1 BENJAMIN B. WAGNER FILED United States Attorney RUSSELL L. CARLBERG Assistant U.S. Attorney DEC 7 2011 3 501 "I" Street, Suite 10-100 Sacramento, California 95814 CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT COLLECTION CALIFORNIA 4 Telephone: (916) 554-2700 5 SHARIS A. POZEN 6 Acting Assistant Attorney General ANNA TRYON PLETCHER TAI S. MILDER RICHARD B. COHEN Trial Attorneys U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Room 10-0101 San Francisco, CA 94102 SEALED 11 Telephone: (415) 436-6660 12 13 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 14 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 15 16 NO. 2:11-CR-511JAM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 17 Plaintiff, VIOLATIONS: 15 U.S.C. § 1 -18 Bid Rigging; 18 U.S.C. § 1349 v. Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud 19 WILEY C. CHANDLER 20 ANDREW B. KATAKIS, 21 DONALD M. PARKER, ANTHONY B. JOACHIM, and 22 W. THEODORE LONGLEY, 23 Defendants. 24 25 INDICTMENT 26 27 28

COUNT ONE: [15 U.S.C. § 1 - Bid Rigging]

The Grand Jury charges:

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

21

22 23

24

25 26

27

28

3.

At all times relevant to this Indictment, defendant ANDREW B. KATAKIS, a resident of Danville, California, through

WILEY C. CHANDLER, ANDREW B. KATAKIS, DONALD M. PARKER, ANTHONY B. JOACHIM, and W. THEODORE LONGLEY,

defendants herein, as follows:

#### BACKGROUND

- At all times relevant to this Indictment, when California 1. homeowners defaulted on their mortgages, mortgage holders could institute foreclosure proceedings and sell the properties through nonjudicial public real estate foreclosure auctions ("public auctions"). These public auctions were governed by California Civil Code Section 2924, et seq. Typically, a trustee was appointed to oversee the public auctions. These public auctions usually took place at or near the county courthouse of the county in which the properties were located. The auctioneer, acting on behalf of the trustee, sold the property to the bidder offering the highest purchase price. Proceeds from the sale were then used to pay the mortgage holders and other holders of debt secured by the property (collectively, "beneficiaries").
- At all times relevant to this Indictment, defendant WILEY 2. C. CHANDLER, a resident of Lodi, California, purchased real estate at public auctions in San Joaquin County.

agents and entities that he controlled, purchased real estate at public auctions in San Joaquin County.

- 4. At all times relevant to this Indictment, defendant DONALD M. PARKER, a resident of Valley Springs, California, purchased real estate at public auctions in San Joaquin County.
- 5. At all times relevant to this Indictment, defendant ANTHONY B. JOACHIM, a resident of Stockton, California, purchased real estate at public auctions in San Joaquin County.
- 6. At all times relevant to this Indictment, defendant W. THEODORE LONGLEY, a resident of Roseville, California, was an auctioneer or "crier" who conducted public real estate auctions in San Joaquin County.
- 7. Various corporations and individuals, not defendants in this Indictment, participated as coconspirators in the offense charged herein and performed acts and made statements in furtherance of them.

### THE COMBINATION AND CONSPIRACY

8. Beginning at least as early as in or about September 2008, and continuing until as late as in or about October 2009, the defendants, WILEY C. CHANDLER, ANDREW B. KATAKIS, DONALD M. PARKER, ANTHONY B. JOACHIM, W. THEODORE LONGLEY, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, entered into and engaged in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and restrain competition by rigging bids to obtain selected properties offered at public auctions in San Joaquin County in the Eastern District of California, in

28 | ///

///

unreasonable restraint of interstate trade and commerce, in violation of the Sherman Act, Title 15, United States Code, Section 1.

- 9. The charged combination and conspiracy consisted of a continuing agreement, understanding, and concert of action among the defendants and coconspirators to suppress competition by agreeing to refrain from bidding against each other to purchase selected properties at public auctions in San Joaquin County.
- 10. The defendant W. THEODORE LONGLEY aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, and procured the combination and conspiracy charged in this Count and willfully caused others to perform acts and make statements in furtherance of the charged combination and conspiracy.

### MEANS AND METHODS OF THE DEFENDANTS

- 11. For the purpose of forming and carrying out the charged combination and conspiracy, the defendants and coconspirators utilized various means and methods, including, among other things:
- a. agreeing not to compete to purchase selected properties at public auctions in San Joaquin County;
- b. designating which conspirator would bid for the selected properties at the public auctions;
- c. refraining from bidding for the selected properties at the public auctions; and

# Case 2:11-cr-00511-JAM Document 1 Filed 12/07/11 Page 5 of 11

1 d. making payoffs to and receiving payoffs from one 2 another in return for refraining from bidding at the public 3 auctions. 4 TRADE AND COMMERCE 5 During the period covered by this Indictment, the business 6 activities of the defendants and coconspirators that are the subject 7 of this Indictment were within the flow of, and substantially affected, interstate trade and commerce. For example, beneficiaries located in states other than California received proceeds from the 10 11 public auctions that were subject to the bid-rigging conspiracy. 12 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 13 The combination and conspiracy charged in this Count were 14 formed in and carried out, in part, within the Eastern District of 15 California, within the five years preceding the return of this 16 Indictment. 17 All in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Section 1, 18 19 and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2. 20 COUNT TWO: [18 U.S.C. § 1349 - Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud] 21 The Grand Jury further charges: 22 WILEY C. CHANDLER, 23 ANDREW B. KATAKIS, DONALD M. PARKER, 24 ANTHONY B. JOACHIM, and W. THEODORE LONGLEY, 25 defendants herein, as follows: 26

27

28

///

///

28 ///

///

1. Paragraphs one through seven of Count One of the Indictment are realleged and incorporated herein, as if fully set forth.

### THE CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD

- 2. Beginning at least as early as in or about September 2008, and continuing until as late as in or about October 2009, the defendants, WILEY C. CHANDLER, ANDREW B. KATAKIS, DONALD M. PARKER, ANTHONY B. JOACHIM, W. THEODORE LONGLEY, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury did willfully and knowingly combine, conspire, and agree with each other to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, namely, to knowingly devise and intend to devise and participate in a material scheme and artifice to defraud beneficiaries and to obtain from beneficiaries money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.
- 3. The objects of the conspiracy were to fraudulently acquire title to selected properties sold at public auctions in San Joaquin County at a lower price and to divert money to defendants and coconspirators that should have gone to the beneficiaries.
- 4. The defendant W. THEODORE LONGLEY aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, and procured the conspiracy charged in this Count and willfully caused others to perform acts and make statements in furtherance of the charged conspiracy.

#### MEANS AND METHODS OF THE DEFENDANTS

- 5. For the purpose of forming and carrying out the charged conspiracy, the defendants and coconspirators utilized various means and methods, including, among other things:
- a. agreeing to divert funds from the beneficiaries to the conspirators;
- b. arranging for a designated conspirator to purchase selected properties at public auctions at lower, noncompetitive prices;
- c. making payoffs to and receiving payoffs from one another using monies that would have gone to beneficiaries;
- d. in some instances, holding private auctions, frequently referred to as "rounds" or "round robins," open only to members of the conspiracy, to bid for selected properties that the designated conspirators purchased at the public auctions;
- e. distributing, based on an agreed-upon formula, the difference between the highest bids submitted at the public auctions and the highest bids submitted at the round robins as payoffs to the conspirators participating in the rounds;
- f. allowing the conspirators who submitted the highest bids at the round robins to acquire title to the selected properties; and
- g. taking steps to conceal the fact that monies were diverted from the beneficiaries to the conspirators, including making and causing to be made false and misleading statements on

# Case 2:11-cr-00511-JAM Document 1 Filed 12/07/11 Page 8 of 11

1 |

records of public auctions that trustees relied upon to distribute proceeds from the public auction to the beneficiaries and convey title to properties sold at the public auction.

6. For the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud and attempting to do so, the defendants and coconspirators knowingly used and caused to be used the United States Postal Service and private or commercial interstate carriers. For example, Trustee's Deeds Upon Sale and related documents were sent to conspirators through the United States mail and private or commercial interstate carriers. Properties that were included in the scheme, and for which such mailings were made, included:

PROPERTY ADDRESS	SALE DATE	MAILING

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1349 and 2.

# Case 2:11-cr-00511-JAM Document 1 Filed 12/07/11 Page 9 of 11

1 Dated: A TRUE BILL. 2 mentice of silenty AUSA 3 FOREPERSON 4 5 6 WAGNER SHARIS A 7 United States Attorney Acting Assistant Attorney Eastern Dist. of California General ! 8 9 10 SCOTT D. HAMMOND Deputy Assistant Attorney 11 General 12 13 ANNÁ TRYON TAI S. MILDER 14 RICHARD B. COHEN 15 Trial Attorneys U.S. Department of Justice 16 Antitrust Division 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28