1 2 3 4 IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NEVADA FOR CLARK COUNTY 5 6 JEAN MILLER, Case No: A-11- 642162-C 7 Plaintiff, Dept. XVII 8 and DECLARATION OF COLIN DAVIS 9 COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, AKA INVESTIGATIVE EXPERT TESTIMONY BANK OF AMERICA; 10 BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON BANK; 11 RECONTRUST COMPANY; MERSCORP, INC., a Virginia Corporation, 12 MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS, INC., subsidiary of MERSCORP, Inc., a 13 Delaware corporation; AND DOES I individuals 1 to 100, Inclusive; and ROES 14 Corporations 1 to 30 15 Defendants 16 17 18 19 20 I, Colin Davis, hereby declare and state: 21 My name is Colin E. Davis. I am a resident of Pacheco, California. I declare that the 1. 22 following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I would testify to the 23 statements contained herein if called upon to do so. 24 I am a forensic investigator in the field of residential mortgage foreclosure proceedings 2. 25 with an emphasis on mortgage loan securitization. I have over 3000 hours of time logged in **DECLARATION OF COLIN DAVIS**

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research, with much of this time in the area of securitization. I work regularly with mortgage loan auditors, real estate attorneys and various experts in the field including those in the area of wholesale mortgage lending and securitization. I supply expert reports and opinions to be used in litigation where securitization of mortgage loans is a relevant issue. I operate the website http://www.foreclosurediscovery.net

Introduction and Overview:

- I have been contacted by the Plaintiff, Jean Miller, and asked to review the documentation recorded in the Clark county recorder's office and that which was provided to Ms. Miller privately.
- 4. I note that there are two recorded assignments of deed of trust. Both assignments originate with a Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems ("MERS") agent. The first assignment recorded January 19th 2010 purports to transfer interest in Ms. Miller's deed of trust and note to Bank of New York Mellon as Trustee for Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB1. The second assignment recorded April 7th2011 purports to transfer the same interest to BAC Home Loan Servicing LP, a subsidiary of Bank of America.
- 5. My inspection of the recorded documents of title including the two conflicting assignments of deed of trust leads me to conclude that the assignments are defective for reasons described herein and do not evidence a transfer of beneficial interest in Ms. Miller's deed of trust to either BAC Home Loans Servicing LP or Bank of New York Mellon as Trustee for the Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1.
- 6. Because of my experience in analysis of securitized mortgage loan trusts, I must conclude that the second assignment to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP describes an impossible act.

 Regardless of who the principal is that MERS acted as agent for, BAC Home Loans Servicing

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LP is well known to be a servicing arm of Bank of America and is not a purchaser of mortgage loans. BAC forwards mortgagor payments to mortgage investment entities, most commonly securitized mortgage backed securities trusts. And because of the existence of the prior assignment to a securitized trust, for which Bank of New York Mellon is a trustee, I do not find the second assignment to be credible. Additionally, MERS itself lists Bank of New York Mellon as the "Investor" of Ms. Miller's loan on its website.

- 7. This second, and in my opinion faulty, assignment of deed of trust to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP is also the basis of recorded interest in Ms. Miller's loan which a substitution of trustee to Recontrust, the foreclosing trustee depends. As outlined in my analysis of the substitution of trustee, below, this substitution is likely invalid rendering Recontrust, without title.
- 8. In regards to the first assignment to Bank of New York Mellon, I note that the language describes how Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems ("MERS"), "...grants, assigns and transfers to Bank of New York Mellon...as trustee for Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1...all beneficial interest under that certain deed of trust dated 12/13/2005... together with the note or note(s) therein described...", and that this action is executed on September 8th 2009. My familiarity with securitized mortgage loan trusts allows me to recognize immediately that this language describes an impossible action which cannot be arranged for at the date of execution and which I will describe in full in this declaration.
- 9. My analysis concludes that the Harborview 2006 CB-1 trust and Bank of New York Mellon, who acts as its trustee, has not obtained any interest by way of the assignment of deed of trust because the relevant promissory note must have been transferred to the trust before or within 30 days after February 28, 2006, the trust's closing date, by the Depositor, a party other DECLARATION OF COLIN DAVIS

than MERS, and that any contributions to the trust after such a date were impossible under the trust's indentures and under the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, it will not be possible to ascertain whether or not Bank of New York Mellon obtained interest in Ms. Miller's loan by inspection of the assignment of deed of trust alone.

Analysis:

10. My analysis within this declaration mostly excludes the above mentioned second assignment of deed of trust to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP for the reasons described and because I searched the MERS online Servicer ID database located at https://www.mers-servicerid.org/sis/ using MIN Number 100183300000258492 provided on Ms. Millers Deed of Trust and I found that Bank of New York Mellon is listed as the "Investor" and BAC Home Loans Servicing LP is listed as the "Servicer". This inconsistency combined with my knowledge that BAC Home Loans Servicing LP is not a buyer of mortgage notes causes me to exclude the second assignment completely. I therefore examine the details of the first assignment to Bank of New York Mellon in the paragraphs below and disregard the second assignment. It is either a mistake or more likely an attempt to misconstrue the facts, a common practice in today's foreclosure climate.

11. In regards to the first assignment, I note that Defendant, Bank of New York Mellon is the trustee for the Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1, which is a Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduit ("REMIC"), as defined under section 860 A through G of the Internal Revenue Code. The REMIC is also known as a "securitized" mortgage backed securities trust which is required to submit a number of its governing indentures, documents and tax related filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

- 12. The Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1 trust is populated with assets transferred to it by a succession of operations by several parties and overseen by Bank of New York Mellon as its trustee. Like all REMIC trustees, it contracts with several parties to facilitate the transfer of assets into the trust to help maintain its bankruptcy remote status, and to transfer payments from homeowners to investors.
- 13. Because of the language used in the assignment of deed of trust which refers to transfer of interest in the note and deed of trust, my analysis of the Harnborview trust's founding documents focused on the transfer of "Mortgage Loans" from origination on to final acquisition by the REMIC trust overseen by Bank of New York Mellon. Please note that "Mortgage Loans", as defined in the Harborview trust's founding documents, consist of packages of homeowner's promissory notes and the mortgages or deeds of trust that secure them with other associated documents.
- 14. I have examined the following documents which relate to the Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1 located on the online SEC EDGAR database: The Pooling Agreement (also commonly referred to as a Pooling and Servicing Agreement or "PSA" located at http://www.secinfo.com/d13f21.v8x.d.htm), the Free Writing Prospectus (located at http://www.secinfo.com/d13f21.v7q.htm), the 424 B5 Prospectus Supplement (located at http://www.secinfo.com/d13f21.v8x.c.htm), the Mortgage Loan Purchase Agreement (located at http://www.secinfo.com/d13f21.v8x.c.htm) and the Assignment and Recognition Agreement (located at http://www.secinfo.com/d13f21.v8x.a.htm) which have been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission EDGAR database in relation to

this entity. These documents are collectively catalogued online at http://www.secinfo.com/\$/SEC/Registrant.asp?CIK=1354294

- 15. I have also examined the recorded deed of trust, assignment of deed of trust, notice of default, notice of trustee sale, and substitution of trustee. My familiarity with REMIC trust indentures allows me to locate and isolate sections of the documentation which are relevant to Ms. Miller's case. The Pooling Agreement is the central governing document and is an indenture of the Harborview trust. The other registered documents are also controlling and/or directly related to the Pooling Agreement. As with all trusts, the trustee of the Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1 trust is strictly limited to the representations and warranties expressed in its indentures.
- 16. As described in the Pooling Agreement and the other above-listed documents, the following parties are involved in the origination and transfer of Ms. Miller's loan into the Harborview securitized trust: Countrywide Home Loans as Originator of the loan portfolio, Greenwich Capital Financial Products Inc. as Seller of the Mortgage Loans, Greenwich Capital Acceptance Inc. as Depositor of the assets, and Bank of New York as trustee for the Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1 and Defendant in this case. Bank of New York also acts as the custodian of all the necessary documentation and loan files.
- 17. The original payee of Ms. Miller's loan and note, Stearns Lending Inc, who is not directly named in the trust's governing documents, worked directly with the Originator, Countrywide, to provide it with loans to be securitized. Ms. Miller's original deed of trust, promissory note and other closing documents made no mention of any of these parties; she was completely unaware of the fate of her mortgage loan and of the parties involved even though Stearns Lending Inc. must have known in advance that its loans were to be securitized.

Order of operations:

<u>Note Payee → Securitization Originator → Seller → Depositor → Trust /Trustee.</u>

18. During my analysis, I located the specific language in the Harborview trust's founding documents which describe the mandatory process for transfers of right, title and interest in the Mortgage Loans into the trust. I needed to compare the trust's mandatory rules for transfer and acceptance of mortgage notes as compared to the assignment of deed of trust which has been recorded in the public record.

Transfer of interest according to the founding documents:

19. Among other sections, sections 2.01 – 2.09 of Article II of the Pooling Agreement, an indenture of the Harborview trust, titled "Conveyance of Mortgage Loans" clearly contemplate the operations concerning transfer of right, title and interest in the Mortgage Loans from the Seller of the loans, to the Depositor and then to the Trustee of the trust. In section 2:01 the Depositor, who is the owner and final seller of the Mortgage Loans to the Harborview trust, represents that:

"The Depositor, concurrently with the execution and delivery hereof, does hereby transfer, assign, set over and otherwise convey to the Trustee without recourse for the benefit of the Certificateholders all the right, title and interest of the Depositor, including any security interest therein for the benefit of the Depositor, in and to (a) each Mortgage Loan..."

20. Greenwich Capital Acceptance Inc., as Depositor, clearly warrants in section 2.06 of the Pooling Agreement that it has acquired good title in the Mortgage Loans and has acquired its interest (by the Closing Date of February 28, 2006) to be transferred to the trust:

"The Depositor represents and warrants to the Trustee on behalf of the

Certificateholders...[I]mmediately prior to the sale and assignment by the Depositor to

the Trustee on behalf of the Trust of each Mortgage Loan, the Depositor had good and

marketable title to each Mortgage Loan (insofar as such title was conveyed to it by the

Seller) subject to no prior lien, claim, participation interest, mortgage, security interest,

pledge, charge or other encumbrance or other interest of any nature;."

And in section 2:06 (iii): "as of the Closing Date, the Depositor has transferred all right, title and interest in the Mortgage Loans to the Trustee on behalf of the Trust"

- 21. In Sections 2:01-2.09 as seen above and all throughout the hundreds of pages of governing documents, the Closing Date is repeatedly referred to as the date by which mortgage notes are to be conveyed, except in certain exceptions where the notes are to be transferred within 30 days subsequent to the Closing Date.
- 22. It is clear that the founding documents contemplate a complete transfer of interest in the Mortgage Loans, which include the notes, to be contributed to the trust by the Closing Date of February 28, 2006. For the trust to issue its certificates and to start its operations, it must acquire all right, title and interest in the mortgages and notes on or around the Closing Date of February 28, 2006. This is in complete contradiction to the language and dates used in the assignment of deed of trust.

The First Assignment of Deed of Trust

23. I have reviewed the first assignment of deed of trust which was recorded in the Clark County recorder's office as Instrument No. 201001190001950. This assignment was executed

by Angela Nava as Assistant Secretary of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems on September 8th, 2009.

- 24. The assignment was then notarized in Tarrant County Texas by Connie L. Briscoe on November 30th, 2009. I can only speculate as to why the execution and notarization dates do not comport and I would be interested in viewing the original document to compare more details
- 25. As I also described in the Introduction and Overview, this assignment states that it "...grants, assigns and transfers to Bank of New York Mellon...as trustee for Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1...all beneficial interest under that certain deed of trust dated 12/13/2005... together with the note or note(s) therein described...".
- 26. This is nearly the exact language used in the Harborview 2006 CB-1 trust's founding documents, described above, which is reserved to the Depositor, Greenwich Capital Acceptance Inc.. and only to the Depositor. Only the Depositor may transfer the note to the trust according to the founding documents and only on or around the Closing Date which is February 28, 2006, four years prior to the recorded assignment.
- 27. Language in the indentures pertaining to assignments and transfers consistently relates to the trust's Closing Date. In fact, I have found no language in these particular documents, or in any other REMIC documents that I have studied, where an assignment such as the instant assignment of deed of trust and note to Bank of New York Mellon, is permissible at a date significantly after the Closing Date. Considering that the IRS REMIC provisions at U.S.C. Title 26 860 G (3) dictate that permitted contributions called "Qualified Mortgages" will be within 90 days of a REMIC's startup date, I understand this to be a primary reason why assignments to the trust will not be at a later date. Additionally, the trust indentures warrant DECLARATION OF COLIN DAVIS

that only performing loans will be contributed to the trust. Besides being a restricted action, it makes no common sense that Bank of New York Mellon would buy a non-performing note at the time the assignment was executed.

- 28. It is concerning that the assignment of deed of trust states that it not only transfers interest in the deed of trust, but that for consideration, it acts to transfer the note as well. Again, there is no language in any of the Harborview Mortgage Loan trust 2006 CB-1's founding documents where any party other than the Depositor, Greenwich Capital Acceptance Inc., is given permission to transfer mortgage notes to Bank of New York as Trustee at any time or under any circumstances.
- 29. It is worth pointing out again that Ms. Miller's loan was to be transferred to multiple parties from the payee to the Originator, to the Seller, to the Depositor and finally to Bank of New York as trustee for the trust. This means that in order for Bank of New York to have gained legal title and interest in Ms. Miller's mortgage note, four complete transfers of the promissory note must have been made, all according to Nevada state law, according to the trust indentures, and subject to New York law as well, where this trust was founded. The single recorded assignment of deed of trust, which purports to transfer the note, (presumably from the original lender) directly to the Harborview 2006 CB-1 trust is a clear violation of the trust's representations and warranties, and other law.

The Second Assignment of Deed of Trust

30. As I outlined in the Introduction and Overview, I must conclude that the second assignment to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP is invalid and that it was executed and recorded for reasons I can only speculate about. BAC does not purchase mortgage loans, they are a servicer as their name implies, and a MERS online search reveals a listing of Bank of New DECLARATION OF COLIN DAVIS

York as "Investor" and BAC as "Servicer". The MERS search listing has no evidentiary substance as to who the real party in interest is, because a failure of Bank of New York to follow its indentures and other law would render it without interest, but this information does fly in the face of the statements alleged to be true and correct in both of the assignments of deed of trust. I must note that the MERS online database is not a reliable reference for determining actual mortagee interest. It is maintained by the lenders themselves but it is useful for circumstantial information.

Substitution of Trustee

31. The party who executed the substitution of trustee appears to be Laura Dalley as Assistant Secretary of BAC Home Loans Servicing LP and the document is dated April 6th, 2011. As I described above, BAC Home Loans Servicing LP could not have acquired any interest because the assignment to them was invalid and they would not therefore have any power to substitute the trustee. Unless Recontrust, the new trustee was appointed authority to conduct foreclosure from the *actual beneficiary*, it is clearly acting without authority.

Mortgage Electronic Registrations Systems ("MERS")

- 32. Mortgage Electronic Registrations Systems or "MERS" was listed in Ms. Miller's deed of trust as the "Nominee for Lender and Lender's successors and assigns'. It is also called "beneficiary of record" in the deed of trust.
- 33. "MERS is a national, electronic system created in 1993 and tracks the beneficial ownership and servicing rights in mortgage loans. Members register and agree to appoint MERS to act as their agent, or nominee, and that MERS will be the lien holder of record, as nominee for the beneficial owner." *See In re Mitchell*, No. 07-16336-LBR, 2009 WL 1044368, DECLARATION OF COLIN DAVIS

*1-2 (Bankr. D. Nev. March 31, 2009). Transfers of ownership of mortgage loans by members of MERS to other members are tracked by the electronic system. In this way, MERS permits beneficial ownership of mortgage loans to be transferred fluidly and with minimal administrative burden. This efficient transfer of beneficial ownership has greatly contributed to the ability of banks and other institutional investors to securitize and trade mortgage loans as investments.

34. But a large number of courts around the country have concluded that the MERS system is defective and does not act to transfer title to the mortgages by the method it employs. A partial list of judicial opinions on this matter is here:

http://www.chinkinthearmor.net/Important_Court_Cases.html

- 35. New York bankruptcy Judge Grossman sums up the conclusions of this researcher: "MERS did not have authority, as 'nominee' or agent, to assign the mortgage absent a showing that it was given specific written directions by its principal." See In re Agard, Case No. 810-77338-reg, US Bc'y Ct, E.D.N.Y. (2011)
- 36. The Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1's founding documents contemplate that MERS related loans would be exempt from some recordation requirements of traditional mortgage liens. This is because MERS was designed to enable assignors and assignees of mortgages to forego written execution of assignments and their recording in the county recorder's offices, substituting a very old practice for private electronic recordation. What this means for securitized loans, in the logic that MERS follows, is that each transfer of the mortgage and note to the Originator, Seller, Depositor and finally to the trustee of the securitized trust would not necessitate a corresponding recordation of assignment in the county recorder's offices if the MERS system is used. But regardless of the highly disputed legality DECLARATION OF COLIN DAVIS

of this method, the security of a MERS related mortgage lien is only held by MERS member entities that are registered with the MERS system and have submitted the requisite legal documents.

37. I have searched the MERS online directory for MERS members and found that *out of the five entities that should have at some point held the mortgage note, two of the five are not MERS members!* Greenwich Capital Financial Products Inc. as Seller of the Mortgage Loans and Greenwich Capital Acceptance Inc. as Depositor of the assets are not MERS members according to the MERS online database located at:

https://www.mersonline.org/mers/mbrsearch/validatembrsearch.jsp .

- 38. The entire "MERS as nominee" operation is hinged on the requirement that companies acting on behalf of the lender or assignee be MERS members. MERS was given nominee or agency powers in Ms. Miller's deed of trust, but it cannot assign any interest to or from parties who are not within its authority to act as agent or nominee.
- 39. Finally, the MERS system itself may be on its way to becoming obsolete as state courts around the country are determining that its operations are unlawful. Also, there is no warranty in the founding documents of the Harborview 2006 CB-1 trust concerning the use of MERS as a legally permissible system which comports with state laws. Out of hundreds of pages within the founding documents for the trust, and the mortgage contracts themselves, there is no description whatsoever of how promissory notes will be secured by mortgages using the MERS system. Outside of a mere mention, language describing the operations of MERS is mysteriously absent.

Governing Law

40. Section 12:04 of the Pooling Agreement states that:

SECTION 12.04. Governing Law; Jurisdiction.

THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ITS CONFLICT OF LAW PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN SECTION 5-1401 OF THE GENERAL OBLIGATIONS LAW), AND THE OBLIGATIONS, RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF THE PARTIES HEREUNDER SHALL BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUCH LAWS.

- 41. It is my understanding of trust law that if the parties who created and operated the Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2006 CB-1 trust breached their indentures to acquire any Mortgage Loans, those contributions would be void under New York law. New York Trust law dictates that a trustee's actions outside the terms of the indentures are void. See Dye v. Lewis, 326 N.Y.S.2d 581, 68 Misc.2d 434 (N.Y.Sup., 1971), (The authority of a trustee to whom a mortgage had been delivered under a trust indenture was subject to any limitations imposed by the trust instrument, and every act in contravention of the trust was void.); Warren's Weed New York Real Property 14-140 § 140.58 ("It is a fundamental principle of trust law that the instrument under which the trustee acts is the charter of his rights. Therefore, in administering the trust, he must act in accordance with its terms. This rule applies to every kind of trustee, regardless of whether the trustee is to hold, invest or pay over income, or to sell or liquidate for the benefit of creditors.").
- 42. It is my understanding that the transfer of negotiable mortgage notes to or from a REMIC trust is governed under the Uniform Commercial Code ("U.C.C.") Article 3 as adopted by the several states, a REMIC trust's indentures, and the laws of the state that the trust was founded in. It is my understanding that mortgages and deeds of trust to or from a real estate trust are governed under the laws of the state the property is located in, the mortgage contracts themselves, and the indentures of the trust.

CONCLUSION

- 43. It is my opinion that:
- The first assignment of deed of trust to Bank of New York Mellon as trustee and the language contained therein does not comport with the representations and warranties in the Harborview 2006 CB-1 trust's indentures and related governing documents as the assignment is significantly after the trust's closing date and it was not executed by the Depositor.
- Greenwich Capital Financial Products Inc. as Seller of the Mortgage Loans and Greenwich Capital Acceptance Inc. as Depositor of the Mortgage Loans are not MERS members rendering any transfer of interest by them through the MERS system impossible.
- The second assignment of deed of trust to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP is a complete impossibility as BAC is a servicer and not a purchaser of loans for securitization. It is also in complete contradiction to the prior assignment to Bank of New York and a MERS online MIN search.
- The substitution of trustee which grants Recontrust powers to collect or foreclose on Ms. Miller's loan is without authority because it was executed by an employee of BAC Home Loans Servicing LP who has no interest in Ms. Miller's deed of trust or promissory note by assignment or otherwise.
- The first assignment of deed of trust to Bank of New York Mellon as Trustee appears to be evidence of one of two possibilities. Either its an attempt to convey an unqualified contribution to the Harborview trust, breaking the terms of its indentures, New York trust law, and IRS code governing REMIC's, which would deem Bank of New York without interest, or it's an attempt to make onlookers believe that a typical and traditional foreclosure is taking place, when in fact it is not.

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Editorial

The particular documentation used in this foreclosure proceeding and in millions of others like it around the country is nonsensical when analyzed carefully. It is a result of the construction of a new and previously untested mortgage origination and securitization market designed in the 1990's and implemented from approximately years 2000 - 2008, before it finally crashed and caused a worldwide economic disaster. The system was designed haphazardly, without approval of any of the state's legislatures, and in contradiction to over 100 years of property law in the several states. The entities and individuals who have taken advantage of a securitized mortgage ponzi scheme have been bailed out by U.S. taxpayers who are now personally suffering from lost jobs, lowered real estate values, heavily deflated retirement and pension funds, and paying increased commodity prices due to resulting inflation while those who created this disaster are now attempting to collect on collateral secured by a virtual thread and with nonsensical documentation. Homeowners are not looking for a "house for free", they are merely pointing out that lenders and assignees are not telling the truth about the situation. They are looking for some equitable remedy considering it was their sweat equity which was the basis for the scheme and considering that they had no idea that their mortgages would be used to build a dangerous ponzi scheme. Homeowners have asked for loan modifications and principal reductions to account for the fallen market, but the "assignees" have in nearly every case denied their requests, as it is more profitable to foreclose than negotiate. It is this researcher's opinion that these parties should be held to the letter of the law, just as they are attempting to hold homeowners to the letter of the contracts they signed.

45.	I declare under penalty of perjury u	nder the laws of the State of California the t
is tru	ue and correct to the best of my knowl	ledge.
		th 2011
	Signed in Pacheco, California on Jul	ly 5 ^m , 2011
		Colin Davis

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