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CLERK US DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA	
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 8 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

9 -oOo-

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)

) CASE NO.: 2:13-cr-018

11)
 12) Plaintiff,)

) DATE FILED:)

13) v.)

) VIOLATIONS:)

14) LEON BENZER,)
 15) KEITH GREGORY,)
 16) CHARLES McCHESNEY)
 17) BARRY LEVINSON,)
 18) RICKY ANDERSON,)
 19) MARIA LIMON,)
 20) JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ,)
 21) RUDOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ,)
 22) SALVATORE RUVOLO)
 23) DAVID BALL, and)
 24) EDITH GILLESPIE,)

) 18 U.S.C. § 1349 (conspiracy to commit mail)
 and wire fraud – 1 count); 18 U.S.C. § 1343)
 (wire fraud- 14 counts); 18 U.S.C. § 1341)
 (mail fraud- 2 counts); 18 U.S.C. § 1001)
 (false statement – 1 count)

20) Defendants.)

23 INDICTMENT

24 INTRODUCTION

25 **THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:**

26 At all times material to this Indictment:

1 1. Pursuant to Nevada law, a homeowner's association (HOA) is a
2 corporation that governs a common interest community, as defined under NRS 116.021. A HOA
3 is controlled by the developer until the housing units are sold, at which time the control is
4 transferred to the bona fide homeowners. Only bona fide homeowners can be members in the
5 HOA.

6 2. Following transfer of control by the developer, a HOA is governed by a
7 board of directors with a minimum of three members, all of whom must be bona fide
8 homeowners. The board members are elected by the bona fide homeowners annually.

9 3. Under Nevada law, HOA board members are fiduciaries. Any person
10 nominated for the board must make a good faith effort to disclose any financial, business,
11 professional, or personal relationship or interest that would result or would appear to a
12 reasonable person to result in a potential conflict of interest.

13 4. Consistent with their fiduciary duties and pursuant to Nevada law, HOA
14 board members may not solicit or accept any form of compensation, gratuity, or other
15 remuneration that would improperly influence or reasonably appear to influence the board
16 members' decisions or would result or reasonably appear to result in a conflict of interest.

17 5. Consistent with their fiduciary duties, the board of directors is empowered
18 to make decisions related to the common interests of the homeowners, including but not limited
19 to: adopting and amending bylaws and budgets; hiring managers, employees, agents, attorneys,
20 independent and contractors; instituting or defending the community in litigation; and causing
21 additional improvements or maintenance repairs to be made.

22 6. Before hiring individuals and companies to work on behalf of the HOA,
23 the HOA board usually obtains three bids for consideration. The three bids are usually presented
24 during public board meetings with an opportunity for the homeowners to comment and discuss
25 the issues at hand. The property manager is usually selected first, and then the property manager
26 helps to identify and obtain bids for other services.

1 7. Under Nevada law, property managers must earn a Community
2 Association Management (CAM) license before being able to work in the state of Nevada.
3 Property managers have fiduciary obligations to act in the best interest of the community,
4 safeguard financial and confidential information for the community, and disclose any affiliation
5 or financial interest with any other person or business that furnishes goods or services to the
6 community.

7 8. Chateau Versailles, Chateau Nouveau, Park Avenue, Jasmine, Vistana,
8 Sunset Cliffs, Palmilla, Pebble Creek, Mission Ridge, Mission Pointe, and Horizons at Seven
9 Hills, common interest communities, were located in Las Vegas, Nevada. Each had an HOA
10 board consisting of at least three people.

11 9. From at least in or about August 2003 through at least in or about
12 February 2009, Defendants participated in a scheme to fraudulently obtain loans on properties
13 within these and other HOAs, fraudulently infiltrate the boards of these HOAs, and then award
14 legal and construction work to co-conspirators.

15 10. Defendant **LEON BENZER**, a Las Vegas resident, owned Silver Lining
16 Construction Company (SLC), a construction company incorporated in the state of Nevada. SLC
17 purported to specialize in home building and repairs, including repairs involving so-called
18 construction defects (CDs).

19 11. Co-Conspirator **Ralph Priola**, charged separately, was an employee of
20 SLC, and one of **BENZER's** principal assistants.

21 12. Co-Conspirator A was a law firm in Las Vegas that specialized in
22 construction defect litigation. Co-Conspirator B was a Nevada attorney who owned and
23 controlled Co-Conspirator A. Co-Conspirator B was, along with **BENZER**, a mastermind of the
24 conspiracy and also one of its principal sources of funding. Co-Conspirator B participated in the
25 conspiracy until the death of Co-Conspirator B in March 2012. **BENZER** and his co-
26 conspirators, through the use of "straw purchasers" via financed transactions, caused the

1 purchase or transfer of approximately 37 condominium units in an effort to take control of HOA
2 boards through the nomination and election of these straw purchasers as HOA board members.
3 The straw purchasers, once elected were under the direction and control of **BENZER** and SLC.
4 As a result of the scheme, 33 of these 37 condominiums went into foreclosure.

5 13. Defendant **KEITH GREGORY**, a Las Vegas resident, was an attorney
6 licensed in Nevada who did work for **BENZER** and SLC, and who, through the actions of SLC
7 controlled boards, was hired and acted as general counsel at the Vistana and Sunset Cliffs HOAs
8 and who, at the direction of SLC and **BENZER**, purported to represent an SLC and **BENZER**
9 controlled board candidate in an action against an HOA board that SLC and **BENZER** were
10 attempting to control.

11 14. Defendant **CHARLES McCHESNEY (AKA "CHUCK**
12 **McCHESNEY")**, a Las Vegas resident, was a private investigator who began working for
13 **BENZER** in 2004, and a straw purchaser and SLC controlled board member at the Chateau
14 Nouveau HOA.

15 15. Defendant **BARRY LEVINSON**, a Las Vegas resident, was an attorney
16 licensed in Nevada who did work for SLC and **BENZER** and who, through the actions of SLC
17 and **BENZER** controlled boards, acted as general counsel at the Park Avenue and Pebble Creek
18 HOAs and who, at the direction of SLC and **BENZER**, purported to represent an HOA in an
19 effort to secure board positions for SLC and **BENZER** controlled candidates.

20 16. Defendant **RICKY ANDERSON**, a Texas resident, was a straw purchaser
21 and an employee of SLC and **BENZER** who, in an e-mail to **BENZER** described his duties as,
22 among others, "HOA Enforcer."

23 17. Defendant **MARIA LIMON**, a North Las Vegas resident, was a straw
24 purchaser and worked as an unlicensed property manager at one of the SLC owned and
25 controlled property management companies used during the conspiracy.

26 18. Defendant **JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ (AKA "LUIS ALVAREZ")**, a

1 Henderson resident, was employed by SLC, acted as a straw purchaser at certain HOAs targeted
2 by the conspirators, was an SLC controlled board member, and assisted in the rigging of at least
3 one HOA election.

4 19. Defendant **RODOLFO ALVAREZ (AKA "RUDY ALVAREZ")**, a Las
5 Vegas resident and brother of **JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ**, was employed by SLC, a straw
6 purchaser at the Vistana HOA, and an SLC controlled board member.

7 20. Defendant **SALVATORE RUVOLO (AKA "SAM RUVOLO" and**
8 **"SAL RUVOLO")**, a Henderson resident, was a straw purchaser and an SLC controlled board
9 member at the Park Avenue and Chateau Nouveau HOAs.

10 21. Defendant **DAVID BALL**, a Las Vegas resident, was a real estate agent
11 who was a straw purchaser and an SLC controlled board member at Chateau Nouveau, and a
12 recruiter of another straw purchaser and SLC controlled board member at Chateau Nouveau.

13 22. Defendant **EDITH GILLESPIE**, a Las Vegas resident, was **BENZER's**
14 half-sister, a straw purchaser at a HOA, and a recruiter of other straw purchasers and board
15 candidates on behalf of **BENZER**.

16 **COUNT ONE**

17 **THE CONSPIRACY**

18 23. From at least in or about August 2003 through at least in or about
19 February 2009, in the District of Nevada and elsewhere, Defendants

20 **LEON BENZER,**
21 **KEITH GREGORY,**
22 **CHARLES McCHESNEY,**
23 **BARRY LEVINSON,**
24 **RICKY ANDERSON,**
25 **MARIA LIMON,**
26 **JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ,**
RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ,
SALVATORE RUVOLO
DAVID BALL, and
EDITH GILLESPIE,

1 with others known and unknown to the United States, did knowingly and intentionally conspire,
2 combine, confederate and agree to commit certain offenses against the United States, that is:

3 a. to devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to
4 obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations
5 and promises, that affected a financial institution; and for the purpose of executing such scheme
6 and artifice, each Defendant or their coconspirators did knowingly place or caused to be placed
7 in a post office and authorized depository for mail matter a thing to be sent and delivered by the
8 U.S. Postal Service or any private or commercial interstate carrier, in violation of Title 18,
9 United States Code, Section 1341; and,

10 b. to devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to
11 obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses,
12 representations, and promises, that affected a financial institution; and for the purpose of
13 executing such scheme and artifice, each Defendant or their coconspirators did knowingly
14 transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign
15 commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, in violation of Title 18, United States
16 Code, Section 1343.

17 OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

18 24. The objects of the conspiracy, of which Defendants **LEON BENZER,**
19 **KEITH GREGORY, CHARLES McCHESNEY, BARRY LEVINSON, RICKY**
20 **ANDERSON, MARIA LIMON, JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVAREZ-**
21 **RODRIGUEZ, SALVATORE RUVOLO, DAVID BALL, and EDITH GILLESPIE** were
22 members, which began from at least as early as in or around August 2003 and continued through
23 at least in or around February 2009, were for the co-conspirators to:

24 a. facilitate the purchase of units in the housing developments identified
25 above by straw purchasers acting at the secret direction of the conspirators;

26 b. employ the straw purchasers to elect HOA board candidates designated by

1 the co-conspirators, thereby gaining the control of HOA boards;

2 c. manipulate and influence the conduct of HOA business including, but not
3 limited to, the appointment of designated property managers, the hiring of designated lawyers
4 and law firms, and the hiring of designated contractors; and,

5 d. unlawfully enrich the co-conspirators as a result of the scheme by causing
6 the puppet HOA boards to award legal, construction, and other work to entities controlled by co-
7 conspirators.

8 MANNER AND MEANS

9 25. In order to achieve the objects of the conspiracy, Defendants **LEON**
10 **BENZER, KEITH GREGORY, CHARLES McCHESNEY, BARRY LEVINSON, RICKY**
11 **ANDERSON, MARIA LIMON, JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVAREZ-**
12 **RODRIGUEZ, SALVATORE RUVOLO, DAVID BALL, and EDITH GILLESPIE** and
13 others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, used the following manner and means, among
14 others:

15 a. The Defendants and their co-conspirators enlisted real estate agents to
16 identify condominium units within HOA communities for purchase by co-conspirators in
17 connection with the scheme.

18 b. The co-conspirators enlisted individuals to act as straw purchasers to
19 complete and sign mortgage loan applications to purchase properties within the HOA
20 communities on behalf of the true beneficial owners, and made false and fraudulent statements
21 that concealed the identity and financial interest of the true beneficial owners of the properties
22 from banks, mortgage companies, HOAs, and bona fide homeowners. Defendant **LEON**
23 **BENZER** – and at certain times relevant to this Indictment, Co-Conspirator B – funded the
24 down payments, and the co-conspirators sent emails and spreadsheets, many via interstate wire,
25 outlining the purchase and payment terms (two of which were entitled “Condosinlinetobuy” and
26 “Money back to LB on cash deals.”)

1 c. The co-conspirators used several licensed notaries to assist the notarizing
2 of documents, at times fraudulently, in furtherance of the conspiracy without the signatory
3 appearing before him/her or without entering the transaction into his/her notary book as required
4 by his/her State of Nevada notary license.

5 d. Various co-conspirators joined the conspiracy when they agreed to
6 become straw purchasers at a particular HOA. Many co-conspirators would and did sign and
7 submit false and fraudulent loan applications and supporting documents to financial institutions
8 in order to finance and close on the properties. The co-conspirators, through the use of "straw
9 purchasers" would and did cause the purchase or transfer of approximately 37 condominium
10 units, 33 of which went into foreclosure as a result of the scheme.

11 e. Once the straw purchases were complete, the beneficial owners and co-
12 conspirators often rented the units. In most instances, the beneficial owners (not the straw
13 purchasers) received the rental payments and continued to pay the mortgages and various
14 expenses associated with the straw purchases.

15 f. In furtherance of the scheme, in or about August 2005, August 2006,
16 January 2007, and February 2007, a co-conspirator opened and managed approximately six bank
17 accounts at the request and pursuant to the instructions of **LEON BENZER** and **SLC** under the
18 names of limited liability companies controlled by **BENZER** in order to, among other things,
19 conceal the identity of the beneficial owners. The co-conspirators would send and cause to be
20 sent numerous interstate wire transfers made to and from these accounts to fund the conspiracy
21 and to pay co-conspirators for their participation in the scheme. Defendant **BENZER**, together
22 with Co-Conspirators A, B and **Priola** would and did cause deposits of approximately
23 \$1,981,077, \$700,000 and \$300,000 into these accounts, among others. In excess of
24 approximately \$8,000,000 moved through these six accounts.

25 g. Several conspirator straw purchasers allowed the co-conspirators to
26 transfer a 1% or greater ownership interest in the purchased unit to another co-conspirator to

1 make it appear that the new owner was a bona fide homeowner in the HOA and was qualified to
2 run for a position on the HOA board of directors.

3 h. The co-conspirators would and did refinance the properties in order to
4 increase the conspiracy's capital from which conspirators could be paid for their services and
5 additional condominiums could be purchased, often submitting false, fraudulent or misleading
6 information to the financial institutions.

7 i. The conspirator straw purchasers and those co-conspirators who acquired
8 a transferred interest in the properties often agreed to run for election to HOA boards. These co-
9 conspirators, including Defendants **JOSE ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVEREZ-**
10 **RODRIGUEZ, RICKY ANDERSON, MARIA LIMON, CHARLES McCHESNEY,**
11 **SALVATORE RUVOLO, and DAVID BALL,** were paid or promised cash, checks, or things
12 of value for their participation, all of which resulted in a personal financial benefit to the co-
13 conspirators.

14 j. To ensure the co-conspirators would win the elections, the co-conspirators
15 often employed deceitful tactics, such as creating false phone surveys to gather information
16 about homeowners' voting intentions, using mailing lists to vote on behalf of out-of-town
17 homeowners who were unlikely to participate in the elections, and submitting fake and forged
18 ballots.

19 k. Certain co-conspirators assisted in rigging certain HOA board elections
20 by, among other things, preparing forged ballots for out-of-town homeowners and either
21 transported the ballots or caused the ballots to be transported or mailed to California and
22 thereafter to have the ballots mailed back to Las Vegas from various locations around California,
23 to make it appear that the ballots were completed and mailed by bona fide homeowners residing
24 outside Nevada. The co-conspirators also hired private investigators to find "dirt" on bona fide
25 candidates in order to influence the elections. Certain other co-conspirators – who were
26 attorneys – assisted the conspiracy by serving as general counsel for HOAs and purporting to act

1 in the interest of the homeowners, while in reality they were serving the interests of **BENZER**
2 and the other conspirators.

3 l. The co-conspirators attempted to create the appearance that the elections
4 were legitimate and free from corruption by hiring "independent" attorneys as "special election
5 masters," to supervise the HOA board elections. These "special election masters," working with
6 the HOAs' licensed property managers, were obligated to: (i) contact the bona fide homeowners
7 to inform them of the election; (ii) mail the bona fide homeowners election ballots and voting
8 instructions; (iii) collect and secure those election ballots returned by mail until the date of the
9 election; and (iv) preside over the HOA board election, including supervising the counting of
10 ballots. However, in truth and fact, certain "special election masters" were paid in cash, check,
11 or promised things of value, by or on behalf of **LEON BENZER** and **SLC** for their assistance in
12 allowing co-conspirators to rig the elections by allowing the co-conspirators access to the ballots
13 after they were collected but before they were counted.

14 m. Once elected, the straw purchasers and **SLC** controlled board members
15 would and did meet with co-conspirators in order to manipulate board agendas as well as board
16 votes, including the selection of property managers, contractors, general counsel and attorneys to
17 represent the HOA.

18 OVERT ACTS

19 26. The following overt acts were committed by at least one of the
20 conspirators, in the District of Nevada and elsewhere, in furtherance of the conspiracy:

21 a. On or about September 7, 2005, **RUVOLO** was a straw purchaser of unit
22 1199 at the Chateau Nouveau HOA.

23 b. On or about October 5, 2005, **J. ALVAREZ** was a straw purchaser of unit
24 2514 at Seven Hills HOA.

25 c. On or about November 3, 2005, **McCHESNEY** sold unit 1122 to a **SLC**
26 employee.

1 d. On or about November 18, 2005, **BENZER** and other co-conspirators
2 caused the transfer of \$183,000 for the purchase of condominiums.

3 e. On or about November 18, 2005, **RUVOLO** was a straw purchaser of unit
4 401 at Park Avenue.

5 f. On or about December 13, 2005, **GILLESPIE** was a straw purchaser at
6 Chateau Versailles HOA.

7 g. On or about March 30, 2007, **BALL** was a straw purchaser of and earned
8 a broker's commission on unit 2028 at Chateau Nouveau HOA.

9 h. On or about September 21, 2007, **BENZER, R. ALVAREZ** and other co-
10 conspirators caused the Vistana mobilization fee of \$1,098,000 to be paid to **BENZER**.

11 i. On or about September 24, 2007, **BENZER** caused a bribe payment of
12 \$10,000 to be made to **GREGORY**.

13 j. On or about October 30, 2007, **BENZER, R. ALVAREZ** and other co-
14 conspirators caused the Vistana CD settlement funds of \$1,190,056.80 to be paid to **BENZER**.

15 k. On or about January 10, 2008, **BENZER, R. ALVAREZ** and other co-
16 conspirators caused the Vistana CD settlement funds of \$1,189,151 to be paid to **BENZER**.

17 l. On March 5, 2008, **BALL** sent an email via interstate communication to,
18 among others, **RUVOLO** and **MCCHESENEY**, subject line "RE: Chateau Nouveau-1001, 1341,
19 bldg 47," authorizing repairs to be conducted by Silver Lining Construction.

20 m. On or about March 5, 2008, **MCCHESENEY** sent an email via interstate
21 communication, subject line "RE: Chateau Nouveau-1001, 1341, bldg 47," authorizing repairs to
22 be conducted by Silver Lining Construction.

23 n. On or about April 15, 2008, **BENZER** and other co-conspirators caused
24 the mailing of forged ballots for the Park Avenue HOA election in which **RUVOLO** and other
25 co-conspirators ran for the HOA board.

26 o. On or about July 9, 2008, **LEVINSON** sent a letter to Castle Management

1 terminating the company's contract at Pebble Creek HOA.

2 p. On or about September 18, 2008, GREGORY sent an email via interstate
 3 communication to BENZER, subject line "Sunset Cliffs," regarding a petition for recall at the
 4 Sunset Cliffs HOA.

5 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

6 **COUNTS 2 THROUGH 15**

7 **WIRE FRAUD**

8 27. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26.

9 28. From at least in or about August 2003 through at least in or about February 2009,
 10 in the District of Nevada and elsewhere, Defendants

11 **LEON BENZER,**
 12 **JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ,**
RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ,
 13 **DAVID BALL,**
EDITH GILLESPIE,
 14 **KEITH GREGORY,**
CHARLES McCHESNEY, and
 15 **SALVATORE RUVOLO**

16 with others known and unknown to the United States, did knowingly and intentionally devise
 17 and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means
 18 of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, that affected a
 19 financial institution; and for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, the following
 20 Defendants, acting in concert with and aiding the others, did knowingly transmit and cause to be
 21 transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs,
 22 signals, pictures, and sounds:

23 **WIRE TRANSFERS**

COUNT	DEFENDANT(S)	APPROX. DATE	WIRE COMMUNICATION
25 26	BENZER, RUVOLO	9/7/05	Wire for \$180,215.00 from Bank of America in New York via Fedwire to US Bank in Portland, Oregon

1	3	BENZER, J. ALVAREZ	10/10/05	Wire for \$177,365.78 from Fremont Investment and Loan in California, through New York via Fedwire to First American Trust Company in California.
2				
3	4	BENZER, McCHESNEY	11/3/05	Wire for \$234,666.36 from Deutsche Bank Trust Companies America in New York to First American Trust Company in California.
4				
5	5	BENZER	11/18/05	Wire for \$183,000 from Strategic One Consulting Group LLC's account #XXXXXXXX8090 at Wells Fargo Bank, in California to Blue Sky Mgmt's account XXXXX0160 at Bank of North Las Vegas in Nevada.
6				
7	6	BENZER, RUVOLO	11/18/05	Wire for \$200,110.98 from JP Morgan Chase through New York via Fedwire to First American Trust Company in California.
8				
9	7	BENZER, GILLESPIE	12/13/05	Wire for \$233,174.22 from Lehman Brothers Bank FSB via Fedwire to First American Trust Company in California
10				
11	8	BENZER, BALL	3/30/07	Wire for \$8,990.00 from Bank of America via Fedwire to Washington Mutual Bank.
12				
13	9	BENZER, R. ALVAREZ	9/21/07	Wire for \$1,098,000 from Vistana's account #XXXX0474 at Wachovia Bank via Portland, Oregon to BENZER's account XXXX-XXXX-7214 at U.S. Bank National Association in Las Vegas, Nevada.
14				
15	10	BENZER, GREGORY	9/24/07	Wire for \$10,000 from BENZER's personal account #XXXX-XXXX-7214 at U.S. Bank National Association to GREGORY's personal account XXXXXX0590 at Wells Fargo Bank.
16				
17	11	BENZER, R. ALVAREZ	10/30/07	Wire for \$1,190,056.80 from Vistana's account #XXXX0474 at Wachovia Bank via Portland, Oregon to BENZER's account XXXX-XXXX-7214 at U.S. Bank National Association in Las Vegas, Nevada.
18				
19				
20	12	BENZER, R. ALVAREZ	1/10/08	Wire for \$1,189,151 from Vistana's account #XXXX0474 at Wachovia Bank, via Fedwire to Silver Lining Investment's account XXXXXX9004 at First National Bank of Nevada
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				

EMAILS

COUNT	DEFENDANT	APPROX. DATE	WIRE COMMUNICATION
13	BENZER, BALL, RUVOLO, MCCHESNEY	3/5/08	BALL sent an email via interstate communication to, among others, RUVOLO and MCCHESNEY , subject line "RE: Chateau Nouveau-1001, 1341, bldg 47," authorizing repairs to be conducted by Silver Lining Construction
14	BENZER, MCCHESNEY	3/5/08	MCCHESNEY sent an email via interstate communication, subject line "RE: Chateau Nouveau-1001, 1341, bldg 47," authorizing repairs to be conducted by Silver Lining Construction
15	BENZER, GREGORY	9/18/08	GREGORY sent an email via interstate communication to BENZER , subject line "Sunset Cliffs," regarding a petition for recall at the Sunset Cliffs HOA

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

COUNTS 16 THROUGH 17MAIL FRAUD

29. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26.

30. From at least in or about August 2003 through at least in or about February 2009, in the District of Nevada and elsewhere, Defendants

**LEON BENZER,
BARRY LEVINSON,
and
SALVATORE RUVOLO**

with others known and unknown to the United States, did knowingly and intentionally devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, that affected a financial institution; and for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, the following

1 Defendants, acting in concert with and aiding the others, did knowingly place or caused to be
 2 placed in a post office and authorized depository for mail matter a thing to be sent and delivered
 3 by the U.S. Postal Service or any private or commercial interstate carrier:
 4

Count	Defendant	Approx. Date	MAILING
16	BENZER, RUVOLO	4/15/08	Eleven ballots mailed from Long Beach, CA to Platinum in Las Vegas, NV.
17	BENZER, LEVINSON	7/9/08	Letter from BARRY LEVINSON to Castle Management terminating contract at Pebble Creek.

8 In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.
 9

10 **COUNT 18**

11 **FALSE STATEMENT TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

12 31. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26.

13 32. On or about August 26, 2009, in North Las Vegas, Nevada, within the District of
 14 Nevada, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the Government of the
 15 United States,

16 **MARIA LIMON**

17 knowingly and willfully made and caused to be made a material false, fictitious, and fraudulent
 18 statement and representation, that is, during the course of an official investigation being
 19 conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police
 20 Department, defendant **LIMON** falsely stated in substance that she did not communicate with
 21 **BENZER** regarding Crystal Management and that she did not know **BENZER** was behind
 22 Crystal Management, when in truth and in fact, as **LIMON** well knew, **BENZER** had funded
 23 and controlled Crystal Management, which was a property manager at Chateau Nouveau and
 24 other HOAs, operating at **BENZER**'s direction to further the objects of the scheme outlined
 25 above.

26 In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION ONE

Conspiracy to Commit Wire and Mail Fraud

1
2
3 1. The allegations contained in Count One of this Criminal Indictment are hereby
4 re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to
5 the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States
6 Code, Section 2461(c).

7 2. Upon conviction of the felony offense charged in Count One of this Criminal
8 Indictment,

- 9 **LEON BENZER,**
10 **KEITH GREGORY,**
11 **CHARLES McCHESNEY**
12 **BARRY LEVINSON,**
13 **RICKY ANDERSON,**
14 **MARIA LIMON,**
 JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ,
 RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ,
 SALVATORE RUVOLO
 DAVID BALL, and
 EDITH GILLESPIE,

15 defendants herein, shall forfeit to the United States of America, any property which constitutes or
16 is derived from, proceeds traceable to violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341
17 and 1343, specified unlawful activities as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections
18 1956(c)(7)(A) and 1961(1)(B); and Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, conspiracy to
19 commit such offenses, a criminal forfeiture money judgment up to \$24,871,109.86 in United
20 States Currency.

21
22 3. If any property subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code,
23 Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), as a result of any act or
24 omission of the defendants -

- 25 a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
26 b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;

- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of properties of the defendant for the criminal forfeiture money judgment up to \$24,871,109.86 in United States Currency.

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c); Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1343, specified unlawful activities as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(c)(7)(A) and 1961(1)(B); Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349; and Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION TWO

Conspiracy to Commit Wire and Mail Fraud

1. The allegations contained in Count One of this Criminal Indictment are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(2)(A).

2. Upon conviction of the felony offense charged in Count One of this Criminal Indictment,

**LEON BENZER,
KEITH GREGORY,
CHARLES McCHESNEY
BARRY LEVINSON,
RICKY ANDERSON,
MARIA LIMON,
JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ,
RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ,
SALVATORE RUVOLO
DAVID BALL, and
EDITH GILLESPIE,**

1 defendants herein, shall forfeit to the United States of America, any property constituting, or
2 derived from, proceeds obtained directly or indirectly as a result of violations of Title 18, United
3 States Code, Section 1341; Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; and Title 18, United
4 States Code, Section 1349, conspiracy to commit such offenses, a criminal forfeiture money
5 judgment up to \$24,871,109.86 in United States Currency.

6 3. If any property subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code,
7 Section 982(a)(2)(A), as a result of any act of omission of the defendants –

- 8 a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- 9 b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- 10 c. had been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- 11 d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- 12 e. had been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without
13 difficulty;

14 it is the intent of the United States of America, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section
15 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any properties of the defendant up to \$24,871,109.86 in United
16 States Currency.

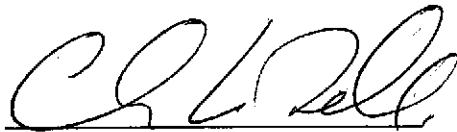
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1 All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(2)(A); Title 18, United
2 States Code, Sections 1341, 1343, and 1349; and Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p).

3
4 **DATED:** January, 15, 2013

5
6 **A TRUE BILL:**

7
8 /s/
9 _____
10 **FOREPERSON**

11 

12 DENIS J. McINERNEY
13 Chief
14 Fraud Section, Criminal Division
15 U.S. Department of Justice

16 CHARLES G. LA BELLA
17 KATHLEEN McGOVERN
18 Deputy Chiefs
19 THOMAS B. W. HALL
20 MARY ANN McCARTHY
21 Trial Attorneys
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25
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