LISSETE GARCIA, Counsel (SBN 211552) Department of Real Estate NOV 1 5 2021

DEBT. OF REAL ESTATE

By Eller llery 320 West 4th Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105 Telephone:(213) 576-6982 3 Direct: (213) 576-6914 4 Fax: (213) 576-6917 Attorney for Department of Real Estate 5 6 7 8 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE 9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 * * * 11 In the Matter of the Accusation against DRE No. H-42076 LA 12 E. OLUFUNMILAYO OGUNLALAKA, **ACCUSATION** 13 Respondent. 14 15 The Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, a Supervising Special Investigator for the 16 Department of Real Estate ("Department") of the State of California, makes this Accusation in 17 her official capacity for cause of Accusation against E. OLUFUNMILAYO OGUNLALAKA 18 ("Respondent"), is informed and alleges as follows: 19 1. All references to the "Code" are to the California Business and Professions Code and 20 all references to "Regulations" are to the Regulations of the Real Estate Commissioner, Title 10, 21 Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations. 22 111 23 24 ¹ Between July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2018, the Department of Real Estate operated as the Bureau of Real Estate under the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Fictitious Names

3

2. Code section 10159.5 provides:

5

4

6

7 8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

21

22 23

24

- "(a) (1) Every person applying for a license under this chapter who desires to have the license issued under a fictitious business name shall file with his or her application a certified copy of his or her fictitious business name statement filed with the county clerk pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 17900) of Part 3 of Division 7.
- (2) A responsible broker may, by contract, permit a salesperson to do all of the following:
- (A) File an application on behalf of a responsible broker with a county clerk to obtain a fictitious business name.
- (B) Deliver to the bureau an application, signed by the responsible broker, requesting the bureau's approval to use a county approved fictitious business name that shall be identified with the responsible broker's license number.
- (C) Pay for any fees associated with filing an application with a county or the bureau to obtain or use a fictitious business name.
- (D) Maintain ownership of a fictitious business name, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 10159.7, that may be used subject to the control of the responsible broker.
- (b)(1) A salesperson using a fictitious business name authorized by subdivision (a), shall use that name only as permitted by his or her responsible broker.
 - (2) This section does not change a real estate broker's duties under this division to supervise a salesperson.
- (c) A person applying to a county for a fictitious business name pursuant to subdivision (a) may file his or her application in the county or counties where the fictitious business name will be used.
- (d) Advertising and solicitation materials, including business cards, print or electronic media and "for sale" signage, using a fictitious business name obtained in accordance with paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) shall include the responsible broker's identity, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 10159.7, in a manner equally as prominent as the fictitious business name.
- (e) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 10140.6, advertising and solicitation materials, including print or electronic media and "for sale" signage, containing a fictitious business name obtained in accordance with paragraph (2)

6

8

9

10

11 12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 20

21 22

23

24 111

111

4. Code section 10140.6 provides:

- "(a) A real estate licensee shall not publish, circulate, distribute, or cause to be published, circulated, or distributed in any newspaper or periodical, or by mail, any matter pertaining to any activity for which a real estate license is required that does not contain a designation disclosing that he or she is performing acts for which a real estate license is required.
- (b) (1) A real estate licensee shall disclose his or her name, license identification number and unique identifier assigned to that licensee by the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry, if that licensee is a mortgage loan originator, and responsible broker's identity, as defined in Section 10015.4, on all solicitation materials intended to be the first point of contact with consumers and on real property purchase agreements when acting in a manner that requires a real estate license or mortgage loan originator license endorsement in those transactions. The commissioner may adopt regulations identifying the materials in which a licensee must disclose a license identification number and unique identifier assigned to that licensee by the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry, and responsible broker's identity.
- (2) For purposes of this section, "solicitation materials" include business cards, stationery, advertising flyers, advertisements on television, in print, or electronic media, "for sale," rent, lease, "open house," and directional signs, and other materials designed to solicit the creation of a professional relationship between the licensee and a consumer.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or change the requirement described in Section 10236.4 as applicable to real estate brokers.
- (c) This section shall not apply to "for sale," rent, lease, "open house," and directional signs that do either of the following:
- Display the responsible broker's identity, as defined in Section 10015.4, without reference to an associate broker or licensee.
 - (2) Display no licensee identification information.
- (d) "Mortgage loan originator," "unique identifier," and "Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry" have the meanings set forth in Section 10166.01.
 - (e) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2018."

2

5

6 7

8

10

11

12 13

14

15

16

17 18

19

2021

22

23

24

"(a) A real estate broker or salesperson, when engaging in acts for which a license is required, shall disclose its, his or her eight (8) digit real estate license identification number and responsible broker's name as currently licensed, and may, but is not required to, also include the responsible broker's license identification number, on all solicitation materials intended to be the first point of contact with consumers. If the name of more than one licensee appears in the solicitation, the license identification number of each licensee shall be disclosed.

The license identification numbers of responsible brokers or corporate brokers whose names, logos or trademarks appear on solicitation materials along with the names and license numbers of salespersons or broker associates do not need to appear on those materials. If the advertising is in written form, the type size of the license identification number shall be no smaller than the smallest size type used in the solicitation material.

Solicitation materials intended to be the first point of contact with consumers, and in which a licensee must disclose a license identification number, include the following:

- (1) Business cards;
- (2) Stationery;
- (3) Websites owned, controlled, and/or maintained by the soliciting real estate licensee;
- (4) Promotional and advertising flyers, brochures, postal mail, leaflets, and any marketing or promotional materials designed to solicit the creation of a professional relationship between the licensee and a consumer, or which is intended to incentivize, induce or entice a consumer to contact the licensee about any service for which a license is required;
- (5) Advertisements in electronic media (including, without limitation, internet, email, radio, cinema, and television advertisements, and the opening section of streaming video and audio);
- (6) Print advertising in any newspaper or periodical; and
- (7) "For sale," "for rent," "for lease," "open house," and directional signs that display the name of the licensee.
- (c) 'Advertisements in electronic media' that constitute a first point of contact solicitation are those advertisements that a licensee purchases or directly places on an electronic platform, where the licensee controls the content and presentation of the advertisement, and which include information that is intended to enable consumers to directly contact the licensee. Instances where another party controls the content and visual presentation of the licensee's information on a platform are excluded from 'advertisements in electronic media,' except where the licensee subsequently adopts the content and presentation of the content by distributing or forwarding the advertisement to a consumer."

3 4

5

6

7 8

9

10

11

12 13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

6. Code section 10166.02 provides, in pertinent parts, as follows:

"(a) A real estate broker who acts pursuant to Section 10131.1 or subdivision (d) or (e) of Section 10131, and who makes, arranges, or services loans secured by real property containing one to four residential units, and any salesperson who acts in a similar capacity under the supervision of that broker, shall notify the department by January 31, 2010, or within 30 days of commencing that activity, whichever is later. The notification shall be made in writing, as directed, on a form that is acceptable to the commissioner.

(b) No individual may engage in business as a mortgage loan originator

under this article without first doing both of the following:

(1) Obtaining and maintaining a real estate license pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 10150).

(2) Obtaining and maintaining a real estate license endorsement pursuant to this article identifying that individual as a licensed mortgage loan originator.

(c) License endorsements shall be valid for a period of one year and shall expire on the 31st of December each year.

(d) Applicants for a mortgage loan originator license endorsement shall apply in a form prescribed by the commissioner. Each form shall contain content as set forth by rule, regulation, instruction, or procedure of the commissioner.

(f) A real estate broker or salesperson who fails to notify the department pursuant to subdivision (a), or who fails to obtain a license endorsement required pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), shall be assessed a penalty of fifty dollars (\$50) per day for each day written notification has not been received or a license endorsement has not been obtained, up to and including the 30th day after the first day of the assessment penalty. On and after the 31st day, the penalty is one hundred dollars (\$100) per day, not to exceed a total penalty of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), regardless of the number of days, until the department receives the written notification or the licensee obtains the license endorsement. Penalties for violations of subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be additive.

(g) The commissioner may suspend or revoke the license of a real estate broker or salesperson who fails to pay a penalty imposed pursuant to this section. In addition, the commissioner may bring an action in an appropriate court of this state to collect payment of that penalty.

(h) All penalties paid or collected under this section shall be deposited into the Consumer Recovery Account of the Real Estate Fund and shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature, be available for expenditure for the purposes specified in Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 10470)."

7. <u>Code section 10162</u> provides:

- "(a) Every licensed real estate broker shall have and maintain a definite place of business in the State of California that serves as his or her office for the transaction of business. This office shall be the place where his or her license is displayed and where personal consultations with clients are held.
- (b) A real estate license does not authorize the licensee to do business except from the location stipulated in the real estate license as issued or as altered pursuant to Section 10161.8.
- (c) (1) Every real estate broker and salesperson licensee shall provide to the commissioner his or her current office or mailing address, a current telephone number, and a current electronic mail address that he or she maintains or uses to perform any activity that requires a real estate license, at which the bureau may contact the licensee.
- (2) Every real estate broker and salesperson licensee shall inform the commissioner of any change to his or her office or mailing address, telephone number, or electronic mail address no later than 30 days after making the change.
- (d) Notwithstanding Section 10185, a violation of this section is not a misdemeanor."

8. Regulation 2715 provides:

"Every real estate broker, except a broker acting in the capacity of a salesperson to another broker under written agreement, shall maintain on file with the commissioner the address of his or her principal place of business for brokerage activities, the address of each branch business office and his or her current mailing address, if different from the business address.

Every broker who is acting in the capacity of a salesperson to another broker under written agreement shall maintain on file with the Commissioner the address of the business location where he or she expects to conduct most of the activities for which a license is required and his or her current mailing address.

A real estate salesperson shall maintain on file with the Commissioner his or her current mailing address, and when applicable, the address of the principal business office of the responsible broker to whom the salesperson is at the time licensed.

Whenever there is a change in the location or address of the principal place of business or of a branch office of a broker, that broker shall notify the Commissioner thereof not later than the next business day following the change.

This section shall apply to those who are licensed and to those who have license rights under Section 10201 of the Code.

Note: Authority cited: Section 10080, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 10162, 10163 and 10201, Business and Professions Code."

Statement of Facts

- 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).
- 10. On or about March 09, 1994, the Department issued a real estate broker license to Respondent, License ID 01163844.
- 11. Unless renewed, Respondent's license is scheduled to expire on March 08, 2022.
 Respondent has renewal rights pursuant to Code section 10201. The Department retains
 jurisdiction pursuant to Code section 10103.
- 12. At all times relevant herein, Respondent was only licensed to do business as "Earthscape Financial Services" and "Earthscape Realty."
 - 13. Ed Layo has never been licensed in any capacity by the Department.
- 14. Respondent has never been licensed by the Department to do business as "realestateworlds.com," "Earthscape Real Estate Financing," or "Ed Layo."
- 15. Respondent has never been issued a mortgage loan originator license endorsement.
- 16. For an unknown period of time which includes April 7, 2021 through the present, Respondent has maintained the website: "www.realestateworlds.com" on which Respondent has advertised services which require a real estate license pursuant to Code section 10131. On said website, Respondent uses the following unlicensed fictitious business names: "realestateworlds.com," "Earthscape Real Estate Financing," and "Ed Layo", in violation of Code section 10159.5 and Regulation 2731, subdivision (e).

- 17. On said website, Respondent also fails to list or display Respondent's real estate license number in violation of Code section 10140.6 and Regulation 2773.
- 18. Furthermore, on Respondent's website, Respondent claims to be an "Independent Mortgage Broker" and advertises services that require a mortgage loan originator license endorsement including, but not limited to, soliciting mortgage loan applications, in violation of Code section 10166.02.
- 19. For an unknown period of time which includes October of 2020 through the present, Respondent's main office address of record listed with the Department has been a post office box or an invalid address, including, but not limited to, the following address: 564 Summit Avenue Box 91566, Pasadena, California 91109-1566. Said address is an invalid, physical address and not the definite principal place of business used by Respondent to conduct activities that require a real estate license, in violation of Code section 10162 and Regulation 2715.

Causes for Discipline

- 20. Respondent's use of unlicensed fictitious names to advertise activities requiring a real estate license, as described above in Paragraphs 12 through 16, constitutes cause for the suspension or revocation of all licenses and license rights of Respondent pursuant to Regulation 2731 and Code sections 10159.5 and 10177, subdivisions (d) and/or (g).
- 21. Respondent's failure to list or display Respondent's real estate license number on advertising, as described above in Paragraph 17, constitutes cause for the suspension or revocation of all licenses and license rights of Respondent pursuant to Regulation 2773 and Code sections 10140.6 and 10177, subdivisions (d) and/or (g).
- 22. Respondent's offer to engage in mortgage loan originator activities without first obtaining a mortgage loan originator license endorsement, as described above in Paragraph 18,

Respondent pursuant to Code sections 10166.02 and 10177, subdivisions (d) and/or (g).

Respondent's failure to maintain a valid, definite, principal business address listed with the Department, as described above in Paragraph 19, constitutes cause for the suspension or revocation of all licenses and license rights of Respondent pursuant to Regulation 2715 and Code sections 10162, 10165, and 10177, subdivisions (d) and/or (g).

Investigation and Enforcement Costs

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

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 and/or license rights of Respondents 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

Dated at San Diego, California this 5 day of Notember 2021.

VERONICĂ KII

Supervising Special Investigator