

EXHIBIT 10

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

In re:)

MORTGAGES LTD. CH: 11) 2:08-bk-07465-RJH

1) EVIDENTIARY SETTLEMENT HEARING RE:)
UNIVERSITY & ASH)

2) DEBTOR'S MOTION TO APPROVE)
COMPROMISE/SETTLEMENT WITH CDIG)

3) DEBTOR'S MOTION TO APPROVE)
COMPROMISE/SETTLEMENT WITH CGSR LLC)

4) DEBTOR'S MOTION TO APPROVE)
COMPROMISE/SETTLEMENT WITH CS 11)
MARICOPA LLC)

5) MOTION TO APPROVE DIP FINANCING RE:)
CENTERPOINT)

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
230 N. First Avenue, Ste. 101
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706

November 25, 2008
2:13 p.m.

BEFORE THE HONORABLE RANDOLPH J. HAINES, Judge
(Designation of Record)

APPEARANCES:

For Mortgages Ltd.: Carolyn J. Johnsen
Bradley Stevens
Todd Tuggle
JENNINGS, STROUSS
& SALMON, P.L.C.
The Collier Center, 11th Floor
201 E. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2385

1 APPEARANCES: (Continued)

2 For Official Committee of Dale Schian
Investors in the SCHIAN WALKER, PLC
3 Value-to-Loan Opportunity 3550 N. Central Ave., Ste. 1700
Fund I, LLC: Phoenix, AZ 85012

4 For The Lewis Trust: S. Cary Forrester
5 FORRESTER & WORTH, PLLC
6 3636 N. Central Ave., Ste. 700
Phoenix, AZ 85012

7 For Mahakian, et al: Allen B. Bickart
8 ALLEN B. BICKART PC
312 Clubhouse Dr.
9 Prescott, AZ 86303

10 For Unofficial Investor Keith Hendricks
Committee, Official Committee Cathy Reece
of Investors: FENNEMORE CRAIG
11 3003 N. Central Ave., Ste. 2600
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2913

12 For Eva Sperber-Porter: Richard Thomas
13 THOMAS SCHERN RICHARDSON
14 1640 S. Stapley Dr., Ste. 205
Mesa, AZ 85204

15 For University & Ash, L.L.C., Dean Waldt
Roosevelt Gateway, L.L.C., Brian Schulman
16 Roosevelt Gateway II, L.L.C.: Rebecca Winthrop
17 BALLARD SPAHR ANDEWS
& INGERSOLL, LLP
18 2029 Century Park East, Ste. 800
Los Angeles, CA 90067

19 For William H. Parker Family Lindsi Webber
Trust; Susan Hoffland; GALLAGHER & KENNEDY, PA
20 Timothy Hoffland; William B. 2575 E. Camelback Rd.
Parker: Phoenix, AZ 85016

21 For Grace Entities: Don Ennis
22 SNELL & WILMER LLP
23 One Arizona Center
400 E. Van Buren
24 Phoenix, AZ 85004-2202

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APPEARANCES: (Continued)

For Jeffrey S. Kaufman;	Jeffrey Kaufman
Kaufman Family Living Trust	JEFFREY S. KAUFMAN, LTD.
dated July 7, 1997; Marcy L.	5725 N. Scottsdale Rd., Ste. 190
Kaufman; The Samuel W.	Scottsdale, AZ 85250
Kaufman Living Trust:	

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound technician, Sheri Fletcher; transcript produced by A/V Tronics, Inc.

1 (2:13 p.m.)

2 THE COURT: Well, I have some findings of fact and
3 conclusions of law to make, but I won't hold you in suspense
4 and go right to the bottom line. I'm going to approve this
5 settlement as to University & Ash and deny it as to Roosevelt
6 Gateway I and II.

7 First of all, let me note that I find no evidence
8 that the debtor negotiated this deal or agreed to it with its
9 own interests paramount, or indeed even that its own interests
10 were even considered. There is simply no evidence to suggest
11 that the debtor negotiated this deal with anything other than
12 its investors' interests in mind.

13 Let me go to the authority issue. First of all, I
14 agree that the authority must have been given in the agency
15 agreement or subscription agreement, not at least alone in the
16 loan documents, unless they are expressly incorporated in the
17 agreements the debtor made with its investors. But I find that
18 the authority existed at least with respect to most investors
19 in agency paragraph 1(b)(7) and 1(b)(9). I also find it rather
20 clearly in paragraph 5 of the investor subscription agreement
21 that was culled from Exhibit 5. Pardon me, Exhibit A,
22 paragraph 5.

23 Almost no discussion about, but it looks pretty
24 clearly that it gives the authority to modify the loan terms
25 and that the limitation on authority was only on the kinds of

1 loans in which Mortgages Ltd. could put the investor. That was
2 the primary limitation on authority that was imposed there.

3 What if some investor did expressly withhold the
4 authority to modify loan terms after they were made? I have to
5 conclude that that, at most, could give rise to a right of
6 rescission, a right to be bought out of that loan. I don't see
7 how it possibly could have been in contemplation of the
8 parties; that is, Mortgages Ltd. and the investor; that by one
9 investor checking a box saying I don't give you that
10 discretion, that investor understood that gave him a veto power
11 as to Mortgages Ltd.'s ability to deal with its loans with
12 respect to all of the other investors. And yet that's what the
13 argument would have to -- seems to me that's what the argument
14 would have to lead to that conclusion, that if Mortgages Ltd.
15 just had one investor said I'm withholding that authority, both
16 parties had to have understood that well, that means Mortgages
17 can't deal with its own loans. And I simply don't think that
18 was in the contemplation of either of the parties.

19 Indeed, it's kind of contrary to the very premise of
20 some of the objectors that this was in fact a security under
21 the Howey standards, because I believe most investors were
22 investing in Mortgages' ability to manage these loans. And to
23 suggest that in fact it was nothing more than an agency
24 agreement like, for example, if you went out and hired
25 TransAmerica to act as escrow agent to collect the loan

1 payments, that may not have been the security, but the parties
2 here knew they were investing in Mortgages Ltd.'s ability.

3 And to suggest that one or a handful of investors
4 could say you have no authority to exercise your ability
5 because I withheld it even with respect to other investors, I
6 just don't think that could have been the intent. It must have
7 meant, as in fact the testimony was, in actual practice it
8 gives rise to a right to be bought out. Which as I noted and I
9 asked specifically for argument on this point, doesn't that
10 merely give rise to a claim in the bankruptcy case by that
11 investor, a claim that in effect they already have? Perhaps
12 the issue of authority should have been addressed more up
13 front, perhaps under the context of the knotty issue of whether
14 it's a 365(c)(1) or 365(e)(2) issue. But that hasn't been
15 done, and unless and until it is done I think the authority
16 continues to exist in the debtor once it files.

17 And indeed in that regard I think the agency argument
18 really proves too much. Under common law, certainly for powers
19 of attorney, but I think most agency of powers would terminate
20 upon at least the filing of bankruptcy by the agency, by the
21 agent. Maybe upon insolvency even without a bankruptcy. But
22 if that were the case, then no debtor in possession could ever
23 exercise agency authority. And in fact no debtor in possession
24 whose job it is to be an agent could be a debtor in possession.
25 And if that were the case, I would think we would either find

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1 them excluded from being able to file a Chapter 11 and qualify
2 as a debtor in possession, or at least there would have been
3 substantial case law on why such entities cannot function as
4 debtor in possession.

5 Those are my reasons why I believe the authority
6 exists -- existed and continues to exist in the debtor in
7 possession. I do agree, of course, it has to be exercised with
8 the interest of investors and creditors primarily in mind,
9 because there is also that fiduciary duty.

10 As to the business judgment standard, first of all, I
11 find that this deal in effect is a hope certificate. But maybe
12 all the counsel here don't realize that that's a technical term
13 of art. It's one of those you do not find in the bankruptcy
14 code, but is well known to bankruptcy lawyers. What is a hope
15 certificate? That's what a debtor in possession offers his
16 secured creditors as to how they're going to get paid under the
17 debtor's plan, only we kind of got to reverse roles here. For
18 that analogy to apply here we have to say if University & Ash
19 were in bankruptcy, sort of the ordinary circumstance, it's the
20 debtor in bankruptcy, not the lender.

21 If University & Ash were the debtor here and
22 University & Ash proposed a plan for its secured creditor,
23 Citibank, you've got a deed of trust on my land and here's how
24 I'm going to pay you. First of all, nothing for four years.
25 Then after that, if I can develop it, you will get some

1 payment. That's what a hope certificate is. And I certainly
2 believe it would not be confirmed, at least over the objection
3 of the lender. The term hope certificate is intended to be a
4 pejorative. So if that were the issue before me, could this
5 deal be approved under a University & Ash plan of
6 reorganization? I think the answer clearly is no. So why
7 isn't that dispositive here? It's because this is not just a
8 proposal to settle University & Ash's secured debt. It is also
9 settlement of substantial litigation.

10 I do believe and find that neither Mortgages Ltd. nor
11 its pass-thru investors or pool investors would be able to
12 foreclose against this property in the foreseeable future given
13 the substantial litigation exposure arising from Mortgages'
14 failure to fund. And even if they did, I believe their
15 recovery could very well be zero after taking into account the
16 kind of damages University & Ash could prove as a setoff.

17 What the settlement is about is is it a reasonable
18 settlement to avoid that litigation. And I conclude that it is
19 reasonable to settle that potential litigation while preserving
20 a very substantial portion of the debt and the security
21 interest, but entirely avoiding that litigation risk, even
22 though to a relatively small extent the security interest could
23 be subordinated without either the investors' consent or a
24 ruling by an arbitrator.

25 I do think it's fair, the deal terms that allow for

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1 equity investor to come in or subordination for a significant,
2 more than \$100,000 mezzanine loan or construction loan, with
3 the consent feature that is built into the plan. And I do
4 think that any arbitrator or arbitrators would find if you're
5 being asked to walk away from your security interest with yet
6 another hope certificate, no arbitrator would approve that as
7 being commercially reasonable.

8 So in other words, it's only going to be if you have
9 a very realistic and concrete plan on the table that you're
10 asked to subordinate is an arbitrator going to find its
11 commercially reasonable. And in light of that and the
12 avoidance of the litigation risk, I think that is well within
13 the zone of reasonableness under the case law interpreting when
14 settlements can be approved in bankruptcy.

15 However, that same litigation threat does not exist
16 as to Roosevelt I and II. I do not find any evidence of such a
17 litigation risk as to Roosevelt I and II. As I understand it,
18 those loans were fully funded. I question whether Roosevelt I
19 and II would even have standing to raise in some litigation
20 attempting to preclude foreclosure the fact that the University
21 & Ash loan was not funded. Consequently, I find no litigation
22 threat as to Roosevelt I and II. And because of that, and
23 because the term is even more of a hope certificate as to them,
24 I don't think this settlement can be approved as to the
25 debtor's asset in Roosevelt I and II or the investors in

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1 Roosevelt I and II.

2 I do recognize that, from the perspective of the --
3 let me call them the University & Ash principals -- this is a
4 business deal. And the business deal relies on, to some
5 extent, all three parcels. And I do understand their position
6 at least that they wouldn't do the deal for University & Ash
7 unless Roosevelt I and II were included in it. And that may be
8 the case. They may, when I'm done here today, say well, he
9 didn't approve the deal we had, we're walking. And that may
10 be. But as to whether I can approve it as to Roosevelt I and
11 II, I don't think I can because I don't see the litigation risk
12 there. Moreover, I don't understand that there is any imminent
13 Fry's deal as to Roosevelt I and II that would require any such
14 settlement to be done now. In other words, no need for a
15 settlement as to Roosevelt I and II being done prior to a plan
16 of reorganization in this case.

17 And in fact, I even question whether, in any sense,
18 University & Ash doesn't get the full benefit of its bargain,
19 both the original bargain and the settlement part, because
20 simply because I approve the settlement only as to University &
21 Ash does not preclude this deal from being done as to Roosevelt
22 I and II. And since the Roosevelt I and II loans were fully
23 funded, those entities got their original benefit of the
24 bargain.

25 They borrowed money and they acquired land with it,

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1 and they've still got the land and they have other options.
2 They can pay off the deed of trust, they can refinance, or they
3 can renegotiate the terms of their loans with the debtor. And
4 simply because the settlement today is not approved as to them,
5 and Frys isn't walking away as to them, I don't see any reason
6 why those further negotiations can't go on. But whatever deal
7 has to be made, has to be fair in light of the investors in
8 Roosevelt I and II. And when you take out the litigation risk
9 and all you have left is a hope certificate, I don't think it's
10 fair it could be approved.

11 And that's why I come to my conclusion that if it can
12 be done, the settlement is approved as to University & Ash and
13 not as to Roosevelt I and II. And that's my ruling and
14 concludes this hearing.

15 (End of Portion Designated for Transcription)
16
17

18 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
19 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

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21 Dated: December 8, 2008


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