

STATE OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SECURITIES

BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES

In the Matter of: DM-13-0112

Community One Law Center, P. A. and Howard Feinmel;

Final Order to Cease and Desist and Order Assessing Civil Penalties Entered by Default

Respondents.

On March 21, 2013, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services for the State of Oregon ("Director"), acting pursuant its authority granted in Oregon Revised Statutes ("ORS") 86A.100 *et seq.*, and Oregon Administrative Rules ("OAR") 441-850-0005 through 441-885-0010 (collectively "Oregon Mortgage Lender Law") and ORS 697.602 to 697.842 and OAR 441-910-0000 through 441-910-0120 (collectively "Oregon Debt Management Service Provider Law") issued Administrative Order No. DM-13-0112 Order to Cease and Desist, Proposed Order Assessing Civil Penalty and Notice of Right to a Hearing (Notice Order).

On June 18, 2013, a certified true copy of the Notice Order was sent via certified and first class U. S. mail to Respondent Community One Law Center, P. A at 1499 West Palmetto Park Rd. Ste. 140, Boca Raton, FL. The certified mail return receipt was returned to the Division showing that Stacey Archer signed for the document on June 24, 2013.

On June 18, 2013, a certified true copy of the Notice Order was sent via certified and first class U. S. mail to Respondent Howard Feinmel, Law Office of Howard Feinmel PA at 1499 West Palmetto Park Rd. Ste. 140, Boca Raton, FL. The certified mail return receipt was returned to the Division showing that Stacey Archer signed for the document on June 24, 2013.

FINDINGS OF FACTS

The Director finds that:

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- 1. At all times material to this Order, Community One Law Center, P. A. (hereinafter "CO") has reported a principal place of business of 449 East Palmetto Park Boulevard, Suite 209, Baco Raton, Florida 33432.
- CO has never been registered with the Oregon Secretary of State to do business in Oregon.
- 3. Neither CO nor Howard Feinmel (hereinafter "Feinmel") have ever held a license to engage in residential mortgage transactions as a mortgage broker in Oregon and have never been registered to provide debt management services in Oregon.
- 4. A search of Oregon State Bar records show that there is no Oregon licensed attorney named Howard Feinmel.
- 5. At all times material to this Order, consumer "SM" was an Oregon resident and was party to a home mortgage loan secured by real estate located in Oregon.
- 6. In the fall of 2009, SM received phone solicitations from CO in which representatives of CO represented to SM that they could obtain a residential loan modification for her.
- 7. On or about October 15, 2009, after receiving solicitations from CO, SM entered into an agreement with attorney Howard Feinmel and Community One Law Center, P. A. for a loan modification on her home.

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- 8. In November and December of 2009, SM made payments totaling at least \$1,800 to CO in expectation of receiving a loan modification.
- 9. After she submitted her payments, SM worked with several different employees of CO. She was assured that her loan modification was going smoothly.
- 10. Several times CO's phone was disconnected and SM would call attorney Howard Feinmel regarding the loan modification process and Feinmel would have someone contact SM.
- 11. In the fall of 2010, SM received notice from her mortgage company telling SM that her home would be sold on September 20, 2010.
- 12. SM subsequently received a loan modification. Her lender reported that CO did contact the lender for purposes of negotiating a loan modification on behalf of SM.
- 13. On August 20, 2012, Howard Feinmel, individual and as owner, officer and/or agent of Community One Law Center, P. A., and or National Law Partners, P. A., entered into a Consent Judgment with the State of Indiana for engaging in similar activities as alleged above involving at least 15 Indiana consumers, Cause No. 64C01-1108-PL-8033.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Director concludes that:

- 1. CO and Feinmel acted as a "mortgage broker" under ORS 86A.100(5)(a)(C) when CO and Feinmel, for compensation, or in the expectation of compensation, either directly or indirectly made, negotiated, or offered to make or negotiate a modification to the terms and conditions of a mortgage loan.
- 2. CO and Feinmel engaged in "residential mortgage transactions in this state" under ORS 86A.103(2) by acting as a mortgage broker when CO and Feinmel offered to negotiate a modification to the terms and conditions of SM's residential mortgage loan secured by property located in Oregon.

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- 3. CO and Feinmel violated 86A.103(1) by engaging in residential mortgage transactions in Oregon without first obtaining a license as a mortgage broker under ORS 86A.095 to 86A.198.
- 4. CO and Feinmel may not rely upon the exclusion from the definition of mortgage broker contained in ORS 86A.100(5)(b)(G) because Feinmel is not an attorney licensed or authorized to practice law in Oregon.
- 5. CO and Feinmel engaged in debt management service as defined in ORS 697.602(2) when they received money or expected to receive money from SM for providing advice, assistance, instruction or instructional material concerning debt management services in regard to an existing loan.
- 6. CO and Feinmel violated ORS 697.612(1)(b)(E) when they provided debt management services to SM when they were not registered as debt management service providers.
- 7. CO and Feinmel may not rely upon the exclusion from registration as a debt management service provider contained in ORS 697.612(3)(b) because Feinmel is not an attorney licensed or authorized to practice law in Oregon.
- 8. CO and Feinmel violated ORS 697.692 by accepting or receiving an initial fee of more than \$50 from SM.

ORDERS

NOW, THEREFORE, THE DIRECTOR ISSUES THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 1. Pursuant to ORS 86A.127(4) and 697.825(1)(a), the Director hereby orders CO and Feinmel, and all entities owned or controlled by CO and Feinmel, to CEASE AND DESIST from violating the Oregon statutes regulating mortgage lending, ORS 86A.100 et seq., and debt management service providers, ORS 697.602 to 697.842.
- 2. Pursuant to ORS 86A.992, the Director may assess a civil penalty in the amount of not more than \$5,000 per violation against any person who violates or who

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procures, aids or abets in the violation of any provision of ORS 86A.095 to 86A.198 or
any rule or order issued under ORS 86A.124 or 86A.242. Pursuant to the authority of
ORS 697.832, the Director may assess a civil penalty in an amount of not more than
\$5,000 per violation against any person who violates ORS 697.612 or 697.642 to
697.702, rules adopted under ORS 697.632, or any order issued under ORS 697.825.

- a. Pursuant to ORS 86A.992(1) and 697.832, the Director hereby proposes to order CO to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$5,000 for the violation of ORS 86A.103 (unlicensed mortgage broker)/ORS 697.612 (unregistered debt management service provider).
- b. Pursuant to ORS 86A.992(1) and 697.832, the Director hereby proposes to order Feinmel to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$5,000 for the violation of ORS 86A.103 (unlicensed mortgage broker)/ORS 697.612 (unregistered debt management service provider).
- c. Pursuant to ORS 86A.224(3)(a) and 697.832, the Director hereby proposes to order CO and Feinmel to pay a civil penalty, jointly and severally, in the amount of \$5,000 for the violation of ORS 697.692 (unlawful DMSP fees).

The entry of this Order in no way further limits remedies that may be available to the Director under Oregon law.

Dated this 22nd day of August , 2013.

PATRICK M. ALLEN, Director Department of Consumer and Business Services

/s/ David Tatman

David C. Tatman, Administrator

Division of Finance and Corporate Securities

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Notice

You are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition with the Court of Appeals in Salem, Oregon within 60 days from the service of this order.

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