## FILED

ELLIOTT MAC LENNAN, SBN 66674 Bureau of Real Estate 320 West 4th Street, Ste. 350 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105

APR 1 6 2015
BUREAU OF REAL ESTATE
By

Telephone: (213) 576-6911 (direct) (213) 576-6982 (office)

# BEFORE THE BUREAU<sup>1</sup> OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

n the Matter of the Accusation of	) No. H-39810 LA
LETICIA ALICIA MARTINEZ, doing business as Superior Realty, and Wealth Financial Services,	) <u>ACCUSATION</u> )
Respondent,	) ) )

The Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California acting in her official capacity, for cause of Accusation against LETICIA ALICIA MARTINEZ doing business under the licensed fictitious business names of Superior Realty, and Wealth Financial Services, AKA Wealth Financial Services Inc., is informed and alleges as follows:

[This section intentionally left blank]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Effective July 1, 2013, the California Department of Real Estate became the Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Real Estate ("Bureau"). References in this Accusation are to the successor entity.

The Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California, 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, unless specified otherwise, such as the California Financial Code.

#### License Status

3.

A. At all times mentioned, LETICIA ALICIA MARTINEZ ("MARTINEZ"), was licensed or had license rights issued by the Bureau of Real Estate (Bureau) as a real estate broker. MARTINEZ was originally licensed as a real estate broker on April 17, 2009, and previously as a real estate salesperson.

B. MARTINEZ is also the owner of Pixy Inc. (sometimes PI), an unlicensed entity associated with foreclosure rescue services which include actions and instrumentalities to stop, postpone, reverse foreclosure sales of her clientele.

## Ownership/Management Structure: Pixy Inc. (PI)

Name	Title	License Status	Ownership
Pixy Inc.	Corporation	Unlicensed	-
Leticia Martinez	CEO	Broker	100%
Crystal Martinez	CFO	Unlicensed	0%
Ernest Martinez	Secretary	Salesperson	0%

C. MARTINEZ is the owner of Wealth Financial Services Inc., (sometimes WFSI) an unlicensed entity associated with MARTINEZ' real estate sales activities both independent of and associated with foreclosure rescue services.

D. MARTINEZ is also the owner of National Legacy Association (sometimes NLA is an unlicensed fictitious business name of MARTINEZ associated with foreclosure rescue services.

E. Whenever reference is made in an allegation in this Accusation to an act or omission of "Respondent", such allegation shall be deemed to mean that the officers, directors, employees, agents and real estate licensees employed by or associated with MARTINEZ, Pixy Inc., Superior Realty, and Wealth Financial Services Inc. committed such act or omission while engaged in the furtherance of the business or operations of Respondent and while acting within the course and scope of their authority and employment including, but not limited to, Crystal Martinez, and Ernest Martinez, and Esteban R. Castro.

#### Brokerage

4.

In the City of Fontana, County of Riverside, Respondent MARTINEZ acted as a real estate broker and conducted licensed activities within the meaning of:

A. <u>Code Section 10131(a)</u>. Engaged in the business of, acted in the capacity of, advertised or assumed to act as a real estate broker, including the solicitation for listings of and the negotiation of the sale of real property as the agent of others including:

Wealth Financial Services Inc. Through Respondent's unlicensed entity Respondent also solicited for listings and negotiated the sale of real property.

<u>Pixy Inc.</u> Through the instrumentality of Respondent's unlicensed entity,

Respondent engaged in the business of delaying, postponing, stopping or reversing foreclosure sales of real property for her clientele.

<u>National Legacy Association</u>. Through the instrumentality of Respondent's unlicensed entity, Respondent engaged in the business of delaying, postponing, stopping or reversing foreclosure sales of real property for her clientele; and.

B. <u>California Financial Code Section 17006(a)(4)</u>. In addition, Respondent MARTINEZ conducted broker-controlled escrows through her escrow division under the exemption set forth in California Financial Code Section 17006(a)(4) for real estate brokers performing escrows incidental to a real estate transaction where the broker is a party and where the broker is performing acts for which a real estate license is required.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACCUSATION (Real Estate Audit)

5.

On August 23, 2013 the Bureau completed an audit examination of the books and records of MARTINEZ, pertaining to the real estate activities of her brokerage described in Paragraph 4, which require a real estate license. The audit was limited to MARTINEZ':

- (1) Trustee foreclosure sale, delay and foreclosure reversal activity;
- (2) Wealth Financial Services Inc.'s (WFSI) s real estate sales activity;
- (3) Pixy Inc.'s (PI) trustee sale delay/reversal activity (LA120296); and
- (4) Martinez' in-house broker-controlled escrows (LA120326).

25

26

27

The audit examination covered a period of time beginning on January 1, 2011 and ending on May 31, 2013. The audit examination revealed violations of the Code and the Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations ("Regulations") set forth in the following paragraphs and more fully set forth in Audit Report LA 120296 & LA 120326, and the exhibits and work papers attached thereto.

#### **Bank Accounts**

6.

In connection with the activities described in Paragraph 4, above, MARTINEZ accepted or received funds including funds in trust (hereinafter "trust funds") from or on behalf of actual or prospective parties to real estate transactions handled by MARTINEZ including buyers and sellers. MARTINEZ maintained the following trust account for her brokerage:

#### 1. <u>T/A 1</u>

Account Name:

Leticia A Martinez

**DBA** Superior Realty

**Escrow Trust Account** 

Account No.:

\*\*\*\*\*\*3218

Bank Name:

Comerica Bank

Bank Address:

2321 Rosecrans Ave Suite 5000

El Segundo, CA 90245

(T/A 1 trust account used for escrows during the audit period)

[This section intentionally left blank]

1	2. <u>B/A 1</u>	
3	Account Name:	Leticia A. Martinez (REB) DBA National Legacy Association
4	Account No.:	******1834
5	Bank Name:	Union Bank
6 7	Bank Address:	16055 Foothill Blvd. Fontana, CA 92335
8	(B/A 1 bank account	for advance fees for stop/delay/reverse trustee foreclosure sale)
10	3. <u>B/A 2</u>	,
11	Account Name:	Leticia Martinez DBA National Legacy Association
13	Account No.: Bank Name:	*******1270 JP Morgan Chase Bank
14	Bank Address:	15272 Summit Ave. Fontana, CA 92336
16 17	(B/A 2 bank account Association)	for fraudulent 2 <sup>nd</sup> payoff lien collection by National Legacy
18		
19	4. <u>B/A 3</u>	
20	Account Name:	Pixy Inc.
21	Account No.:	******9114
22	Bank Name:	Wells Fargo Bank
23	Bank Address:	1617 Sierra Lakes Pkwy Fontana, CA 92336
25		for advance fees for stop/delay/reverse trustee foreclosure sale for re-
26	Pixy Inc.)	

5. <u>B/A 4</u> 1 Leticia Alicia Martinez Account Name: 2 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*7269 3 Account No.: 4 Bank Name: Union Bank 5 Bank Address: 16055 Foothill Blvd. Fontana, CA 92335 6 7 (B/A 4 bank account used for Leticia Martinez' personal tax services and notary services) 8 9 6. B/A 5 10 Wealth Financial Services Inc. Account Name: 11 **DBA** Superior Realty 12 Account No.: \*\*\*\*\*\*1712 13 Bank Name: Bank of America 14 16860 Arrow Blvd. Bank Address: 15 Fontana, CA 92335 16 (B/A 5 bank account used for Leticia Martinez' general business activities and for Wealth 17 Financial Services Inc. real estate sales) 18 19 Violations of the Real Estate Law 20 7. 21 In the course of activities described in Paragraphs 4 and 6, above, and during the 22 audit examination period described in Paragraph 5, Respondent MARTINEZ acted in violation of 23 the Code and the Regulations in which she: 24 (a)(1) Permitted, allowed or caused the disbursement of trust funds from B/A 1 25 and BA 2, where the disbursement of funds reduced the total of aggregate funds in said bank 26 27

accounts into which trust funds were deposited, to an amount which, on May 31, 2013, was \$36,448.88, less than the existing aggregate trust fund liability to every principal who was an owner of said funds, without first obtaining the prior written consent of the owners of said funds, in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832.1. The \$36,448.88 combined shortage in B/A 1 and B/A 2 was due to conversion, in violation of Code Section 10176(i); and

(a)(2) Permitted, allowed or caused the disbursement of trust funds from B/A 3, where the disbursement of funds reduced the total of aggregate funds in said bank account into which trust funds were deposited, to an amount which, on May 31, 2013, was \$29,367.91, less than the existing aggregate trust fund liability to every principal who was an owner of said funds, without first obtaining the prior written consent of the owners of said funds, in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832.1. The \$29,367 shortage in B/A 3 was due to conversion, in violation of Code Section 10176(i);

- (b) Failed to maintain a control record in the form of a columnar record in chronological order thereby failing to account for all trust funds received, deposited and disbursed by B/A 1, B/A 2, B/A 3, in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831;
- (c) Failed to maintain an adequate, accurate and complete separate record for each beneficiary or transaction, thereby failing to account for all trust funds received, deposited and disbursed by B/A 1, B/A 2, B/A 3, in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.1;
- (d) Failed to perform a monthly reconciliation of the balance of all separate beneficiary or transaction records maintained pursuant to Regulation 2831.1 with the record of all trust funds received, deposited and disbursed by B/A 1, B/A 2, B/A 3, in violation of Code

Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.2;

- (e) B/A 1, B/A 2, B/A 3 were not designated as a trust accounts, in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832(a);
- (f) Permitted Esteban R. Castro, husband of MARTINEZ, an unlicensed and unbonded person, to be an authorized signatory on B/A 3, in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2834(a);
- (g) Deposited trust funds in the form of advance fees collected from homeowners seeking to stop, postpone or reverse trustees' foreclosure sale of their residences into (1) National Legacy Associations' business bank account, and (2) into Pixy Inc.'s bank account, in violation of Code Section 10146.
- (h) Commingled and converted trust funds in the amount of \$19,800.00, in advance fees collected from homeowners for foreclosure rescue services. MARTINEZ made unauthorized disbursements to herself in the amount of \$19,800.00 from B/A 1 into B/A 4, MARTINEZ personal tax and notary public business account, then reduced the balance in B/A 4, to an amount that was less than the amount deposited (\$19,800.00) to a balance of \$116.61, as of December 15, 2011, in violation of Code Section 10145, 10176(e), 10176(i) and 10177(g).
- (i) Collected advance fees within the meaning of Code Section 10026 from homeowners seeking foreclosure rescue services wherein MARTINEZ failed to provide said services, with a pre-approved advance fee agreement from the Bureau in the form of a no objection letter, in violation of Code Section 10085 and Regulation 2970;
- (j) With reference to the lack of an advance fee agreement, MARTINEZ failed to provide a complete description of foreclosure rescue services to be rendered provided to each

homeowner in 10 point type font and, an allocation and disbursement of the amount collected as the advance fee for each homeowner seeking stop/postpone, reverse foreclosure by trustee sale, in violation of Code Section 10146 and Regulation 2972;

#### 17851 Birch Street, Hesperia

(k) (1) Substantial Misrepresentation. MARTINEZ misrepresented to the first lien holder, Wells Fargo Bank (WFB), by representing that National Legacy Association (NLA), MARTINEZ' unlicensed fictitious business name, was the 2nd lien holder on the Birch Street property and thereon collected \$5,844.24 from WFB. Said funds were deposited into B/A 1 on April 3, 2012, in violation of Code Sections 10176(a), 10176(i); and/or 10177(j).

#### 405 E. Home Street, Rialto,

(k)(2) Misrepresented the to first lien holder, Ocwen Loan Services, LLC (OLS), by claiming that National Legacy Association (NLA), Martinez' unlicensed fictitious business name was the 2nd lien holder on the E. Home Street property and collected \$3,000.00 from OLS.

Said funds were deposited into B/A 2 on November 23, 2012, in violation of Code Sections 10176(a), 10176(i) and/or 10177(h).

### Foreclosure Rescue Services: Misrepresentation/Fraud/Dishonest Dealing

Property	Amount of Fraud	1st Lien Holder	2nd Lien Holder
Pixy Inc.	\$5,844.24	Wells Fargo Bank	NLA
Leticia Martinez	\$3,000	Wells Fargo Bank	OLS
Total	\$8,844.24		,

- (l) Changed her address from 5402 Osprey Court, Fontana, California, without notification to the Bureau, in violation of Code Section 10162 and Regulation 2715.
- (m) Used the fictitious name of "National Legacy Association" to conduct licensed activities without first obtaining from the Bureau a license bearing said fictitious business name, in violation of Code Section 10159.5 and Regulation 2731;
- (n) Conducted escrow activities at 5402 Osprey Court, Fontana, California, prior to obtaining a branch office license from the Bureau, in violation of Code Section 10163 and Regulation 2715.
- (o) Employed or compensated Jose Garcia, who was not licensed by the Bureau as a real estate broker or as a real estate salesperson employed by a real estate broker, by MARTINEZ for performing acts for which a real estate license is required, including soliciting prospective sellers to obtain listing for real estate and short sales and for soliciting homeowners for foreclosure rescue, in violation of Code Section 10137
- (p) Failed to exercise reasonable control and supervision over the activity of her brokerage to secure full compliance with the Real Estate Law. Additionally, MARTINEZ had no system in place for regularly monitoring her compliance with the Real Estate Law particularly in regard to establishing, systems, policies and procedures to review trust fund handling especially including advance fee documentation and collections with respect to foreclosure rescue services, in violation of Code Sections 10159.2, 10177(h) and Regulation 2725; and
- (q) Wealth Financial Services Inc. engaged in the business of soliciting buyers and sellers for real estate purchases and sales, obtaining listings, and negotiating said purchases and sales, during a period when it was not, nor had ever been licensed by the Bureau, in violation of

3

5

6

**Disciplinary Statures and Regulations** 

8.

The conduct of Respondent MARTINEZ, as alleged and described in Paragraph 7, above, violated the Code and the Regulations as set forth below:

8	<u>PARAGRAPH</u>	PROVISIONS VIOLATED
9	7(a)	Code Sections 10145 and 10176(i) and Regulation 2832.1 (trust fund shortages)
11	7(b)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831 (no control record)
13 14	7(c)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.1 (no separate record)
15	7(d)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.2 (control and separate records not reconciled)
16 17	7(e)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832(a) (bank accounts not designated as trust accounts)
18 19	7(f)	Code Sections 10145 and Regulation 2834(a) (unlicensed/unbonded person on trust account)
20	7(g)	Code Section 10146 (advance fees not deposited into trust account)
22	7(h)	Code Sections 10145, 10176(e), 10176(i) and 10177(g) (commingling and conversion)
23	7(i)	Code Section 10085 and Regulation 2970 (advance fees accounting content)
25	7(j)	Code Section 10146 and Regulation 2972 (advance fees accounting content)
27		

1 2	7(k)	Code Sections 10176(a), 10176(i) and/or 10177(j) (substantial misrepresentation, fraud, dishonest dealing)	
3	7(1)	Code Section 10162 and Regulation 2715 (BRE not notified of address of principal place of business)	
4 5	7(m)	Code Section 10159.5 and Regulation 2731 (unlicensed fictitious business name)	
6 7	7(n)	Code Section 10163 and Regulation 2715 (unlicensed branch office)	
8	7(o)	Code Section 10137 (employed/compensated unlicensed person)	
10	7(p)	Code Section 10177(h) and Regulation 2725 (lack of supervision)	
12	7(q)	Code Section 10130 (unlicensed entity conducting-licensed acts)	
13 14	The foregoing violations constitute cause for discipline of the real estate license and license		
15	rights of Respondent MARTINEZ under the provisions of Code Sections 10130, 10137, 10165,		
16	10176(e), 10176(i)/10177(j), 10177(d) and 10177(g).		
17			
18	SECOND CAUSE OF ACCUSATION (Negligence)		
19		9.	
20			
21	The overall conduct of Respondent MARTINEZ constitutes negligence or		
22	incompetence. This conduct and violation is cause for discipline of the real estate license and		
23	license rights of Respondent pursuant to Code Section 10177(g).		
24			
25 26	[This section intentionally left blank]		
27			
	Cal	BRE ACCUSATION OF LETICIA ALICIA MARTINEZ	

## THIRD CAUSE OF ACCUSATION (Breach of Fiduciary Duty)

10.

The conduct, acts and omissions of Respondent MARTINEZ constitutes a breach of fiduciary duty of good faith, trust, confidence and candor, within the scope of her licensed relationship, owed to the clientele of her real estate brokerage and in-house broker-controlled escrows. This conduct and violation is cause for discipline of the real estate license and license rights of Respondent MARTINEZ pursuant to Code Sections 10176(i) and/or 10177(j) for fraud and dishonest dealing, and 10177(g) for negligence.

11.

Code Section 10106 provides in pertinent part that in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the Bureau of Real Estate, the Real Estate 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.

12.

Code Section 10148(b) provides in pertinent part the Real Estate Commissioner shall charge a real estate broker for the cost of any audit, if the Real Estate Commissioner has found in a final decision following a disciplinary hearing that the broker has violated Code section 10145 or a regulation or rule of the Real Estate Commissioner interpreting said section.

13.

Government Code Section 11519(d) of the California Administrative Procedure

Act provides, in pertinent part, that a decision rendered against a licensee may include an order of

CalBRE ACCUSATION OF LETICIA ALICIA MARTINEZ

restitution.

.6.

. 11

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 Respondent LETICIA ALICIA MARTINEZ 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 including, but not limited to (1) costs of investigation and enforcement, (2) costs of audit, and (3) restitution as pursuant to applicable provisions of the California Administrative Procedure Act including Government Code Section 11519(d).

this April 14, 2015

Dated at San Diego, California

Deputy Real Estate Commissioner

cc: Leticia Alicia Martinez Veronica Kilpatrick Audits – Dorcas Cheng Audits – Jennifer Lin

Sacto