### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

### INDICATE FULL CAPTION:

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC,

Appellant,

vs.

SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC,

Respondent.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Appellants must complete this docketing statement in compliance with NRAP 14(a). The purpose of the docketing statement is to assist the Supreme Court in screening jurisdiction, identifying issues on appeal, assessing presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, scheduling cases for oral argument and settlement conferences, classifying cases for expedited treatment and assignment to the Court of Appeals, and compiling statistical information.

### WARNING

This statement must be completed fully, accurately and on time. NRAP 14(c). The Supreme Court may impose sanctions on counsel or appellant if it appears that the information provided is incomplete or inaccurate. *Id.* Failure to fill out the statement completely or to file it in a timely manner constitutes grounds for the imposition of sanctions, including a fine and/or dismissal of the appeal.

A complete list of the documents that must be attached appears as Question 27 on this docketing statement. Failure to attach all required documents will result in the delay of your appeal and may result in the imposition of sanctions.

This court has noted that when attorneys do not take seriously their obligations under NRAP 14 to complete the docketing statement properly and conscientiously, they waste the valuable judicial resources of this court, making the imposition of sanctions appropriate. *See* KDI Sylvan Pools v. Workman, 107 Nev. 340, 344, 810 P.2d 1217, 1220 (1991). Please use tab dividers to separate any attached documents.

1. Judicial District Eighth	Department 27
County Clark	Judge Nancy L. Allf
District Ct. Case No. <u>A-12-672963-C</u>	
2. Attorney filing this docketing statemen	nt:
Attorney Matthew D. Lamb	Telephone (702) 471-7000
Firm Ballard Spahr LLP	
Address 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1750 Las Vegas, Nevada 89106	)
Client(s) Appellant JPMorgan Chase Bank, N	Vational Association ("Chase")
If this is a joint statement by multiple appellants, add the names of their clients on an additional sheet accordiling of this statement.	
3. Attorney(s) representing respondents(	s):
Attorney Jacqueline A. Gilbert	Telephone (702) 485-3300
Firm Kim Gilbert Ebron	
Address 7625 Dean Martin Drive, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89139	
Client(s) Respondent SFR Investments Pool	1, LLC ("SFR")
Attorney	Telephone
Firm	
Address	
Client(s)	

☐ Judgment after bench trial	☐ Dismissal:
☐ Judgment after jury verdict	☐ Lack of jurisdiction
⊠ Summary judgment	☐ Failure to state a claim
☐ Default judgment	☐ Failure to prosecute
$\square$ Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief	☐ Other (specify):
$\square$ Grant/Denial of injunction	☐ Divorce Decree:
$\square$ Grant/Denial of declaratory relief	$\square$ Original $\square$ Modification
☐ Review of agency determination	☐ Other disposition (specify):
5. Does this appeal raise issues con-	cerning any of the following?
☐ Child Custody	
□ Venue	
·	
<ul><li>□ Venue</li><li>□ Termination of parental rights</li><li>6. Pending and prior proceedings in</li></ul>	<b>n this court.</b> List the case name and docket number esently or previously pending before this court which
<ul> <li>□ Venue</li> <li>□ Termination of parental rights</li> <li>6. Pending and prior proceedings in of all appeals or original proceedings pr</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>□ Venue</li> <li>□ Termination of parental rights</li> <li>6. Pending and prior proceedings in of all appeals or original proceedings pr</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>□ Venue</li> <li>□ Termination of parental rights</li> <li>6. Pending and prior proceedings in of all appeals or original proceedings pr</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>□ Venue</li> <li>□ Termination of parental rights</li> <li>6. Pending and prior proceedings in of all appeals or original proceedings pr</li> </ul>	

**7. Pending and prior proceedings in other courts.** List the case name, number and court of all pending and prior proceedings in other courts which are related to this appeal (*e.g.*, bankruptcy, consolidated or bifurcated proceedings) and their dates of disposition:

**8. Nature of the action.** Briefly describe the nature of the action and the result below: This is a quiet title action arising from a foreclosure sale under NRS Chapter 116. The subject property is located at 1076 Slate Crossing #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002 (the "Property"). SFR was the highest bidder at the foreclosure sale. Chase is the beneficiary of a deed of trust recorded against the Property. The deed of trust and underlying loan are insured by the Federal Housing Administration ("FHA"). Delaine L. Harned was the owner of the Property at the time of the sale. Plaintiff SFR brought a claim for "declaratory relief/ quiet title" against Chase and 4 other defendants. It also brought a claim for "preliminary and permanent injunction" against Chase and 3 other defendants. SFR contends the sale extinguished Chase's deed of trust; Chase contends the deed of trust survived for various reasons. Chase also brought a counterclaim for unjust enrichment against SFR. Chase filed a motion with the district court to exclude the testimony of an appraiser retained by SFR. The court denied the motion. SFR later moved for summary judgment against Chase on all claims in SFR's complaint and Chase's counterclaim. The district court granted SFR's motion. **9. Issues on appeal.** State concisely the principal issue(s) in this appeal (attach separate sheets as necessary):

10. Pending proceedings in this court raising the same or similar issues. If you are

similar issues raised in this appeal, list the case name and docket numbers and identify the

aware of any proceedings presently pending before this court which raises the same or

See Exhibit 1.

same or similar issue raised:

See Exhibit 2.

the state, any state	al issues. If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and e agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, he clerk of this court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44
□ N/A	
$\boxtimes$ Yes	
□ No	
If not, explain:	
12. Other issues.	Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?
☐ Reversal of we	ell-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))
⊠ An issue arisii	ng under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions
$\boxtimes$ A substantial	issue of first impression
☐ An issue of pu	blic policy
An issue wher court's decision	re en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this ns
☐ A ballot quest	ion
	Issues 1(a) and 1(b) identified in Chase's response to Question 9 raise questions under the United States and Nevada Constitutions. Issues 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c) are substantial issues of first impression. Issues 1(c) and 1 (d) require en banc consideration to maintain uniformity of the Court's decisions.

13. Assignment to the Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court. Briefly
set forth whether the matter is presumptively retained by the Supreme Court or assigned to
the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, and cite the subparagraph(s) of the Rule under which
the matter falls. If appellant believes that the Supreme Court should retain the case despite
its presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals, identify the specific issue(s) or circum-
stance(s) that warrant retaining the case, and include an explanation of their importance or
significance:

This case is presumptively retained by the Nevada Supreme Court because it raises as principal issues questions of first impression involving the United States and Nevada Constitutions. NRAP 17(a)(13). It also raises as principal issues questions of statewide public importance. NRAP 17(a)(14).

14. Trial.	If this action proceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last?	
Wagit	a hench or jury trial?	

**15. Judicial Disqualification.** Do you intend to file a motion to disqualify or have a justice recuse him/herself from participation in this appeal? If so, which Justice?

### TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

16. Date of entry of	written judgment or order appealed from Oct 26, 2016
If no written judg seeking appellate	ment or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for review:
17. Date written no	tice of entry of judgment or order was served Oct 27, 2016
Was service by:	
☐ Delivery	
⊠ Mail/electronic	c/fax
18. If the time for find (NRCP 50(b), 52(b),	iling the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion or 59)
(a) Specify the the date of the	type of motion, the date and method of service of the motion, and filing.
☐ NRCP 50(b)	Date of filing
☐ NRCP 52(b)	Date of filing
$\square$ NRCP 59	Date of filing
	pursuant to NRCP 60 or motions for rehearing or reconsideration may toll the a notice of appeal. See AA Primo Builders v. Washington, 126 Nev, 245 0).
(b) Date of entr	ry of written order resolving tolling motion
(c) Date writte	n notice of entry of order resolving tolling motion was served
Was service	by:
$\square$ Delivery	
□ Mail	

19. Date notice of appea	l filed Nov 22, 2016
<del>-</del>	y has appealed from the judgment or order, list the date each filed and identify by name the party filing the notice of appeal:
20. Specify statute or ru e.g., NRAP 4(a) or other	le governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal,
NRAP 4(a)(1)	
	SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY
21. Specify the statute o the judgment or order a (a)	r other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review ppealed from:
⊠ NRAP 3A(b)(1)	□ NRS 38.205
☐ NRAP 3A(b)(2)	□ NRS 233B.150
☐ NRAP 3A(b)(3)	$\square$ NRS 703.376
☐ Other (specify)	
The district court's October	ority provides a basis for appeal from the judgment or order: r 26, 2016 order enters summary judgment as to all claims All other parties to the case have been voluntarily dismissed

except for Venta Realty Group ("Venta"). In an order filed December 19, 2016, the district court certified the October 26, 2016 summary judgment order as a final judgment pursuant to N.R.C.P. 54(b).

### 22. List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court:

(a) Parties:

Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC ("SFR"); Defendant/Counter-Claimant JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association ("Chase"); Defendant Venta Realty Group ("Venta"); Defendant California Reconveyance Company ("CRC"); Defendant National Default Servicing Corporation ("NDSC"); Defendant Paradise Court Homeowners Association ("Paradise Court"); Defendant Republic Silver State Disposal, Inc. ("Republic"); Defendant Delaine L. Harned

(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, *e.g.*, formally dismissed, not served, or other:

Defendants CRC, NDSC, Paradise Court, Republic, and Harned have been dismissed from the case. The district court has not yet entered a final judgment as to defendant Venta. However, the court has certified its summary judgment order in favor of SFR and against Chase as final pursuant to N.R.C.P. 54(b).

23. Give a brief description (3 to 5 words) of each party's separate claims, counterclaims, cross-claims, or third-party claims and the date of formal disposition of each claim.

SFR's complaint filed December 4, 2012 includes a claim for "declaratory relief/quiet title" against Harned, Venta, Chase, Republic, and Paradise Court. It also includes a claim for "preliminary and permanent injunction" against Venta, Chase, CRC, and NDSC. SFR dismissed Paradise Court on February 5, 2013; CRC on July 15, 2013; Republic on July 18, 2013; and NDSC and Harned on February 6, 2014. Chase filed a counterclaim for unjust enrichment against SFR on October 19, 2015. The court's October 26, 2016 order resolves all claims between SFR and Chase.

24. Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below?

	Yes
$\boxtimes$	No

25. If you answered "No" to question 24, complete the following:

(a) Specify the claims remaining pending below: SFR's claim for "declaratory relief/quiet title" and "preliminary and permanent injunction" against defendant Venta Realty Group.

(b) Specify the parties remaining below: Defendant Venta Realty Group.
(c) Did the district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final judgmen pursuant to NRCP 54(b)?
⊠ Yes
$\square$ No
(d) Did the district court make an express determination, pursuant to NRCP 54(b), that there is no just reason for delay and an express direction for the entry of judgment?
$oxtimes \operatorname{Yes}$
$\square$ No
26. If you answered "No" to any part of question 25, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)):

### 27. Attach file-stamped copies of the following documents:

- The latest-filed complaint, counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party claims
- Any tolling motion(s) and order(s) resolving tolling motion(s)
- Orders of NRCP 41(a) dismissals formally resolving each claim, counterclaims, crossclaims and/or third-party claims asserted in the action or consolidated action below, even if not at issue on appeal
- Any other order challenged on appeal
- Notices of entry for each attached order

### **VERIFICATION**

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read this docketing statement, that the information provided in this docketing statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I have attached all required documents to this docketing statement.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, Nat'l A Name of appellant	Matthew D. Lamb Name of counsel of record
December 28, 2016 Date	/s/ Matthew D. Lamb Signature of counsel of record
Washington, D.C. State and county where signed	
$\mathbf{C}$	ERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
address(es): (NOTE: If a	upon all counsel of record:
Diana Cline Ebron Jacqueline A. Gilbert Karen L. Hanks 7625 Dean Martin Drive, S Las Vegas, NV 89139 Counsel for Respondent	Suite 110
Dated this 28th	day of <u>December</u> , <u>2016</u>
	/s/ Sarah Walton Signature

### **EXHIBIT 1**

### EXHIBIT 1

### Response to Question 9 – Issues on Appeal

- 1. Did the district court err by holding, at the summary judgment stage, that the HOA foreclosure sale extinguished the deed of trust serviced by Chase and insured by the Federal Housing Administration ("FHA")?
  - a. Do the provisions of NRS Chapter 116 governing notice to purported junior lienholders satisfy the requirements of due process?
  - b. Under the Supremacy and Property Clauses of the United States Constitution, can a foreclosure sale under NRS Chapter 116 extinguish a deed of trust insured by the FHA?
  - c. Does the holding of <u>SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC v. U.S. Bank, N.A.</u>, 130 Nev. Adv. Rep. 75, 334 P.3d 408 (2014), apply retroactively to foreclosure sales conducted before September 18, 2014?
  - d. Is there a genuine issue of fact as to the validity of the sale under Shadow Wood Homeowners Ass'n v. N.Y. Cmty. Bancorp. Inc., 132 Nev. Adv. Rep. 5, 366 P.3d 1105 (2016)?
  - e. Is there a genuine issue of fact as to whether the granting clause of the foreclosure deed conveys title to SFR, or whether the deed simply conveys the HOA's lien interest to SFR?
  - f. Did the district court abuse its discretion by deciding SFR's motion for summary judgment before hearing Chase's crossmotion for summary judgment and Chase's objection to the discovery commissioner's report and recommendation?
- 2. If, *arguendo*, the HOA foreclosure sale extinguished the deed of trust, did the district court err by entering summary judgment for SFR on Chase's counterclaim for unjust enrichment?
- 3. Did the district court abuse its discretion by denying Chase's motion to exclude the testimony of SFR's appraiser?

### EXHIBIT 2

### Response to Question 10 - Pending Cases Raising the Same or Similar Issues

- <u>Saticoy Bay LLC Series 350 Durango 104 v. Wells Fargo Home Mortg.</u>, No. 68630 Issue 1(a) from Chase's Response to Question 9
- <u>G&P Inv. Enters., LLC v. Mortg. Elec. Reg. Systems, Inc.</u>, No. 68842 Issue 1(a)
- <u>Chase Home Fin. LLC v. 10224 Black Friar Ct Trust</u>, No. 69040 Issue 1(a)
- Navy Fed. Credit Union v. Saticoy Bay LLC Series 1916 Summer Point, No. 69308 Issue 1(a)
- <u>K & P Homes v. Christiana Trust</u>, No. 69966 Issue 1(c)
- <u>BDJ Investments, LLC v. U.S. Bank NA</u>, No. 70229 Issue 1(a)
- <u>Citimortgage, Inc. v. SFR Invs. Pool 1, LLC, No. 70237 Issues 1(a) and 1(d)</u>
- <u>JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. v. SFR Invs. Pool 1, LLC</u>, No. 70423 Issues 1(a), 1(c), 1(d), 1(e), and 2
- Nevada New Builds LLC v. Wells Fargo Bank, No. 70523 Issues 1(a) & 1(c)
- <u>JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. v. Holm International Properties, LLC</u>, No. 70608 Issues 1(a), 1(c), and 1(d)
- The Bank of New York Mellon v. NV Eagles, LLC, No. 70707 Issues 1(a), 1(c), and 1(d)
- <u>Deutsche Bank Nat'l Trust Co. v. Whittington Holdings 1, LLC</u>, No. 70889 Issues 1(a), 1(c), and 1(d)
- <u>U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n v. Hillsboro Heights HOA</u>, No. 71188 Issues 1(a), 1(c), and 1(d)
- <u>JPMorgan Mortg. v. Bourne Valley Court Trust</u>, No. 71198 Issues 1(a), 1(c), and 1(d)
- <u>Wilmington Trust v. SFR Invs. Pool 1, LLC</u>, No. 71236 Issues 1(a), 1(c), 1(d), and 1(e)
- <u>JPMorgan Chase Bank, Nat'l Ass'n v. SFR Invs. Pool 1, LLC, No. 71337 Issues 1(a), 1(c), 1(d), 1(e), and 2</u>
- <u>Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. v. Radecki</u>, No. 71405 Issues 1(a), 1(c), 1(d), and 1(e)

- Wilmington Trust, N.A. v. Anthony S. Noonan IRA LLC, No. 71634 Issues 1(a), 1(c), 1(d), and 1(e)
- <u>Wilmington Trust, N.A. v. Holm International Properties, LLC</u>, No. 71737 Issues 1(a), 1(c), 1(d), and 1(e)
- <u>JPMorgan Chase Bank, Nat'l Ass'n v. SFR Invs. Pool 1, LLC</u>, No. 71822 Issues 1(a), 1(c), 1(d), 1(e), and 2

### EXHIBIT 3

### CIVIL COVER SHEET

A-12-672963-C

County, Nevada

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_(Assigned by Clerk's Office)

XXVII

	(21351ghear)	by Cierk's Office)	
I. Party Information			
Plaintiff(s) (name/address/phone): SFR INVESTMENTS POOL1, LLC		Defendant(s) (name/address/phone):  VENTA REALTY GROUP, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC,	
Attorney (name/address/phone): Howard C. Kim, Esq. and Diana S. Cline, Esq., Howard Kim and Associates, 400 North Stephanie St., Suite 160, Henderson, Nevada 89014; (702) 485-3300		NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, and DELANIE L. HARNED Attorney (name/address/phone):	
II. Nature of Controversy (Please chapplicable subcategory, if appropriate)	eck applicable bold o	category and	☐ Arbitration Requested
	Civi	l Cases	
Real Property		To	orts
☐ Landlord/Tenant ☐ Unlawful Detainer ☐ Title to Property ☐ Foreclosure	Negligence – Au  Negligence – Me  Negligence – Me	dical/Dental	☐ Product Liability ☐ Product Liability/Motor Vehicle ☐ Other Torts/Product Liability ☐ Intentional Misconduct
☐ Liens ☐ Quiet Title ☐ Specific Performance ☐ Condemnation/Eminent Domain ☐ Other Real Property ☐ Partition ☐ Planning/Zoning	(Slip/Fall)  Negligence – Other		☐ Torts/Defamation (Libel/Slander) ☐ Interfere with Contract Rights ☐ Employment Torts (Wrongful termination) ☐ Other Torts ☐ Anti-trust ☐ Fraud/Misrepresentation ☐ Insurance ☐ Legal Tort
Probate		Other Civil	Unfair Competition Filing Types
Estimated Estate Value:  Summary Administration General Administration Special Administration Set Aside Estates Trust/Conservatorships Individual Trustee Corporate Trustee Other Probate	Insurance ( Commercial Commercial Other Content Collection Employme Guarantee Sale Contral Uniform C Civil Petition for Civil Petition for Other Admit Department	act Construction Carrier al Instrument cracts/Acct/Judgment of Actions nt Contract  act commercial Code C Judicial Review	Appeal from Lower Court (also check applicable civil case box)  Transfer from Justice Court Justice Court Civil Appeal  Civil Writ Other Special Proceeding  Other Civil Filing Compromise of Minor's Claim Conversion of Property Damage to Property Employment Security Enforcement of Judgment Foreign Judgment – Civil Other Personal Property Recovery of Property Stockholder Suit Other Civil Matters
III. Business Court Requested (Please check applicable category; for Clark or Washoe Counties only.)			
☐ NRS Chapters 78-88 ☐ Commodities (NRS 90) ☐ Securities (NRS 90)	☐ Investments (NR	S 104 Art. 8) Practices (NRS 598)	☐ Enhanced Case Mgmt/Business ☐ Other Business Court Matters
12/4/12		/s/ Diana S. Cline	
Date	-		initiating party or representative

HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014 (702) 485-3300 FAX (702) 485-3301

**COMP** HOWARD C. KIM, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10386 E-mail: howard@hkimlaw.com DIANA S. CLINE, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10580 E-mail: diana@hkimlaw.com HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES 400 N. Stephanie St, Suite 160 Henderson, Nevada 89014 Telephone: (702) 485-3300 Facsimile: (702) 485-3301 Attorneys for Plaintiff

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**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

### **DISTRICT COURT**

### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

SFR INVESTMENTS POOL1, LLC a Nevada limited liability company,

### Plaintiff,

VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada corporation, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY a California corporation, REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a Nevada corporation, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE L. HARNED, an individual, DOES I through X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. A-12-672963-C

Dept. No. XXVI I

### **COMPLAINT FOR QUIET TITLE AND** INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

### **Arbitration Exemptions:**

- 1. Action for Declaratory Relief
- 2. Action Concerning Real Property

Plaintiff SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC ("SFR"), by and through its attorneys of records, the law firm HOWARD KIM AND ASSOCIATES, hereby demands quiet title and request injunctive relief against the above named defendants as follows:

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### HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014

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### I. **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff is a Nevada limited liability company with its principal place of business in Clark County, Nevada and the current title owner of the property commonly known as 1076 Slate Crossing Lane #102, Henderson, Nevada 89002, Parcel No. 179-34-713-236, and legally described as Paradise Court, Plat Book 116, Page 33, Unit 2, Bldg 79 Clark County (the "Property").
- 2. Upon information and belief, Defendant VENTA REALTY GROUP ("Venta") is or was a Nevada corporation doing business as Venta Home Loans that recorded a deed of trust against the Property.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. "(JP Morgan Chase"), a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, that may claim an interest in the Property through the deed of trust recorded by Defendant Venta.
- 4. Upon information and belief, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY ("California Reconveyance") is a California corporation that was substituted as trustee of the deed of trust recorded by Defendant Venta and recorded non-judicial foreclosure notices on the Property.
- 5. Upon information and belief, Defendant NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION ("NDSC") is an Arizona corporation that was substituted as trustee of the deed of trust recorded by Defendant Venta and recorded a non-judicial foreclosure notice on the Property.
- 6. Upon information and belief, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ("Paradise Court HOA") is a Nevada non-profit corporation that filed a lien on the Property pursuant to NRS 116.3116 et. seq. and the Paradise Court HOA governing documents ("CC&R's").
- 7. Upon information and belief, REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC. ("Republic") is a Nevada corporation that filed several liens on the Property for waste collection services provided as contactor for the City of Henderson.

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- 8. Upon information and belief, Defendant DELAINE L. HARNED ("Harned") is an individual residing in Nevada and the former title owner of the Property.
- 9. Upon information and belief, each of the defendants sued herein as DOES I through X, inclusive claim an interest in the Property or are responsible in some manner for the events and action that plaintiff seeks to enjoin; that when the true names capacities of such defendants become known, plaintiff will ask leave of this Court to amend this complaint to insert the true names, identities and capacities together with proper charges and allegations.
- 10. Upon information and belief, each of the defendants sued herein as ROES CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive claim an interest in the Property or are responsible in some manner for the events an happenings herein that plaintiff seeks to enjoin; that when the true names capacities of such defendants become known, plaintiff will ask leave of this Court to amend this complaint to insert the true names, identities and capacities together with proper charges and allegations.

### II. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

### Plaintiff Acquired Title to the Property through Foreclosure of Super-Priority HOA Lien

- 11. Plaintiff acquired the Property on September 21, 2012 by successfully bidding on the Property at a publicly-held foreclosure auction in accordance with NRS 116.3116, et. seq. ("HOA foreclosure sale"). Since the HOA foreclosure sale, Plaintiff has expended additional funds and resources to improve and/or maintain the Property.
- 12. The resulting foreclosure deed was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument Number 201209250001230 ("Foreclosure Deed").
- 13. The foreclosure sale was conducted by Nevada Association Services ("NAS"), agent for Paradise Court HOA, pursuant to the powers conferred by the Nevada Revised Statutes 116.3116, 116.31162, 116.31163 and 116.31164, the Paradise Court HOA governing documents (CC&R's) and a Notice of Delinquent Assessment Lien, recorded on February 5, 2010 in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument Number 0001923 Book 20100205 ("HOA Lien").
  - 14. As recited in the Foreclosure Deed, the HOA foreclosure sale complied with all

HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014

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requirements of law, including but not limited to, the elapsing of 90 days, recording and mailing of copies of Notice of Delinquent Assessment and Notice of Default, and the recording, posting and publication of the Notice of Sale.

15. Pursuant to NRS 116.3116(2), the entire HOA Lien

is prior to all other liens and encumbrances of unit except:

- (a) Liens and encumbrances recorded before the recordation of the declaration and, in a cooperative, liens and encumbrances which the association creates, assumes or takes subject to;
- (b) A first security interest on the unit recorded before the date on which the assessment sought to be enforced became delinquent or, in a cooperative, the first security interest encumbering only the unit's owner's interest and perfected before the date on which the assessment sought to be enforced became delinquent; and
- (c) Liens for real estate taxes and other governmental assessments or charges against the unit or cooperative.
- 16. NRS 116.3116(2) further provides that a portion of the HOA Lien has priority over even a first security interest in the Property:

[the HOA Lien] is also prior to all security interests described in paragraph (b) to the extent of any charges incurred by the association on a unit pursuant to NRS 116.310312 and to the extent of the assessments for common expenses based on the periodic budget adopted by the association pursuant to NRS 116.3115 which would have become due in the absence of acceleration during the 9 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the lien[.]

- 17. Upon information and belief, no party still claiming an interest in the Property recorded a lien or encumbrance prior to the declaration creating Paradise Court HOA.
- 18. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff's bid on the Property was in excess of the amount necessary to satisfy the costs of sale and the super-priority portion of the HOA Lien.
- 19. Upon information and belief, Paradise Court HOA or its agent NAS distributed or should have distributed the excess funds to lien holders in order of priority pursuant to NRS 116.3114(c).
- 20. Upon information and belief, the excess funds paid at the HOA foreclosure sale through its winning bid were used or should have been used to satisfy any liens for real estate taxes and other governmental assessments or charges against the Property.
- 21. Upon information and belief, prior to the HOA foreclosure sale, no individual or entity paid the full amount of delinquent assessments described in the HOA Lien and the Notice of

### HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014

Default.

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22. Upon information and belief, prior to the HOA foreclosure sale, no individual or entity paid the super-priority portion of the HOA Lien representing 9 months of assessments for common expenses based on the periodic budget adopted by the association which would have become due in the absence of acceleration for the relevant time period.

23. Pursuant to NRS 116.31166, the foreclosure sale vested title in Plaintiff "without equity or right of redemption," and the Foreclosure Deed is conclusive against the Property's "former owner, his or her heirs and assigns, and all other persons."

### Interests, Liens and Encumbrances Extinguished by the Super-Priority HOA Lien

- 24. Upon information and belief, Defendant Harned obtained title to the Property in May of 2008 through a Grant Bargain Sale Deed from US Bank National Association.
- 25. On or about May 14, 2008, Defendant Venta recorded a deed of trust against the Property in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument No. 200805140005041 ("Venta Deed of Trust").
- 26. On or about November 29, 2010, Colleen Irby, as Assistant Secretary for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. executed an assignment of the Venta Deed of Trust to Chase Home Finance, LLC, which was later recorded on December 6, 2010 in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument No. 201012060000315.
- 27. Also on or about November 29, 2010, Colleen Irby, as Vice President for Chase Home Finance LLC executed a document substituting Defendant California Reconveyance as trustee of the Venta Deed of Trust.
- 28. The substitution of trustee was later recorded on December 6, 2010 in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument No. 201012060000316.
- 29. Defendant California Reconveyance recorded several non-judicial foreclosure notices on the Property in 2010 and 2011.
- 30. On or about September 26, 2012, JP Morgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC executed a document substituting Defendant NDSC as trustee of the Venta Deed of Trust.

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31. On or about October 11, 2012, the substitution of trustee was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument No. 201210110001602.

- 32. On or about October 11, 2012, Defendant NDSC recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument Number 201210110001603 a Notice of Trustee's Sale stating that the Property will be sold at a public auction pursuant to the terms of the Venta Deed of Trust on December 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.
- 33. On four separate occasions beginning on July 13, 2011, Defendant Republic recorded liens against the Property for waste collection services it provided as a contractor for the City of Henderson. The liens were recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as 201107130002403, Instrument Numbers 201107140000902, 201112230005003, and 201210010005040 ("Waste Collection Liens").
- 34. Defendant Harned's ownership interest in the Property was extinguished by foreclosure of the HOA Lien.
- 35. Defendant Venta and Defendant JP Morgan Chase's interest in the Property, if any, via the Venta Deed of Trust was extinguished by the foreclosure of the super-priority portion of the HOA Lien.
- 36. Upon information and belief, Defendant Republic's interest in the Property via the Waste Collection Liens was or should have been satisfied by distribution of the proceeds Plaintiff paid at the HOA foreclosure sale or through payment by an interested party.
- 37. Defendant Paradise Court HOA's interest in the Property via the HOA Lien was extinguished by the foreclosure of the HOA Lien.

### III. FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

### (Declaratory Relief/Quiet Title Pursuant to NRS 30.010, et. seq. and 116.3116, et. seq. against Defendants Harned, Venta, JP Morgan Chase, Republic, and **Paradise Court HOA)**

- 38. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations of paragraphs 1-37 as though fully set forth herein and incorporate the same by reference.
- 39. Pursuant to NRS 30.010, et. seq., this Court has the power and authority to declare the Plaintiff's rights and interests in the Property and to resolve the Defendants' adverse claims in

HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014

the Property.

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- 40. Plaintiff acquired the Property on September 21, 2012 by successfully bidding on the Property at a publicly-held foreclosure auction in accordance with NRS 116.3116, et. seq. and the resulting Foreclosure Deed vesting title in Plaintiff was recorded on September 25, 2012.
- 41. Defendant Harned, as previous title owner of the Property may assert a claim adverse to Plaintiff.
  - 42. Defendant Venta recorded the Venta Deed of Trust on the Property in 2008.
- 43. Upon information and belief, Defendant JP Morgan Chase may be claiming an interest in the Property through the Venta Deed of Trust.
- 44. Upon information and belief, Defendant Republic may still be claiming an interest in the Property via the Waste Collection Liens.
- 45. Upon information and belief, Defendant Paradise Court HOA may still be claiming an interest in the Property via a portion of the HOA Lien.
- 46. A foreclosure sale conducted pursuant to NRS 116.31162, 116.31163 and 116.31164, like all foreclosure sales, extinguishes the title owner's interest in the Property and all junior liens and encumbrances, including deeds of trust.
- 47. Pursuant to NRS 116.3116(2), the super-priority portion of the HOA Lien has priority over the Venta Deed of Trust.
- 48. Upon information and belief, the Waste Collection Liens and HOA Lien have been or should have been extinguished or otherwise satisfied.
- 49. Defendants were duly notified of the HOA foreclosure sale and failed to act to protect their interests in the Property, if any legitimately existed.
- 50. Plaintiff is entitled to a declaratory judgment from this Court finding that: (1) Plaintiff is the title owner of the Property; (2) the Foreclosure Deed is valid and enforceable; (3) the HOA foreclosure sale extinguished Defendants' security interests in the Property; and (4) Plaintiff's rights and interest in the Property are superior to any adverse interest claimed by Defendants.
- 51. Plaintiff seeks an order from the Court quieting title to the Property in favor of Plaintiff. ///

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### IV. SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

### (Preliminary and Permanent Injunction against Defendants Venta, JP Morgan Chase, California Reconveyance and NDSC)

- 52. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations of paragraphs 1-51 as though fully set forth herein and incorporate the same by reference.
- 53. Plaintiff properly acquired title to the Property at the HOA foreclosure sale on September 21, 2012.
- 54. Defendants Venta and/or JP Morgan Chase may claim an interest in the Property through the Venta Deed of Trust which was extinguished by the HOA foreclosure sale.
- 55. Further, it is unclear from the public records whether JP Morgan Chase, California Reconveyance or NDSC have authority to enforce the Venta Deed of Trust or the underlying promissory note through a trustee's sale.
- 56. Defendants NDSC, California Reconveyance, Venta, and/or JP Morgan Chase may improperly proceed with the non-judicial foreclosure of the Venta Deed of Trust and sell the Property at a trustee's sale.
- 57. Upon information and belief, Defendants did not comply with the statutory notice requirements for non-judicial foreclosure contained in NRS 107.080.
- 58. Any trustee's sale based on the Venta Deed of Trust would be invalid as Defendants lost their interest in the Property, if any.
- 59. On the basis of the facts described herein, Plaintiff has a reasonable probability of success on the merits of its claims and has no other adequate remedies at law.
- 60. Plaintiff is entitled to a preliminary injunction and permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants from initiating or continuing any foreclosure proceedings that would affect the title to the Property.

### V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff requests judgment against Defendants as follows:

For a declaration and determination that SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC is 1. the rightful owner of title to the Property, and that Defendants be declared to have no right, title or interest in the Property

2.	For a preliminary and permanent injunction that Defendants are prohibited
from initiating	g or continuing foreclosure proceedings on the Property;

- 3. For an award of attorney's fees and costs of suit; and
- 4. For any further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED December 4th, 2012.

### **HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES**

/s/ Diana S. Cline Howard C. Kim, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10386 Diana S. Cline, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10580 400 N. Stephanie St., Suite 160 Henderson, Nevada 89014 Phone: (702) 485-3300

Fax: (702) 485-330

Attorneys for Plaintiff

### EXHIBIT 4

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**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

**AANS** 1 Abran E. Vigil Nevada Bar No. 7548 Lindsay Demaree Nevada Bar No. 11949 Holly Ann Priest Nevada Bar No. 13226 BALLARD SPAHR LLP 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1750 Las Vegas, Nevada 89106-4617 Telephone: (702) 471-7000 Facsimile: (702) 471-7070 E-Mail: vigila@ballardspahr.com E-Mail: demareel@ballardspahr.com E-Mail: priesth@ballardspahr.com Attorneys for Defendant and Counterclaimant JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as successor by 10 merger to Chase Home Finance LLC DISTRICT COURT 11 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 12 13 CASE NO. A-12-672963-C SFR INVESTMENTS POOL1, LLC a DEPT NO. 27 Nevada Limited liability company, Plaintiff, VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada Corporation, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited 18 liability corporation, NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY a 20 California corporation, REBULIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a 21Nevada corporation, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE L. 23 HARNED, an individual, DOES I through X; and ROE CORPORATIONS 24 I through X, inclusive, 25 Defendants. 26 27

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100 NORTH CITY PARKWAY, SUITE 1750

BALLARD SPAHR LLP

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., as successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC,

Counter-Claimant,

vs.

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SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC a Nevada Limited liability company

Counter-Defendant.

### AMENDED ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIM

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., successor by merger with Chase Home Finance LLC ("Chase") hereby submits its amended Answer and Counterclaim to Plaintiff SFR Investment Pool 1, LLC's ("SFR") as follows:

### I. PARTIES

- 1. Chase denies that SFR is the current title owner of the property commonly known as 1076 Slate Crossing Lane #102, Henderson, Nevada 89002; Parcel No. 179-34-713-236. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 1 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- 2. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 2 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
  - 3. Chase admits the allegations of Paragraph 3 of the Complaint.
- 4. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 4 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
  - 5. Chase admits the allegations of Paragraph 5 of the Complaint.
- 6. Chase submits that the lien and HOA governing documents recorded on the Property are public records that speak for themselves. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with these records and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 6 of the Complaint and

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therefore denies them.

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- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations 7. in Paragraph 7 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- 8. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 8 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations 9. in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- 10. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.

### II. **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 11 of the Complaint. 11.
- Chase submits that the foreclosure deed recorded on the Property as 12. Instrument No. 201209250001230 is a public record that speaks for itself. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with this record and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 12 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase submits that NRS 116.3116, 116.31162, 116.31163 and 116.31164 13. speak for themselves, and Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 13 to the extent they misstate the statutes' terms or fail to read them in conjunction with other relevant laws, including the U.S. Constitution and the Nevada Constitution. Chase further submits that the CC&R's and Notice of Delinquent Assessment Lien recorded on the property are public records that speak for themselves. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with these records and are without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 13 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
  - Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 14 of the Complaint. 14.
- Chase submits that NRS 116.3116(2) speaks for itself, and Chase denies 15. the allegations of Paragraph 15 to the extent they misstate the statute's terms or fail

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to read them in conjunction with other relevant laws, including the U.S. Constitution and the Nevada Constitution.

- Chase submits that NRS 116.3116(2) speaks for itself, and Chase denies 16. the allegations of Paragraph 16 to the extent they misstate the statute's terms or fail to read them in conjunction with other relevant laws, including the U.S. Constitution and the Nevada Constitution.
- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations 17. in Paragraph 17 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations 18. in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations 19. in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- 20. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations 21. in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- 22. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase submits that NRS 116.31166 speaks for itself, and Chase denies 23. the allegations of Paragraph 23 to the extent they misstate the statute's terms or fail to read them in conjunction with other relevant laws, including the U.S. Constitution and the Nevada Constitution.
  - Chase admits the allegations of Paragraph 24 of the Complaint. 24.
  - Chase admits the allegations of Paragraph 25 of the Complaint. 25.
- Chase submits that the assignment recorded on the Property as 26. Instrument No. 201012060000315 is a public record that speaks for itself. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with this record and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 26 of the

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Complaint and therefore denies them.

- Chase submits that the substitution recorded on the Property is a public 27. record that speaks for itself. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with this record and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 27 of the Complaint and therefore deny them.
- 28. Chase submits that the substitution recorded on the Property as Instrument No. 201012060000316 is a public record that speaks for itself. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with this record and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 28 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- 29. Chase submits that the notices recorded on the Property are public records that speak for themselves. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with these records and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 29 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase submits that the substitution recorded on the Property is a public 30. record that speaks for itself. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with this record and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 30 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase submits that the substitution recorded on the Property as 31. Instrument No. 201210110001602 is a public record that speaks for itself. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with this record and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 31 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase submits that the Notice of Trustee's Sale recorded on the 32. Property as Instrument No. 201210110001603 is a public record that speaks for itself. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with this record and is without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 32 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.

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	33.	Chase submits that the liens recorded on the Property as Instrument
Nos	. 201107	130002409, 201107140000902, 201112230005003 and 201210010005040
are :	public re	ecords that speak for themselves. Chase denies any allegation
inco	nsistent	with these records and is without sufficient information to admit or deny
the	remainii	ng allegations of Paragraph 33 of the Complaint and therefore denies
ther	n	

- 34. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 34 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
  - 35. Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 35 of the Complaint.
- 36. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- 37. Chase without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 37 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.

### III. <u>FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF</u> (Declaratory Relief/Quiet Title Pursuant to NRS 30.010, *et. seq.*, and 116.3116. *et. seq.*, against Defendants Harned, Venta, JPMorgan Chase, Republic and Paradise Court HOA)

- 38. Chase repeats its answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 37.
- 39. Chase submits that NRS 30.010, et. seq. and NRS 40.010 speak for themselves, and Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 39 to the extent they misstate the statutes' terms or fail to read them in conjunction with other relevant laws, including the U.S. Constitution and the Nevada Constitution.
- 40. Chase submits that the foreclosure deed recorded on the Property is a public record that speaks for itself. Chase denies any allegation inconsistent with this record and denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 40 of the Complaint.
- 41. Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 41 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
  - 42. Chase admits the allegations of Paragraph 42 of the Complaint.
  - 43. Chase admits the allegations of Paragraph 43 of the Complaint.

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- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations 44. in Paragraph 44 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations **4**5. in Paragraph 45 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
- Chase submits that NRS 116.31162, 116.31163 and 116.31164 speak for 46. themselves, and Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 46 to the extent they misstate the statutes' terms or fail to read them in conjunction with other relevant laws, including the U.S. Constitution and the Nevada Constitution.
- Chase submits that NRS 116.3116(2) speaks for itself, and Chase denies **47**. the allegations of Paragraph 47 to the extent they misstate the statute's terms or fail to read them in conjunction with other relevant laws, including the U.S. Constitution and the Nevada Constitution.
- Chase is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations 48. in Paragraph 48 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.
  - Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 49 of the Complaint. 49.
  - Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 50 of the Complaint. 50.
- Chase admits that SFR is seeking an order from the Court quieting title 51. in its favor, but Chase denies that SFR is entitled to such an order.

### SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Preliminary and Permanent Injunction Against Defendants Venta, JPMorgan Chase, California Reconveyance and NDSC)

- Chase repeats its answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 51. 52.
- Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 53 of the Complaint.
- **54**. Chase admits it claims an interest in the Property through the Venta Deed of trust, but denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 54 of the Complaint.
  - Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 55 of the Complaint. 55.
  - Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 56 of the Complaint. 56.

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57.	Chase denies	the allegations	of Paragraph 57	of the Complaint
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- 58. Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 58 of the Complaint.
- 59. Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 59 of the Complaint.
- 60. Chase denies the allegations of Paragraph 60 of the Complaint.

Unless expressly admitted in this Answer, Chase denies all other allegations in SFR's Complaint, including, without limitation, any allegations suggested by the Complaint's headings.

# **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES:**

Chase is continuing to investigate SFR's claims and does not waive any affirmative defenses. Chase reserves its right to amend this Answer and add any subsequently discovered affirmative defenses or claims.

# First Affirmative Defense

The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

# Second Affirmative Defense

The acts alleged in the Complaint were the acts of third parties over whom Chase has no control or responsibility.

# Third Affirmative Defense

The alleged homeowner's association foreclosure sale was not reasonable, and the circumstances of the sale of the property violated the Paradise Court Homeowners Association's ("Association") obligation of good faith under NRS 116.1113 and duty to act in a reasonable manner.

# Fourth Affirmative Defense

SFR purchased the property with notice of the interest of the senior deed of trust recorded against the property and is not a bona fide purchaser for value.

# Fifth Affirmative Defense

To the extent Chase has continued to expend funds and resources to maintain and preserve the Property after the alleged Association foreclosure sale, its is entitled to recoup those amounts.

# BALLARD SPAHR LLP 100 NORTH CITY PARKWAY, SUITE 1750 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106

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## Sixth Affirmative Defense

To the extent that SFR's interpretation of NRS § 116.3116 et seq. is accurate, the statute and Chapter 116 as a whole are void for vagueness.

# Seventh Affirmative Defense

SFR's claims are barred by the Due Process clause of the Nevada Constitution and United States Constitution and the Takings Clause of the United State Constitution.

# Eighth Affirmative Defense

The claimed lien, including the super-priority portion of it and the sub-priority portion of it, was satisfied prior to the Association foreclosure sale under the doctrines of tender, estoppel, laches, or waiver.

### Ninth Affirmative Defense

The Association foreclosure sale is void or otherwise insufficient to extinguish the deed of trust based on the failure to provide proper notice of the "super-priority" assessment amounts in accordance with the requirements of NRS Chapter 116, federal law, and constitutional law.

### **Tenth Affirmative Defense**

To the extent that this defense may become applicable after further investigation and discovery, Chase asserts the Association foreclosure sale is void or otherwise insufficient to extinguish the deed of trust based on the failure to provide proper notice of the sale in accordance with the requirements of NRS Chapter 116.

## **Eleventh Affirmative Defense**

The Association foreclosure sale is a voidable fraudulent transfer under the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act (NRS 112.140 et seq.).

# Twelfth Affirmative Defense

The Association foreclosure sale is void because the price paid at the sale was grossly inadequate and because the manner in which the sale was conducted.

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# Thirteenth Affirmative Defense

Chase asserts that the Supremacy Clause and Property Clause of the Constitution of the United States bar the relief requested due to the Federal Housing Authorities' interest in the loan and preempt any state law to the contrary.

### Fourteenth Affirmative Defense

SFR's claim of free and clear title to the Property is barred by 12 U.S.C. § 1721 (g)(3)(E)(iv), which precludes an Association foreclosure sale from extinguishing a deed of trust guaranteed by Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae") and preempts any state law to the contrary.

# **COUNTERCLAIM**

# **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 1. On or about May 7, 2008, Delaine Harned obtained a loan from Venta Realty Group, dba Venta Home Loans in the amount of \$159,497, which was secured by a Deed of Trust (the "First Deed of Trust") recorded against real property commonly known as 1076 Slate Crossing Lane, #2, Henderson, NV 89002 (APN 179-34-713-236)(the "Property) on May 14, 2008, as Instrument No. 20080514005041, in the Office of the Clark County Recorder.
- On December 6, 2010, an Assignment of the Deed of Trust was recorded 2. on the Property as Instrument No. 201012060000315, in the Office of Clark County Recorder, assigning the First Deed of Trust to Chase.
- On September 25, 2012, a Foreclosure Deed was recorded against the 3. Property as Instrument No. 201209250001230, in the Office of the Clark County Recorder. The Foreclosure Deed purports to transfer title to the Property to SFR.
- After September 25, 2012 Chase expended funds and resources to 4. maintain and preserve the Property, including but not limited to funds for taxes and insurance.
- Chase intended to benefit itself, not SFR, by expending funds and 5. resources to maintain and preserve the Property.

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6. At the time Chase expended funds and resources to maintain and preserve the Property, Chase reasonably believed that its actions would benefit it, not SFR.

# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Unjust Enrichment)

- 7. Chase repeats its allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 6.
- 8. SFR has been unjustly enriched, in that Chase continued to expend funds and resources to maintain and preserve the Property to the benefit of SFR and to the detriment of Chase, and contrary to fundamental principles of fairness, justice, and fair dealing.
- 9. SFR appreciated the benefit conferred upon it and the continued acceptance and retention of this benefit by Plaintiff is inequitable, without payment to Chase.
- 10. Chase is entitled to recoup the reasonable amount of benefits obtained by plaintiff based on the theory of unjust enrichment.
- 11. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Chase has suffered damages in an amount to be ascertained at trial as a result of SFR's unjust enrichment.
- 12. Chase has been required to retain the services of attorneys to prosecute this action, and has been damaged thereby, and is therefore entitled to recover from Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

BALLARD SPAHR LLP 100 NORTH CITY PARKWAY, SUITE 1750
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# REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Chase requests the following relief:

- 1. That the Court make a judicial determination Chase's interest in the Property was not extinguished by the Association foreclosure sale;
- 2. That the Court make a judicial determination that Chase's interest is superior to the interest of SFR;
- 3. That the Court make a judicial determination that SFR took title subject to Chase's ownership interest and/or Deed of Trust;
- 4. If it is determined that Chase's Deed of Trust has been extinguished by the Association foreclosure sale, for special damages in the amount of the fair market value of the Property or the unpaid balance of the Loan and Deed of Trust, at the time of the Association foreclosure sale, whichever is greater;
- 5. That SFR recover nothing on account of its claims made in the Complaint;
  - 6. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs; and
- 7. For any other relief that the Court deems just and proper in the case.

  DATED this 19 day of 00000, 2015.

BALLARD SPAHR LLP

By: Abran E. Vigil

Nevada Bar No. 7548

Lindsay Demaree

Nevada Bar No. 11949

Holly Ann Priest

Nevada Bar No. 13226

BALLARD SPAHR LLP

100 North City Parkway, Suite 1750

Las Vegas, Nevada 89106-4617

Attorneys for Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC

# **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** 1 I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 19 day of October 2015, and $\mathbf{2}$ pursuant to N.R.C.P. 5(b), a true and correct copy of the foregoing Amended Answer to Counterclaim, was served to the parties following in the manner set forth below: 5 Howard Kim & Associates Howard C. Kim, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10386 Diana S. Cline, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10580 Jacqueline A. Gilbert, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10593 1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Suite 110 Henderson, Nevada 89014 10 Attorneys for SFR Investments Pool, LLC 11 100 NORTH CITY PARKWAY, SUITE 1750 12 [] HAND DELIVERY LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106 BALLARD SPAHR LLP [] E-MAIL TRANSMISSION [] U.S. MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID [] Certified Mail, Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_, Return receipt requested 17 Via the Wiznet E-Service-generated "Service Notification of Filing" upon all [XX] counsel set up to receive notice via electronic service in this matter 18 19 An employee of BALLARD SPAHR LLP 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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# EXHIBIT 5

HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014 (702) 485-3300 FAX (702) 485-3301

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NVD
HOWARD C. KIM, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 10386
E-mail: howard@hkimlaw.com
DIANA S. CLINE, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 10580
E-mail: diana@hkimlaw.com
HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES
400 N. Stephanie St, Suite 160
Henderson, Nevada 89014
Telephone: (702) 485-3300
Facsimile: (702) 485-3301
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Alun D. Lehmin

**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

# DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

SFR INVESTMENTS POOL1, LLC a Nevada limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

VS.

VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada corporation, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANČE COMPANY a California corporation, REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a Nevada corporation, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE L. HARNED, an individual, DOES I through X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. A-12-672963-C

Dept. No. XXVII

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL OF PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE Plaintiff SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC hereby voluntarily dismisses Defendant Paradise Court Homeowner's Association ("Paradise Court HOA") without prejudice pursuant to NRCP 41(a)(1)(i) which provides:

Subject to the provisions of Rule 23(e), of Rule 66, and of any statute, an action may be dismissed by the plaintiff upon repayment of defendants'

# HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES

# HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014

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filing fees, without order of court (i) by filing a notice of dismissal at any time before service by the adverse party of an answer or of a motion for summary judgment, whichever first occurs, or (ii) by filing a stipulation of dismissal signed by all parties who have appeared in the action. Unless otherwise stated in the notice of dismissal or stipulation, the dismissal is without prejudice, except that a notice of dismissal operates as an adjudication upon the merits when filed by a plaintiff who has once dismissed in any court of the United States or of any state an action based on or including the same claim.

(emphasis added).

Plaintiff bases its voluntary dismissal on Defendant Paradise Court HOA's representation that it no longer claims an interest in the Property pursuant to the February 5, 2010. Upon information and belief, Defendant Paradise Court HOA has not paid any filing fees and has not served an answer or motion for summary judgment.

DATED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

#### **HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES**

/s/ Diana S. Cline Howard C. Kim, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10386 Diana S. Cline, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10580 400 N. Stephanie St., Suite 160 Henderson, Nevada 89014 Phone: (702) 485-3300

(702) 485-3301

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Fax:

# EXHIBIT 6

#### ORIGINAL SAO 1 Kent F. Larsen, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 3463 Chet A. Glover, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10054 Electronically Filed SMITH LARSEN & WIXOM Hills Center Business Park 07/15/2013 05:03:18 PM 1935 Village Center Circle Las Vegas, Nevada 89134 Tel: (702) 252-5002 Fax: (702) 252-5006 Email: kfl@slwlaw.com **CLERK OF THE COURT** cag@slwlaw.com Attorneys for Defendants JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as successor by merger with Chase Home Finance LLC, and California Reconveyance Company 10 DISTRICT COURT 11 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 12 1935 VILLAGE CENTER CIRCLE LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89134 (702) 252-5002 • FAX (702) 252-5006 13 SFR INVESTMENTS POOL1, LLC a Nevada ) CASE NO. A-12-672963-C DEPT NO. 27 Limited liability company, 15 Plaintiff, STIPULATION AND ORDER TO VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada |Corporation, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, DISMISS CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a WITHDRAW MOTION FOR 18 JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS AND foreign limited liability corporation, NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING TO STAY LITIGATION CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE 20 COMPANY a California corporation, REBULIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a Nevada corporation, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE ||L. HARNED, an individual, DOES I through X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive, 24 Defendants. 25 26 Plaintiff SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC. ("Plaintiff") and Defendants JPMorgan Chase 27 Bank, N.A. as successor by merger with Chase Home Finance LLC (incorrectly identified in the 28

Complaint as JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC.)

"Chase") and California Reconveyance Company ("CRC") (collectively referred to as

"Defendants"), by and through their respective counsel, hereby agree and stipulate as follows:

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED that CRC shall be dismissed from the above-captioned case without prejudice, with each party to bear its own costs and attorney's fees.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED that Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, or in the alternative, Motion for Summary Judgment and Motion to Expunge Lis Pendens ("Motions") shall be withdrawn, without prejudice, and the hearing of the Motions, currently set for July 17, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., shall be vacated.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED that because (i) the Supreme Court of Nevada has not ruled on the effect, if any, a foreclosure sale under NRS Chapter 116 has on liens of record; (ii) there are multiple cases on appeal regarding this issue (which is the primary issue in this litigation); and (iii) any dispositive ruling by this Court will lead to an appeal; the litigation and discovery in the above-captioned matter shall be stayed until further stipulation and order is submitted by the parties and executed by the Court, or by further order of the Court.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED that Plaintiff and Chase will not foreclose upon, sell, transfer, assign, encumber, or otherwise attempt to dispossess any title interest in the subject property - 1076 Slate Crossing Lane #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002, APN 179-34-713-236 - during the pendency of this litigation, or without further order of this Court.

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	1	IT IS FURTHER HEREBY STIPE	JLATED AND AGREED that nothing in this		
	2	Stipulation and Order is intended to be, or will be, construed as an admission of the claims or			
	3	defenses of the parties.			
	4	SMITH LARSEN & WIXOM	HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES		
	5	Dated this 9th day of July, 2013.	Dated this day of July 2013.		
	6	0000	To a Sty		
	7	Kent F. Larsen, Esq.	Howard C. Kim, Esq.		
	8	Nevada Bar No. 3463 $\nu$	Nevada Bar No. 10386		
	9	Chet A. Glover, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10054	Diana S. Cline, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10580		
		1935 Village Center Circle	Jacqueline A. Gilbert, Esq.		
	10	Las Vegas, Nevada 89134	Nevada Bar No. 10593		
		Attorneys for Defendants	400 N. Stephanie Street, Suite 160		
	11	JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.,	Henderson, Nevada 89014		
	12	as successor by merger with	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
S PARK CCLE 34 252-5006	12	Chase Home Finance LLC, and	SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC.		
Y S SS PARK CIRCLE 89134 (02) 252-5	13	California Reconveyance Company			
SS (SS CI) (CI) (SS (SS) (CI) (CI) (SS) (SS) (SS) (SS) (SS) (SS) (SS) (S					
R N E BUSINE CENTER NEVADA • FAX (7	14	OR	<u>DER</u>		
O NTER AGE CGAS, N	15	IT IS SO ORDERED.			
A T T HILLS CE; 1935 VILL LAS VE (702) 252	16	Dated thisday of July, 2013.			
HI 19 TEL (	17				
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	19		DISTRICTION		
	20	•	_		
	20	Submitted by	Em		
	21	Submitted by:			
	22	SMITH LARSEN & WIXOM			
	23	a Chappy			
	24	Kent F. Larsen, Esq.			
	25	Nevada Bar No. 3463			
		Chet A. Glover, Esq.			
	26	Nevada Bar No. 10054			
	_	1935 Village Center Circle			
	27	Las Vegas, Nevada 89134			
	28	Attorneys for Defendants			

# EXHIBIT 7

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NEOJ Kent F. Larsen, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 3463 Chet A. Glover, Esq. **CLERK OF THE COURT** Nevada Bar No. 10054 SMITH LARSEN & WIXOM Hills Center Business Park 1935 Village Center Circle Las Vegas, Nevada 89134 Tel: (702) 252-5002 Fax: (702) 252-5006 Email: kfl@slwlaw.com 6 cag@slwlaw.com Attorneys for Defendants JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC, and California Reconveyance Company 10 **DISTRICT COURT** 11 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 12 13 A-12-672963-C SFR INVESTMENTS POOL1, LLC a Nevada CASE NO. Limited liability company, DEPT NO. 27 14 Plaintiff, 15 VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER 16 Corporation, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by 17 merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, 18 NATIONAL DEFAULT SÉRVICING CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, 19 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANĈE COMPANY a California corporation, 20 REBULIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a Nevada corporation, PARADISE 21 COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE L. HARNED, an individual, DOES I through X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the attached Stipulation and Order to Dismiss

Defendants.

California Reconveyance Company, Withdraw Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings and to Stay

			Litigation was entered by the Court on the 15 <sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.
		1	
		2	DATED this 17th day of July, 2013
		3	SMITH LARSEN & WIXOM
		4	/s/ Chet A. Glover
		5	Kent F. Larsen, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 3463
		6	Chet A. Glover, Esq.
		7	Nevada Bar No. 10054 1935 Village Center Circle
		8	Las Vegas, Nevada 89134 Attorneys for Defendants
			JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.,
		9	as successor by merger to
		10	Chase Home Finance LLC, and California Reconveyance Company
1	:	11	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY MAIL
	0	12	I HEREBY CERTIFY that on July 17, 2013 a true copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF
-		13	ENTRY OF ORDER was mailed, postage prepaid, to the following as noted:
- 1	R N E BUSINESS SENTER CI	14	
ίl	R E B E	15	Howard C. Kim, Esq.
<b>.</b>   [	A T T O HILLS CENTER 1935 VILLAGE LAS VEGAS, 1 (702) 252-5002		Diana S. Cline, Ésq.  Jacqueline A. Gilbert, Esq.
1	A T HILLS C 1935 VI LAS 1	16	HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES
	HII HII 19 TEL (7	17	400 N. Stephanie St., Suite 160
			Henderson, NV 89014 Attorneys for Plaintiff
2		18	
		19	$\left( \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array} \right) $
	:	20	an employee of Smith Larsen & Wixom
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SMITH LARSEN & WIXOM

CENTER CIRCLE
NEVADA 89134 .

LAS VEGAS, N. (702) 252-5002

"Defendants"), by and through their respective counsel, hereby agree and stipulate as follows:

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED that CRC shall be dismissed from the above-captioned case without prejudice, with each party to bear its own costs and attorney's fees.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED that Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, or in the alternative, Motion for Summary Judgment and Motion to Expunge Lis Pendens ("Motions") shall be withdrawn, without prejudice, and the hearing of the Motions, currently set for July 17, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., shall be vacated.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED that because (i) the Supreme Court of Nevada has not ruled on the effect, if any, a foreclosure sale under NRS Chapter 116 has on liens of record; (ii) there are multiple cases on appeal regarding this issue (which is the primary issue in this litigation); and (iii) any dispositive ruling by this Court will lead to an appeal; the litigation and discovery in the above-captioned matter shall be stayed until further stipulation and order is submitted by the parties and executed by the Court, or by further order of the Court.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED that Plaintiff and Chase will not foreclose upon, sell, transfer, assign, encumber, or otherwise attempt to dispossess any title interest in the subject property – 1076 Slate Crossing Lane #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002, APN 179-34-713-236 – during the pendency of this litigation, or without further order of this Court.

	1	IT IS FURTHER HEREBY STIE	PULATED AND AGREED that nothing in this
	2	Stipulation and Order is intended to be, or v	will be, construed as an admission of the claims or
	3	defenses of the parties.	•
	4	SMITH LARSEN & WIXOM	HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES
	5	Dated this 9th day of July, 2013.	Dated this day of July 2013.
	6	00 201	TIMAR ST
	7	Kent F. Larsen, Esq.	Howard C. Kim, Esq.
	8	Nevada Bar No. 3463 Chet A. Glover, Esq.	Nevada Bar No. 10386 Diana S. Cline, Esq.
	9	Nevada Bar No. 10054	Nevada Bar No. 10580
		1935 Village Center Circle	Jacqueline A. Gilbert, Esq.
	10	Las Vegas, Nevada 89134	Nevada Bar No. 10593
	11	Attorneys for Defendants	400 N. Stephanie Street, Suite 160
Į	~ <del>~</del>	JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as successor by merger with	Henderson, Nevada 89014 Attorneys for Plaintiff
	g 12	Chase Home Finance LLC, and	SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC.
S	1.E 4 52-50	California Reconveyance Company	Distriction 1 con 1, BBC.
Y Ag S	CIRCLE 89134 02) 252-		
N E Y S	CENTER CIRCLE NEVADA 89134 7 T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T	<u>o</u>	RDER
O R	711.1.4.GE CF 1 VEGAS, NI 252-5002	IT IS SO ORDERED.	
T T	1935 VILLAGE LAS VEGAS, (702) 252-5002	Dated thisday of July, 2013.	
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İ	18		2 ( 11) (
	19		DISTRICT JUDGE
	20	•	
	21	Submitted by:	Con
	22	SMITH LARSEN & WIXOM	
	23	CO AND	
	24	Kent F. Larsen, Esq.	
	25	Nevada Bar No. 3463	
	26	Chet A. Glover, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10054	•
	3	1935 Village Center Circle	
	27	Las Vegas, Nevada 89134	
	28	Attorneys for Defendants	

# **EXHIBIT 8**

HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014 (702) 485-3300 FAX (702) 485-3301

**NVD** HOWARD C. KIM, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10386 E-mail: howard@hkimlaw.com DIANA S. CLINE, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10580 E-mail: diana@hkimlaw.com VICTORIA L. HIGHTOWER, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10897 E-mail: victoria@hkimlaw.com HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES 400 N. Stephanie St, Suite 160 Henderson, Nevada 89014 Telephone: (702) 485-3300 Facsimile: (702) 485-3301 Attorneys for Plaintiff

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**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

### **DISTRICT COURT**

# **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

SFR INVESTMENTS POOL1, LLC a Nevada limited liability company,

# Plaintiff,

VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada corporation, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY a California corporation, REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a Nevada corporation, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE L. HARNED, an individual, DOES I through X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Case No. A-12-672963-C

Dept. No. XXVII

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL OF REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC.

Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE Plaintiff SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC hereby voluntarily dismisses Defendant REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., ("Republic") without prejudice pursuant to NRCP 41(a)(1)(i) which provides:

Subject to the provisions of Rule 23(e), of Rule 66, and of any statute, an action may be dismissed by the plaintiff upon repayment of defendants' filing fees, without order of court (i) by filing a notice of dismissal at any

# HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES

HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014

time before service by the adverse party of an answer or of a motion for summary judgment, whichever first occurs, or (ii) by filing a stipulation of dismissal signed by all parties who have appeared in the action. Unless otherwise stated in the notice of dismissal or stipulation, the dismissal is without prejudice, except that a notice of dismissal operates as an adjudication upon the merits when filed by a plaintiff who has once dismissed in any court of the United States or of any state an action based on or including the same claim.

(emphasis added).

Upon information and belief, Defendant Republic has not paid any filing fees and has not served an answer or motion for summary judgment.

DATED July 18, 2013.

#### **HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES**

/s/ Diana S. Cline
Howard C. Kim, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 10386
Diana S. Cline, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 10580
Victoria L. Hightower, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 10897
400 N. Stephanie St., Suite 160
Henderson, Nevada 89014
Phone: (702) 485-3300
Fax: (702) 485-330

Attorneys for Plaintiff

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 18th day of July, pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I served the **NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL OF REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC.** via first class mail, postage prepaid, to the following parties:

REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC. c/o Corporation Trust Company of Nevada 311 South Division Street Carson City, NV 89703

/s/ Sarah Starkey
AN EMPLOYEE OF HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES

# **EXHIBIT 9**

(702) 485-3300 FAX (702) 485-3301

**NVD** 1 HOWARD C. KIM, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10386 2 E-mail: howard@hkimlaw.com DIANA S. CLINE, ESQ. 3 Nevada Bar No. 10580 E-mail: diana@hkimlaw.com 4 JACQUELINE A. GILBERT, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10593 5 E-mail: jackie@hkimlaw.com HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES 6 1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Suite 110 Henderson, Nevada 89014 Telephone: (702) 485-3300 Facsimile: (702) 485-3301 8 Attorneys for SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC 9

Alun D. Colim

**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

## **DISTRICT COURT**

# CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

SFR INVESTMENTS POOL1, LLC a Nevada limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada corporation, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY a California corporation, REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a Nevada corporation, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE L. HARNED, an individual, DOES I through X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Case No. A-12-672963-C

Dept. No. XXVII

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL OF DEFENDANTS NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING COPORATION AND DELANIE L. HARNED WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Defendants.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE Plaintiff SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC hereby voluntarily

dismisses Defendants National Default Serivcing Corporation and Delanie L. Harned

("Dismissing Defendants") without prejudice pursuant to NRCP 41(a)(1)(i) which provides:

Subject to the provisions of Rule 23(e), of Rule 66, and of any statute, an action may be dismissed by the plaintiff upon repayment of defendants' filing fees, without order of court (i) by filing a notice of dismissal at any time before service by the adverse party of an answer or of a motion for

HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES	1055 WHITNEY KANCH DRIVE, SUITE 110 HENDERSON, NEVADA 89014
-------------------------	--

(702) 485-3300 FAX (702) 485-330

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dismissal signed by all parties who have appeared in the action. Unless otherwise stated in the notice of dismissal or stipulation, the dismissal is without prejudice, except that a notice of dismissal operates as an adjudication 2 upon the merits when filed by a plaintiff who has once dismissed in any court of the United States or of any state an action based on or including the same 3 claim. 4 (emphasis added). 5 Upon information and belief, Dismissing Defendants have not paid any filing fees and 6 have not served an answer or motion for summary judgment. 7 DATED this day of February, 2014. 8 9 HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES 10 11 HOWARD C. KIM, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10386 12 DIANA S. CLINE, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10580 13 JACQUELINE A. GILBERT, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10593 1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Suite 110 14 Henderson, Nevada 89014 Telephone: (702) 485-3300 15 Facsimile: (702) 485-3301 Attorneys for SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC 16 17 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day of February, 2014 pursuant to NRCP 18 19 5(b), I served the foregoing NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL OF DEFENDANTS 20 NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION AND DELANIE L. HARNED 21 WITHOUT PREJUDICE, via first class mail, postage prepaid, to the following parties: 22 Kent Larsen, Esq. Smith, Larsen & Wixom 23 1935 Village Center Circle 24 Las Vegas, Nevada 89134 Attorneys for Wells Fargo Bank 25 26 An Employee of Howard Kim & Associates 27

summary judgment, whichever first occurs, or (ii) by filing a stipulation of

# **EXHIBIT 10**

Summary Judgment

Distipulated Judgment

Cludgment of Arbitration

C Default Judgment

🔾 involuntary Dismissal

C) Motion to Dismiss by Deft(s)

D Supulated Olsmissal

FFCOHun D. Lohn B DIANA CLINE EBRON, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10580 2 E-mail: diana@kgelegal.com **CLERK OF THE COURT** JACQUELINE A. GILBERT, ESQ. 3 Nevada Bar No. 10593 E-mail: jackie@kgelegal.com 4 KAREN L. HANKS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9578 5 E-mail: karen@kgelegal.com KIM GILBERT EBRON 6 7625 Dean Martin Drive, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89139 7 Telephone: (702) 485-3300 Facsimile: (702) 485-3301 8 Attorneys for SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC 9 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 10 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA FFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC, a Nevada Case No. A-12-672963-C limited liability company, 12 Dept. No. XXVII Plaintiff, 13 VS. FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER 14 VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada corporation, JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by nerger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a Foreign limited liability corporation, ET AL., 16 17 Defendants. 18 JPMORGAN. CHASE BANK, N.A., successor by merger to Chase Home Finance 19 LC, 20 Counterclaimant, 21 SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company, 23 Counter-defendant. 24 25 26 This matter came before the Court for hearing on September 15, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. on 27 SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC's ("SFR") motion for summary judgment on SFR's claims against 28 CI Volumeary Dismissal

7625 DEAN MARTIN DRIVE, SUITE 110

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89139 (702) 485-3300 FAX (702) 485-3301

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JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC ("Chase" or the "Bank") and on Chase's counterclaims against SFR. Jacqueline A. Gilbert of the law firm of Kim Gilbert Ebron appeared on behalf of SFR. Lindsay C. Demaree of the law firm of Ballard Spahr, LLP appeared on behalf of Chase.

The Court, having considered the briefing on the motions, the pleadings and papers on file herein, and argument of counsel, hereby finds and concludes as follows:1

# FINDINGS OF UNDISPUTED FACT

# The Property and Corresponding Foreclosure Sale

- Delaine L. Harned ("Harned") obtained title to real property commonly known as 1. 1076 Slate Crossing #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002; Parcel No. 179-34-713-236 (the "Property") by way of a Grant, Bargain, Sale Deed ("GBS Deed") from U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Home Equity asset Trust 2006-3 Home Equity Pass Through Certificates, Series 2006-3 by Select Portfolio Servicing, its Attorney in Fact. The GBS Deed was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder on May 14, 2008 as Instrument No. 20080514-0005040.
- Harned appears to have taken out a loan against the Property, executing a promissory note, and the Deed of Trust ("First DOT") that secured the note in favor of was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder on May 14, 2008 as Instrument No. 20080514-0005041. The First DOT named Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems ("MERS") as the beneficiary on behalf of Venta Realty Group, dba Venta Home Loans, a Nevada Corporation ("Venta"), the lender. The First DOT also included a Planned Unit Development Rider that allowed the Lender to pay the Borrower's Association Assessment and add that amount to the Borrower's debt to Lender.
- The Property is located within the common interest community of Paradise Court 3. ("Association") as referenced in the First DOT. The Association recorded its Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions ("CC&Rs") in the Official Records of the Clark County

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Any finding of fact that is more properly deemed a conclusion of law shall be so deemed.

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Recorder on May 18, 2004 as Instrument No. 20040518-0001999. The CC&Rs include, inter alia, the requirement that homeowners or members of the Association pay periodic assessments to benefit the common-interest community. The CC&Rs also incorporate the provisions of NRS 116.3116 et seq. for non-payment of assessments. The First DOT also included a Planned Unit Development Rider that allowed the Lender to pay the Borrower's Association Assessment and add that amount to the Borrower's debt to Lender.

- On February 5, 2010, Nevada Association Services ("NAS") on behalf of the 4. Association, recorded a Notice of Delinquent Assessment Lien against the Property. That notice was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument No. 20100205-0001923 (the operative NODA). The Operative NODA was mailed to Harned.
- 5. MERS executed an Assignment of Deed of Trust ("Assignment") transferring all beneficial interest in the First DOT and the underlying note to Chase. The Assignment was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder on December 6, 2010, as Instrument No. 201012060000315.
- The same day Chase recorded a Substitution of Trustee, naming California б. Reconveyance Company ("CRC"), as Instrument No. 201012060000316. Immediately thereafter, CRC recorded a Notice of Default and Election to Sell Under Deed of Trust ("Bank NOD"), as Instrument No. 201012060000317.
- 7. CRC recorded a Foreclosure Mediation Certificate on April 12, 2011, as Instrument No. 201104120001990, stating that Chase could proceed with the foreclosure process.
- CRC recorded a Notice of Trustee's sale on June 1, 2011, as Instrument No. 8. 201106010003269, giving a sale date of June 21, 2011. The sale apparently did not take place that day, and on September 29, 2011, CRC recorded another Notice of Trustee's Sale as Instrument No. 201109290003457, giving a sale date of October 20, 2011. The sale apparently did not take place that day.
- On March 7, 2012, NAS recorded on behalf of the Association, a Notice of 9. Default and Election to Sell Under Homeowners Association Lien ("Association NOD"), as

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Instrument No. 201203070000441. The Association NOD was mailed to Harned, Venta, Chase, CRC, and MERS. The Bank does not dispute receiving the Association NOD.

- Chase did not attempt to pay the Association after receiving the Association 10. NOD.
- On May 25, 2012, Chase sent a letter to Hamed advising her that she should 11. correct the situation or Chase may initiate appropriate actions to bring the account current per the terms of the mortgage.
- On August 30, 2012, more than ninety days after recording of the Association 12. NOD, NAS recorded a Notice of Trustee's Sale ("Association NOS"), as Instrument No. 20120830-0003067, giving September 21, 2012 as the sale date. This Association NOS was mailed to Harned, Venta, Chase, CRC and MERS. Chase received the Association NOS and does not dispute this. The NOS included the following language in larger font than the remainder of the notice: "WARNING! A SALE OF YOUR PROPERTY IS IMMINENT! UNLESS YOU PAY THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN THIS NOTICE BEFORE THE SALE DATE, YOU COULD LOSE YOUR HOME, EVEN IF THE AMOUNT IS IN DISPUTE. YOU MUST ACT BEFORE THE SALE DATE." The NOS included the contact information for NAS, as agent for the Association. The NOS stated that the sale would take place on November 30, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. and provided the location of the sale. The NOS also stated in all capital letters: "UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE." Chase appears to have taken no action after receipt of the Association NOS.
- The Association NOS was properly posted and published pursuant to NRS 13. 116.311635.
- The Association auction took place on September 21, 2012 ("Association 14. Foreclosure Sale"). At that sale, SFR placed a winning bid of \$6,100.00. There were multiple bidders in attendance at the sale. No one acting on behalf of the Bank attended the Association Foreclosure Sale.
  - 15. The Foreclosure Deed vesting title in SFR was recorded in the Official Records of

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the Clark County Recorder on September 25, 2012 as Instrument No. 20120925-0001230 ("Foreclosure Deed"). The Foreclosure Deed included the following recitals:

This conveyance is made pursuant to the powers conferred upon agent by Nevada Revised Statutes, the Paradise Court governing documents (CC&R's) and that certain Notice of Delinquent Assessment Lien, described herein [recorded February 5, 2010]. Default occurred as set forth in a Notice of Default and Election to Sell, recorded on 3/7/2012 as instrument # 0000441 Book 10120307 which was recorded in the office of the recorder of said county. Nevada Association Services, Inc. has complied with all requirements of law including, but not limited to, the elapsing of 90 days, mailing of copies of Notice of Delinquent Assessment and Notice of Default and the posting and publication of the Notice of Sale. Said property was sold by said agent, on behalf of Paradise Court at public auction on 9/21/2012, at the place indicated on the Notice of Sale.

The Bank did not make any payments to the Association or its agent, NAS, prior 16. to the Association Foreclosure Sale nor did the Bank challenge the Association Foreclosure Sale in any administrative or civil proceeding prior to filing its complaint in this case.

# Chase Attempts to Foreclose Yet Again

On October 11, 2012, Chase substituted National Default Servicing Corporation 17. ("NDSC") in place of CRC via Instrument No. 20121011-0001602, NDSC immediately filed a Notice of Trustee's Sale Under Deed of Trust as Instrument No. 20121011-0001603.

### The Lawsuit and Arguments of the Parties

- 18. On December 4, 2012, SFR filed its complaint for quiet title and declaratory relief against Chase, Harned, Venta, Republic Silver State Disposal, Inc., and the Association, alleging that the Association Foreclosure Sale extinguished the defendants' interest in the Property. SFR also sought injunctive relief against Venta, Chase, CRC and NDSC to prevent them from taking any action to foreclose on, sell, convey, or otherwise enforce any interest against the Property.
- Chase answered SFR's complaint on January 25, 2013. SFR voluntarily dismissed the Association, CRC, Republic Silver State Disposal, and NDSC by notice or stipulations entered on February 5, 2013, July 15, 2013, July 18, 2013, and February 6, 2014 respectively.
  - 20. Default was entered against Venta on May 14, 2015.
- 21. On September 18, 2014, the Nevada Supreme Court issued its decision in SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC v. U.S. Bank, N.A., 130 Nev. \_\_\_\_, 334 P.3d 408 (2014)("SFR

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Decision"), holding that a properly conducted association foreclosure sale will extinguish a first deed of trust.

- 22. On October 19, 2015, Chase filed an amended answer and counterclaim, asserting a claim for unjust enrichment against SFR.
  - SFR filed its answer to the counterclaim on November 6, 2015. 23.
- SFR filed its motion for summary judgment on August 11, 2016, seeking 24. judgment on all claims against Chase.
  - Chase filed its motion for summary judgment on September 13, 2016. 25.
  - In SFR's motion for summary judgment 26.
- 27. In its motion for summary judgment, SFR argued, inter alia, that (1) the Association Foreclosure Sale extinguished the First DOT and Chase's interest in the Property, and that the conclusive proof in the Association Foreclosure Deed and presumptions under NRS 47.250 shift the burden to Chase to show that the Association Foreclosure Sale was somehow improper; (2) Chase, as a lienholder, is not entitled to an equitable remedy; (3) the Association Foreclosure Sale vested title in SFR without equity or right of redemption; (4) the Association Foreclosure Sale was commercially reasonable; (4) even if there were irregularities with the sale, they could not be imputed to SFR because SFR is a bona fide purchaser for value; (5) any claims by Chase against the sale are barred by laches; d (6) Chase's unjust enrichment claim failed under the voluntary payment doctrine; and (7) Chase lacks standing to raise either the Supremacy Clause or Property Clause based on the loan allegedly being FHA insured to challenge the Association Foreclosure Sale and that even if able to raise it, there is no preemption, express or implied.
- In opposition, Chase argued, inter alia, that (1) the Association's CC&Rs 28. mortgage protection clause precluded extinguishment and there were material questions of fact as to SFR's BFP status; (2) NRS 116 (the "Statute") is unconstitutional on its face as it does not require homeowner's associations to provide known lienholders with actual notice prior to extinguishing their liens, in violation of the minimum requirements for due process under the United States and Nevada constitutions, relying heavily on the analysis in the recent Ninth Circuit decision in Bourne Valley Court Trust v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., No. 15-15233, 2016

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WL 4254983 (9th Cir. Aug. 12, 2016); (3) because the loan was FHA insured, the supremacy clause and property clauses preempt NRS 116; (4) the SFR Decision does not apply to this case because the Association Foreclosure Sale took place on September 21, 2012 and the SFR Decision does not apply retroactively; (5) the Association Foreclosure sale was "tainted" by unfairness and Chase is entitled to equitable relief; (6) the price paid at the Association Foreclosure sale was "grossly inadequate" and that is enough to void the sale; (7) laches does not apply; and (8) the voluntary payment doctrine does not apply or equity requires payment to Chase on its unjust enrichment claim.

- 29. regarding Valley SFR's reply addressed îts arguments Bourne constitutionality, the supremacy and property clauses as relating to FHA insurance, commercial reasonableness, retroactively, applying equities pursuant to Shadow Wood HOA v. N.Y. Cmty. Bancorp, 132 Nev. \_\_\_\_, 366 P.3d 1105 (2016), and unjust enrichment.
- 30. At the hearing, Chase requested that the hearing be continued until its motion for summary judgment could be heard. The Court finds that this was not necessary as all claims were addressed in SFR's motion and therefore denied Chase's oral motion to continue.

# CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Summary judgment is appropriate and "shall be rendered forthwith" when the pleadings and other evidence on file demonstrate no "genuine issue as to any material fact [remains] and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." NRCP 56(c); Wood v. Sa/eway, Inc., 121 Nev. 724, 729, 121 P.3d 1026, 1029 (2005). Declaratory or equitable relief may be adjudicated on summary judgment. Shadow Wood, 366 P.3d at 1111. "The substantive law controls which factual disputes are material and will preclude summary judgment; other factual disputes are irrelevant." Wood, 121 Nev. at 731, 121 P.3d at 1031. "A factual dispute is genuine when the evidence is such that a rational trier of fact could return a verdict for the nonmoving party." Id. While the pleadings and other proof must be construed in a light most favorable to the non-moving party, that party bears the burden "to do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt" as to the operative facts in order to avoid summary judgment being entered in the moving party's favor. Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. v.

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Zenith Radio, 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986), cited in Wood, 121 Nev. at 732, 121 P.3d at 1031. The non-moving party "must, by affidavit or otherwise, set forth specific facts demonstrating the existence of a genuine issue for trial or have summary judgment entered against him." Bulbman Inc. v. Nevada Bell, 108 Nev. 105, 110, 828 P.2d 588, 591 (1992), cited in Wood, 121 Nev. at 732, 121 P.3d at 1031. The non-moving party "is not entitled to build a case on the gossamer threads of whimsy, speculation, and conjecture." Bulbman, 108 Nev. at 110, 825 P.2d 591, quoting Collins v. Union Fed. Savings & Loan, 99 Nev. 284, 302, 662 P.2d 610, 621 (1983).

While the moving party generally bears the burden of proving there is no genuine issue of material fact, in this case there are a number of presumptions that this Court must consider in deciding the issues, including:

- 1. That foreclosure sales and the resulting deeds are presumed valid. NRS 47.250(16-18) (stating that there are disputable presumptions "that the law has been obeyed"; "that a trustee or other person, whose duty it was to convey real property to a particular person, has actually conveyed to that person, when such presumption is necessary to perfect the title of such person or a successor in interest"; "that private transactions have been fair and regular"; and "that the ordinary course of business has been followed.")
- 2. That a foreclosure deed issued pursuant to NRS 116.31164 that includes recitals of "(a) [d]efault, the mailing of the notice of delinquent assessment, and the recoding of the notice of default and election to sell; (b) [t]he elapsing of the 90 days; and (c) [t]he giving of notice of sale, are conclusive proof of the matters recited." NRS 116.31166(1)(a)-(c). Furthermore, "[s]uch a deed containing those recitals is conclusive against the unit's former owner, his or her heirs and assigns, and all other persons. NRS 116.31166(2); SFR Decision, 334 P.3d at 411-412; *Shadow Wood*, 366 P.3d at 1110.

"A presumption not only fixes the burden of going forward with evidence, but it also shifts the burden of proof." Yeager v. Harrah's Club, Inc., 111 Nev. 830, 834, 897 P.2d 1093, 1095 (1995)(citing Vancheri v. GNLV Corp., 105 Nev. 417, 421, 777 P.2d 366, 368 (1989)). "These presumptions impose on the party against whom it is directed the burden of proving that the nonexistence of the presumed fact is more probable than its existence." Id. (citing NRS

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47.180.). Thus, the Bank bore the burden of proving it was more probable than not that the Association Foreclosure Sale and the Foreclosure Deed were invalid. Furthermore, the Bank bore the burden to overcome the conclusive proof in the Foreclosure Deed recitals, to even be entitled to equity.

# Foreclosure Under NRS 116

In 1991, Nevada adopted the Uniform Common Interest Act (1982 version) ("UCIOA"), as NRS Chapter 116, effective January 1, 1992. SFR Decision, 334 P.3d at 410. Pursuant to NRS 116.3116(2) and the CC&Rs, an association has a lien for assessments, a portion of which has priority over a first security interest. SFR Decision, 334 P.3d at 411. NRS 116.31162 -116.31168 provides the means for an association to foreclose on its lien non-judicially. Id. When an association properly forecloses on its lien by sale it will extinguish all junior liens on the property, including a first deed of trust. Id. at 419.

# Constitutionality of the Statute

Chase argues that the Statute is unconstitutional on its face as it violates the due process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution as well as the Nevada Constitution. It also relies heavily on the analysis in the Bourne Valley decision by the 9th Circuit. It claims that the Statute does not require a homeowner's association to provide actual notice of its foreclosure efforts to lenders and other secured parties with a recorded interest in a property before the association extinguishes its lien at an association foreclosure sale. Instead, the Bank argues that the Statute places the burden on the lender to affirmatively "opt in" and request notice. SFR argues that the Bank lacks standing to assert a due process challenge in this case because it received actual notice of the Association Foreclosure Sale as required by NRS 116. Even if it had standing to assert such a challenge, SFR argues that the Nevada Supreme Court already rejected the constitutional challenge of the Statute, facially and as applied, in the SFR Decision. SFR also argues that the Statute does not violate due process as it does not

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All references to NRS 116 are to the statutes as they existed at the time of the Association Foreclosure Sale in 2012.

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involve a state action and a state actor. Finally, SFR argues that the Statute is constitutional as it requires notice to be sent to all junior lienholders before their interests are extinguished.

This Court recognizes the Bourne Valley opinion but rejects the analysis and notes that the Bourne Valley decision is not binding on this Court. Further, the Court rejects the construction offered by Chase. This Court concludes that the Statute is constitutional, as it requires notice to be sent to all junior lienholders prior to the extinguishment of their interests in the subject property based on the express incorporation of NRS 107.090 by NRS 116.31168.

Furthermore, here, the Bank provided no evidence to contradict the evidence that it received the Association's foreclosure notices.

# Retroactive Application of the SFR Decision

This Court rejects Chase's argument that the SFR Decision should not be applied retroactively. First, the Court finds that Chase failed to raise this retroactively argument as an affirmative defenseThe Nevada Supreme Court, in the SFR Decision, did not announce a new rule of law. It interpreted existing statutes and law. Retroactivity concerns are removed from the statutory construction context because, "[a] judicial construction of a statute is an authoritative statement of what the statute meant before as well as after the decision of the case giving rise to that construction." Morales-Izquierdo v. Dept. of Homeland Sec., 600 F.3d 1076, 1087-88 (2010) (quoting Rivers v. Roadway Express, Inc., 511 U.S. 298, 312-13 (1994)) (overruled in part on other grounds by Garfias-Rodriguez v. Holder, 702 F.3d 504, 516 (2012)). When a court interprets a statute, "it is explaining its understanding of what the statute has meant continuously since the date when it became law." Morales-Izquierdo, 600 F.3d at 1088 (quoting Rivers, 511 U.S. at 313 n.12). Consequently, judicial interpretations are given "[f]ull retroactive effect[.]" Morales-Izquierdo, 600 F.3d at 1008 (quoting Harper, 509 U.S. at 97).

### FHA Insurance

Chase argues that the First DOT is protected by the Supremacy and Property Clauses of the United States Constitution and, therefore, NRS 116 is preempted. This Court rejects these arguments. The Court finds persuasive and adopts the analysis set forth by the Hon. Jennifer Dorsey in Freedom Mortgage Corp. v. Las Vegas Development Grp., LLC, 106 F.Supp.3d 1174

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(D.Nev. 2015). As discussed therein, HUD is not a party to this litigation and nothing provides that Chase has standing to raise the Property Clause to protect HUD's alleged interest in the Property, and further, this Court deems the insurance interest to be too attenuated to implicate Additionally, the Court finds there is neither express nor conflict the Property clause. preemption, as Chase could have complied with both NRS 116 and HUD's policies and procedures. Finally, pursuant to Armstrong v. Exceptional Child Care Ctr, Inc., 135 S.Ct. 1378 (2015), this Court concludes that Chase, as a private litigant, cannot rely on the Supremacy Clause in any case to challenge NRS 116.

#### Price Paid for the Property

The Bank argues that the price SFR paid for the Property, \$5,100.00, was grossly inadequate as a matter of law. The Bank argues that, under the Restatement, a sale price is "grossly inadequate" if it is less than 20 percent of the property's fair market value. The Bank claims that the Association Foreclosure Sale should be invalidated as SFR paid only 7.4% of what it deemed the Property's value.3 SFR argues that the Nevada Supreme Court has not adopted the Restatement and that price alone is not enough to set aside the Association Foreclosure Sale. For that to be accomplished, there must also be evidence of fraud, oppression, or unfairness. Furthermore SFR contested the value placed by Chase on the Property. 4

With regards to the price paid for the Property, this Court does not believe the Nevada Supreme Court has adopted a 20 percent absolute threshold. Price alone is not enough to void an association foreclosure sale. In addition to a low price, there would have to be to be evidence of fraud, oppression, or unfairness in the conduct of the sales process itself, which is the important event. Without such evidence, this Court need not determine the actual value of the Property at the time of the sale. See Oller v. Sonoma County Land Title Co., 290 P.2d 880, 882 (Cal.Ct.App. 1955) ("Since inadequacy of price is not alone ground for setting aside the sale, the failure of the court to find upon the value of the property is immaterial."), cited with approval in

market value

Chase relied on an expert report that purported to do a retroactive analysis of the Property's fair

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Chase relied on an

# King Cilbert Refor

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Golden v. Tomiyasu, 79 Nev. 503, 514, 387 P.2d 989, 994 (1963).

#### Sale Process

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The Bank argues that in addition to the low price paid for the Property, the Association Foreclosure Sale should be declared void as it contained the following irregularities. First Chase argues that there was a mortgage savings clause in the CC&Rs. But it presents no evidence that it relied on the clause or that anyone else relied on that clause such that it caused the allegedly inadequate price paid at the sale. And the SFR Decision made it clear that the mortgage savings clause has been unenforceable since inception. Second, the Bank argues that no competitive bidding took place at the Association Foreclosure Sale. The Bank argues there were only two bidders at the sale. Chase goes on to argue that while the Association Foreclosure Sale was noticed in accordance with the law, as commercially required, NAS did not make any additional efforts to maximize the publicity of the sale. However, Chase provides no evidence that the sale was not properly noticed pursuant to statute. It had actual notice of the sale and, in fact, contacted its own borrower regarding the delinquency. The Bank knew how much it needed to pay to stop the sale because the amounts were clearly stated in the notices Chase admits it received. The Bank could have paid that amount, even under protest, to protect its interest in the Property but failed to do so. Chase could have attended the sale itself and did not. Third, Chase argues that there is evidence that the proceeds of the sale were not properly distributed. However, pursuant to statute, SFR has no responsibility for proper distribution. NRS 116.31166(2). Additionally, this goes only to post-sale actions, not pre-sale. Finally, Chase argues that SFR's purchasing agent, Robert Diamond, may have believed SFR was taking title subject to the First DOT. However, Mr. Diamond's personal beliefs are irrelevant to the actual conduct of the sale. None of the facts on which Chase relies are enough to overcome the presumption and evidence of the validity of the sale.

This Court does not find any evidence of fraud, oppression, or unfairness that would justify setting aside the Association Foreclosure Sale in this case. There is no evidence to suggest the Association Foreclosure Sale was not conducted properly in this case. statutorily required notices were provided to all relevant parties, including Chase, and the price 7625 DEAN MARTIN DRIVE, SUITE 110
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SFR paid for the Property is not proof of any fraud, oppression, or unfairness. Thus, this Court concludes the Association Foreclosure Sale was properly held and, pursuant to the SFR Decision, extinguished the First DOT.

#### Equitable Analysis

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While this Court does not believe an equitable analysis is required as the Bank failed to set forth any evidence of fraud, oppression, or unfairness that would justify setting aside the Association Foreclosure Sale, if it were to consider equity in this case, the weight supports judgment in favor of SFR. Here, the Bank admits it received the NOD and NOS. The Bank also admits that it did not make a tender to the Association or its agent, NAS, to protect its interest in the Property but merely requested a payoff amount. Despite knowing when the Association Foreclosure Sale was scheduled to take place, the Bank did not make any attempt to stop the sale by filing a lawsuit to seek injunctive relief. The Bank had numerous options available to protect its interest in the Property, including, among other things, attending the Association Foreclosure Sale itself, but did not pursue them.

Given this, equity favors SFR in this case.

#### Unjust Enrichment

Chase claimed that if title was quieted in SFR's name, SFR was unjustly enriched by Chase's payment of property taxes and for insurance on the Property. SFR argues that Chase's claim is barred by the voluntary payment doctrine, which precludes reimbursement for voluntarily paid expenses that do not meet an exception, such as business compulsion or defense of property. SFR argues specifically that "money voluntarily paid, with full knowledge of all the facts, although no obligation to make such payment existed, cannot be recovered back." Nevada Ass'n Services, Inc. v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct., 130 Nev. \_\_\_\_, 338 P.3d 1250, 1253 (2014). Further, SFR argues that any insurance on the Property that Chase paid was for its own benefit unless it admitted and showed that Chase named SFR as an additional insured. Chase argues the doctrine does not apply, that it did not have full knowledge of the facts or, in the alterative, that equity demands reimbursement.

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The Court is persuaded by Nevada Ass'n Services, Inc. v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct., 130 Nev. 338 P.3d 1250 (2014), in which the Nevada Supreme Court recognized that voluntary payment of expenses without meeting an exception precludes recovery for unjust enrichment. SFR had the burden to show the alleged payments were voluntary, and then Chase had the burden to show an exception existed to the voluntary payment doctrine. Id. at 1254. The two exceptions are (1) coercion or duress caused by a business necessity and (2) payment in defense of property.

Here, Chase knew that SFR had title to the Property and, as such, had an obligation to maintain the Property, by paying assessments, taxes, and insurance. Chase never demonstrated that it paid the property taxes in order to stop an imminent foreclosure by the taxing authority, or that SFR would not have paid the property taxes if Chase had not done so. Furthermore, Chase never argued that SFR would somehow benefit from whatever insurance Chase maintained on the Property. Thus, Chase cannot claim that it was either coerced or paid in defense of property. Accordingly, the payments made by Chase, which was aware that the title would pass from its borrower if the Association foreclosed, were made voluntarily and with full knowledge of the facts, even if it allegedly misapprehended the law at the time of the sale. SFR is entitled to summary judgment on Chase's unjust enrichment claim.

For the reasons stated above and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that SFR's motion for summary judgment is GRANTED in its entirety.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Bank's motion for summary judgment is moot and shall be denied as such and the hearing vacated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the First DOT recorded against the Property commonly known as 1076 Slate Crossing #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002; Parcel No. 179-34-713-236 was extinguished by the Association Foreclosure Sale.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Chase had no interest in the Property after the Association Foreclosure Sale on September 21, 2012 and is hereby permanently enjoined from taking any action to enforce the First DOT recorded on May 14, 2008 as Instrument No.

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20080514-0005041. This order does not preclude, limit, or in any way restrict any remedies available under the promissory note that was secured by the First DOT.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that title to the Property commonly known as 1076 Slate Crossing #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002; Parcel No. 179-34-713-236 is hereby quieted in favor of SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 25day of October, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted By: KIM GILBERT EBRON

Digna Kline Ebfon, Esq. Névada Bar No. 1058

Jacqueline A. Gilbert, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10593

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Attorneys for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation

# EXHIBIT 11

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Alm & Chrim

**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

# EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

#### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,

Case No. A-12-672963-C

Dept. No. XXVII

Plaintiff,

VS.

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VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada corporation, JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, ET AL.,

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

#### Defendants.

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., as successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC,

Counterclaimant,

VS.

SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,

Counter-defendant.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on October 26, 2016 this Court entered a Findings of

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Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. A copy of said Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, 1 and Order is attached hereto. 2 DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016. **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER to the following parties: /s/ Tomas Valerio An Employee of Kim Gilbert Ebron 27

#### KIM GILBERT EBRON

/s/ Diana Cline Ebron DIANA CLINE EBRON, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10580 7625 Dean Martin Drive, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89139 Attorney for SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC.

I hereby certify that on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016, pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I served via the Eighth Judicial District Court electronic filing system, the foregoing NOTICE OF

Ballard Spahr	
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Lindsay Demaree	demareel@ballardspahr.com

Istipulated Judgment

Cladement of Arbhration

Contable Judgment

C) Stipulated Dismissat

] Motion to Dismiss by Delt(s)

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JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC ("Chase" or the "Bank") and on Chase's counterclaims against SFR. Jacqueline A. Gilbert of the law firm of Kim Gilbert Ebron appeared on behalf of SFR. Lindsay C. Demarce of the law firm of Ballard Spahr, LLP appeared on behalf of Chase.

The Court, having considered the briefing on the motions, the pleadings and papers on file herein, and argument of counsel, hereby finds and concludes as follows:

# FINDINGS OF UNDISPUTED FACT

# The Property and Corresponding Foreclosure Sale

- Delaine L. Harned ("Harned") obtained title to real property commonly known as 1076 Slate Crossing #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002; Parcel No. 179-34-713-236 (the "Property") by way of a Grant, Bargain, Sale Deed ("GBS Deed") from U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Home Equity asset Trust 2006-3 Home Equity Pass Through Certificates, Series 2006-3 by Select Portfolio Servicing, its Attorney in Fact. The GBS Deed was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder on May 14, 2008 as Instrument No. 20080514-0005040.
- Harned appears to have taken out a loan against the Property, executing a promissory note, and the Deed of Trust ("First DOT") that secured the note in favor of was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder on May 14, 2008 as Instrument No. 20080514-0005041. The First DOT named Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems ("MERS") as the beneficiary on behalf of Venta Realty Group, dba Venta Home Loans, a Nevada Corporation ("Venta"), the lender. The First DOT also included a Planned Unit Development Rider that allowed the Lender to pay the Borrower's Association Assessment and add that amount to the Borrower's debt to Lender.
- The Property is located within the common interest community of Paradise Court 3. ("Association") as referenced in the First DOT. The Association recorded its Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions ("CC&Rs") in the Official Records of the Clark County

Any finding of fact that is more properly deemed a conclusion of law shall be so deemed.

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Recorder on May 18, 2004 as Instrument No. 20040518-0001999. The CC&Rs include, interalia, the requirement that homeowners or members of the Association pay periodic assessments to benefit the common-interest community. The CC&Rs also incorporate the provisions of NRS 116.3116 et seq. for non-payment of assessments. The First DOT also included a Planned Unit Development Rider that allowed the Lender to pay the Borrower's Association Assessment and add that amount to the Borrower's debt to Lender.

- On February 5, 2010, Nevada Association Services ("NAS") on behalf of the 4, Association, recorded a Notice of Delinquent Assessment Lien against the Property. That notice was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder as Instrument No. 20100205-0001923 (the operative NODA). The Operative NODA was mailed to Harned.
- 5. MERS executed an Assignment of Deed of Trust ("Assignment") transferring all beneficial interest in the First DOT and the underlying note to Chase. The Assignment was recorded in the Official Records of the Clark County Recorder on December 6, 2010, as Instrument No. 201012060000315.
- The same day Chase recorded a Substitution of Trustee, naming California õ. Reconveyance Company ("CRC"), as Instrument No. 201012060000316. Immediately thereafter, CRC recorded a Notice of Default and Election to Sell Under Deed of Trust ("Bank" NOD"), as Instrument No. 201012060000317.
- CRC recorded a Foreclosure Mediation Certificate on April 12, 2011, as Instrument No. 201104120001990, stating that Chase could proceed with the foreclosure process.
- 8. CRC recorded a Notice of Trustee's sale on June 1, 2011, as Instrument No. 201106010003269, giving a sale date of June 21, 2011. The sale apparently did not take place that day, and on September 29, 2011, CRC recorded another Notice of Trustee's Sale as Instrument No. 201109290003457, giving a sale date of October 20, 2011. The sale apparently did not take place that day.
- 9 On March 7, 2012, NAS recorded on behalf of the Association, a Notice of Default and Election to Sell Under Homeowners Association Lien ("Association NOD"), as

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Instrument No. 201203070000441. The Association NOD was mailed to Harned, Venta, Chase, CRC, and MERS. The Bank does not dispute receiving the Association NOD.

- Chase did not attempt to pay the Association after receiving the Association 10. NOD.
- 11. On May 25, 2012, Chase sent a letter to Hamed advising her that she should correct the situation or Chase may initiate appropriate actions to bring the account current per the terms of the mortgage.
- On August 30, 2012, more than ninety days after recording of the Association 12. NOD, NAS recorded a Notice of Trustee's Sale ("Association NOS"), as Instrument No. 20120830-0003067, giving September 21, 2012 as the sale date. This Association NOS was mailed to Hamed, Venta, Chase, CRC and MERS. Chase received the Association NOS and does not dispute this. The NOS included the following language in larger font than the remainder of the notice: "WARNING! A SALE OF YOUR PROPERTY IS IMMINENT! UNLESS YOU PAY THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN THIS NOTICE BEFORE THE SALE DATE, YOU COULD LOSE YOUR HOME, EVEN IF THE AMOUNT IS IN DISPUTE. YOU MUST ACT BEFORE THE SALE DATE." The NOS included the contact information for NAS, as agent for the Association. The NOS stated that the sale would take place on November 30, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. and provided the location of the sale. The NOS also stated in all capital letters: "UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE." Chase appears to have taken no action after receipt of the Association NOS.
- The Association NOS was properly posted and published pursuant to NRS 13. 116.311635.
- The Association auction took place on September 21, 2012 ("Association }4. Foreclosure Sale"). At that sale, SFR placed a winning bid of \$6,100.00. There were multiple bidders in attendance at the sale. No one acting on behalf of the Bank attended the Association Foreclosure Sale.
  - The Foreclosure Deed vesting title in SFR was recorded in the Official Records of 15.

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the Clark County Recorder on September 25, 2012 as Instrument No. 20120925-0001230 ("Foreclosure Deed"). The Foreclosure Deed included the following recitals:

This conveyance is made pursuant to the powers conferred upon agent by Nevada Revised Statutes, the Paradise Court governing documents (CC&R's) and that certain Notice of Delinquent Assessment Lien, described herein [recorded February 5, 2010]. Default occurred as set forth in a Notice of Default and Election to Sell, recorded on 3/7/2012 as instrument # 0000441 Book 10120307 which was recorded in the office of the recorder of said county. Nevada Association Services, Inc. has complied with all requirements of law including, but not limited to, the elapsing of 90 days, mailing of copies of Notice of Delinquent Assessment and Notice of Default and the posting and publication of the Notice of Sale. Said property was sold by said agent, on behalf of Paradise Court at public auction on 9/21/2012, at the place indicated on the Notice of Sale.

16. The Bank did not make any payments to the Association or its agent, NAS, prior to the Association Foreclosure Sale nor did the Bank challenge the Association Foreclosure Sale in any administrative or civil proceeding prior to filing its complaint in this case.

# Chase Attempts to Foreclose Yet Again

17. On October 11, 2012, Chase substituted National Default Servicing Corporation ("NDSC") in place of CRC via Instrument No. 20121011-0001602. NDSC immediately filed a Notice of Trustee's Sale Under Deed of Trust as Instrument No. 20121011-0001603.

# The Lawsuit and Arguments of the Parties

- On December 4, 2012, SFR filed its complaint for quiet title and declaratory relief 18. against Chase, Harned, Venta, Republic Silver State Disposal, Inc., and the Association, alleging that the Association Foreclosure Sale extinguished the defendants' interest in the Property. SFR also sought injunctive relief against Venta, Chase, CRC and NDSC to prevent them from taking any action to foreclose on, sell, convey, or otherwise enforce any interest against the Property.
- 19. Chase answered SFR's complaint on January 25, 2013. SFR voluntarily dismissed the Association, CRC, Republic Silver State Disposal, and NDSC by notice or stipulations entered on February 5, 2013, July 15, 2013, July 18, 2013, and February 6, 2014 respectively.
  - 20. Default was entered against Venta on May 14, 2015.
- 21. On September 18, 2014, the Nevada Supreme Court issued its decision in SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC v. U.S. Bank, N.A., 130 Nev. \_\_\_\_, 334 P.3d 408 (2014)("SFR

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Decision"), holding that a properly conducted association foreclosure sale will extinguish a first deed of trust.

- On October 19, 2015, Chase filed an amended answer and counterclaim, asserting 22. a claim for unjust enrichment against SFR.
  - 23. SFR filed its answer to the counterclaim on November 6, 2015.
- SFR filed its motion for summary judgment on August 11, 2016, seeking 24. judgment on all claims against Chase.
  - 25. Chase filed its motion for summary judgment on September 13, 2016.
  - 26. In SFR's motion for summary judgment
- 27. In its motion for summary judgment, SFR argued, inter alia, that (1) the Association Foreclosure Sale extinguished the First DOT and Chase's interest in the Property, and that the conclusive proof in the Association Foreclosure Deed and presumptions under NRS 47.250 shift the burden to Chase to show that the Association Foreclosure Sale was somehow improper; (2) Chase, as a lienholder, is not entitled to an equitable remedy; (3) the Association Foreclosure Sale vested title in SFR without equity or right of redemption; (4) the Association Foreclosure Sale was commercially reasonable; (4) even if there were irregularities with the sale, they could not be imputed to SFR because SFR is a bona fide purchaser for value; (5) any claims by Chase against the sale are barred by laches; d (6) Chase's unjust enrichment claim failed under the voluntary payment doctrine; and (7) Chase lacks standing to raise either the Supremacy Clause or Property Clause based on the loan allegedly being FHA insured to challenge the Association Foreclosure Sale and that even if able to raise it, there is no preemption, express or implied.
- 28. In opposition, Chase argued, inter alia, that (1) the Association's CC&Rs mortgage protection clause precluded extinguishment and there were material questions of fact as to SFR's BFP status; (2) NRS 116 (the "Statute") is unconstitutional on its face as it does not require homeowner's associations to provide known lienholders with actual notice prior to extinguishing their liens, in violation of the minimum requirements for due process under the United States and Nevada constitutions, relying heavily on the analysis in the recent Ninth Circuit decision in Bourne Valley Court Trust v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., No. 15-15233, 2016

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WL 4254983 (9th Cir. Aug. 12, 2016); (3) because the loan was FHA insured, the supremacy clause and property clauses preempt NRS 116; (4) the SFR Decision does not apply to this case because the Association Foreclosure Sale took place on September 21, 2012 and the SFR Decision does not apply retroactively; (5) the Association Foreclosure sale was "tainted" by unfairness and Chase is entitled to equitable relief; (6) the price paid at the Association Foreclosure sale was "grossly inadequate" and that is enough to void the sale; (7) laches does not apply; and (8) the voluntary payment doctrine does not apply or equity requires payment to Chase on its unjust enrichment claim.

- SFR's reply addressed its arguments regarding Bourne Valley 29. constitutionality, the supremacy and property clauses as relating to FHA insurance, commercial reasonableness, retroactively, applying equities pursuant to Shadow Wood HOA v. N.Y. Cmty. Bancorp, 132 Nev. \_\_\_\_, 366 P.3d 1105 (2016), and unjust enrichment.
- 30. At the hearing, Chase requested that the hearing be continued until its motion for summary judgment could be heard. The Court finds that this was not necessary as all claims were addressed in SFR's motion and therefore denied Chase's oral motion to continue.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Summary judgment is appropriate and "shall be rendered forthwith" when the pleadings and other evidence on file demonstrate no "genuine issue as to any material fact [remains] and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." NRCP 56(c); Wood v. Safeway, Inc., 121 Nev. 724, 729, 121 P.3d 1026, 1029 (2005). Declaratory or equitable relief may be adjudicated on summary judgment. Shadow Wood, 366 P.3d at 1111. "The substantive law controls which factual disputes are material and will preclude summary judgment; other factual disputes are irrelevant." Wood, 121 Nev. at 731, 121 P.3d at 1031. "A factual dispute is genuine when the evidence is such that a rational trier of fact could return a verdict for the nonmoving party." Id. While the pleadings and other proof must be construed in a light most favorable to the non-moving party, that party bears the burden "to do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt" as to the operative facts in order to avoid summary judgment being entered in the moving party's favor. Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. v.

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Zenith Radio, 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986), cited in Wood, 121 Nev. at 732, 121 P.3d at 1031. The non-moving party "must, by affidavit or otherwise, set forth specific facts demonstrating the existence of a genuine issue for trial or have summary judgment entered against him." Bulbman Inc. v. Nevada Bell, 108 Nev. 105, 110, 828 P.2d 588, 591 (1992), cited in Wood, 121 Nev. at 732, 121 P.3d at 1031. The non-moving party "is not entitled to build a case on the gossamer threads of whimsy, speculation, and conjecture." Bulbman, 108 Nev. at 110, 825 P.2d 591, quoting Collins v. Union Fed. Savings & Loan, 99 Nev. 284, 302, 662 P.2d 610, 621 (1983).

While the moving party generally bears the burden of proving there is no genuine issue of material fact, in this case there are a number of presumptions that this Court must consider in deciding the issues, including:

- That foreclosure sales and the resulting deeds are presumed valid. NRS 47.250(16-18) (stating that there are disputable presumptions "that the law has been obeyed"; "that a trustee or other person, whose duty it was to convey real property to a particular person, has actually conveyed to that person, when such presumption is necessary to perfect the title of such person or a successor in interest"; "that private transactions have been fair and regular"; and "that the ordinary course of business has been followed.")
- That a foreclosure deed issued pursuant to NRS 116.31164 that includes recitals 2. of "(a) [d]efault, the mailing of the notice of delinquent assessment, and the recoding of the notice of default and election to sell; (b) [t]he elapsing of the 90 days; and (c) [t]he giving of notice of sale, are conclusive proof of the matters recited." NRS 116.31166(1)(a)-(c). Furthermore, "[s]uch a deed containing those recitals is conclusive against the unit's former owner, his or her heirs and assigns, and all other persons. NRS 116.31166(2); SFR Decision, 334 P.3d at 411-412; Shadow Wood, 366 P.3d at 1110.

"A presumption not only fixes the burden of going forward with evidence, but it also shifts the burden of proof." Yeager v. Harrah's Club, Inc., 111 Nev. 830, 834, 897 P.2d 1093, 1095 (1995)(citing Vancheri v. GNLV Corp., 105 Nev. 417, 421, 777 P.2d 366, 368 (1989)). "These presumptions impose on the party against whom it is directed the burden of proving that the nonexistence of the presumed fact is more probable than its existence." Id. (citing NRS)

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47.180.). Thus, the Bank bore the burden of proving it was more probable than not that the Association Foreclosure Sale and the Foreclosure Deed were invalid. Furthermore, the Bank bore the burden to overcome the conclusive proof in the Foreclosure Deed recitals, to even be entitled to equity.

#### Foreclosure Under NRS 116

In 1991, Nevada adopted the Uniform Common Interest Act (1982 version) ("UCIOA"), as NRS Chapter 116, effective January 1, 1992. SFR Decision, 334 P.3d at 410. Pursuant to NRS 116.3116(2) and the CC&Rs, an association has a lien for assessments, a portion of which has priority over a first security interest. SFR Decision, 334 P.3d at 411. NRS 116.31162 -116.31168 provides the means for an association to foreclose on its lien non-judicially. Ld. When an association properly forecloses on its lien by sale it will extinguish all junior liens on the property, including a first deed of trust. Id. at 419.

# Constitutionality of the Statute

Chase argues that the Statute is unconstitutional on its face as it violates the due process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution as well as the Nevada Constitution. It also relies heavily on the analysis in the Bourne Valley decision by the 9th Circuit. It claims that the Statute does not require a homeowner's association to provide actual notice of its foreclosure efforts to lenders and other secured parties with a recorded interest in a property before the association extinguishes its lien at an association foreclosure sale. Instead, the Bank argues that the Statute places the burden on the lender to affirmatively "opt in" and request notice. SFR argues that the Bank lacks standing to assert a due process challenge in this case because it received actual notice of the Association Foreclosure Sale as required by NRS 116. Even if it had standing to assert such a challenge, SFR argues that the Nevada Supreme Court already rejected the constitutional challenge of the Statute, facially and as applied, in the SFR Decision. SFR also argues that the Statute does not violate due process as it does not

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All references to NRS 116 are to the statutes as they existed at the time of the Association Foreclosure Sale in 2012.

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involve a state action and a state actor. Finally, SFR argues that the Statute is constitutional as it requires notice to be sent to all junior lienholders before their interests are extinguished.

This Court recognizes the Bourne Valley opinion but rejects the analysis and notes that the Bourne Valley decision is not binding on this Court. Further, the Court rejects the construction offered by Chase. This Court concludes that the Statute is constitutional, as it requires notice to be sent to all junior lienholders prior to the extinguishment of their interests in the subject property based on the express incorporation of NRS 107.090 by NRS 116.31168.

Furthermore, here, the Bank provided no evidence to contradict the evidence that it received the Association's foreclosure notices.

# Retroactive Application of the SFR Decision

This Court rejects Chase's argument that the SFR Decision should not be applied retroactively. First, the Court finds that Chase failed to raise this retroactively argument as an affirmative defenseThe Nevada Supreme Court, in the SFR Decision, did not announce a new rule of law. It interpreted existing statutes and law. Retroactivity concerns are removed from the statutory construction context because, "[a] judicial construction of a statute is an authoritative statement of what the statute meant before as well as after the decision of the case giving rise to that construction." Morales-Izquierdo v. Dept. of Homeland Sec., 600 F.3d 1076, 1087-88 (2010) (quoting <u>Rivers v. Roadway Express, Inc.</u>, 511 U.S. 298, 312-13 (1994)) (overruled in part on other grounds by Garfias-Rodriguez v. Holder, 702 F.3d 504, 516 (2012)). When a court interprets a statute, "it is explaining its understanding of what the statute has meant continuously since the date when it became law." Morales-Izquierdo, 600 F.3d at 1088 (quoting Rivers, 511) U.S. at 313 n.12). Consequently, judicial interpretations are given "[f]ull retroactive effect[.]" Morales-Izquierdo, 600 F.3d at 1008 (quoting Harper, 509 U.S. at 97).

#### FHA Insurance

Chase argues that the First DOT is protected by the Supremacy and Property Clauses of the United States Constitution and, therefore, NRS 116 is preempted. This Court rejects these arguments. The Court finds persuasive and adopts the analysis set forth by the Hon. Jennifer Dorsey in Freedom Mortgage Corp. v. Las Vegas Development Grp., LLC, 106 F.Supp.3d 1174

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(D.Nev. 2015). As discussed therein, HUD is not a party to this litigation and nothing provides that Chase has standing to raise the Property Clause to protect HUD's alleged interest in the Property, and further, this Court deems the insurance interest to be too attenuated to implicate the Property clause. Additionally, the Court finds there is neither express nor conflict preemption, as Chase could have complied with both NRS 116 and HUD's policies and procedures. Finally, pursuant to Armstrong v. Exceptional Child Care Ctr., Inc., 135 S.Ct. 1378 (2015), this Court concludes that Chase, as a private litigant, cannot rely on the Supremacy Clause in any case to challenge NRS 116.

# Price Paid for the Property

The Bank argues that the price SFR paid for the Property, \$5,100.00, was grossly inadequate as a matter of law. The Bank argues that, under the Restatement, a sale price is "grossly inadequate" if it is less than 20 percent of the property's fair market value. The Bank claims that the Association Foreclosure Sale should be invalidated as SFR paid only 7.4% of what it deemed the Property's value.3 SFR argues that the Nevada Supreme Court has not adopted the Restatement and that price alone is not enough to set aside the Association Foreclosure Sale. For that to be accomplished, there must also be evidence of fraud, oppression, or unfairness. Furthermore SFR contested the value placed by Chase on the Property.

With regards to the price paid for the Property, this Court does not believe the Nevada Supreme Court has adopted a 20 percent absolute threshold. Price alone is not enough to void an association foreclosure sale. In addition to a low price, there would have to be to be evidence of fraud, oppression, or unfairness in the conduct of the sales process itself, which is the important event. Without such evidence, this Court need not determine the actual value of the Property at the time of the sale. See Oller v. Sonoma County Land Title Co., 290 P.2d 880, 882 (Cal.Ct.App. 1955) ("Since inadequacy of price is not alone ground for setting aside the sale, the failure of the court to find upon the value of the property is immaterial."), cited with approval in

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Chase relied on an expert report that purported to do a retroactive analysis of the Property's fair market value

Chase relied on an

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Golden v. Tomiyasu, 79 Nev. 503, 514, 387 P.2d 989, 994 (1963).

#### Sale Process

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The Bank argues that in addition to the low price paid for the Property, the Association Foreclosure Sale should be declared void as it contained the following irregularities. First Chase argues that there was a mortgage savings clause in the CC&Rs. But it presents no evidence that it relied on the clause or that anyone else relied on that clause such that it caused the allegedly inadequate price paid at the sale. And the SFR Decision made it clear that the mortgage savings clause has been unenforceable since inception. Second, the Bank argues that no competitive bidding took place at the Association Foreclosure Sale. The Bank argues there were only two bidders at the sale. Chase goes on to argue that while the Association Foreclosure Sale was noticed in accordance with the law, as commercially required, NAS did not make any additional efforts to maximize the publicity of the sale. However, Chase provides no evidence that the sale was not properly noticed pursuant to statute. It had actual notice of the sale and, in fact, contacted its own borrower regarding the delinquency. The Bank knew how much it needed to pay to stop the sale because the amounts were clearly stated in the notices Chase admits it received. The Bank could have paid that amount, even under protest, to protect its interest in the Property but failed to do so. Chase could have attended the sale itself and did not. Third, Chase argues that there is evidence that the proceeds of the sale were not properly distributed. However, pursuant to statute, SFR has no responsibility for proper distribution. NRS 116.31166(2). Additionally, this goes only to post-sale actions, not pre-sale. Finally, Chase argues that SFR's purchasing agent, Robert Diamond, may have believed SFR was taking title subject to the First DOT. However, Mr. Diamond's personal beliefs are irrelevant to the actual conduct of the sale. None of the facts on which Chase relies are enough to overcome the presumption and evidence of the validity of the sale.

This Court does not find any evidence of fraud, oppression, or unfairness that would justify setting aside the Association Foreclosure Sale in this case. There is no evidence to suggest the Association Foreclosure Sale was not conducted properly in this case. All statutorily required notices were provided to all relevant parties, including Chase, and the price 7625 DEAN MARTIN DRIVE, SUIT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89139 (702) 485-3300 FAX (702) 485-3363

SFR paid for the Property is not proof of any fraud, oppression, or unfairness. Thus, this Court concludes the Association Foreclosure Sale was properly held and, pursuant to the SFR Decision, extinguished the First DOT.

#### Equitable Analysis

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While this Court does not believe an equitable analysis is required as the Bank failed to set forth any evidence of fraud, oppression, or unfairness that would justify setting aside the Association Foreclosure Sale, if it were to consider equity in this case, the weight supports judgment in favor of SFR. Here, the Bank admits it received the NOD and NOS. The Bank also admits that it did not make a tender to the Association or its agent, NAS, to protect its interest in the Property but merely requested a payoff amount. Despite knowing when the Association Foreclosure Sale was scheduled to take place, the Bank did not make any attempt to stop the sale by filing a lawsuit to seek injunctive relief. The Bank had numerous options available to protect its interest in the Property, including, among other things, attending the Association Foreclosure Sale itself, but did not pursue them.

Given this, equity favors SFR in this case.

# Unjust Enrichment

Chase claimed that if title was quieted in SFR's name, SFR was unjustly enriched by Chase's payment of property taxes and for insurance on the Property. SFR argues that Chase's claim is barred by the voluntary payment doctrine, which precludes reimbursement for voluntarily paid expenses that do not meet an exception, such as business compulsion or defense of property. SFR argues specifically that "money voluntarily paid, with full knowledge of all the facts, although no obligation to make such payment existed, cannot be recovered back." Nevada Ass'n Services, Inc. v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct., 130 Nev. ....., 338 P.3d 1250, 1253 (2014). Further, SFR argues that any insurance on the Property that Chase paid was for its own benefit unless it admitted and showed that Chase named SFR as an additional insured. Chase argues the doctrine does not apply, that it did not have full knowledge of the facts or, in the alterative, that equity demands reimbursement.

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The Court is persuaded by Nevada Ass'n Services, Inc. v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct., 130 Nev. \_\_\_\_, 338 P.3d 1250 (2014), in which the Nevada Supreme Court recognized that voluntary payment of expenses without meeting an exception precludes recovery for unjust enrichment. SFR had the burden to show the alleged payments were voluntary, and then Chase had the burden to show an exception existed to the voluntary payment doctrine. Id. at 1254. The two exceptions are (1) coercion or duress caused by a business necessity and (2) payment in defense of property.

Here, Chase knew that SFR had title to the Property and, as such, had an obligation to maintain the Property, by paying assessments, taxes, and insurance. Chase never demonstrated that it paid the property taxes in order to stop an imminent foreclosure by the taxing authority, or that SFR would not have paid the property taxes if Chase had not done so. Furthermore, Chase never argued that SFR would somehow benefit from whatever insurance Chase maintained on the Property. Thus, Chase cannot claim that it was either coerced or paid in defense of property. Accordingly, the payments made by Chase, which was aware that the title would pass from its borrower if the Association foreclosed, were made voluntarily and with full knowledge of the facts, even if it allegedly misapprehended the law at the time of the sale. SFR is entitled to summary judgment on Chase's unjust enrichment claim.

For the reasons stated above and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that SFR's motion for summary judgment is GRANTED in its entirety.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Bank's motion for summary judgment is moot and shall be denied as such and the hearing vacated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the First DOT recorded against the Property commonly known as 1076 Slate Crossing #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002; Parcel No. 179-34-713-236 was extinguished by the Association Foreclosure Sale.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Chase had no interest in the Property after the Association Foreclosure Sale on September 21, 2012 and is hereby permanently enjoined from taking any action to enforce the First DOT recorded on May 14, 2008 as Instrument No.

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20080514-0005041. This order does not preclude, limit, or in any way restrict any remedies available under the promissory note that was secured by the First DOT.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that title to the Property commonly known as 1076 Slate Crossing #2, Henderson, Nevada 89002; Parcel No. 179-34-713-236 is hereby quieted in favor of SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this <u>A S</u>day of October, 2016.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Respectfully Submitted By: KIM GILBERT EBRON

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Jacqueline A. Gilbert, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10593

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Attorneys for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation

# EXHIBIT 12

Alm to Column

**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

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# DISTRICT COURT

#### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

SFR INVESTMENTS POOL!, LLC a Nevada limited liability company,

#### Plaintiff,

VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada corporation, JP-MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY a California corporation, REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a Nevada corporation, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE L. HARNED, an individual, DOES I through X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. A-12-672963-C

Dept. No. XXVII

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO EXCLUDE TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL BRUNSON

This matter came before the Court on August 10, 2016, on JP-Morgan Chase Bank, N.A's Motion to Exclude Testimony of Michael Brunson. Abran Vigil, Esq. appeared on behalf of JPMorgan Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. Karen L. Hanks, Esq. appeared on behalf of SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC.

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Having reviewed and considered the full briefing and arguments of counsel, for the reasons stated on the record and in the pleadings, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.'s Motion to Exclude Testimony of Michael Brunson is DENIED.

So ordered this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2016

DISTRICTCOURTIUDGE

Respectfully Submitted By:

#### KIM GILBERT EBRON

Karen L. Hanks, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 9578

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Attorney for SFR Investments Pool 1. LLC

Approved as to Form by:

BALKAMO SPAHIJIKÉ

LYndray Demarce, Esq.

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Attorneys for JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

# EXHIBIT 13

Hum J. Colum

**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

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Lindsay Demaree
Nevada Bar No. 11949
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Nevada Bar No. 12991
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lambm@ballardspahr.com

Attorneys for Defendant/Counter-Claimant JPMorgan Chase Bank,

National Association

DISTRICT COURT

#### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC a Nevada limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

v.

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VENTA REALTY GROUP, a Nevada corporation, JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national association, successor by merger to CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION, an Arizona corporation, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, a California corporation, REPUBLIC SILVER STATE DISPOSAL, INC., a Nevada Corporation, PARADISE COURT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Nevada non-profit corporation and DELANIE L. ĤARNED, an individual, DOES I through X, ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Defendants.

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., as successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC,

CASE NO. A-12-672963-C DEPT. NO. XXVII

DMWEST #15272102 v2

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106 (702) 471-7000 FAX (702) 471-7070 16

Counter-Claimant,

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SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,

Counter-Defendant.

#### STIPULATION AND ORDER DIRECTING ENTRY OF FINAL JUDGMENT AS BETWEEN SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1. LLC AND JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC ("SFR") Defendant/Counter-Claimant JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, as successor by merger to Chase Home Finance LLC ("Chase") hereby stipulate as follows:

- This is a quiet title action arising from a foreclosure sale under NRS 1. Chapter 116.
- SFR's complaint filed December 4, 2012 named Chase, Venta Realty 2. Group ("Venta"), California Reconveyance Company ("CRC"), National Default Servicing Corporation ("NDSC"), Paradise Court Homeowners Association ("HOA"), Republic Silver State Disposal, Inc. ("Republic"), and Delanie L. Harned as defendants.
- The Court entered summary judgment for SFR on its claims against 3. Chase in its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order filed October 26, 2016 (the "Summary Judgment Order").
  - SFR dismissed CRC in a stipulation filed July 15, 2013. 4.
  - 5. SFR voluntarily dismissed NDSC on February 6, 2014.
  - SFR voluntarily dismissed HOA on February 5, 2013. 6.
  - SFR voluntarily dismissed Republic on July 18, 2013. 7.
  - SFR voluntarily dismissed Harned on February 6, 2014. 8.
- Chase's amended answer and counterclaim filed October 19, 2015 names 9. SFR as a defendant.

1	10.	10. The Court entered summary judgment for SFR on Chase's counterclaim		
2	in the Summary Judgment Order.			
3	11.	Thus, the Summary Judgme	nt Order resolves all claims between SFR	
4	and Chase.			
5	12.	To permit Chase to immediately pursue an appeal, SFR and Chase agree		
6	that the Court should direct the entry of a final judgment as between SFR and Chase			
7	pursuant to N.R.C.P. 54(b).			
8	13.	13. All the claims in this case have been resolved except for SFR's claims		
9	against defendant Venta.			
10	14.	SFR has obtained a default	against Venta but has not yet obtained a	
11	default judgment.			
12	15.	5. Venta was the original lender under the deed of trust serviced by Chase,		
13	but it appears to have no ongoing interest in the subject property.			
14	16. In any event, if the Nevada Supreme Court upholds this Court's holding			
15	that the deed of trust was extinguished, then neither Chase nor Venta will have any			
16	ongoing interest in the subject property.			
17	17. Accordingly, there is no just reason for delay and the Court should			
18	certify the Summary Judgment Order as a final judgment.			
19			1	
20	Dated Dece	mber <u>/5</u> , 2016	Dated December 5, 2016	
21	KIM GILBERT EBRON BALLARD SPAHR LLP			
22		MATERIAL DE LA CONTRACTION DEL CONTRACTION DE LA	Lindra Deman 00	
23	Diana Cline Ebron  Abran E. Vigil  Nevedo Per No. 7548			
24	Nevada Bar No. 10580 Jacqueline A. Gilbert Nevada Bar No. 10593 Nevada Bar No. 11949			
25	Karen L. Ha	anks	Matthew D. Lamb Nevada Bar No. 12991	
26	Nevada Bar No. 9578 7625 Dean Martin Drive, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89139		100 North City Parkway, Suite 1750 Las Vegas, Nevada 89106	
27			Attorneys for JPMorgan Chase Bank,	
28	$\parallel Attorneys \ for \ SFR \ Investments \ Pool \ 1, \ LLC$		National Association	

#### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing stipulation and the papers on file herein, the Court finds there is no just reason for delay in entering a final judgment as between Defendant/Counter-Claimant Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant **SFR** and Chase. Accordingly:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order filed October 26, 2016 constitute a final judgment as between SFR and Chase.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Chase may immediately pursue an appeal pursuant to N.R.C.P. 54(b).

Dated: December  $\sqrt{\cite{\wp}}$ , 2016.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Respectfully submitted by:

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