IN THE MATTER OF:

RAPID MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, LLC,

JAMES R. COLE, JR.,

BEFORE THE MARYLAND
COMMISSIONER OF
FINANCIAL REGULATION

Case No.: CFR-FY2010-290

Respondents.

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER

- 1. Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland Commercial Law Article ("CL"), Title14, Subtitle 19, (the Maryland Credit Services Businesses Act, hereinafter "MCSBA"), and Financial Institutions Article ("FI"), Title 11, Subtitles 2 and 3, the Commissioner is responsible for licensing and regulating, *inter alia*, all residential mortgage loan modification services (a/k/a loss mitigation, foreclosure consulting, and similar services) provided to consumer loans secured by residential real property located in the State of Maryland (the "State").
  - 2. On February 25, 2011, the Commissioner issued a Summary Order to Cease

and Desist alleging, in part, that Respondents violated the MCSBA by providing residential loan modification services to Maryland residents without first obtaining a license as required under the MCSBA, all in violation of the MCSBA.

- 3. Respondents do not admit to the alleged violations set forth above but, nonetheless, wish to resolve the alleged violations without the need for further administrative proceedings or other legal proceedings, and to avoid the costs associated with such proceedings and any potential appeals, and therefore agree to resolve this matter fully, finally, and completely without further administrative proceedings commenced, or an administrative hearing or injunction, and further accept without condition, and fully agrees to abide by, each and every term set forth in this Agreement.
- 4. The Commissioner desires to ensure that Respondents will comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, and others laws governing Maryland mortgage lending, brokering, origination, modification, and mitigation, and further wishes to avoid the costs to the taxpayers of an administrative hearing and/or injunction and any potential appeals.
- 5. Respondents have agreed to take each and every one of the following actions in exchange for a final resolution of all allegations made herein:
- a. Respondents will remain liable for any refund due and owing to any Maryland consumer for whom Respondents contracted with to provide loan modification services and for which loan modification services did not result in a permanent loan modification/loss mitigation agreement for that Maryland consumer. Payment made on each and every refund contemplated under this Settlement Agreement will be made by check, made payable to the Maryland consumer(s) at their last known address, or such updated address as

can be identified through customary address verification means. If a Maryland consumer fails to cash a check then those funds will be transferred to the custody of the State Comptroller as "abandoned property" pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland, Commercial Law Article, Title 17, and shall be administered for the benefit of the Maryland consumer(s) accordingly, however, each check will either be negotiated by the respective Maryland consumer or transferred to the State Comptroller as "abandoned property" within one (1) year from the date of execution of this Agreement;

b. Respondents will remit a \$4,000 investigation fee to the Commissioner by money order or certified check made payable to the Commissioner of Financial Regulation. Payment will be made in two installment payments, with the first payment due immediately upon execution and delivery of this Agreement and with the final payment due within three hundred and sixty (360) days from the date of execution and delivery of this Agreement;

c. Respondents will remit a \$4,000 civil penalty to the Commissioner by money order or certified check made payable to the Commissioner of Financial Regulation. Payment will be made in two installment payments, with the first payment due within one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of execution and delivery of this Agreement and with the final payment due within five hundred and forty (540) days from the date of execution and delivery of this Agreement; and

d. Respondents will cease providing any and all residential loan modification services unless and until in full compliance with the MCSBA, and with FI, Title 11, Subtitles 2 and 3.

- 6. Respondents acknowledge that they have voluntarily entered into this Agreement with full knowledge of their right to a hearing, arising from any charges brought by the Commissioner based on the alleged violations, pursuant to MCSBA, and FI, Title 11, Subtitles 2 and 3, and the Maryland Administrative Procedures Act (MD. Code Ann., State Gov't. § 10-201 et seq.), and that Respondents hereby waive their right to a hearing. Respondents further acknowledge that they have had an opportunity to consult with independent legal counsel in connection with the waiver of rights and with the negotiation and execution of this Agreement, and that Respondents have either consulted with independent legal counsel or have knowingly and voluntarily elected not to consult with counsel.
- 7. Respondents represent that they are currently in compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations, and others laws governing Maryland mortgage lending, brokering, origination, modification, and mitigation, and that Respondents will continue to act in compliance at all future times.
- 8. The Parties hereto agree that this Agreement shall be binding and enforceable in court by the Commissioner and by Respondents, shall be admissible in court, and shall be binding upon and inure to any of Respondents' present and future owners, members, officers, employees, successors, and assigns.
- 9. The Parties hereto agree that any notices hereunder shall be effectively "delivered" when sent via overnight delivery or certified mail as follows:

## a. <u>To the Commissioner:</u>

Commissioner of Financial Regulation 500 North Calvert Street, Suite 402 Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3651 ATTN: Mark Kaufman, Deputy Commissioner With copy to:
Jedd Bellman, Esquire
Staff Attorney
500 North Calvert Street, Suite 406
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3651

## b. <u>To Respondents</u>:

Damani K. Ingram, Esquire 5457 Twin Knolls Road Columbia, Maryland 21045

NOW, THEREFORE, it is, by the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation, hereby

ORDERED that Respondents shall adhere to all terms of this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order; and it is

ORDERED that Respondents shall operate their business activities in full compliance with all statutes, regulations, and other laws governing mortgage lending, brokering, origination, modification, and mitigation in the State of Maryland, and shall continue to act in full compliance at all future times; and it is further

ORDERED that, in the event Respondents, or any of the owners, principles, directors, officers, managers, members, employees, or agents of the Respondents, violate any provision of this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order, or otherwise engage in the activities which formed the basis for the allegations set forth above, the Commissioner may, at the Commissioner's discretion, take any enforcement actions available under FI § 2-115(b), and under CL §§ 14-1902, 14-1907, 14-1911(f), and 14-1912, as well as take any other enforcement actions as permitted by, and in accordance with, applicable State law; and that such enforcement actions could include an order to cease and desist, civil money penalties of

up to \$1,000 for each violation and up to \$5,000 for each subsequent violation, an order to provide restitution of money or property to any aggrieved persons, an action for relief in Maryland Circuit Court, and/or referral for possible criminal prosecution; and it is further

ORDERED that this matter shall be resolved in accordance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order and the same shall be reflected among the records of the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation; and it is further

ORDERED that this document shall constitute a Final Order of the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation and, although the Respondents do not admit to the alleged violations set forth above, nevertheless, the Commissioner may consider this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order and the facts set forth herein in connection with, and in deciding, any action or proceeding before the Commissioner; and that this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order may, if relevant, be admitted into evidence in any matter before the Commissioner.

It is so ORDERED.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order is executed on the day and year first above written.

MARYLAND COMMISSIONER OF FINANCIAL REGULATION RAPID MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, LLC

By: Anne Balcer Norton

Deputy Commissioner

By: James R. Cole, Jr.

Owner/President

## JAMES R. COLE, JR.

James R. Cole, Jr. Individually