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Attorneys for ML Manager, LLC

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

In re:

MORTGAGES, LTD.,

Debtor.

Chapter 11

Case No. 2:08-bk-07465-RJH

SUPPLEMENT TO MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ML MANAGER AND JEFFREY C. STONE, INC., DBA SUMMIT BUILDERS (PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF OSBORN III/TEN LOFTS)

Hearing Date: May 31, 2011 Hearing Time: 11:00 a.m. Location: Ctrm 603

230 N. First Avenue

Phoenix, AZ

ML Manager, LLC, as the manager for Osborn III Loan, LLC ("Osborn III"), and the agent for 31 Pass-Through Investors ("ML Manager"), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby files this supplement to its *Motion for Approval of Settlement Between ML Manager and Jeffrey C.S tone, Inc., dba Summit Builders (Proceeds from Sale of Osborn III/Ten Lofts)* (the "Settlement Motion") [DE 3218].

### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In the Settlement Motion, ML Manager asserted that Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, successor-by-merger to Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation ("Fidelity") had terminated its defense of ML Manager in the underlying state court litigation regarding competing claims to the Escrowed Sale Proceeds. This assertion was based upon the contents of a letter from Fidelity dated March 21, 2001, which was attached as Exhibit "C" to the Settlement Motion (the "March 21 Letter"). In the March 21 Letter, Fidelity states, among other things:

> Consequently, regardless of whether or not the ML Parties were ever insureds under the policies, they certainly are no longer insured under the above-referenced policies, and are therefore not entitled to further protection under the terms of the policies . . . .

Consequently, the Company does not believe it has an obligation to provide for the continued defense of the ML Parties under the abovereferenced Policy.<sup>2</sup>

Understandably, ML Manager interpreted this letter as a notice that Fidelity was terminating the defense of the underlying lawsuit.

ML Manager provided Fidelity with a copy of the Settlement Motion and related Notice of Hearing [DE 3219]. On May 26, 2011, Fidelity sent another letter to ML Manager regarding this matter (the "May 26 Letter"). In the May 26 Letter, Fidelity asserts that any statements in the Settlement Motion to the effect that Fidelity has terminated the defense of the underlying action "are not true." Fidelity asserts further that, to the contrary, it is continuing to defend the lien action.<sup>4</sup> ML Manager is informed and believes that the underlying litigation in the lien action has essentially been on hold since the parties notified

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Settlement Motion, fn1, and p. 6. <sup>2</sup> March 21 Letter, at p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> May 26 Letter, at p. 2. <sup>4</sup> *Id*.

that a settlement had been reached. Nonetheless, accepting the statements in the May 26 Letter as true for purposes of this matter, Fidelity's change or clarification of its position has no impact on the relief requested in the Settlement Motion. Fidelity has merely supplanted the termination of its defense with the imminent threat of termination, hanging like the Sword of Damocles over ML Manager's head.<sup>5</sup> The underlying bases for, and both the

underlying legitimacy and reasonableness of the settlement, have not changed. ML Manager

faces a significant risk that Summit will prevail in the litigation, while Fidelity has refused to

acknowledge its liability under the Title Policy for these claims, and now contends that it no

longer has any obligation to defend ML Manager in that litigation. Nonetheless, so that the

record is clear, ML Manager has filed this supplement in order to bring to the attention of all

parties and the Court the contents of the May 26 Letter.

WHEREFORE, ML Manager respectfully requests the Court to grant the Settlement Motion, together with such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: May 27, 2011

### PERKINS COIE LLC

By: /s/ Richard M. Lorenzen (# 006787)
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Attorneys for ML Manager, LLC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> "Does not Dionysius seem to have made it sufficiently clear that there can be nothing happy for the person over whom some fear always looms?" Cicero, *Tusculan Disputations* 5.1.

ORIGINAL e-filed with the Court and COPY sent via e-mail or First Class Mail on May 27, 2011, to:

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Counsel for Fidelity National Title Insurance Company

The 30 Non-Transferring Pass-Through Investors on the attached OSBORN III SERVICE LIST via e-mail.

The Non-Transferring Pass-Through Investor without an e-mail address on the attached OSBORN III SERVICE LIST via First Class Mail.

The MECHANICS' LIEN HOLDERS with email addresses as follows:

pacej@ballardspahr.com; rcc@procopio.com; mdenious@stoopsazlaw.com; jgraif@gbmlawpc.com; kkasarjian@holdenwillits.com; kfrakes@holdenwillits.com; kroyerlaw@aol.com; kpalecek@paleceklaw.com; klane@paleceklaw.com; jon@hammerman-hultgren.com; stan@hammerman-hultgren.com; jromero@omlaw.com; jrogers@omlaw.com; dpv@cimlaw.com; jjs@cimlaw.com; gwinney@gblaw.com

All parties on the ECF SERVICE LIST in this case.

/s/ Kathryn Hardy	
LEGAL 20985101-1	

## Exhibit "A"

JONATHAN S. BATCHELOR TODD A. BAXTER NICOLE FELKER BERGSTROM GARY L. BIRNBAUM FREDDA J. BISMAN JAMES T. BRASELTON DAVID G. BRAY ROBERT C. BROWN DAVID V. BURKETT J. GREGORY CAHILL SPENCER W. CASHDAN JASON B. CASTLE SCOT L. CLAUS D. SAMUEL COFFMAN ROBIN L. DE RESPINO DONALD E. DYEKMAN FRED C. FATHE GLENN M. FELDMAN DAVID N. FERRUCCI ERIN R. FORD RICHARD A. FRIEDLANDER JERRY GAFFANEY KOLBY W. GRANVILLE KENNETH A. HODSON SCOTT A. HOLCOMB DAVID L. LANSKY DANA M. LEVY CLIFFORD L. MATTICE

WILLIAM NOVOTNY CHARLES H. OLDHAM DAVID J. OUIMETTE JEFF C. PADDEN JAMES H. PATTERSON MICHAEL J. PLATI MARLENE A. PONTRELLI CHARLES S. PRICE ANDREW L. PRINGLE LES RAATZ LEONCE A. RICHARD III STEPHEN E. RICHMAN JAMES S. RIGBERG MICHAEL S. RUBIN PAUL RUDERMAN BARRY R. SANDERS TRICIA SCHAFER MICHAEL R. SCHEURICH ROBERT L. SCHWARTZ ROBERT A. SHULL GARY J. SOSINSKY TIMOTHY J. THOMASON DAVID I. THOMPSON ANNE L. TIFFEN DENISE H. TROY SOPHIA VARMA PETER A. WINKLER STEVEN D. WOLFSON

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RUSSELL PICCOLI

(OF COUNSEL)

PHILLIP WEEKS (1936-1998) DONALD N. MCINTYRE (1932-1998)

May 26, 2011

Mr. Richard M. Lorenzen Perkins Cole 2901 N. Central Avenue, Suite 2000 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Re:

Policy:

H23-Z025296 (the "Policy")

Insured:

Mortgages, Ltd.

Claim No.:

Mortgages, Lite.

7

330613

Property:

Ten Lofts Project, Scottsdale, AZ (the "Project")

### Dear Rich:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 20, 2011. As I stated in my letter of March 8, Fidelity had not previously been provided any details of the settlement, which appears to have been in process since at least January. Notably, you waited until May 20 to provide the details of the settlement to Fidelity and then did so via the belated transmission of a Motion that you filed in the bankruptcy court on May 16 on shortened time (about which you also provided no notice to Fidelity).

Fidelity has complied with all of its obligations under its pertinent policy. It has defended the lien action. It appropriately reserved rights.

Mr. Richard M. Lorenzen May 26, 2011 Page 2

Contrary to the allegations set forth in the Motion, Fidelity continues to defend the lien action. Fidelity continues to receive billings from, and to pay, Gust Rosenfeld, Mortgages Ltd.'s counsel. Although, as set forth in Mr. Duvall's letter, Fidelity does not believe it has the obligation to continue providing that defense, it is in fact continuing to defend the lien action. The statements to the contrary in the Motion are not true. Mr. Duvall's letter did specifically request information from it's purported insureds indicating why, despite the language in the policy, said purported insureds believe that any coverage afforded by the policy continued after the insured land was transferred. Fidelity has not received a response to that request.

Fidelity has not approved this settlement. Therefore, pursuant to Paragraph 8(c) of the policy, Fidelity is not liable for any sums paid pursuant to this settlement.

The preceding is not intended as a comprehensive response. As such, Fidelity expressly reserves all its rights at law and equity.

Very truly yours.

Timothy J. Thomason

For the Firm

TJT/cl

cc: Homer Duvall

U:\ATTORNEYS\TJT\Fidelity - 11754\Lawyers Title adv. Gould, et al. - 307\Correspondence\Revised Letter to Richard Lorenzen 052611.doc

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