FILED LISSETE GARCIA, Counsel (SBN 211552) 1 Department of Real Estate MAR - 6 2013 2 320 West 4th Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105 3 DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE BY: Ca Telephone: (213) 576-6982 4 (213) 576-6914 Direct: 5 (213) 576-6917 Fax: 6 7 8 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE 9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 In the Matter of the Accusation of) NO. H-38752 LA 11 12 RELIABLE LENDING CONSULTANTS, INC.) A C C U S A T I O N and PAUL DAVID CRONIN, 13 14 Respondents. 15 16 The Complainant, Robin Trujillo, a Deputy Real Estate 17 Commissioner of the State of California, for cause of Accusation 18 against RELIABLE LENDING CONSULTANTS, INC. and PAUL DAVID CRONIN 19 (collectively "Respondents"), is informed and alleges as 20 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 From January 21, 2010, through the present, Respondent 27 RELIABLE LENDING CONSULTANTS, INC. ("RLCI") has been licensed by 28

the Department of Real Estate ("Department") as a corporate real estate broker, License ID 01875313.

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3.

From November 5, 2010, through the present, Respondent PAUL DAVID CRONIN ("CRONIN"), aka Skip Cronin, has been licensed by the Department as a real estate salesperson, License ID 01890458. Respondent has a mortgage loan originator license endorsement, Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System ("NMLS") ID 228290.

4.

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.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACCUSATION (Suspended Corporate Status)

5.

RLCI is a California corporation formed on or about July 29, 2008. Respondent CRONIN is an officer and director of RLCI. Robin S. Layne, an unlicensed person, is an officer and director of RLCI. The California Franchise Tax Board suspended RLCI's corporate status on April 1, 2011. RLCI's corporate status remains suspended.

6.

The suspension of Respondent RLCI's corporate status is a violation of Regulation 2742, subdivision (c) and constitutes grounds to suspend or revoke Respondent RLCI's corporate real estate broker license pursuant to Code Sections

10177(d), 10177(f), and/or 10177(g).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACCUSATION

(Unlicensed Activity/Advance Fee Violations/Fraud/Dishonest Dealing)

7.

From January 21, 2010, through July 8, 2010, David
Robert Campbell ("Campbell") served as the designated officer
for RLCI. Campbell canceled his designation as of July 8, 2010.
As of July 8, 2010, RLCI was licensed in a non-working status
meaning the licensee is prohibited from performing activities
for which a license is required in California.

8.

Code Section 10131 defines a real estate broker as a person who: (d) solicits borrowers or lenders for or negotiates loans or collects payment or performs services for borrowers or lenders or note owners in connection with loans secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property or on a business opportunity.

9.

Code Section 10131.2 defines a real estate broker as "a person who engages in the business of claiming, demanding, charging, receiving, collecting or contracting for the collection of an advance fee in connection with any employment undertaken to promote the sale or lease of real property or of a business opportunity by advance fee listing, advertisement or other offering to sell, lease, exchange or rent property or a business opportunity, or to obtain a loan or loans thereon."

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Code Section 10085.5 states: "(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to claim, demand, charge, receive, collect, or contract for an advance fee (1) for soliciting lenders on behalf of borrowers or preforming services for borrowers in connection with loans to be secured directly or collaterally by a lien on real property, before the borrower becomes obligated to pay the complete loan or, (2) for performing any other activities for which a license is required, unless the person is a licensed real estate broker and has complied with the provisions of this part."

11.

Code Section 10085.6 states: "(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any licensee who negotiates, attempts to negotiate, arranges, attempts to arrange, or otherwise offers to perform a mortgage loan modification or other form of mortgage loan forbearance for a fee or other compensation paid by the borrower, to do any of the following:

- (1) Claim, demand, charge, collect, or receive any compensation until after the licensee has fully performed each and every service the licensee contracted to perform or represented that he, she, or it would perform.
- (2) Take any wage assignment, any lien of any type on real or personal property, or other security to secure the payment of compensation.
- (3) Take any power of attorney from the borrower for any purpose."

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Within the three year period prior to the filing of this Accusation, Respondent, while doing business as RLCI in California, solicited and offered to perform services for borrowers in connection with loans secured directly or collaterally by liens on real property.

13.

On November 22, 2010, borrowers Ame and Andres R.
entered into a loan modification agreement with RLCI.
Respondent charged an advance fee totaling \$3,600 from the
borrowers for said services. Respondent induced the borrowers
to sign a limited power of attorney. On November 23, 2010,
Respondent collected an advance fee of \$1,800 from the
borrowers. On December 15, 2010, Respondent collected another
advance fee of \$1,500 from the borrowers. Respondent failed to
provide proof of completing the services promised to the
borrowers and refused to provide a refund of the borrowers'
advance fees. Respondent provided a refund to the borrowers
only after they filed a complaint against Respondent with the
Department and other consumer protection agencies.

14.

On November 30, 2010, borrowers Francisco and Fe D. entered into a loan modification agreement with RLCI.

Respondent charged an advance fee totaling \$2,400 from the borrowers for said services. Respondent induced the borrowers to sign a limited power of attorney. On December 9, 2010, Respondent collected an advance fee of \$1,200 from the borrowers. On January 10, 2011, Respondent collected another

advance fee of \$1,200 from the borrowers. Respondent made several misrepresentations to the borrowers in order to induce them to enter into the loan modification agreement and pay the advance fee for said services including that Respondent could obtain a lower interest rate and reduce the principal of the borrowers' loan. Respondent failed to provide proof of completing the services promised to the borrowers and refused to provide a refund of the borrowers' advance fees. Respondent provided a refund to the borrowers only after they filed a complaint against Respondent with the Department and other consumer protection agencies.

15.

On March 17, 2011, borrowers Armando and Filgerina T. entered into a loan modification agreement with RLCI. Respondent charged an advance fee totaling \$5,000 from the borrowers for said services. On March 18, 2011, Respondent collected an advance fee of \$1,500 from the borrowers. On April 11, 2011, Respondent collected another advance fee of \$1,500 from the borrowers. On April 22, 2011, the borrowers cancelled their agreement with RLCI and requested a refund of the \$3,000 in advance fees they had paid. Respondent failed to provide proof of completing the services promised to the borrowers and failed to provide a refund of the borrowers' advance fees.

16.

On March 23, 2011, borrower Marie V. entered into a loan modification agreement with RLCI. Respondent charged an advance fee totaling \$5,500 from the borrower for said services.

Respondent induced the borrower to sign a limited power of attorney. On March 24, 2011, Respondent collected an advance fee of \$3,000 from the borrower. On April 19, 2011, Respondent collected another advance fee of \$2,500 from the borrower. On August 2, 2011, the borrower cancelled her agreement with RLCI and requested a refund of the \$5,500 in advance fees she had paid. Respondent failed to provide proof of completing the services promised to the borrower and failed to provide a refund of the borrower's advance fees.

17.

Respondent RLCI failed to comply with the requirements for advance fees pursuant to Code Section 10085 and Regulations 2970 and 2972. Respondent RLCI failed to comply with the requirements for handling of advance fees in violation of Code Sections 10145, 10146, and Regulations 2831, 2832, and 2972.

18.

The activities described in Paragraphs 12 through 16, above, require a real estate broker license under Code Sections 10131(d) and 10131.2. Cause exists to discipline all licenses and/or license rights of Respondent RLCI pursuant to Code Sections 10139, 10177(d) and/or 10177(g) for violation of Code Sections 10130, 10137, 10145, 10146, and Regulations 2740, 2742, subdivision (c), 2831, 2832, 2970, and 2972.

19.

The activities described in Paragraphs 12 through 16, above, require a real estate broker license under Code Sections 10131(d) and 10131.2 or to be done by a licensed salesperson under the employment and supervision of a licensed real estate

broker pursuant to Code Section 10132. Cause exists to discipline all licenses, endorsements and/or license rights of Respondent CRONIN pursuant to Code Sections 10166.05(c), 10166.051, 10139, 10177(d) and/or 10177(g) for violation of Code Sections 10130 and 10137.

20.

Respondents' conduct, acts and/or omissions as set forth above constitute grounds for the discipline of all licenses, endorsements and/or license rights of Respondents RLCI and CRONIN pursuant to Code Sections 10176(a) (making any substantial misrepresentation), 10176(b) (making any false promises of a character likely to influence, persuade or induce), 10176(i) (conduct...which constitutes fraud or dishonest dealing), 10177(d) (violation of the Real Estate Law), and/or 10177(g) (negligence).

21.

Code Section 10106 provides, in pertinent part, that in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the Department of Real Estate, the Commissioner may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation of this part to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

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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 all licenses, endorsements, and/or license rights of Respondents RELIABLE LENDING CONSULTANTS, INC. and PAUL DAVID CRONIN under the Real Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code), for the cost of investigation and enforcement as permitted by law, and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other provisions of law. Dated at Los Angeles, California this 4 day of March, 2013. Deputy Real Estate Commissioner

cc: Reliable Lending Consultants, Inc.
Paul David Cronin
Pacific Home Loans, Inc.
Robin Trujillo
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