ORDER SUMMARY – Case Number: C-14-1577

Names:	Colleagues In La Devin D. Benter			
Order Number:	C-14-1577-18-CO02			
Effective Date:	November 8, 20	18		
NMLS Identifier:	NMLS #100438	8		
License Effect:	N/A			
Not Apply Until:	September 30, 20	021		
Not Eligible Until:	September 30, 20	021		
Prohibition/Ban Until:	September 30, 20	021		
Investigation Costs	\$	Due	Paid N	Date
Fine	\$	Due	Paid	Date
			Y N	
Assessment(s)	\$	Due	Paid	Date
	011.010			
Restitution	\$11,840 (see comments)	Due 18 installment payments	Paid ☐ Y ⊠ N	Date 11/15/2018 - 04/15/2020
Financial Literacy and Education	\$	Due	Paid N	Date
G + AP	.	-	D : 1	
Cost of Prosecution	\$	Due	Paid Y N	Date
	No. of Victims:			

Comments: Consent Order No. C-14-1577-18-CO02 amends the restitution payment provisions set forth in Consent Order No. C-14-1577-16-CO01. All non-restitution provisions of Consent Order C-14-1577-16-CO01 shall remain in full force and effect as to Respondents. Consent Order No. C-14-1577-16-CO01 may be viewed on the Department's website at the following link: https://dfi.wa.gov/sites/default/files/consumer-services/enforcement-actions/C-14-1577-16-CO01.pdf.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES

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IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING
Whether there has been a violation of the
Mortgage Broker Practices Act of Washington
by:

COLLEAGUES IN LAW, LC, and

DEVIN D. BENTER, Principal,

No.: C-14-1577-18-CO02

CONSENT ORDER AS TO PAYMENT OF RESTITUTION

Respondents.

COMES NOW the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions (Director), through her designee Charles E. Clark, Division Director, Division of Consumer Services, and Colleagues In Law, LC and Devin D. Benter, principal of Colleagues In Law, LC (collectively, "Respondents"), by and through their attorney, John A. Long of Law Office of John A. Long, and enter into this Consent Order as to Payment of Restitution (Consent Order) amending the restitution payment provisions set forth in Consent Order No. C-14-1577-16-CO01 (Consent Order CO01) based upon Respondents' representation that for financial reasons they were unable to meet the agreed restitution payment provisions set forth in Consent Order CO01 and further based upon Respondents' representation that they are presently able to meet the restitution payment provisions set forth below. The Director's designee has determined that entry of this Consent Order is in the interests of justice and the parties agree to the entry of this Consent Order. This Consent Order is entered pursuant to chapter 19.146 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) issued a Statement of Charges in the above-referenced matter on or about August 27, 2015. Consent Order CO01 was entered on or about September 30, 2016, and included an agreement that Respondents

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¹ There is currently a balance of \$3,490 in the IOLTA account of Respondents' attorney that is not included in this \$11.840.

CONSENT ORDER AS TO PAYMENT OF RESTITUTION C-14-1577-18-CO02 COLLEAGUES IN LAW, LC and DEVIN D. BENTER

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Division of Consumer Services PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200 (360) 902-8703

jointly and severally pay restitution in the amount of \$41,840 in twenty-two (22) payments to the Washington consumers referenced in Appendix A of Consent Order CO01. Pursuant to chapter 19.146 RCW, the Mortgage Broker Practices Act (Act), and RCW 34.05.060 of the Administrative Procedure Act, Respondents hereby agree to the Department's entry of this Consent Order.

Based upon the foregoing:

A. **Jurisdiction.** It is AGREED that the Department has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the activities discussed herein.

B. **Restitution.** It is AGREED that pursuant to the restitution provisions of Consent Order

CO01 Respondents have paid all but \$11,8401 of the restitution ordered therein. It is further AGREED that Respondents shall jointly and severally pay the remaining restitution of \$11,840 in eighteen (18) payments to the Washington consumers referenced in Appendix A to this Consent Order as follows: Beginning November 15, 2018, through April 15, 2019, Respondents shall make monthly restitution payments in the amount of \$450 on the fifteenth of each month. Beginning May 15, 2019, through March 15, 2020, Respondents shall make monthly restitution payments in the amount of \$761.66 on the fifteenth of each month. On or before April 15, 2020, Respondents shall make a restitution payment in the amount of \$761.74. These amounts shall be deposited into the IOLTA account of Respondents' attorney, John A. Long. Respondents shall instruct the attorney to notify the Department's Consumer Services Enforcement Unit within five (5) days of receipt of each payment and to disburse the funds to the Washington consumers within ten (10) days of receipt of sufficient funds to pay the Washington consumers referenced in Appendix A. Respondents shall ensure that the Department receives a copy of each refund check at the time of issuance. Any refund check which has not been successfully cashed within sixty (60) days shall be forfeited to the

Department of Revenue as unclaimed funds. All costs associated with distribution of restitution and remittance of unclaimed funds to the Department of Revenue shall be borne by Respondents. No restitution funds, once deposited into the IOLTA account, shall ever be returned to Respondents.

It is further AGREED that Respondents shall notify the Department within five (5) days if Respondents are no longer represented by John A. Long and identify a Washington-licensed attorney that will continue to disburse the funds to the Washington consumers on the Respondents' behalf.

- C. **Effect of Consent Order C-14-1577-16-CO01.** It is AGREED that all non-restitution provisions of Consent Order C-14-1577-16-CO01 shall remain in full force and effect as to Respondents.
- D. **Authority to Execute Order.** It is AGREED that the undersigned have represented and warranted that they have the full power and right to execute this Consent Order on behalf of the parties represented.
- E. Non-Compliance with Order. It is AGREED that Respondents understand that failure to abide by the terms and conditions of this Consent Order may result in further legal action by the Director. In the event of such legal action, Respondents may be responsible to reimburse the Director for the cost incurred in pursuing such action, including but not limited to, attorney fees.
- F. **Voluntarily Entered.** It is AGREED that Respondents have voluntarily entered into this Consent Order, which is effective when signed by the Director's designee.
- G. Completely Read, Understood, and Agreed. It is AGREED that Respondents have read this Consent Order in its entirety and fully understand and agree to all of the same.
- H. Counterparts. This Consent Order may be executed by the Respondents in any number of counterparts, including by facsimile or e-mail of a .pdf or similar file, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same Consent Order.

1	RESPONDENTS: Colleagues In Law, LC	
2	By:	
3 4	 Devin D. Benter Principal	_ <u>11/6/18</u> Date
5	<u>/s/</u>	11/6/18
7	Devin D. Benter Individually	Date
8	Approved for Entry:	
9	<u>/s/</u>	<u>_11-6-2018</u>
10 11	John A. Long, WSBA No.15119 Attorney at Law Law Office of John A. Long	Date
12	Attorneys for Respondents	
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	THIS ORDER ENTERED THIS 8 th DAY OF November, 2018.	
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5		<u>/s/</u> CHARLES E. CLARK
6		Director Division of Consumer Services
7		Department of Financial Institutions
8	Presented by:	
9	_/s/_	
10	RACHELLE VILLALOBOS Financial Legal Examiner	
11	Approved by:	
12		
13	_ <u>/s/</u> STEVEN C. SHERMAN	
14	Enforcement Chief	
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1		APPENDIX A	
2	Consumer	Amount	
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	D.C.	\$4,145	
4	M.C.	\$4,345	
5	R.J.	\$4,345	
6	R.P.	\$2,495	
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STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES

3 IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING
Whether there has been a violation of the
Mortgage Broker Practices Act of Washington

No.: C-14-1577-16-CO01

by:

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CONSENT ORDER

COLLEAGUES IN LAW, LC, and DEVIN D. BENTER, Principal,

Respondents.

COMES NOW the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions (Director), through his designee Charles E. Clark, Division Director, Division of Consumer Services, and Colleagues In Law, LC (Respondent Colleagues) and Devin D. Benter (Respondent Benter), principal of Colleagues In Law, LC (collectively, "Respondents"), by and through their attorney, John A. Long of Masch Law Group, PLLC, 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 19.146 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 Respondents have agreed upon a basis for resolution of the matters alleged in Statement of Charges No. C-14-1577-15-SC01 (Statement of Charges), entered August 27, 2015 (copy attached hereto). Pursuant to chapter 19.146 RCW, the Mortgage Broker Practices Act (Act), and RCW 34.05.060 of the Administrative Procedure Act, Respondents hereby agree to the Department's entry of this Consent Order and further agree 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 resolve the Statement of Charges.

Based upon the foregoing:

CONSENT ORDER C-14-1577-16-CO01 COLLEAGUES IN LAW, LC and DEVIN D. BENTER DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Division of Consumer Services PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200 (360) 902-8703

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CONSENT ORDER C-14-1577-16-CO01 COLLEAGUES IN LAW, LC and DEVIN D. BENTER

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 Respondents have been informed of the right to a hearing before an administrative law judge, and hereby waive their 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, Respondents, by their signatures and the signature of their representative below, withdraw their appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- C. **Prohibition from Industry.** It is AGREED that, for a period of five (5) years from the date of entry of this Consent Order, Respondents are prohibited from participating, in any capacity, in the conduct of the affairs of any mortgage broker licensed by the Department or subject to licensure or regulation by the Department.
- D. **Declaration of Financial Condition.** It is AGREED that Respondent Benter has provided the Department with a Declaration comprehensively describing his current financial condition and representing his current inability to immediately pay the fine and restitution obligations agreed to in Paragraphs E and F of this Consent Order.
- E. **Fine.** It is AGREED that Respondents shall jointly and severally pay a fine to the Department in the amount of \$36,000. It is further AGREED that payment of \$31,000 of the fine is STAYED contingent upon Respondents' compliance with the terms of the Consent Order. The remaining \$5,000 shall be made in two payments the form of cashier's checks made payable to the "Washington State Treasurer." Respondents shall make their first payment to the Department in the amount of \$2,500 on or before September 1, 2018. Respondents shall make their second payment to the Department in the amount of \$2,500 on or before October 1, 2018.
- F. **Restitution.** It is AGREED that Respondents shall jointly and severally pay restitution in the amount of \$41,840 in twenty-two (22) payments to the Washington consumers referenced in

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Appendix A to this Consent Order. Respondents shall make their first restitution payment in the mount of \$2,500 on or before November 1, 2016. Beginning December 1, 2016, through November , 2017, Respondents shall make monthly restitution payments in the amount of \$1,500 on the first of ach month. Beginning December 1, 2017, through July 1, 2018, Respondents shall make monthly estitution payments in the amount of \$2,500 on the first of each month. On or before August 1, 2018, Respondents shall make a restitution payment in the amount of \$1,340. These amounts shall be eposited into the IOLTA account of Respondents' attorney, John A. Long. Respondents shall nstruct the attorney to notify the Department's Consumer Services Enforcement Unit within five (5) lays of receipt of each payment and to disburse the funds to the Washington consumers within ten 10) days of receipt of sufficient funds to pay the Washington consumers referenced in Appendix A. Respondents shall ensure that the Department receives a copy of each refund check at the time of ssuance. Any refund check which has not been successfully cashed within sixty (60) days shall be orfeited to the Department of Revenue as unclaimed funds. All costs associated with distribution of estitution and remittance of unclaimed funds to the Department of Revenue shall be borne by Respondents. No restitution funds, once deposited into the IOLTA account, shall ever be returned to Respondents.

It is further AGREED that Respondents shall notify the Department within five (5) days if Respondents are no longer represented by John A. Long and identify a Washington-licensed attorney that will continue to disburse the funds to the Washington consumers on the Respondents' behalf.

G. **Rights of Non-Parties.** It is AGREED that the Department does not represent or have the consent of any person or entity not a party to this Consent Order to take any action concerning their personal legal rights. It is further AGREED that for any person or entity not a party to this Consent Order, this Consent Order does not limit or create any private rights or remedies against Respondents, limit or create liability of Respondents, or limit or create defenses of Respondents to any claims.

1	RESPONDENTS: Colleagues In Law, LC		
2	By:		
3	<u>/s/</u>	9/12/2016	_
4	Devin D. Benter Principal	Date	
5	Timeipui		
6	<u>/s/</u>	9/12/2016	_
7	Devin D. Benter Individually	Date	
8	Approved for Entry:		
9	_/s/	_10/1/2016_	
10	John A. Long, WSBA No.15119 Attorney at Law	Date	
11	Masch Law Group, PLLC		
12	Attorney for Respondents		
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	DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE	
2	THIS ORDER ENTERED THIS 30 th DAY OF September, 2016.	
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5		<u>/s/</u> CHARLES E. CLARK Director
6		Division of Consumer Services Department of Financial Institutions
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8	Presented by:	
9	<u>/s/</u>	
10	RACHELLE VILLALOBOS Financial Legal Examiner	
11	Approved by:	
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13	STEVEN C. SHERMAN	
14	Enforcement Chief	
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1	A	APPENDIX A
2	Consumer	Amount
3	D.D.	\$3,990
4	L.L.	\$4,345
5	D.F.	\$3,100
6	J.S.	\$4,445
7	D.W.	\$1,995
8	R.S.	\$4,145
9	C.W.	\$4,490
10	D.C.	\$4,145
11	M.C.	\$4,345
12	R.J.	\$4,345
13	R.P.	\$2,495
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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
Division of Consumer Services

PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200 (360) 902-8703

APPENDIX A C-14-1577-16-CO01 COLLEAGUES IN LAW, LC and DEVIN D. BENTER

1 STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES 2 IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING 3 No. C-14-1577-15-SC01 Whether there has been a violation of the 4 Mortgage Broker Practices Act of Washington by: STATEMENT OF CHARGES and NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER AN 5 COLLEAGUES IN LAW, LC, and ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST DEVIN D. BENTER, Principal, BUSINESS, PROHIBIT FROM 6 INDUSTRY, ORDER RESTITUTION, Respondents. IMPOSE FINE, COLLECT 7 INVESTIGATION FEE, AND RECOVER **COSTS AND EXPENSES** 8 **INTRODUCTION** 9 Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220 and RCW 19.146.223, the Director of the Department of Financial 10 Institutions of the State of Washington (Director) is responsible for the administration of chapter 11 19.146 RCW, the Mortgage Broker Practices Act (Act). After having conducted an investigation 12 pursuant to RCW 19.146.235, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Statement of 13 Charges, the Director, through his designee, Division of Consumer Services Director Charles E. 14 Clark, institutes this proceeding and finds as follows: 15 I. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS 16 1.1 Respondents. 17 A. Colleagues In Law, LC (Respondent Colleagues) has never been licensed by the 18 Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington (Department) to conduct business as 19 a mortgage broker. 20 **B. Devin D. Benter (Respondent Benter)** is a principal of Respondent Colleagues. During 21 the relevant time period, Respondent Benter was not licensed by the Department to conduct business 22 as a mortgage broker or loan originator. 23 24 STATEMENT OF CHARGES

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1.2 Unlicensed Activity. Between at least July 1, 2013, and September 19, 2014, Respondents Colleagues and Benter (hereafter Respondents) were offering residential mortgage loan modification services to Washington consumers on property located in Washington State. Respondents entered into a contractual relationship with at least twelve Washington consumers to provide those services and collected an advance fee for the provision of those services. The Department has received at least three complaints from Washington consumers alleging Respondents provided or offered to provide residential mortgage loan modification services while not licensed by the Department to provide those services. A list of Washington consumers with whom Respondents conducted business as a mortgage broker or loan originator, and the amount paid by each is appended hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Appendix A.

- **1.3 Misrepresentations and Omissions.** Respondents represented that they were licensed to provide the residential mortgage loan modification services or omitted disclosing that they were not licensed to provide those services.
- **1.4 Failure to Comply with Director's Authority.** On or about August 12, 2014, the Department issued a subpoena to Respondents. As of the date of the Statement of Charges, Respondents have never provided a complete response to the Department's subpoena.
- 1.5 False Statements to the Department. On or about September 22, 2014, Respondents provided a partial subpoena response to the Department whereby they indicated they had provided loan modification services to eleven Washington consumers. However, Respondents entered into contractual relationships to provide loan modification services with at least one additional consumer on or around May 12, 2014.
- 1.6 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 Mortgage Broker Defined. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.010(14), "Mortgage broker" means
any person who for direct or indirect compensation or gain, or in the expectation of direct or indirect
compensation or gain (a) assists a person in obtaining or applying to obtain a residential mortgage
loan or performs residential mortgage loan modification services or (b) holds himself or herself out
as being able to assist a person in obtaining or applying to obtain a residential mortgage loan or
provide residential mortgage loan modification services.
2.2 Lean Originator Defined Durayant to DCW 10.146.010(11)(b). "Lean originator" means a

- 2.2 Loan Originator Defined. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.010(11)(b), "Loan originator" means a natural person who for direct or indirect compensation or gain or in the expectation of direct or indirect compensation or gain performs residential mortgage loan modification services or holds himself or herself out as being able to perform residential mortgage loan modification services.
- **2.3 Prohibited Acts.** Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.0201(2) & (3) for engaging in an unfair or deceptive practice toward any person and obtaining property by fraud or misrepresentation.
- **2.4 Requirement to Obtain and Maintain Mortgage Broker License.** Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.200(1) for engaging in the business of a mortgage broker for Washington residents or property without first obtaining a license to do so.
- 2.5 Requirement to Obtain and Maintain Loan Originator License. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondent Benter is in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.200(1) for engaging in the business of a loan originator without first obtaining and maintaining a license.

1	2.6 Prohibition against Taking Advance Fees. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in
2	Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.0201(11) and 12 CFR 1015
3	(Regulation O) for taking advance fees for loan modification services.
4	2.7 Requirement to Comply with Director's Authority. Based on the Factual Allegations set
5	forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.235 for failing to
6	comply with the Director's investigation authority.
7	2.8 False Statements. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents
8	are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.0201(8) for making a false statement in connection with an
9	investigation conducted by the Department.
10	III. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS
11	3.1 Authority to Issue an Order to Cease and Desist. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(4), the
12	Director may issue orders directing any person subject to the Act to cease and desist from
13	conducting business.
14	3.2 Authority to Prohibit from Industry. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(5), the Director may
15	issue orders prohibiting from participation in the conduct of the affairs of a licensed mortgage broker
16	any person subject to licensing under the Act for any violation of the Act.
17	3.3 Authority to Order Restitution. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(2), the Director may order
18	restitution against any person subject to the Act for any violation of the Act.
19	3.4 Authority to Impose Fine. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(2), the Director may impose fines
20	against any person subject to the Act for any violation of the Act.
21	3.5 Authority to Collect Investigation Fee. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.228(2) and WAC 208-
22	660-550(4)(a), the Department will charge forty-eight dollars per hour for an examiner's time
23	devoted to an investigation of any person subject to the Act.
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V. AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE 1 2 This Statement of Charges is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 19.146.220, RCW 3 19.146.221, RCW 19.146.223, and RCW 19.146.230, and is subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW (The Administrative Procedure Act). Respondent(s) may make a written request for a 4 hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR 5 6 HEARING accompanying this Statement of Charges. 7 Dated this 27th day of August, 2015. 8 9 10 11 CHARLES E. CLARK 12 Director, Division of Consumer Services Department of Financial Institutions 13 14 Presented by: 15 16 RACHELLE VILLALOBOS 17 Financial Legal Examiner 18 Approved by: 19 20 STEVEN C. SHERMAN 21 **Enforcement Chief**

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	APPENDIX A
Consumer	Amount
D.D.	\$3,990
L.L.	\$4,345
D.F.	\$3,100
J.S.	\$4,445
D.W.	\$1,995
R.S.	\$4,145
C.W.	\$4,490
D.C.	\$4,145
M.C.	\$4,345
R.J.	\$4,345
R.P.	\$2,495
T.S.	\$3,500
	D.D. L.L. D.F. J.S. D.W. R.S. C.W. D.C. M.C. R.J. R.P.