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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

-oOo-

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

PATRICK BERGSRUD,

Defendant.

CASE NO.

PLEA MEMORANDUM

The United States of America, by and through Charles G. La Bella, Deputy Chief, and Mary Ann McCarthy, Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section, the defendant, PATRICK BERGSRUD, and the defendant's attorney, Tom Ericsson, submit this plea memorandum.

The United States and the defendant have reached the following plea agreement, which is not binding on the court:

I. GROUP PLEA/PACKAGE PLEA AGREEMENT

This agreement is contingent on at least five (5) of the thirteen (13) co-defendants, ROSALIO ALCANTAR, ROBERT BOLTEN, GLENN BROWN, PAUL CITELLI, MICHELLE DELUCA, CHARLES HAWKINS, SAMI ROBERT HINDIYEH, BRIAN JONES, LISA KIM, MORRIS MATTINGLY, ARNOLD MYERS, ANTHONY ROY

1 **WILSON**, and **JEANNE WINKLER** successfully entering their guilty pleas together with
 2 Defendant **PATRICK BERGSRUD**, and that all pleas are accepted by the Court.

3 **A. The Plea**

4 1. Defendant will plead guilty to Count One of the information, charging Defendant
 5 with conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
 6 Section 1349. Defendant also agrees to pay restitution and to the forfeiture of the property set forth
 7 in this Plea Memorandum.

8 **B. Additional Charges**

9 2. The United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section agrees
 10 to bring no additional criminal charges in the District of Nevada against the defendant relating to or
 11 arising from the offense charged in the information, except for any crime of violence and any crime
 12 unknown to the Fraud Section before the time the parties sign this Plea Memorandum.

13 **C. Sentencing Guideline Calculations**

14 3. Defendant understands that the Court is required to consider the United States
 15 Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") among other factors in
 16 determining the defendant's sentence. Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are
 17 advisory, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines, the Court may be free to exercise its
 18 discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to the maximum set by statute for the crime of
 19 conviction.

20 4. The parties agree that the following calculations of the United States Sentencing
 21 Guidelines (2010) apply for the group:

22	Base Offense Level	
23	(U.S.S.G. §2B1.1(a)):	7
24	Sophisticated Means	
25	(U.S.S.G. §2B1.1(b)(9)(c)):	2

26 INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

1 The parties agree that the loss calculation will be calculated on an individual basis, with
 2 Defendant BERGSRUD's loss calculated as follows:

3 Loss Amount of \$200,000 to \$400,000	
4 (U.S.S.G. §2B1.1(b)(1)(G)):	12
5 TOTAL	21

6 5. Acceptance of Responsibility: Pursuant to U.S.S.G. §3E1.1(a), the United States
 7 will recommend that the defendant receive a 2-level adjustment for acceptance of responsibility
 8 unless defendant (a) fails to make a complete factual basis for the guilty plea at the time it is
 9 entered; (b) is untruthful with the Court or probation officers in any respect, including without
 10 limitation, financial information; (c) denies involvement in the offense or provides conflicting
 11 statements regarding defendant's involvement; (d) attempts to withdraw the guilty plea; (e)
 12 engages in criminal conduct; (f) fails to appear in court; or (g) violates the conditions of
 13 defendant's pretrial release conditions.

14 6. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. §3E1.1(b), the United States will, in its sole discretion, make
 15 a motion for an additional 1-level adjustment for acceptance of responsibility prior to sentencing if
 16 the defendant timely notifies the United States of the defendant's intention to plead guilty, thereby
 17 permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and allowing for the efficient allocation of
 18 resources.

19 7. The United States will make a recommendation that the defendant receive a 1-
 20 level downward adjustment from the defendant's base offense level for Defendant PATRICK
 21 BERGSRUD and at least four (4) other co-defendants' group plea pursuant to Title 18, United
 22 States Code, Section 3553(b), on the condition that the co-defendants' change of pleas are entered
 23 and conditionally accepted by the Court on or before the defendant's sentencing hearing. If less
 24 than five (5) defendants enter guilty pleas, the Government will not make any motion for a group
 25 plea downward departure.

26 8. The United States will make a recommendation that the defendant receive a 2-
 27

1 level downward adjustment from the defendant's base offense level for Defendant PATRICK
2 BERGSRUD and at least eleven (11) other co-defendants' group plea pursuant to Title 18, United
3 States Code, Section 3553(b), on the condition that the co-defendants' change of pleas are entered
4 and conditionally accepted by the Court on or before the defendant's sentencing hearing.

5 9. The United States will make a recommendation that the defendant receive a 3-
6 level downward adjustment from the defendant's base offense level for Defendant PATRICK
7 BERGSRUD and at least seventeen (17) other co-defendants' group plea pursuant to Title 18,
8 United States Code, Section 3553(b), on the condition that the co-defendants' change of pleas are
9 entered and conditionally accepted by the Court on or before the defendant's sentencing hearing.
10 The defendant acknowledges that no more than a total of 3-levels will be recommended for a group
11 plea reduction.

12 10. Defendant's Criminal History Category will be determined by the court.

13 **D. Other Sentencing Matters**

14 11. The parties agree that the Sentencing Guideline calculations are based on
15 information now known and could change upon investigation by the United States Probation
16 Office. It is possible that factors unknown or unforeseen by the parties to the Plea Memorandum
17 may be considered in determining the offense level, specific offense characteristics, and other
18 related factors. In that event, the defendant will not withdraw his plea of guilty. Both the
19 defendant and the United States are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant
20 information to the United States Probation Office and the Court, and (b) correct any and all factual
21 inaccuracies relating to the calculation of the sentence.

22 12. The stipulations in this Plea Memorandum do not bind either the United States
23 Probation Office or the Court. Both Defendant and the United States are free to: (a) supplement
24 the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation Office and the Court,
25 and (b) correct any and all factual inaccuracies relating to the calculation of the sentence.
26
27

1 **E. Fines and Special Assessment**

2 13. Defendant agrees that the Court may impose a fine due and payable immediately
3 upon sentencing.

4 14. Defendant will pay the special assessment of \$100 per count of conviction at the
5 time of sentencing.

6 **F. Restitution**

7 15. Defendant agrees to make full restitution to the victims of the offense, in this case
8 the homeowners' associations described below in Section IV. Defendant understands and agrees
9 that this amount could be as much as \$369,252.76, which is the actual loss attributed to his
10 condominium units at Vistana and Chateau Nouveau, plus the amount he helped to withdraw from
11 the Vistana HOA construction defect settlement account minus those funds already recovered by
12 law enforcement, plus the amount of money or things of value he received for his participation in
13 the scheme. In return for Defendant agreeing to make restitution, the United States agrees not to
14 bring any additional charges against the defendant for the conduct giving rise to the relevant
15 conduct. Defendant understands that any restitution imposed by the Court may not be discharged
16 in whole or in part in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding.

17 **G. Forfeiture**

18 16. The parties agree that the government will not request that the Court require
19 Defendants to pay forfeiture in addition to restitution. However, should the Court nevertheless
20 order that Defendants shall pay forfeiture, the government agrees that such amount shall be the
21 actual loss attributed to his condominium units at Vistana and Chateau Nouveau, plus the amount
22 he helped to withdraw from the Vistana HOA construction defect settlement account minus those
23 funds already recovered by law enforcement, plus the amount of money or things of value he
24 received for his participation in the scheme, and no event more than \$369,252.76. In the event of
25 any order by the Court that Defendant shall pay forfeiture, the Defendant knowingly and
26 voluntarily agrees to the following:
27

- 1 a. to abandon or to forfeit the property to the United States;
- 2 b. to relinquish all right, title, and interest in the property;
- 3 c. to waive his right to any abandonment proceedings, any civil administrative
- 4 forfeiture proceedings, any civil judicial forfeiture proceedings, or any criminal forfeiture
- 5 proceedings ("proceedings") of the property;
- 6 d. to waive service of process of any and all documents filed in this action or any
- 7 proceedings concerning the property arising from the facts and circumstances of this case;
- 8 e. to waive any further notice to the defendant, the defendant's agents, or the
- 9 defendant's attorney regarding the abandonment or the forfeiture and disposition of the property;
- 10 f. not to file any claim, answer, petition, or other documents in any proceedings
- 11 concerning the property;
- 12 g. to waive the statute of limitations, the CAFRA requirements, Fed. R. Crim. P.
- 13 7(c)(2), 32.2(a), and 32.2(b)(3), and the constitutional due process requirements of any
- 14 abandonment proceeding or any forfeiture proceeding concerning the property;
- 15 h. to waive the defendant's right to a jury trial on the forfeiture of the property;
- 16 i. to waive (a) all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to, (b) any
- 17 constitutional or statutory double jeopardy defense or claim concerning, and (c) any claim or
- 18 defense under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, including, but not limited
- 19 to, any claim or defense of excessive fine in any proceedings concerning the property; and
- 20 j. to the entry of an Order of Forfeiture of the property to the United States.

21 17. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees and understands the abandonment,

22 the civil administrative forfeiture, the civil judicial forfeiture, or the criminal forfeiture of the

23 property shall not be treated as satisfaction of any assessment, fine, restitution, cost of

24 imprisonment, or any other penalty this Court may impose upon the Defendant in addition to the

25 abandonment or the forfeiture.

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1 **H. Waiver of Appeal**

2 18. In exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this Plea
3 Memorandum, Defendant knowingly and expressly waives the right to appeal any sentence that is
4 imposed within the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as calculated by the Court, further
5 waives the right to appeal the manner in which that sentence was determined on the grounds set
6 forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742, and further waives the right to appeal any other
7 aspect of the conviction or sentence, including any order of restitution and forfeiture. Defendant
8 reserves only the right to appeal any portion of the sentence that is an upward departure from the
9 applicable Sentencing Guideline range calculated by the Court.

10 19. Defendant also waives all collateral challenges, including any claims under 28
11 U.S.C. § 2255, to the Defendant's conviction, sentence and the procedure by which the Court
12 adjudicated guilt and imposed sentence, except non-waivable claims of ineffective assistance of
13 counsel.

14 **I. Additional Promises, Agreements, and Conditions**

15 20. In exchange for the United States entering into this Plea Memorandum, Defendant
16 agrees that (a) the facts set forth in Section IV of this Plea Memorandum shall be admissible
17 against the Defendant under Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(A) in the following circumstances: (i) for any
18 purpose at sentencing; and (ii) in any subsequent proceeding, including a trial in the event the
19 Defendant does not plead guilty or withdraws the Defendant's guilty plea, to impeach or rebut any
20 evidence, argument or representation offered by or on the Defendant's behalf; and (b) the
21 Defendant expressly waives any and all rights under Fed. R. Criminal P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid.
22 410 with regard to the facts set forth in Section IV of the Plea Memorandum to the extent set forth
23 above.

24 21. The parties agree that no promises, agreements, and conditions have been entered
25 into other than those set forth in this Plea Memorandum, and will not be entered into unless in
26 writing and signed by all parties.

1 **J. Limitations**

2 22. This Plea Memorandum is limited to the Criminal Division of the United States
3 Department of Justice and cannot bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative,
4 or regulatory authority. But, this Plea Memorandum does not prohibit the United States through
5 any agency thereof, the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, or any third
6 party from initiating or prosecuting any civil proceeding directly or indirectly involving the
7 Defendant, including but not limited to, proceedings under the False Claims Act relating to
8 potential civil monetary liability or by the Internal Revenue Service relating to potential tax
9 liability.

10 **K. Cooperation**

11 23. Defendant agrees, if requested by the United States, to provide complete and
12 truthful information and testimony concerning Defendant's knowledge of all other persons who are
13 committing or have committed offenses against the United States or any state, and agrees to
14 cooperate fully with the United States in the investigation and prosecution of such persons.

15 24. In the event the government decides in its sole discretion that the assistance
16 provided by Defendant amounts to "substantial assistance" pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1, the
17 United States will timely file a motion for downward departure from the applicable Sentencing
18 Guideline calculation. The Court has the sole discretion to grant such a motion.

19 25. Defendant agrees that a motion for downward departure based on substantial
20 assistance shall not be made under any circumstances unless Defendant's cooperation is deemed to
21 be substantial assistance by the government. The United States has made no promise, implied or
22 otherwise, that Defendant will be granted a departure for substantial assistance. Further, no
23 promise has been made that such a motion will be made even if Defendant complies with the terms
24 of this Plea Memorandum in all respects but has been unable to provide substantial assistance as
25 determined in the sole discretion of the government.

1 26. The United States agrees to consider the totality of the circumstances, including
2 but not limited to, the following factors, in determining whether, in the sole discretion of the
3 government, Defendant has provided substantial assistance which would merit a motion by the
4 United States for a downward departure from the applicable Guideline:

5 a. The United States' evaluation of the significance and usefulness of Defendant's
6 assistance;

7 b. The truthfulness, completeness, and reliability of any information or testimony
8 provided by Defendant;

9 c. The nature and extent of Defendant's assistance;

10 d. The truthfulness and completeness in disclosing and bringing to the attention of
11 the Government all crimes which Defendant has committed and all administrative, civil, or
12 criminal proceedings, investigations, and prosecutions in which he has been or is a subject, target,
13 party, or witness;

14 e. The truthfulness and completeness in disclosing and providing to the Government,
15 upon request, any document, record, or other evidence relating to matters about which the
16 Government or any designated law enforcement agency inquires, including but not limited to,
17 Defendant's personal finances;

18 f. Any injury suffered, or any danger or risk of injury to Defendant or Defendant's
19 family resulting from defendant's assistance; and,

20 g. The timeliness of Defendant's assistance.

21 27. Defendant agrees that in the event the United States files a downward departure
22 motion based upon Defendant's substantial assistance, the United States reserves the right to make
23 a specific recommendation to the Court regarding the extent of such a departure. Defendant
24 understands and agrees that the final decision as to how much of a departure, if any, is warranted
25 rests solely with the Court.

26 **L. Breach**

27 28. Defendant agrees that if Defendant, at any time after the signature of this Plea

1 Memorandum and execution of all required certifications by Defendant, Defendant's counsel, and
2 for the government, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of Defendant's obligations under
3 this Memorandum ("a breach"), the government may declare this Memorandum breached. All of
4 Defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this Plea Memorandum is sufficient for the
5 government to declare a breach, and Defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without
6 the express agreement of the government in writing. If the government declares this Memorandum
7 breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if Defendant has previously
8 entered a guilty plea pursuant to this Memorandum, Defendant will not be able to withdraw the
9 guilty plea, and (b) the government will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

10 II. PENALTY

11 29. The maximum penalty for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section
12 1349, is imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) years, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. Defendant is
13 also subject to supervised release for a term of not greater than five (5) years.

14 30. Supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which
15 Defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if
16 Defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, Defendant
17 may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release, which could result in
18 Defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.

19 31. Defendant is required to pay for the costs of imprisonment, probation, and
20 supervised release, unless the Defendant establishes that the Defendant does not have the ability to
21 pay such costs, in which case the court may impose an alternative sanction such as community
22 service.

23 III. ELEMENTS

24 32. The essential elements for the offense of conspiracy to commit wire and mail
25 fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349, are as follows:

26 a. First, from as early as in or about August 2003 through at least in or about
27

1 February 2009, there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit mail fraud and
2 wire fraud;

3 b. Second, the defendant was a party to or a member of that agreement; and,

4 c. Third, the defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of at least one
5 of its objects and intending to help accomplish it.

6 IV. FACTS

7 33. Defendant is pleading guilty because Defendant is guilty of the charged offenses.

8 34. Defendant specifically admits and declares under penalty of perjury that all of the
9 facts set forth below of which the Defendant has knowledge of as a member of the conspiracy are
10 true and correct. The parties agree that some of the facts outlined below were actions taken by
11 Defendant's co-conspirators and without the knowledge or involvement of the Defendant at the
12 time; however, Defendant acknowledges that he knew of the unlawful purpose of the conspiracy
13 and willfully joined it and that he is, therefore, responsible as a member of the conspiracy for those
14 actions that were taken by his co-conspirators in furtherance of the conspiracy. Defendant's
15 actions in furtherance of the conspiracy are specifically indicated.

16 35. From at least as early as in or around July 2007 through at least in or around
17 February 2009, Defendant knowingly participated in a scheme to control various Homeowners'
18 Association (HOA) Boards of Directors so that the HOA boards would award the handling of
19 construction defect lawsuits and remedial construction contracts to a law firm and construction
20 company designated by Defendant's co-conspirators.

21 36. Co-conspirators would identify HOA's which potentially could bring
22 construction defect cases, and once identified would enlist real estate agents to identify
23 condominium units within those HOA communities for purchase. In order to accomplish this
24 scheme, Defendant BERGSRUD acted as a real estate agent, identifying condominiums in HOA
25 communities for purchase by the co-conspirators. For instance, Defendant encouraged the co-
26 conspirators to purchase units at Mission Pointe.

27 37. Co-conspirators would then enlist individuals as straw purchasers to apply for

1 and complete mortgage loans using their own name and credit for the purchase of properties within
2 the HOA communities on behalf of the beneficial owners. The co-conspirators arranged for the
3 straw purchasers to get the necessary funding for the mortgages by assisting them with the loan
4 applications and closing documents, which included false and fraudulent statements that involved
5 concealing the identity and financial interest of the true beneficial owners of the properties from
6 banks, mortgage companies, HOAs, and bona fide homeowners. The co-conspirator real estate
7 agent arranged for the down payments to be funded by a co-conspirator and arranged for the money
8 to be transferred to the escrow accounts.

9 38. In order to accomplish this scheme, Defendant BERGSRUD agreed to act as a
10 straw purchaser at several Las Vegas HOA communities, including Vistana and Chateau Nouveau.
11 On or about July 27, 2007, Defendant purchased a unit at Chateau Nouveau, and on or about
12 September 20, 2007, Defendant purchased a unit at Vistana. In fact, Defendant's co-conspirators
13 provided the down payments and monthly payments, including HOA dues and mortgage payments,
14 for these properties and were the true owners of the properties. Defendant signed and submitted
15 false and fraudulent loan applications and closing documents to the financial institutions in order to
16 finance and close on the properties on behalf of his co-conspirators.

17 39. Once the straw purchases were complete, the beneficial owners and co-
18 conspirators often found tenants to rent the units. The beneficial owners received the rental
19 payments and continued to pay the mortgages and various expenses associated with the straw
20 purchase.

21 40. Co-conspirators were hired to manage and operate the payments associated with
22 maintaining these straw properties. The co-conspirators called this business of funding these
23 properties the "Bill Pay Program." The co-conspirators involved in running the Bill Pay Program
24 maintained several limited liability companies, at the direction of the co-conspirator construction
25 company owner and others, for the purpose of opening bank accounts and concealing the Bill Pay
26 Program funds. Many of the payments on these properties were wired or caused to be wired from
27 California to Nevada.

1 41. On several occasions, instead of making a straw purchase, the co-conspirators
2 transferred a partial interest in a unit to another co-conspirator for the purpose of making it appear
3 as if the co-conspirator was a bona fide homeowner. On or about September 18, 2007, Defendant
4 received an ownership interest at Horizons at Seven Hills by quit-claim deed. On or about August
5 8, 2008, Defendant received an ownership interest at Mission Pointe when the co-conspirator
6 construction company owner purchased the unit with cash for the Defendant. On that same day,
7 Defendant took direction from his co-conspirators and transferred a 50% ownership interest in the
8 Mission Pointe unit to another co-conspirator. Defendant understood that the co-conspirators
9 intended to use these ownership interests to nominate and elect co-conspirator HOA board
10 members and to further the objects of the conspiracy.

11 42. The co-conspirator real estate agents, including Defendant BERGSRUD, assisted
12 with the paperwork involved in such transfers and arranged for the completion of the paperwork.
13 For instance, on or about December 3, 2007, Defendant requested the recording of a quit-claim
14 deed that transferred an ownership interest in a unit at Vistana from one co-conspirator to another
15 co-conspirator; and, on or about February 5, 2008, Defendant requested the recording of a quit-
16 claim deed that transferred an ownership interest in a unit at Horizons at Seven Hills from one co-
17 conspirator to another co-conspirator. Defendant used his real estate company to record these and
18 other transactions on behalf of the co-conspirators.

19 43. Many of the straw purchasers and those who acquired a transferred interest in the
20 properties agreed with co-conspirators to run for election to the respective HOA Board of
21 Directors. These co-conspirators were paid or promised cash, checks, or things of value for their
22 participation, all of which resulted in a personal financial benefit to the co-conspirators.

23 44. To ensure the co-conspirators would win the elections, co-conspirators at times
24 employed deceitful tactics, such as creating false phone surveys to gather information about
25 homeowners' voting intentions, using mailing lists to vote on behalf of out-of-town homeowners
26 unlikely to participate in the elections, and submitting fake and forged ballots. Co-conspirators
27

1 also hired private investigators to uncover negative information on the bona fide candidates in
2 order to create smear campaigns.

3 45. Another tactic the co-conspirators used to rig certain HOA board elections was
4 to prepare forged ballots for out-of-town homeowners and either cause them to be transported or
5 mailed to California and thereafter to have the ballots mailed back to Las Vegas from various
6 locations around California so as to make it appear that the ballots were completed and mailed by
7 bona fide homeowners residing outside Nevada. For instance, on or about April 15, 2008 and on
8 or about April 21, 2008, a co-conspirator mailed ballots from several mail boxes in California back
9 to Nevada in order to assist in the rigging of an election at Park Avenue.

10 46. On several occasions, co-conspirators attempted to create the appearance that
11 the elections were legitimate by hiring "independent" attorneys to run the HOA board elections.
12 These "special election masters" were to: (i) contact the bona fide homeowners to inform them of
13 the election; (ii) mail the bona fide homeowners election ballots and voting instructions; (iii)
14 collect and secure those election ballots returned by mail until the date of the election; and (iv)
15 preside over the HOA board election, including supervising the counting of ballots. However, in
16 truth and fact, the "special election masters" were selected by the co-conspirators and paid in cash,
17 check, or promised things of value, by or on behalf of Co-Conspirators A and B for their assistance
18 in rigging the elections. In particular, the "special election masters" allowed the co-conspirators to
19 access the ballots for the purpose of opening the ballots and pre-counting the votes entered for each
20 candidate to then know the number of fake ballots which needed to be created to ensure the co-
21 conspirator up for election won the seat on the HOA board. These attorneys would run the board
22 election knowing the co-conspirators had access to the ballots and concealed their relationship with
23 the co-conspirators from the bona fide homeowners.

24 47. After Defendant BERGSRUD purchased the properties for his co-conspirators, and
25 thus purported to become a member of the HOA communities, he agreed to run for election to the
26 HOA boards of directors. On or about October 18, 2007, he ran and was elected to the Vistana
27 HOA Board of Directors. Defendant knew this Vistana election was rigged. Defendant breached

1 his statutory fiduciary duty to the homeowners by accepting from his co-conspirators
2 compensation, gratuity, and other remuneration that improperly influenced, or reasonably appeared
3 to influence, his decisions, resulting in a conflict of interest.

4 48. Once elected, the straw purchaser board members would meet with the co-
5 conspirators in order to manipulate board votes, including the selection of property managers,
6 contractors, general counsel and attorneys to represent the HOA. Defendant attended these
7 meetings on several occasions and on other occasions he took direction from co-conspirators who
8 attended these meetings to vote in furtherance of the conspiracy.

9 49. At times the co-conspirators created and submitted fake bids for "competitors"
10 to make the process appear to be legitimate while ensuring co-conspirators were awarded the
11 contract. Once hired, co-conspirators, including property managers and general counsel, would
12 then recommend that the HOA board hire the co-conspirator construction company for remediation
13 and construction defect repairs and the co-conspirator law firm to handle the construction defect
14 litigation. In addition, the co-conspirator construction company's initial contract for emergency
15 remediation repairs contained a "right of first refusal" clause to ensure the co-conspirator
16 construction company was awarded the construction repair contracts following the construction
17 defect litigation.

18 50. Defendant used his position on the board to vote in a manner directed by and
19 favorable to certain co-conspirators. Specifically, Defendant participated in the following actions,
20 among others: (i) on or about November 16, 2007, Defendant voted to pay \$1,528,250 to the co-
21 conspirator construction company, related to the construction defect remediation work; (ii) on or
22 about August 14, 2008, Defendant voted to pay \$200,000 to the co-conspirator construction
23 company, related to the construction defect remediation work; and, (iii) on or about February 14,
24 2008, Defendant voted to pay \$1,025,217.37 to the co-conspirator construction company, related to
25 the construction defect remediation work.

26 51. On or about December 30, 2008, after local and federal law enforcement officials
27 executed search warrants at the homes and businesses of several of his co-conspirators, Defendant,

1 at the direction of co-conspirators, further abused his power as a board member at Vistana by
2 withdrawing the remaining \$450,000 from the Vistana HOA construction defect settlement account
3 for the sole purpose of enriching the co-conspirators at the expense of the bona fide homeowners.

4 52. On or about April 30, 2009, Defendant took out a \$50,000 mortgage on the
5 Mission Pointe condominium that was purchased in cash for him by the co-conspirators. He did so
6 for the sole purpose of enriching himself. He failed to make a payment on the loan.

7 53. This entire process created the appearance of legitimacy since bona fide
8 homeowners believed the elected board members and other third parties were, as fiduciaries, acting
9 in their best interest rather than to advance the financial interests of co-conspirators. In fact,
10 Defendant BERSGRUD and others were paid or received things of value by or on behalf of their
11 co-conspirators, for their assistance in purchasing the properties, obtaining HOA membership
12 status, rigging elections, using their positions to manipulate the HOA's business and to further the
13 goals of the conspiracy, and to enrich the co-conspirators at the expense of the HOA and the bona
14 fide homeowners.

15 V. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

16 54. Defendant acknowledges by the Defendant's signature below that Defendant has
17 read this Plea Memorandum, that Defendant understands the terms and conditions and the factual
18 basis set forth herein, that Defendant has discussed these matters with Defendant's attorney, and
19 that the matters set forth in this memorandum, including the facts set forth in Part IV above, are
20 true and correct.

21 55. Defendant acknowledges that Defendant has been advised, and understands, that
22 by entering a plea of guilty the Defendant is waiving, that is, giving up, certain rights guaranteed to
23 the Defendant by law and by the Constitution of the United States. Specifically, Defendant is
24 giving up:

25 a. The right to proceed to trial by jury on the original charges, or to a trial by
26 a judge if Defendant and the United States both agree;

27 b. The right to confront the witnesses against the Defendant at such a trial, and to

1 cross-examine them;

2 c. The right to remain silent at such trial, with such silence not to be used against
3 Defendant in any way;

4 d. The right, should Defendant so choose, to testify in Defendant's own behalf at
5 such a trial;

6 e. The right to compel witnesses to appear at such a trial, and to testify in
7 Defendant's behalf; and,

8 f. The right to have the assistance of an attorney at all stages of such proceedings.

9 56. Defendant acknowledges that Defendant is, in all respects, satisfied by the
10 representation provided by Defendant's attorney and that Defendant's attorney has discussed with
11 the defendant the burdens and benefits of this agreement and the rights he waives herein.

12 57. Defendant, Defendant's attorney, and the attorney for the United States
13 acknowledge that this Plea Memorandum contains the entire negotiated and agreed to by and
14 between the parties, and that no other promise has been made or implied by either the Defendant,
15 Defendant's attorney, or the attorney for the United States.

16
17 DENIS J. McINERNEY
18 Chief
19 United States Department of Justice,
Criminal Division, Fraud Section

20 April 2, 2012
21 DATED

22
23 CHARLES LA BELLA
24 Deputy Chief

25 Maryann McCarthy
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27 Trial Attorney
United States Department of Justice
Criminal Division, Fraud Section

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2 3/7/12
DATED


PATRICK BERGSRUD
Defendant

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4 3/7/12
5 DATED


TOM ERICKSON
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