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REAL PRIATE COMMISSION

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### BEFORE THE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

#### STATE OF NEVADA

SHARATH CHANDRA, Administrator, REAL ESTATE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEVADA,	Case No.: 2016-1466
Petitioner,	
vs.	
PERRY A. WHITE,	
Respondent.	

# RESPONDENT WHITE'S MOTION TO DISMISS AND/OR MOTION FOR A MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT

Respondent Perry A. White, ("Respondent"), acting by and through his legal counsel Fennemore Craig, P.C., submits this motion to dismiss pursuant to Section 645.840 of the Nevada Administrative Code.

#### I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF RELEVANT FACTS

Mr. White is licensed by the Nevada Real Estate Division ("NRED" or the "Division) as a Real Estate Broker and Real Estate Broker Salesperson. Both licenses are currently on inactive status. The Amended Complaint and Notice of Hearing filed against Mr. White on May 7, 2018, (the "Amended Complaint"), alleges five violations of NRS 645.235(1)(b), which provides that

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The properties referenced in the Amended Complaint are: 2341 Comstock Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada (the "Academy of Excellence"); 2020 Reno Highway, Fallon, Nevada ("Walgreens"); 5015 Kietzke Lane, Reno, Nevada (the "Reno Red Lobster"); 2325 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada

Because the Division fails to establish any violation with respect to the Academy of Excellence and the Reno Red Lobster transactions, the Amended Complaint's claims that Mr. White assisted Agents Kunofsky, Otocka and Reja in committing such violations also fails as a matter of law and must be dismissed. Claims relating to the Reno Red Lobster transaction similarly fail. Moreover, the remaining claims relating to the Nevada Transactions lack particularity and do not adequately advise Mr. White as to what actions by the Company's out-of-state agents constitute activities requiring licensure.

II. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

professional licenses.3 Accordingly, the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution

affords certain protections to Mr. White in this contested case proceeding. As part of these due

process protections, NRED must "give notice to the defending party of 'the issues on which

decision will turn and . . . the factual material on which the agency relies for decision so that he

Occupational licensees like Mr. White have a protected property interest in their

the Commission may "impose an administrative fine against any person who knowingly . . .

assists or offers to assist another person" to engage "in any activity for which a license, permit,

certificate or registration or any type of authorization is required pursuant to this chapter, or

any regulation adopted pursuant thereto," where the person being assisted "does not hold the

required license, permit, certificate or registration or has not been given the required

authorization." Thus, each of the five alleged violations is premised upon a determination that

the agents affiliated with Millichap Real Estate Investment Services Inc. (the "Company") and

referenced in the Amended Complaint<sup>2</sup> engaged in the activities of a Nevada real estate broker-

salesperson, real estate salesperson, or real estate broker and that Mr. White "knowingly . . .

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("<u>Las Vegas Red Lobster</u>"); 570 Marks Street, Henderson, Nevada ("<u>Henderson Red Lobster</u>" and collectively, the "<u>Nevada Transactions</u>").

These agents are Glen D. Kunofsky, Edward Otocka, Gaurab Reja, Anthony D. D'Ambrosia, and James E. Ventura.

See, e.g., Potter v. State Bd. of Med. Examiners, 101 Nev. 369, 371, 705 P.2d 132, 134 (1985).

 may rebut it." This requirement to provide sufficient notice as to the factual basis for the alleged violation is also mandated by Section 233B.121 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, which states that the agency must provide "a short and plain statement of the matters asserted." The due process requirements for adequate notice are satisfied "where the parties are sufficiently apprised of the nature of the proceedings so that there is no unfair surprise. The crucial element is adequate opportunity to prepare."

The Amended Complaint fails these basic due process requirements and must be dismissed because it does not allege facts sufficient to constitute violations, nor does it sufficiently appraise Mr. White as to what conduct NRED believes constitutes five violations of NRS 645.235(1)(b).6 Where a complaint fails to plead an essential element of the alleged violation, the complaint must be dismissed.7 While dismissal of the Amended Complaint is appropriate, at a minimum, NRED must provide a more definite statement before the Amended Complaint can proceed to a contested case proceeding. Due process demands that NRED apprise Mr. White as to the grounds for the alleged violations and the "factual material on which the agency relies."

# A. NRED FAILS TO ALLEGE FACTS SUFFICIENT TO FIND THAT MR. WHITE ASSISTED UNLICENSED ACTIVITY IN THE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE TRANSACTION

Central to the allegations against Mr. White in the Academy of Excellence transaction are the charges levied on Company Agents Kunofsky, Otocka and Reja.<sup>8</sup> Without predicate violations by these individuals with respect to the Academy of Excellence, there can be no finding that Mr. White is liable under 645.235(1)(b) for assisting conduct which requires a

Dutchess Bus. Servs., Inc. v. Nevada State Bd. of Pharmacy, 124 Nev. 701, 711, 191 P.3d 1159, 1166 (2008) citing Bowman Transp. v. Ark.-Best Freight System, 419 U.S. 281, 288–89 n. 4 (1974); see also NRS 233B.121 (requiring the agency to provide "a short and plain statement of the matters asserted").

<sup>5</sup> Nevada State Apprenticeship Council v. Joint Apprenticeship & Training Comm. for Elec. Indus., 94 Nev. 763, 765, 587 P.2d 1315, 1317 (1978)

Glen D. Kunofsky, Amended Complaint, Case No. 2016-2900 (May 7, 2018) at para. 57.

See Edgar v. Wagner, 101 Nev. 226, 228, 699 P.2d 110, 112 (1985).

<sup>8</sup> See Glen D. Kunofsky, Amended Complaint, Case No. 2016-2900 (May 7, 2018); Edward Otocka, Complaint, Case No. 2016-2904 (Feb. 15, 2018); Garaub Reja, Complaint, Case No. 2016-2903 (Feb. 15, 2018) (collectively, the "Nonresident Complaints").

license or permit.

As set forth in the contemporaneously-filed Kunofsky Motion to Dismiss and/or Motion for a More Definite Statement (the "Kunofsky Motion"), the Otocka Motion to Dismiss (the "Otocka Motion"), and the Reja Motion to Dismiss (the "Reja Motion"), the Division failed to allege the elements necessary to establish that Agents Kunofsky, Otocka and Reja violated NRS 645.230(1)(a) and/or NRS 645.235(1)(a) by "engaging in the business of, acting in the capacity of, or advertising or assuming to act" as a real estate broker-salesperson, real estate salesperson, or real estate broker. Specifically, NRED did not plead that Agents Kunofsky, Otocka and Reja associated with a licensed Nevada broker, which is an element of the definition of both broker-salespersons and real estate salespersons. Moreover, NRED did not plead that Agents Kunofsky, Otocka, and Reja received compensation or expected to receive compensation for the Academy of Excellence transaction, which is a required element of engaging in the activities of a real estate broker under NRS 645.030.

For these reasons, the allegations against Agents Kunofsky, Otocka and Reja are fundamentally defective and cannot support disciplinary action for engaging in activities requiring licensure. Accordingly, without any violations by these individuals during the Academy of Excellence transaction, there is no basis for finding that Mr. White "knowingly assist[ed] or offer[ed] to assist another person or persons to engage in any activity for which a license, permit, certificate or registration or any type of authorization is required . . .."

Consequently, this alleged violation must be dismissed.

contents, the relevance of which is demonstrated in this Motion.

Dismiss and/or Motion for a More Definite Statement at 3:16 to 5:8 (Nev. Real Estate Comm'n filed May 29, 2018); Chandra, et al. v. Otocka, Case No. 2016-2904 Respondent Otocka's Motion to Dismiss at 2:18

to 4:6 (Nev. Real Estate Comm'n filed May 29, 2018); Chandra, et al. v. Reia, Case No. 2016-2903

Respondent Reja's Motion to Dismiss at 2:17 to 4:3 (Nev. Real Estate Comm'n filed May 29, 2018). The Kunofsky, Otocka, and Reja Motions are public records and pursuant to NRS 233B.123(5), the

Respondent requests that the Commission take official administrative notice of this public record and its

See Chandra, et al. v. Kunofsky, Case No. 2016-2900 Respondent Kunofsky's Motion to

See NRS 645.035 (defining "real estate broker-salesperson") and NRS 645.040 (defining "real estate salesperson").

# B. NRED FAILS TO ALLEGE FACTS SUFFICIENT TO FIND THAT MR. WHITE ASSISTED UNLICENSED ACTIVITY IN THE RENO RED LOBSTER TRANSACTION

Similarly, because NRED failed to plead the facts necessary to established that Mr. Kunofsky engaged in the activities of a real estate broker with respect to the Reno Red Lobster transaction, the allegations that Mr. White assisted this violation must also be dismissed. As set forth in the Kunofsky Motion, NRED's sparse allegations regarding Mr. Kunofsky's role in this transaction fail to establish that Mr. Kunofsky knowingly engaged in any activities requiring licensure. Indeed, the Complaint asserts actions undertaken by the *Company* with respect to this transaction, but NRED but does not claim Mr. Kunofsky engaged in these actions, or knew of or approved of the Company's actions. Accordingly, because NRED has not alleged any specific activities by Mr. Kunofsky that fall within the scope a real estate broker as defined in NRS 645.030, the Amended Complaint similarly fails to state a claim against Mr. White with respect to the Reno Red Lobster transaction.

# C. NRED FAILS TO ALLEGE FACTS SUFFICIENT TO SHOW VIOLATIONS OF NRS 645,235(1)(A) DURING THE LAS VEGAS RED LOBSTER AND HENDERSON TRANSACTIONS

NRED's allegations against Mr. Kunofsky and Mr. White with respect to the Las Vegas Red Lobster and Henderson Red Lobster transactions are likewise thin and do not establish a basis for disciplining by Mr. Kunofsky, or by extension, Mr. White.

As further explained in the Kunofsky Motion, the simple assertion that Mr. Kunofsky executed a "Brokerage Cooperation Agreement – Turf State", without any additional details or information about this agreement or its terms, is not sufficient to establish any violation of NRS 645.230(1)(a) and/or NRS 645.235(1)(a).<sup>12</sup> As such, Mr. Kunofsky's alleged violations for these transactions appear to be wholly premised on the claims that certain "advertising" stated that

See Chandra, et al. v. Kunofsky, Case No. 2016-2900 Respondent Kunofsky's Motion to Dismiss and/or Motion for a More Definite Statement at 5:9 to 6:5 (Nev. Real Estate Comm'n filed May 29, 2018).

See id. at 6:6 to 7:14. To the extent that NRED believes this action alone is grounds for discipline, it has utterly failed to allege with particularity the connection between the Brokerage Cooperation Agreement – Turf State document and NRS 645.230(1)(a) and/or NRS 645.235(1)(a), and due process requires a more definite statement as to the basis for discipline.

 the Las Vegas Red Lobster and Henderson Red Lobster properties were listed by Mr. Kunofsky. NRED, however, makes *no* claim that Mr. Kunofsky requested the advertising, supervised the creation of advertising, or even knew the advertising existed. Without any allegations as to Mr. Kunofsky's knowledge about the purported advertising, the Division failed to allege a necessary element of NRS 645.235(1)(a), which requires that a person have "knowingly" engaged in activities requiring a license. These allegations, therefore, do not establish a basis for disciplining Mr. Kunofsky under 645.235(1)(a) and any associated allegations against Mr. White must also be dismissed.

# D. THE VIOLATIONS RELATING TO THE REMAINING NEVADA TRANSACTIONS MUST BE DISMISSED OR DESCRIBED WITH PARTICULARITY IN A MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT

NRED's remaining allegations, including allegations against Mr. White relating to the Walgreen's transaction, do not adequately appraise Mr. White as to the basis for the alleged violations. The Amended Complaint makes several claims (including that Mr. White was the broker of record for this transaction and that he received a resulting commission), but fails to advise Mr. White what actions constitute the unlicensed activity he is alleged to have knowingly assisted. Does NRED believe Agents D'Ambrosia and Ventura engaged in unlicensed activity by authoring a Market Positioning and Price Analysis study? Is the basis for Mr. White's violation that "advertising" purportedly included the names of Agents Kunofsky, D'Ambrosia, and Ventura? Does NRED object to unspecified portions of the various agreements listed (but not explained) in the Amended Complaint? Without an understanding as to the "factual material on which the agency relies," Mr. White cannot understand the foundation of the allegations against him. In short, the Division has not provided Mr. White with the due process the United State Constitution requires and for these reasons, NRED must file a more definite statement as to the bases for these remaining alleged violations.

Furthermore, as noted in the Kunofsky Motion, the Amended Complaint's allegations as to "advertising" are wholly devoid of any details relating to the advertising medium, when or where the advertising occurred, and whether any Nevada residents viewed the Advertising. See id. at 7:9 to 7:14.

#### III. CONCLUSION

The majority of the violations alleged in the Amended Complaint must be dismissed because NRED has failed to plead essential elements necessary to find that unlicensed individuals engaged in activities requiring licensure under the definitions in NRS 645.030, NRS 645.035, or NRS 645.040. As to the Academy of Excellence and Reno Red Lobster transactions, the scant assertions in the Amended Complaint, even if presumed true, are insufficient to establish that Mr. White knowingly assisted unlicensed individuals to act as a real estate brokersalesperson, real estate salesperson, or real estate broker as those terms are defined in Nevada's statutes. Moreover, by not addressing the requisite knowledge requirement, the Division failed to allege the facts necessary to state a claim that Mr. Kunofsky violated NRS 645.235(1)(a) regarding the Las Vegas Red Lobster and Henderson Red Lobster transactions. Consequently, there is no basis for finding Mr. White assisted such a violation. The remaining allegations against Mr. White lack particularity and due process requires NRED to supplement those claims with a more definite statement.

DATED and respectfully submitted this 29th day of May, 2018.

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#### 1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** I hereby certify that the foregoing RESPONDENT WHITE'S MOTION TO DISMISS 3 AND/OR MOTION FOR MORE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT was submitted for filing with 4 the Nevada Real Estate Commission on the 29h day of May, 2018. I further certify that I served a 5 copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, postage prepaid to the 6 following: 7 Sharath Chandra, Administrator 8 Department of Business and Industry Nevada Real Estate Division 9 3300 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 350 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 10 For the Nevada Real Estate Division 11 Keith E. Kizer Senior Deputy Attorney General 12 State of Nevada 555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900 13 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Counsel for the Nevada Real Estate Division 14 Administration Section Manager 15 Department of Business and Industry Nevada Real Estate Division 16 3300 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 350 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

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For the Nevada Real Estate Commission

DATED this 24 day of May, 2018.

An Employee of Fennemore Craig, P.C.

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