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DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By C.

Telephone: (213) 576-6982

# BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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To:

No. H-36929 LA

R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great
Western Financial Services;
RANDALL MAGDY AWAD;
MO AMIR; SAM MASRI; SCOTT
HAGHVERDIAN; MICHAEL
FERNANDEZ; and KAREN RUANO.

No. H-36929 LA

ORDER TO DESIST
AND REFRAIN

(B&P Code Section 10086)

The Commissioner ("Commissioner") of the California Department of Real Estate ("Department") caused an investigation to be made of the activities of R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services; RANDALL MAGDY AWAD; MO AMIR; SAM MASRI; SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN; MICHAEL FERNANDEZ; and KAREN RUANO. Based on that investigation the Commissioner has determined that R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services; RANDALL MAGDY AWAD; MO AMIR; SAM MASRI; SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN; MICHAEL FERNANDEZ; and KAREN RUANO have engaged in or are engaging in acts or are attempting to engage in the business of, acting in the capacity of, and/or advertising or assuming to act as real estate brokers in the State of California within the meaning of Business and Professions Code Sections 10131(d) (soliciting, negotiating and performing

services for borrowers in connection with loans secured by real property) and 10131.2 (advance fee handling).

In addition, based on that investigation, the Commissioner has determined that R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services; RANDALL MAGDY AWAD; MO AMIR; SAM MASRI; SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN; MICHAEL FERNANDEZ; and KAREN RUANO have engaged in or are engaging in acts or are attempting to engage practices constituting violations of the California Business and Professions Code ("Code") and/or Title 10, California Code of Regulations ("Regulations"). Based on the findings of that investigation, set forth below, the Commissioner hereby issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Desist and Refrain Order under the authority of Section 10086 of the Code.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. R&R HOLDINGS, INC. is presently licensed or has license rights under the Real Estate Law, Part 1 of Division 4 of the Code, as a real estate corporation. Great Western Financial Services is a fictitious business name of R&R HOLDINGS, INC.
- 2. RANDALL MAGDY AWAD is presently licensed or has license rights under the Real Estate Law, Part 1 of Division 4 of the Code, as a real estate broker. RANDALL MAGDY AWAD was the designated broker officer of R&R HOLDINGS, INC. from April 23, 2007 through August 24, 2009.
- 3. MO AMIR, SAM MASRI, SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN, MICHAEL FERNANDEZ and KAREN RUANO are not now, and have never been, licensed by the Department in any capacity.
- 4. At the time set forth below R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services; RANDALL MAGDY AWAD; MO AMIR; SAM MASRI; SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN; MICHAEL FERNANDEZ; and KAREN RUANO solicited borrowers and

negotiated to do one or more of the following acts for another or others, for or in expectation of compensation: engaged in the business of, acted in the capacity of, or advertised a loan modification and negotiation service and advance fee brokerage using the name "Great Western Financial Services," solicited, offered to negotiate or perform loan modification services with respect to loans which were secured by liens on real property for compensation or in expectation of compensation and for fees collected in advance of the transaction.

- 5. On or about September 19, 2008, Great Western Financial Services charged Oswald F. an advance fee of \$2,800. The advance fee was collected pursuant to the provisions of an agreement pertaining to loan solicitation, negotiation, and modification services to be provided by Great Western Financial Services with respect to a loan secured by the real property located in Norwalk, California. Great Western Financial Services employed or compensated MO AMIR, an unlicensed person, to solicit and perform services for borrower Oswald F. in connection with a loan secured by real property.
- 6. On or about October 24, 2008, Great Western Financial Services charged Donna D. an advance fee of \$2,500. The advance fee was collected pursuant to the provisions of an agreement pertaining to loan solicitation, negotiation, and modification services to be provided by Great Western Financial Services with respect to a loan secured by the real property located in Panorama City, California. Great Western Financial Services employed or compensated KAREN RUANO, an unlicensed person, to solicit and perform services for borrower Donna D. in connection with a loan secured by real property.
- 7. On or about December 18, 2008, Great Western Financial Services charged Denise T. an advance fee of \$1,900. The advance fee was collected pursuant to the provisions of an agreement pertaining to loan solicitation, negotiation, and modification services to be provided by Great Western Financial Services with respect to a loan secured by the real property located in the State of Maryland. Great Western Financial Services employed or compensated unlicensed persons MICHAEL FERNANDEZ and SAM MASRI, to solicit and perform services for borrower Denise T. in connection with a loan secured by real property.

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8. On or about March 12, 2009, Great Western Financial Services charged Ann R. an advance fee of \$2,000. The advance fee was collected pursuant to the provisions of an agreement pertaining to loan solicitation, negotiation, and modification services to be provided by Great Western Financial Services with respect to a loan secured by the real property located in Reseda, California. Great Western Financial Services employed or compensated SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN, an unlicensed person, to solicit and perform services for borrower, Ann R., in connection with a loan secured by real property.

9. On or about December 8, 2008, Great Western Financial Services charged Gabriel G. an advance fee of \$2,000. The advance fee was collected pursuant to the provisions of an agreement pertaining to loan solicitation, negotiation, and modification services to be provided by Great Western Financial Services with respect to a loan secured by the real property located in Indio, California.

10. On or about October 9, 2008, Great Western Financial Services charged Carlos O. an advance fee of \$2,500. The advance fee was collected pursuant to the provisions of an agreement pertaining to loan solicitation, negotiation, and modification services to be provided by Great Western Financial Services with respect to a loan secured by the real property located in the State of Arizona. Great Western Financial Services employed or compensated KAREN RUANO, an unlicensed person, to solicit and perform services for borrower Carlos O. in connection with a loan secured by real property.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 11. Based on the information contained in Paragraphs 1 through 10, above, R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services and RANDALL MAGDY AWAD violated Section 10085 of the Code and Regulation 2970, by not having an approved advance fee agreement on file with the Department.
- 12. Based on the information contained in Paragraphs 1 through 10, above, R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services and RANDALL MAGDY AWAD violated Code Section 10137 of the Code by employing and/or compensating

 individuals who were not licensed as a real estate salesperson or as a broker to perform activities requiring a real estate license.

13. Based on the information contained in Paragraphs 1 through 10, above, MO AMIR, SAM MASRI, SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN, MICHAEL FERNANDEZ and KAREN RUANO violated Section 10130 of the Code by engaging in the activities without first obtaining a broker license from the Department.

# DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER

Based upon the FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW stated herein, it is hereby ordered that:

- (A) R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services and RANDALL MAGDY AWAD, immediately desist and refrain from: employing and/or compensating individuals who are not licensed as a real estate salesperson or as a broker to perform activities requiring a real estate license.
- (B) MO AMIR, SAM MASRI, SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN, MICHAEL FERNANDEZ and KAREN RUANO immediately desist and refrain from: performing any acts within the State of California for which a real estate broker license is required, unless you are so licensed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services and RANDALL MAGDY AWAD immediately desist and refrain from:

- 1. charging, demanding, claiming, collecting and/or receiving advance fees, as that term is defined in Section 10026 of the Code, in any form, and under any conditions, with respect to the performance of loan modification or any other form of mortgage loan forbearance services in connection with loans on residential property containing four or fewer dwelling units (Code Section 10085.6).
- 2. charging, demanding, claiming, collecting and/or receiving advance fees, as

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that term is defined in Section 10026 of the Code, for any of the other real estate related services offered to others, unless and until R&R HOLDINGS, INC., dba Great Western Financial Services and RANDALL MAGDY AWAD demonstrate and provide evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner they:

- (a) have an advance fee agreement which has been submitted to the Department and which is in compliance with Section 10085 of the Code and Section 2970 of the Regulations;
- (b) have placed all previously collected advance fees into a trust account for that purpose and is in compliance with Section 10146 of the Code; and
- (c) have provided an accounting to trust fund owner-beneficiaries from whom advance fees have previously been collected in compliance with Section 10146 of the Code and Section 2972 of the Regulations.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT MO AMIR, SAM MASRI, SCOTT HAGHVERDIAN, MICHAEL FERNANDEZ and KAREN RUANO immediately desist and refrain from:

- 1. charging, demanding, claiming, collecting and/or receiving advance fees, as that term is defined in Section 10026 of the Code, in any form, and under any conditions, with respect to the performance of loan modifications or any other form of mortgage loan forbearance service in connection with loans on residential property containing four or fewer dwelling units (Code Section 10085.6); and
- 2. charging, demanding, claiming, collecting and/or receiving advance fees, as that term is defined in Section 10026 of the Code, for any other real estate related services offered by them to others.

// J., 2010. 1 DATED: 2 JEFF DAVI 3 Real Estate Commissioner 4 5 6 7 8 Notice: Business and Professions Code Section 10139 provides that "Any person acting as a real estate broker or real estate salesperson without a license or who advertises using words indicating that he or she is a real estate broker without being so licensed shall be guilty of a 10 public offense punishable by a fine not exceeding twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed six months, or by both fine and 11 imprisonment; or if a corporation, be punished by a fine not exceeding sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000)." 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 cc: R&R Holdings, Inc. dba Great Western Financial Services, Randall Magdy Awad, Mo Amir, 22 Sam Masri, Scott Haghverdian, Michael Fernandez and Karen Ruano 18757 Burbank Blvd., Suite 100 23 Tarzana, CA 91356 24 Randall Magdy Awad 15506 Moorpark St. #320 25 Encino, CA 91436 26