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90013	SEP 20 2011
	3	(213) 576-6982	DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE BY Automatical Menui
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	8	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF RE	AL ESTATE
	9	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
	10	* * *	
	11	In the Matter of the Accusation of )	No. H-36993 LA
	12	<u>STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE</u> and RAMIN ) LAVI, )	DEFAULT ORDER
	13	) Respondents. )	
	14	)	
	15		<b>,</b>
	16	Respondent STEPHEN PAUL COLLED	
	17	file a Notice of Defense within the time	e required by Section
	18 19	11506 of the Government Code, is now in	default. It is,
	20	therefore, ordered that a default be ent	cered on the record
	20	in this matter.	
	21	IT IS SO ORDERED SEPTEMBE	<u>e 19,2011</u>
	23	BARBARA J	. BIGBY 1 Estate Commissioner
	24	Acting Rea	
	25		let folo
	26	By:	HDE
	27	Regional N	lanager

STAC	• • FILED
1 2	Department of Real Estate 320 West Fourth Street, #350 Los Angeles, California 90013
3	(213) 576-6982 (213) 576-6910 DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE BY: BY:
6	
7 8	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
9	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	* * *
_ 11 _	In the Matter of the Accusation of ) No. H-36993 LA ) L-2011010830
. 12	) STEVEN PAUL COLLETE and RAMIN LAVI, ) STIPULATION AND AGREEMEN
13	Respondents. )
14	)
15	It is hereby stipulated by and between RAMIN LAVI
. 16	(sometimes referred to as "Respondent") and the Complainant,
17	acting by and through James A. Demus, Counsel for the Department
18	of Real Estate, as follows for the purpose of settling and
19	disposing of the Accusation filed on December 23, 2010 and the
20	First Amended Accusation filed on June 3, 2011, in this matter:
· 21	1. All issues which were to be contested and all
22	evidence which was to be presented by Complainant and
23	Respondents at a formal hearing on the Accusation, which hearing
24	was to be held in accordance with the provisions of the
25	Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"), shall instead and in place
26	thereof be submitted solely on the basis of the provisions of
27	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

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1 this Stipulation and Agreement ("Stipulation").

2. Respondent has received, read and understands the 3 Statement to Respondent, the Discovery Provisions of the APA and 4 the Accusation, filed by the Department of Real Estate in this 5 proceeding.

On December 30, 2010, Respondent filed a Notice of 3. 6 Defense pursuant to Section 11506 of the Government Code for the 7 purpose of requesting a hearing on the allegations in the 8 Accusation. Respondent hereby freely and voluntarily withdraws 9 said Notice of Defense. Respondent acknowledges that she 10 understands that by withdrawing said Notice of Defense, she will 11 thereby waive her right to require the Commissioner to prove the 12 allegations in the Accusation at a contested hearing held in 13 accordance with the provisions of the APA and that she will 14 waive other rights afforded to her in connection with the 15 hearing such as the right to present evidence in defense of the 16 allegations in the Accusation and the right to cross-examine 17 witnesses. 18

4. This Stipulation is based on the factual 19 allegations contained in the Accusation filed in this 20 proceeding. In the interest of expedience and economy, 21 Respondent chooses not to contest these factual allegations, but 22 to remain silent and understands that, as a result thereof, 23 these factual statements will serve as a prima facie basis for 24 the disciplinary action stipulated to herein. The Real Estate 25 Commissioner shall not be required to provide further evidence 26 to prove such allegations. 27

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5. This Stipulation and Respondent's decision not to 1 contest the Accusation are made for the purpose of reaching an -2 agreed disposition of this proceeding and are expressly limited 3 to this proceeding and any other proceeding or case in which the 4 Department of Real Estate ("Department"), or another licensing 5 agency of this state, another state or if the federal government 6 is involved and otherwise shall not be admissible in any other 7 criminal or civil proceedings. 8

It is understood by the parties that the Real 9 6. Estate Commissioner may adopt the Stipulation as her decision in 10 this matter thereby imposing the penalty and sanctions on 11 Respondent's real estate license and license rights as set forth 12 in the below "Order". In the event that the Commissioner in her 13 discretion does not adopt the Stipulation, the Stipulation shall 14 be void and of no effect, and Respondent shall retain the right 15 to a hearing on the Accusation under all the provisions of the 16 APA and shall not be bound by any stipulation or waiver made 17 herein. 18

7. The Order or any subsequent Order of the Real
Estate Commissioner made pursuant to this Stipulation shall not
constitute an estoppel, merger or bar to any further
administrative or civil proceedings by the Department of Real
Estate with respect to any conduct which was not specifically
alleged to be causes for accusation in this proceeding.

#### DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

By reason of the foregoing stipulations and waivers and solely for the purpose of settlement of the pending Accusation

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:		
1	without a hearing, it is stipulated and agreed that the following	
2	determination of issues shall be made:	
3	The conduct, acts and/or omissions of Respondent RAMIN	
4	LAVI as described in Paragraph 4, constitute cause for the	
5	suspension or revocation of all the real estate licenses and	
6	license rights of Respondent RAMIN LAVI under the provisions of	
7	Sections 10085, 10177(d) and 10177(g) of the Business and	
8	Professions Code ("Code").	
9	ORDER	
10	WHEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDER is hereby made:	
11	I	
12	A. All licenses and license rights of Respondent	
13	RAMIN LAVI under the Real Estate Law are suspended for a period	
14	of sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Decision;	
15	provided, however, that sixty (60) days of said suspension shall	
16	be stayed for two (2) years upon the following terms and	
17	conditions:	
18	(1) Respondent RAMIN LAVI shall obey all laws, rules	
19	and regulations governing the rights, duties and	
20	responsibilities of a real estate licensee in the State of	
21	California; and	
22	(2) That no final subsequent determination be made	-
23	after hearing or upon stipulation, that cause for disciplinary	
24	action occurred within two (2) years from the effective date of	
25	this Decision. Should such a determination be made, the	
· 26	Commissioner may, in her discretion, vacate and set aside the	
27	stay order and reimpose all or a portion of the stayed	
	- 4 -	  ,

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suspension. Should no such determination be made, the stay imposed herein shall become permanent.

ΙI

Respondent RAMIN LAVI shall within six (6) months from

the effective date of the Decision herein, take and pass the Professional Responsibility Examination administered by the Department including the payment of the appropriate examination fee. If Respondent RAMIN LAVI fails to satisfy this condition, the Commissioner may order suspension of Respondent RAMIN LAVI's license until Respondent passes the examination.

DATED: \$/18/1

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DEMUS, for the Chunsel

Department of Real Estate

I have read the Stipulation and Agreement and its 17 terms are understood by me and are agreeable and acceptable to 18 me. I understand that I am waiving rights given to me by the 19 California Administrative Procedure Act (including but not 20 limited to Sections 11506, 11508, 11509 and 11513 of the 21 22 Government Code), and I willingly, intelligently and voluntarily 23 waive those rights, including the right of requiring the 24 Commissioner to prove the allegations in the Accusation at a 25 hearing at which I would have the right to cross-examine 26 witnesses against me and to present evidence in defense and 27

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mitigation of the charges.

1	
2	Respondent can signify acceptance and approval of the
3	terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Agreement by faxing
4	a copy of the signature page, as actually signed by Respondent,
5	to the Department at the following fax number: (213) 576-6917.
6	Respondent agrees, acknowledges and understands that by
7	electronically sending to the Department a fax copy of her
8	actual signature as it appears on the Stipulation and Agreement,
9	that receipt of the faxed copy by the Department shall be as
10	binding on Respondent as if the Department had received the
11	original signed Stipulation and Agreement.
12	
13	
14	DATED:
15	RAMIN LAVI Respondent
16	
16 17	* * *
	* * * The foregoing Stipulation and Agreement is hereby
17	adopted as my Decision and Order in this matter, and shall
17 18	
17 18 19	adopted as my Decision and Order in this matter, and shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on SEP 2 6 2011
17 18 19 20	adopted as my Decision and Order in this matter, and shall
17 18 19 20 21	adopted as my Decision and Order in this matter, and shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on SEP 262011 IT IS SO ORDERED $\frac{8\mu}{26}$ , 2011. BARBARA J. BIGBY
17 18 19 20 21 22	adopted as my Decision and Order in this matter, and shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on SEP 262011 IT IS SO ORDERED $\frac{8\mu}{6}$ , 2011.
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	adopted as my Decision and Order in this matter, and shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on SEP 262011 IT IS SO ORDERED $\frac{8\mu}{26}$ , 2011. BARBARA J. BIGBY
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	adopted as my Decision and Order in this matter, and shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on SEP 262011 IT IS SO ORDERED $\frac{8\mu}{26}$ , 2011. BARBARA J. BIGBY
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mitigation of the charges.

1 Respondent can signify acceptance and approval of the 2 terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Agreement by faxing з a copy of the signature page, as actually signed by Respondent, 4 to the Department at the following fax number: (213) 576-6917. 5 Respondent agrees, acknowledges and understands that by 6 electronically sending to the Department a fax copy of her 7 actual signature as it appears on the Stipulation and Agreement, 8 that receipt of the faxed copy by the Department shall be as 9 binding on Respondent as if the Department had received the 10 11 original signed Stipulation and Agreement. 12 13 DATED: 14 LAVI Respondent 15 16 17 The foregoing Stipulation and Agreement is hereby 18 adopted as my Decision and Order in this matter, and shall 19 become effective at 12 o'clock noon on \_ 20 21 , 2011. IT IS SO ORDERED 22 BARBARA J. BIGBY 23 Acting Real Estate Commissioner 24 25 26 27 6 -

Section 2	• FILED
. 1 2 3	JAMES DEMUS, Counsel (SBN 225005) Department of Real Estate 320 West Fourth St., #350 Los Angeles, CA 90013 JUN 0 3 2011 DEPARIMENT OF REAL ESTATE BY:Malu [kluik]
4 5 6	(213) 576-6982 (213) 576-6910 (direct)
7 8	
9 10 11	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA * * *
12 13 14	In the Matter of the Accusation of ) No. H-36993 LA OAH NO.L-2011010830 STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE and RAMIN LAVI, J ACCUSATION
. 15 16 17	Respondents.
18	December 23, 2010. The Complainant, Robin Trujillo, a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California, for cause of Accusation against STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE and RAMIN LAVI, is
20 · 21 22	informed and alleges as follows: 1.
23 24	The Complainant, Robin Trujillo, a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California, makes this Accusation in her official capacity.
25 26 27	2. STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE, (hereinafter "COLLETTE") is presently licensed and/or has license rights under the Real
	- 1 -

1 Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and 2 Professions Code, hereinafter "Code"), as a real estate broker. 3 3. RAMIN LAVI, (hereinafter "LAVI") is presently 4 licensed and/or has license rights under the Real Estate Law, 5 6 hereinafter "Code"), as a real estate salesperson. 7 4. 8 EQ Group, Inc (hereinafter "EQ"), is not now and has 9 never been licensed by the Department in any capacity. On July 10 10, 2008, COLLETTE filed Articles of Incorporation with the 11 California Secretary of State, naming COLLETTE as the 12 incorporator and agent for service of process for EQ. On May 1, 2009, COLLETTE submitted a letter to the Department in which 13 14 he admitted being part owner of EQ and described the loan modification business performed by EQ in detail. 15 16 FIRST CAUSE OF ACCUSATION 17 (Advance Fee Violations) 18 5. 19 COLLETTE engaged in the business of a real estate broker in the State of California within the meaning of Code 20 21 Sections 10131(d) and 10131.2, including brokering mortgage 22 loans and performing loan modification activities and claiming, demanding, charging, receiving, collecting or contracting for 23 the collection of an advance fee, within the meaning of Code 24 Section 10026, including, but not limited to, the following 25 loan modification activities with respect to loans which were 26 27 secured by liens on real property.

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## 2 Sylvia Miranda Transaction

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I	
3	On or about August 11, 2009, Sylvia Miranda signed an
4	agreement on EQ letterhead, authorizing COLLETE "of EQ Group,
5	Inc." to represent her and negotiate on her behalf regarding
6	all matters pertaining to her home loan. Sylvia Miranda also
7	submitted advance fees of \$1,000 to EQ, for the purpose of
8	performing a loan modification, on August 11, 2009.
9	7.
10	Mylah Balitao Transaction
11	On or about August 18, 2008, Mylah Balitao signed an
12	agreement on EQ letterhead, authorizing COLLETE "of EQ Group,
13	Inc." to represent her and negotiate on her behalf regarding
14	all matters pertaining to her home loan. Mylah Balitao also
15	submitted advance fees of \$1,900 to EQ, for the purpose of
16	performing a loan modification, on August 18, 2008.
17	8.
18	Joshua Linstrom Transaction
19	On or about October 28, 2008, Joshua Linstrom signed
20	an agreement on EQ letterhead, authorizing COLLETE "of EQ
21	Group, Inc." to represent her and negotiate on her behalf
22	regarding all matters pertaining to her home loan. EQ also
23	requested and received advance fees of \$3,500 from Linstrom for
24	the purpose of performing a loan modification.
25	111
26	111
27	111
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#### 2 || Charlie Clark Transaction

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On or about August 4, 2008, Charlie Clark was 3 solicited over telephone by LAVI, regarding loan modification 4 services provided by EQ. On this date, Mr. Clark entered into 5 an agreement for EQ to provide loan modification services for 6 his home loan. Charlie Clark also submitted advance fees of 7 \$3,000 to EQ, for the purpose of performing a loan 8 modification, on August 4, 2008. On August 15, 2008, COLLETTE 9 sent a letter to Countrywide loans on EQ letterhead, indicating 10 that he represented Charlie Clark. On November 4, 2008, LAVI 11 sent a letter to Mr. Clark on EQ letterhead, requesting tax 12 returns "in order to finish your loan modification". On April 13 9, 2009, Charlie Clark received a release agreement from EQ, 14 which would authorize transferring Mr. Clark's advance fees to 15 COLLETTE. 16

10.

The agreements described in Paragraphs 6 through 9 18 above, constitute advance fee agreements within the meaning of 19 20 Code Section 10026. COLLETTE failed to submit the advance fee agreements referred to in Paragraphs 6 through 9 above, to the 21 Commissioner ten days before using them, in violation of Code 22 23 Section 10085 and Section 2970 of Title 10, California Code of Regulations ("Regulations"). LAVI failed to submit the advance 24 25 fee agreement, described in paragraph 9 above, to the Commissioner ten days before using it, in violation of Code 26 27 Section 10085 and Regulation 2970.

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9.

1 The conduct, acts and/or omissions of COLLETTE, as 2 set forth in paragraphs 6 through 9 above, are cause for the 3 suspension or revocation of the licenses and license rights of 4 COLLETTE, pursuant to Code Sections 10085, 10177(d) and/or 5 б 10177(q). 12. 7 The conduct, acts and/or omissions of LAVI, as set 8 forth in paragraphs 9 above, is cause for the suspension or 9 revocation of the licenses and license rights of LAVI, pursuant 10 to Code Sections 10085, 10177(d) and/or 10177(g). 11 SECOND CAUSE OF ACCUSATION 12 (License Discipline) 13 13. 14 On or about February 9, 2011, COLLETTE was disbarred 15 from the practice of law in California by the Supreme Court of 16 California, in Case No. S188651. The disbarment was based upon 17 a Decision and Order of Involuntary Inactive Enrollment filed 18 by the State Bar Court of California against COLLETTE on 19 October 6, 2010. 20 14. 21 The Decision and Order of Involuntary Inactive 22 Enrollment contained factual findings, based upon clear and 23 convincing evidence that COLLETTE failed to maintain client 24 funds in a trust account, COLLETTE misappropriated client 25 funds, COLLETE engaged in unauthorized practice of law in 26 27

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another jurisdiction and COLLETTE's failed to refund unearned
fees paid to EQ.

15.

The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 13 and 14 biological above constitute cause under Section 10177(f) of the Code for the suspension or revocation of the license and license rights of COLLETTE under the Real Estate Law.

8 WHEREFORE, Complainant prays that a hearing be 9 conducted on the allegations of this Accusation and that upon 10 proof thereof, a decision be rendered imposing disciplinary 11 action against all the licenses and license rights of 12 Respondents STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE and RAMIN LAVI under the Real 13 Estate Law, and for such other and further relief as may be 14 proper under other applicable provisions of law.

Dated at Los Angeles, California 15 \_ day of 16 2010. this 17

Robin Trujillo Deputy Real Estate Commissioner

STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE cc: 24 RAMIN LAVI 25 EQ Finance Inc. Robin Trujillo 26 Sacto.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	JAMES DEMUS, Counsel (SBN 225005) Department of Real Estate 320 West Fourth St., #350 Los Angeles, CA 90013 (213) 576-6982 (213) 576-6910 (direct)
9	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	· * * *
12	In the Matter of the Accusation of ) ) No. H-36993 LA
13	STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE and RAMIN $\stackrel{()}{)}$ <u>A C C U S A T I O N</u> LAVI,
14	Respondents.
15	
16	·
17	The Complainant, Robin Trujillo, a Deputy Real Estate
18	Commissioner of the State of California, for cause of
19	Accusation against STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE and RAMIN LAVI, is
20	informed and alleges as follows:
21	1.
22	The Complainant, Robin Trujillo, a Deputy Real Estate
23	Commissioner of the State of California, makes this Accusation
24	in her official capacity.
25	2.
26	STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE, (hereinafter "COLLETTE") is
27	presently licensed and/or has license rights under the Real

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1 Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code, hereinafter "Code"), as a real estate broker. 2 З 3. 4 RAMIN LAVI, (hereinafter "LAVI") is presently licensed and/or has license rights under the Real Estate Law, 5 6 hereinafter "Code"), as a real estate salesperson. 7 4 EQ Group, Inc (hereinafter "EQ"), is not now and has 8 9 never been licensed by the Department in any capacity. On July 10 10, 2008, COLLETTE filed Articles of Incorporation with the California Secretary of State, naming COLLETTE as the 11 12 incorporator and agent for service of process for EQ. On Mav 1, 2009, COLLETTE submitted a letter to the Department in which 13 he admitted being part owner of EQ and described the loan 14 modification business performed by EQ in detail. 15 16 FIRST CAUSE OF ACCUSATION 17 (Advance Fee Violations) 18 5. 19 COLLETTE engaged in the business of a real estate broker in the State of California within the meaning of Code 20 Sections 10131(d) and 10131.2, including brokering mortgage 21 loans and performing loan modification activities and claiming, 22 demanding, charging, receiving, collecting or contracting for 23 the collection of an advance fee, within the meaning of Code 24 Section 10026, including, but not limited to, the following 25 loan modification activities with respect to loans which were 26 27 secured by liens on real property.

- 2 -

# <sup>2</sup> Sylvia Miranda Transaction

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3	On or about August 11, 2009, Sylvia Miranda signed an
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17	8.
18	Joshua Linstrom Transaction
19	On or about October 28, 2008, Joshua Linstrom signed
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21	Group, Inc." to represent her and negotiate on her behalf
22	regarding all matters pertaining to her home loan. EQ also
23	requested and received advance fees of \$3,500 from Linstrom for
24	the purpose of performing a loan modification.
25	111
26	111
27	111
	- 3 -

6.

#### 2 Charlie Clark Transaction

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3 . On or about August 4, 2008, Charlie Clark was 4 solicited over telephone by LAVI, regarding loan modification 5 services provided by EQ. On this date, Mr. Clark entered into an agreement for EQ to provide loan modification services for 6 his home loan. Charlie Clark also submitted advance fees of 7 8 \$3,000 to EQ, for the purpose of performing a loan 9 modification, on August 4, 2008. On August 15, 2008, COLLETTE sent a letter to Countrywide loans on EQ letterhead, indicating 10 11 that he represented Charlie Clark. On November 4, 2008, LAVI 12 sent a letter to Mr. Clark on EQ letterhead, requesting tax returns "in order to finish your loan modification". On April 13 9, 2009, Charlie Clark received a release agreement from EQ, 14 15 which would authorize transferring Mr. Clark's advance fees to COLLETTE. 16

10.

18 The agreements described in Paragraphs 6 through 9 19 above, constitute advance fee agreements within the meaning of 20 Code Section 10026. COLLETTE failed to submit the advance fee agreements referred to in Paragraphs 6 through 9 above, to the 21 22 Commissioner ten days before using them, in violation of Code 23 Section 10085 and Section 2970 of Title 10, California Code of Regulations ("Regulations"). LAVI failed to submit the advance 24 25 fee agreement, described in paragraph 9 above, to the Commissioner ten days before using it, in violation of Code 26 27 Section 10085 and Regulation 2970.

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The conduct, acts and/or omissions of COLLETTE, as 2 set forth in paragraphs 6 through 9 above, are cause for the 3 4 suspension or revocation of the licenses and license rights of COLLETTE, pursuant to Code Sections 10085, 10177(d) and/or 5 10177(g). 6 12. 7 The conduct, acts and/or omissions of LAVI, as set 8 forth in paragraphs 9 above, is cause for the suspension or 9 revocation of the licenses and license rights of LAVI, pursuant 10 to Code Sections 10085, 10177(d) and/or 10177(g). 11 12 SECOND CAUSE OF ACCUSATION 13 (Conduct Warranting Denial of a Real Estate License) 13. 14 15 On or about June 21, 2010, an Order of Entry of Default, Order Enrolling Inactive and Further Orders were filed 16 against COLLETTE's law license by the State Bar Court of 17 California, in Case No. 09-0-10385-RAH. Among the terms of 18 these Orders was a statement that "the factual allegations set 19 forth in the notice of disciplinary charges have been deemed 20 admitted.", 21 14. 22 On or about April 9, 2010, the Notice of Disciplinary 23 24 Charges was filed in the California State Bar Clerks Office for 25 Los Angeles. Among the factual allegations contained in this notice were charges that COLLETTE failed to maintain client 26 27 funds in a trust account, COLLETTE misappropriated client funds

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1 and numerous charges regarding COLLETTE's failure to refund 2 unearned fees paid to EQ.

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The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 13 and 14 above constitute cause under Section 10177(f) of the Code for the suspension or revocation of the license and license rights of COLLETTE under the Real Estate Law.

8 WHEREFORE, Complainant prays that a hearing be 9 conducted on the allegations of this Accusation and that upon 10 proof thereof, a decision be rendered imposing disciplinary 11 action against all the licenses and license rights of 12 Respondents STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE and RAMIN LAVI under the Real 13 Estate Law, and for such other and further relief as may be 14 proper under other applicable provisions of law.

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15 Dated at Los Angeles, California this 14 day of October, 2010. 16

Suidh

Robin Txujillo () Deputy Real Estate Commissioner

23 cc: STEPHEN PAUL COLLETTE 24 RAMIN LAVI 25 EQ Finance Inc. Robin Trujillo 26 Sacto.

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