ORDER SUMMARY – Case Number: C-09-498 Name(s): William J Moll III Order Number: C-09-498-12-CO02 **Effective Date:** January 10, 2013 **License Number:** 540-DO-20966 (expired) (Revoked, suspended, stayed, application denied or withdrawn) Or **NMLS Identifier** [U/L] If applicable, you must specifically note the ending dates of terms. **License Effect:** N/A Never apply for any license under any name **Not Apply Until: Not Eligible Until:** N/A Prohibition/Ban Until: Permanently prohibited from participation, in any ownership or management or employee capacity, in the conduct of the affairs of any escrow agent licensed by the Department or subject to licensure or regulation by the Department **Investigation Costs** \$1.000 Due NOW Paid Date $\boxtimes Y \square N$ 1/7/2013 \$2,000 Due NOW Fine Paid Date $\times Y$ 1/7/2013 Due Paid Assessment(s) Date $\prod Y$ Restitution Due Paid Date Paid **Judgment** Due Date **Satisfaction of Judgment Filed?** Y N No. of Victims: Comments: Respondent agrees to maintain all records involving Washington State escrow transactions performed by Alpine Escrow, Inc., within the state of Washington for a period of six years following the completion of the escrow transaction and to keep the Department informed of the location of such records and of Respondent's address and telephone number.

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING:
Whether there has been a violation of the
Escrow Agent Registration Act of Washington by:

ALPINE ESCROW, INC.,
WILLIAM JOHN MOLL, III, Owner, Officer,
and Designated Escrow Officer,
HOA THI NGUYEN, Owner, Officer, and
Escrow Officer, and
VIENNA THUC LE, Owner,

No.: C-09-498-12-CO02

CONSENT ORDER WILLIAM JOHN MOLL, III

Respondents.

COMES NOW the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions (Director), through his designee Deborah Bortner, Division Director, Division of Consumer Services, and William John Moll, III (Respondent), and finding that the issues raised in the above-captioned matter may be economically and efficiently settled, agree to the entry of this Consent Order. This Consent Order is entered pursuant to chapter 18.44 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), and RCW 34.05.060 of the Administrative Procedure Act, based on the following:

AGREEMENT AND ORDER

The Department of Financial Institutions, Division of Consumer Services (Department) and Respondent have agreed upon a basis for resolution of the matters alleged in Statement of Charges No. C-09-498-10-SC01 (Statement of Charges), entered March 22, 2012, (copy attached hereto). Pursuant to chapter 18.44 RCW, the Escrow Agent Registration Act (Act) and RCW 34.05.060 of the Administrative Procedure Act, Respondent hereby agrees to the Department's entry of this Consent Order and further agrees that the issues raised in the above-captioned matter may be economically and efficiently settled by entry of this Consent Order. The parties intend this Consent Order to fully

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resolve the Statement of Charges and agree that Respondent does not admit any wrongdoing by its entry.

Based upon the foregoing:

- A. **Jurisdiction**. It is AGREED that the Department has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the activities discussed herein.
- B. Waiver of Hearing. It is AGREED that Respondent has been informed of the right to a hearing before an administrative law judge, and hereby waives his right to a hearing and any and all administrative and judicial review of the issues raised in this matter, or of the resolution reached herein. Accordingly, Respondent, by his signature below, withdraws his appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- C. **Prohibition from Industry**. It is AGREED that Respondent is permanently prohibited from participating, in any ownership or management or employee capacity, in the conduct of the affairs of any escrow agent licensed by the Department or subject to licensure or regulation by the Department.
- D. **Application for License.** It is AGREED that Respondent shall never apply to the Department for any license under any name.
- E. **Fine**. It is AGREED that Respondent shall pay a fine to the Department in the amount of \$2,000, in the form of a cashier's check made payable to the "Washington State Treasurer," upon entry of this Consent Order.
- F. **Investigation Fee**. It is AGREED that Respondent shall pay to the Department an investigation fee of \$1,000, in the form of a cashier's check made payable to the "Washington State Treasurer," upon entry of this Consent Order. The Fine and Investigation Fee may be paid together in one \$3,000 cashier's check made payable to the "Washington State Treasurer."

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24 CONSENT

CONSENT ORDER C-09-498-12-CO02 Willam John Moll, III

G. **Records Retention.** It is AGREED that Respondent shall maintain all records involving Washington State escrow transactions performed by Alpine Escrow, Inc., within the state of Washington for a period of six years following the completion of the escrow transaction, and that Respondent shall keep the Department informed of the location of such records and of Respondent's address and telephone number, in compliance with the Act.

H. Complete Cooperation with the Department (Statements). It is AGREED that, upon written request by the Department, Respondent shall provide the Department truthful and complete sworn statements outlining his activities with respect to Alpine Escrow, Inc. (Alpine) and any and all persons involved or in any way associated with Alpine, including but not limited to owners, employees, independent contractors, agents, businesses and persons with whom Alpine dealt, communicated, or otherwise related. The "sworn statements" may take the form of affidavits, declarations, or deposition testimony, at the Department's discretion. A failure to cooperate fully, truthfully, and completely is a breach of this Consent Order.

I. Complete Cooperation with the Department. In addition to providing the sworn statements as described in Paragraph H, it is AGREED that, upon written request by the Department, Respondent shall cooperate fully, truthfully, and completely with the Department and provide any and all information known to him relating in any manner to Alpine and any and all persons involved or in any way associated with Alpine, including but not limited to owners, employees, independent contractors, agents, businesses and persons with whom Alpine dealt, communicated, or otherwise related. It is further AGREED that, upon written request by the Department, Respondent shall provide any and all documents, writings or materials, or objects or things of any kind in his possession or under his care, custody, or control that he is authorized to possess, obtain, or distribute relating directly or indirectly to all areas of inquiry and investigation. It is further AGREED that

1	Respondent shall testify fully, truthfully, and completely at any and all proceedings related to any
2	Department investigation or enforcement action or both related to any and all persons involved or in
3	any way associated with Alpine, and any respondents named therein. A failure to cooperate fully,
4	truthfully, and completely is a breach of this Consent Order.
5	J. Non-Compliance with Order. It is AGREED that Respondent understands that failure to
6	abide by the terms and conditions of this Consent Order may result in further legal action by the
7	Director. In the event of such legal action, Respondent may be responsible to reimburse the Director
8	for the cost incurred in pursuing such action, including but not limited to, attorney fees.
9	K. Voluntarily Entered. It is AGREED that Respondent has voluntarily entered into this
10	Consent Order, which is effective when signed by the Director's designee.
11	L. Completely Read, Understood, and Agreed. It is AGREED that Respondent has read
12	this Consent Order in its entirety and fully understands and agrees to all of the same.
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24	CONSENT ORDER 4 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1	RESPONDENT:
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3 4	William John Moll, III Date
5	DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE
6	THIS ORDER ENTERED THIS 10 th DAY OF JANUARY, 2013
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8	<u>/s/</u> DEBORAH BORTNER
9	Director Division of Consumer Services
10	Department of Financial Institutions
11	Presented by:
12 13 14	/ <u>s/</u> MARK T. OLSON Financial Legal Examiner
15	Approved by:
16	<u>/s/</u> CHARLES E. CLARK
17	Enforcement Chief
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24	CONSENT ORDER 5 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS C 00 408 13 CO02

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES**

2 IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING 3 Whether there has been a violation of the Escrow Agent Registration Act of Washington by: 4 ALPINE ESCROW, INC., 5 WILLIAM JOHN MOLL, III, Owner, Officer, and Designated Escrow Officer, HOA THI NGUYEN, Owner, Officer, and Escrow Officer, and VIENNA THUC LE, Owner

No. C-09-498-10-SC01

STATEMENT OF CHARGES and NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER AN ORDER TO PROHIBIT FROM INDUSTRY, ASSESS FINE, FILE QUARTERLY REPORTS, COMPLY WITH ESCROW AGENT CLOSURE REQUIREMENTS, COLLECT INVESTIGATION FEE, AND MAINTAIN RECORDS

Respondents.

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to RCW 18.44.410, the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Director) is responsible for the administration of chapter 18.44 RCW, the Escrow Agent Registration Act (Act), and chapter 208-680 WAC. After having conducted an investigation pursuant to RCW 18.44.420 and WAC 208-680G-020, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Statement of Charges, the Director, through his designee, Division of Consumer Services Director Deborah Bortner, institutes this proceeding and finds as follows:

I. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

1.1 Respondents.

A. Alpine Escrow, Inc. (Respondent Alpine) is a Washington corporation that was licensed by the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Department) to conduct business as an Escrow Agent from 1995² until the license expired December 31, 2009.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES C-09-498-10-SC0I Alpine Escrow, Inc., William John Moll, III, Hoa Thi Nguyen, and Vienna Thuc Le

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¹ RCW 18.44 (2008) and WAC 208-680 (2007)

² Prior to 1995, escrow agents were regulated by the Washington State Department of Licensing.

- B. William John Moll, III (Respondent Moll) has been an Officer of Respondent Alpine since at least 1995, and was an owner of Respondent Alpine from at least 1995 until in or around June 2007. Respondent Moll was licensed by the Department as an Escrow Officer from 1995 until the license expired December 31, 2009. Respondent Moll has been Respondent Alpine's Designated Escrow Officer since 1995.
- C. Hoa Thi Nguyen (Respondent Nguyen) has been an Officer and owner of Respondent Alpine since at least in or around June 2007. Respondent Nguyen was licensed by the Department as an Escrow Officer from on or about December 21, 2007 until the license expired December 21, 2010. Respondent Nguyen's Escrow Officer license was associated with Respondent Alpine from its issuance until in or around April 2009, when the Department received a letter from Respondent Moll stating Respondent Nguyen was no longer an employee of Respondent Alpine.
- D. Vienna Thuc Le (Respondent Le) has been an owner of Respondent Alpine since at least in or around June 2007. Respondent Le applied for an Escrow Officer license from the Department in or around December 2004, however, Respondent Le has never been licensed by the Department.
- Nguyen and Le in or around June 2007. Respondents did not notify the Department of the sale of Respondent Alpine and did not provide the Department with any of the information required prior to a change in a principal officer or controlling person of a licensed escrow agent. After the sale, Respondent Alpine continued to conduct business as an escrow agent, Respondent Moll remained as Respondent Alpine's Designated Escrow Officer, and Respondents Moll and Nguyen held various Officer positions with Respondent Alpine.

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24 STATEMENT OF CHARGES C-09-498-10-SC01

Respondent Le providing an explanation of the sale of Respondent Alpine and the operation of Respondent Alpine after the sale. The letter stated that "no documentation ever completed the alleged sale from Mr. Moll to Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Le" and that after the sale, Respondent Nguyen operated Respondent Alpine as if it were a sole proprietorship, "freezing Ms. Le out of ownership and operations." The letter further stated that Respondent Le filed a lawsuit against Respondent Nguyen in or around February 2008, and enclosed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for King County Superior Court Case Number 08-2-06667-3, dated October 19, 2009. While the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law does state that Respondent Nguyen "ran the business of Alpine as if Nguyen were the sole shareholder" and "Le was excluded from and was not able to participate in the management or operations of Alpine," it also states that "[i]n June of 2007, Le and Nguyen each purchased 50% of the stock of Defendant Alpine Escrow, Inc. (Alpine) from William Moll" and further that "Le and Nguyen remain shareholders in Alpine."

In or around November 2009, the Department received a letter from an attorney representing

Respondents did not comply with the closure requirements for a licensed escrow agent, including the requirements to notify the Department of the closure and provide the contact information for the person responsible for the escrow agent's records within twenty-four hours, deliver original escrow licenses to the Department within five working days, and provide the Department with a detailed accounting of the funds held in the escrow agent's trust bank account and the location of the escrow agent's records within thirty days.

1.7 **Respondent Alpine's Trust Account.** As discussed in paragraph 1.5 of this Statement of Charges, Respondents did not provide Quarterly Reports for any fiscal quarters ending after December 31, 2008, when the balance in Respondent Alpine's trust bank account was over \$430,000. After the closure of Respondent Alpine, Respondents did not provide the Department with the

quarterly reconciliations of the trust bank account that are required until a licensed escrow agent's trust bank account balance is zero.

In or around June 2010, a member of the Department's Enforcement Unit spoke with Respondent Moll about the missing Quarterly Reports, trust account reconciliations, and the balance of the trust bank account. Respondent Moll stated he disbursed all of the money in the trust bank account to the appropriate parties by June 2009, with the exception of about \$3,000 to \$4,000. Respondent Moll stated this remaining balance was supposed to be sent to the Department of Revenue as unclaimed property but he did not know if that had been done. Respondent Moll said he would look into the remaining issues, but did not provide the Department with any of further information about Respondent Alpine. According to bank records obtained by the Department directly from the bank in or around July 2010, the balance of Respondent Alpine's trust bank account was over \$10,000 as of May 31, 2010.

1.8 On-Going Investigation. The Department's investigation into the alleged violations of the Act by Respondents continues to date.

II. GROUNDS FOR ENTRY OF ORDER

- **2.1 Definition of Person.** Pursuant to RCW 18.44.011, "Person" means a natural person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or the plural thereof, whether resident, nonresident, citizen, or not.
- **2.2 Definition of Controlling Person.** Pursuant to RCW 18.44.011, "Controlling Person" is any person who owns or controls ten percent or more of the beneficial ownership of any escrow agent, regardless of the form of business organization employed and regardless of whether such interest stands in such person's true name or in the name of a nominee.

2.3 Definition of Officer. Pursuant to WAC 208-680A-040, "Officers" of the escrow agent shall include the president, secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and any other persons with control over management decisions of the escrow agent.

- 2.4 Definition of Designated Escrow Officer. Pursuant to RCW 18.44.011, "Designated Escrow Officer" means any licensed escrow officer designated by a licensed escrow agent and approved by the Director as the licensed escrow officer responsible for supervising that agent's handling of escrow transactions, management of the agent's trust account, and supervision of all other licensed escrow officers employed by the agent.
- 2.5 Responsibilities of Designated Escrow Officer. Pursuant to RCW 18.44.071, every licensed escrow agent shall ensure that all escrow transactions are supervised by a licensed escrow officer. In the case of a corporation, the designated escrow officer shall be an officer of the corporation and shall act on behalf of the corporation.

Pursuant to WAC 208-680D-010, the designated escrow officer shall be responsible for the custody, safety, and correctness of entries of all required escrow records. The escrow officer retains this responsibility even though another person or persons may be assigned by the escrow officer the duties of preparation, custody, recording or disbursing. Prior to issuing a new license reflecting a change of the designated escrow officer of a registered escrow agent, evidence must be submitted that the responsibility for preexisting escrows is transferred to the incoming designated escrow officer. Such evidence shall be a statement signed by both the outgoing designated escrow officer and the incoming designated escrow officer, listing all outstanding trust liabilities and certifying that funds in hand in the trust account maintained by the agent are adequate to meet all such trust liabilities.

Pursuant to WAC 208-680E-011, the designated escrow officer shall be responsible for that agent's management of the agent's trust account, including depositing, holding, disbursing, and

1	accounting for funds in trust. Pursuant to WAC 208-680E-011(9), the agent shall be responsible for
2	preparation of a monthly trial balance of the client's ledger, reconciling the ledger with both the trust
3	account bank statement and the trust account receipts and disbursement records. The reconciliation
4	will be signed by the designated escrow officer and such reconciliations are to be retained as
5	permanent records. Pursuant to WAC 208-680E-011(16), unclaimed funds are governed by RCW
6	63.29. If the agent has funds classified as unclaimed, the designated escrow officer shall contact the
7	Department of Revenue for disposition instructions. The agent shall maintain a record of the
8	correspondence relating to unclaimed funds for a period of five years.
9	2.6 Prohibited Practices. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above,
10	Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 18.44.301, which states:
11	It is a violation of the Act for any escrow agent, controlling person, officer, designated escrow officer, independent contractor, employee of an escrow business, or other person subject to the Act to:
12	subject to the Act to:
13 14	(7) Knowingly make or publish, or concur in making or publishing any written report, exhibit, or statement of its affairs or pecuniary condition containing any material statement which is false, or omit or concur in omitting any statement required by law to be contained therein; or
15 16	(10) Fail to make any report or statement lawfully required by the Director or other public official.
17	2.7 Misuse of Escrow Officer License. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I
18	above, Respondent Moll is in apparent violation of WAC 208-680B-070 for permitting the use of his
19	escrow officer license, whether for compensation or not, to enable any person to in fact establish and
20	carry on an escrow agency wherein the escrow officer does not have full management and
21	supervisory responsibilities as required by RCW 18.44.071 and these regulations.
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(360) 902.8703

1	2.8 Change in Control of Licensed Escrow Agent. Pursuant to WAC 208-680B-015, an escrow
2	agent license may not be transferred. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above,
3	Respondents are in apparent violation of WAC 208-680B-015, which states:
4	(4) At least thirty days prior to a change in a principal officer or controlling person of a licensed escrow agent, the licensee shall provide the Director with all information
5	required of a principal officer or controlling person when an application is made for a license. The Director shall make a determination prior to completion of the change,
6 7	whether the proposed new principal officer or controlling person meets the requirements for licensing.
8	Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation
9	of WAC 208-680B-020, which states:
10	(4) In the event that an escrow agent experiences a change in any principal officer(s) or controlling person(s), the escrow agent shall submit fingerprints and such other
11	information as the Director may request under subsection (3) of this section to the Department thirty days prior to the effective date of the change in principal officer(s) or controlling person(s).
12	2.9 Requirement to File Quarterly Reports. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in
13	Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of WAC 208-680E-025, which states:
14 15	(1) For purposes of determining compliance with chapter 18.44 RCW and chapter 208-680 WAC, each escrow agent shall file with the Director, within thirty days following the end of each fiscal quarter, the following, in a form prescribed by the Director:
16	(a) A report concerning its operations;
17	(b) A report concerning the trust account administration; and
18	(c) A one page summary of the three way reconciliation form the last month of the quarter.
19	(2) As to trust account matters, the designated escrow officer of the escrow agent shall
20	certify under penalty of perjury, in a manner consistent with RCW 9A.72.085, that he or she has reviewed the report and any exhibits filed with it and that the information
21	contained in the report and in any exhibit is true and correct. The chief executive officer or chief financial officer of the escrow agent, or other knowledgeable person acceptable
22	to the Director, may certify the information on the report not related to trust account matters.
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shall submit the reconciliations for the periods ending March, June, September and December. These reconciliations are due within thirty days of the end of the preceding period.

2.12 Requirement to Maintain Records in the State of Washington. Pursuant to RCW 18.44.400, WAC 208-680C-045(3), WAC 208-680D-020, and WAC 208-680D-030, Respondents are required to maintain records in the state of Washington for a period of six years from completion of the transaction. The records shall be available upon demand of the Department during business hours and maintained in a manner to be readily retrievable.

III. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS

- **3.1 Authority to Prohibit from Industry.** Pursuant to RCW 18.44.430(3) and WAC 208-680G-040(2), in addition to or in lieu of license revocation, the Director may prohibit from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed escrow agent, any officer, controlling person, director, employee, or licensed escrow officer.
- **3.2** Authority to Assess Fine. Pursuant to RCW 18.44.430(3) and WAC 208-680G-040(3), in addition to or in lieu of license revocation, the Director may assess a fine up to \$100 per day for each day's violation of the Act or rules adopted under the Act.
- 3.3 Authority to Issue an Order to Take Affirmative Action. Pursuant to RCW 18.44.440 and WAC 208-680G-030(1), if the Director determines after notice and hearing that a person has: (1) violated any provision of the Act; or (2) Directly, or through an agent or employee, engaged in any false, unfair and deceptive, or misleading advertising or promotional activity or business practices; or (3) Violated any lawful order or rule of the Director; the Director may issue an order requiring the person to take such affirmative action as in the judgment of the Director will carry out the purposes of the Act.

3.4 Authority to Collect Investigation Fee. Pursuant to RCW 18.44.410 and WAC 208-680G-050, the expense of an examination or investigation pursuant to WAC 208-680G-010 or WAC 208-680G-020 shall be borne by the entity which is the subject of the investigation.

IV. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER ORDER

Respondents' violations of the provisions of chapter 18.44 RCW and chapter 208-680 WAC, as set forth in the above Factual Allegations, Grounds for Entry of Order, and Authority to Impose Sanctions, constitute a basis for the entry of an Order under RCW 18.44.400, RCW 18.44.410, RCW 18.44.430, RCW 18.44.440 and WAC 208-680G-030. Therefore, it is the Director's intention to ORDER that:

- 4.1 Respondent William John Moll, III be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed escrow agent for a period of five years.
- 4.2 Respondent Hoa Thi Nguyen be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed escrow agent for a period of five years.
- 4.3 Respondent Vienna Thuc Le be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any licensed escrow agent for a period of five years.
- 4.4 Respondents Alpine Escrow, Inc., William John Moll, III, Hoa Thi Nguyen, and Vienna Thuc Le jointly and severally pay a fine. As of the date of this Statement of Charges, the fine totals \$50,000.
- 4.5 Respondent William John Moll, III, pay a fine. As of the date of this Statement of Charges, the fine totals \$700.
- 4.6 Respondents Alpine Escrow, Inc., William John Moll, III, Hoa Thi Nguyen, and Vienna Thuc Le provide the Department with completed Quarterly Reports, including all supporting documentation, for each fiscal quarter ending later than December 31, 2008, through the date Respondent Alpine Escrow, Inc.'s trust account is reconciled to a zero balance.
- 4.7 Respondents Alpine Escrow, Inc., William John Moll, III, Hoa Thi Nguyen, and Vienna Thuc Le provide the Department with all notifications and reconciliations required of an escrow agent that closes.

- 4.8 Respondents Alpine Escrow, Inc., William John Moll, III, Hoa Thi Nguyen, and Vienna Thuc Le jointly and severally pay an investigation fee. As of the date of this Statement of Charges, the investigation fee totals \$3,125.
- 4.9 Respondent Alpine Escrow, Inc., William John Moll, III, Hoa Thi Nguyen, and Vienna Thuc Le maintain all records involving Washington State escrow transactions within the state of Washington for a period of six years from completion of the escrow transactions

V. AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

This Statement of Charges is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 18.44.410, RCW 18.44.430, and RCW 18.44.440, and is subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW (The Administrative Procedure Act). Respondents may make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING accompanying this Statement of Charges.

DEBORAH BORTNER
Director
Division of Consumer Services
Department of Financial Institutions

STATEMENT OF CHARGES
C-09-498-10-SC01
Alpine Escrow, Inc., William John Moll, Ill,
Hoa Thi Nguyen, and Vienna Thuc Le