

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

04-0333-LOD

by and between

THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Consumer Finance Section

77 South High Street, 21st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6120

&

Megan Bretell
4351 Olentangy Boulevard
Columbus, Ohio 43214

This Settlement Agreement is a legally binding document that affects your rights. Read it carefully. If you have any questions, consult an attorney.



If you choose to enter into this Settlement Agreement, you must follow it EXACTLY. If you fail to follow any one filing instruction or any one provision of the Agreement, the Division may reject the Agreement.

All of the following must be completed and RETURNED to the Division in the envelope provided no later than **MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2004:**

- ☐ **All pages of this Settlement Agreement, including this cover page, must remain attached.**
- ☐ The ORIGINAL, signed Agreement with all pages attached must be returned. Keep a copy for your records.
- ☐ A cashier's check or money order in the amount of \$1500.00, (\$3000.00 total - \$1500.00 already received) made payable to DFI Consumer Finance, must be enclosed. NO OTHER METHOD OF PAYMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED. If the envelope does not contain a cashier's check or money order in the amount of \$1,500.00, your package will be returned and the Settlement Agreement will not be accepted.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

04-0333-LOD

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between:

THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Consumer Finance Section

77 South High Street, 21st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6120

Hereinafter referred to as “DFI.”

&

Megan Bretell
4351 Olentangy Boulevard
Columbus, Ohio 43214

Hereinafter referred to as “Respondent.”

DFI is a state agency charged with the responsibility of administering and enforcing the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act (“OMBA”), codified in Chapter 1322 of the Ohio Revised Code (“R.C.”). Respondent is an individual that held a loan officer license issued by DFI to originate residential mortgage loans pursuant to R.C. Chapter 1322. Respondent’s loan officer license expired on April 30, 2003, and Respondent filed an application to renew the license; the renewal application remains pending.

Respondent voluntarily enters into this Settlement Agreement being fully informed of the right to representation by counsel, and the right to reject this Settlement Agreement and to proceed to a formal adjudicative hearing, pursuant to R.C. Chapter 119, on the issues considered herein.

STIPULATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

This Settlement Agreement is entered into on the basis of the following stipulations, admissions and understandings:

- A. DFI is empowered by R.C. 1322.041(B) to renew an applicant’s loan officer license if DFI finds, among other things, that the applicant has complied with R.C. 1322.052 by completing a minimum of six (6) hours of approved continuing education (“CE”) the prior calendar year.
- B. DFI is authorized by R.C. 1322.10(A)(1)(a) to refuse to renew an applicant’s loan officer license if DFI finds that the applicant has violated “or fail[ed] to comply with any

provision of sections 1322.01 to 1322.12 of the Revised Code or the rules adopted under those sections or any other law applicable to the business conducted[.]”

- C. R.C. 1322.052 requires every loan officer to complete at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education every calendar year (by December 31st).
- D. Because 2002 was the first year in which the law imposed CE requirements on loan officers, DFI extended Respondent’s CE deadline into March of 2003.
- E. Respondent’s loan officer license expired on April 30, 2003. In an effort to renew the license, Respondent submitted to DFI a renewal application; the renewal application remains pending.
- F. Respondent admits that, despite the extension of time granted to Respondent to comply with the CE requirements, Respondent failed to complete the required CE credit hours by the extended deadline.
- G. DFI’s records indicate that Respondent completed zero (0) hours of approved CE for 2002.
- H. Because Respondent failed to comply with R.C. 1322.052, DFI has the authority to refuse to renew Respondent’s loan officer license.
- I. DFI enters into this Settlement Agreement in lieu of formal proceedings under R.C. Chapter 119 to deny Respondent’s renewal application for a loan officer license on the basis of Respondent’s admitted noncompliance with the OMBA.
- J. DFI expressly reserves the right to institute formal proceedings based upon any violation of or noncompliance with any provision of the OMBA not specifically addressed herein, whether occurring before or after the effective date of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED CONDITIONS

Wherefore, in consideration of the foregoing and mutual promises hereinafter set forth, and in lieu of an administrative hearing on June 30, 2004, Respondent knowingly and voluntarily agrees with DFI to the following terms, conditions and limitations:

1. As penalty for the violations of law described herein, Respondent agrees to pay a fine of three thousand dollars (\$3000.00). The Division is in receipt of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500.00) which will be applied to the fine of three thousand dollars. Payment shall be in the form of a cashier’s check or money order, made payable to “DFI Consumer Finance,” and shall be submitted to DFI with this Settlement Agreement on or before Monday, August 9, 2004.
2. Respondent agrees to: (1) complete six (6) hours of approved CE and submit proof of completion with this Agreement; (2) write in RED INK on the face of a copy of the

attendance certificate(s) "PLEASE APPLY TO 2002 CE REQUIREMENT;" and to (3) submit the marked copy with this Agreement on or before August 9, 2004.

3. Respondent understands and agrees that the six (6) hours of CE credits earned are to be applied only to Respondent's 2002 CE requirement; these credits cannot be applied to Respondent's 2003 or 2004 CE requirement.
4. Respondent understands and agrees that if Respondent fails to follow any term of this Settlement Agreement or any filing instruction, DFI may reject the Settlement Agreement and continue with its formal proceedings under R.C. Chapter 119 to revoke Respondent's loan officer license.
5. Respondent understands and agrees that by executing this Settlement Agreement, Respondent admits that she has violated R.C. Section 1322.052 by failing to complete the 2002 CE requirement of the OMBA, and that Respondent has been penalized in the form of a fine for this violation.
6. Respondent understands that to be considered for acceptance by DFI, Respondent must be in compliance with every provision of the Agreement, and that the ORIGINAL properly executed Settlement Agreement, with all pages attached, must be received in the offices of DFI on or before Monday, August 9, 2004.
7. If Respondent properly files this Agreement and fully complies with every provision, DFI agrees to execute the same, to approve Respondent's 2003 renewal application and close these proceedings.
8. Should DFI discover that Respondent has provided DFI with false, fraudulent, misleading, or incomplete information pertaining to this Agreement, Respondent agrees that such evidence will firmly establish that Respondent's character and general fitness do not command the confidence of the public and warrant the belief that it will conduct business honestly and fairly in compliance with the purposes of the OMBA. Respondent further agrees that such discovery is grounds for permanent revocation of its loan officer license.
9. The above-described terms, conditions and limitations may be amended or terminated at any time upon the written agreement of both parties.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

If, in the discretion of DFI, Respondent appears to have violated or breached any term or condition of this Settlement Agreement, DFI reserves the right to institute formal disciplinary proceedings for any and all possible violations or breaches, including but not limited to, alleged violations of any law occurring before, on, or after the effective date of this Settlement Agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/LIABILITY RELEASE

Respondent acknowledges that he/she has been advised by DFI to seek legal counsel if he/she has any question concerning the terms and/or effect of this Settlement Agreement.

Respondent hereby releases DFI, its members, employees, agents, officers and representatives jointly and severally from any and all liability arising from the within matter.

This Settlement Agreement shall be considered a public record as that term is used in R.C. 149.43, and may be reported to appropriate organizations, data banks, and governmental bodies, or released to the general public.

This Settlement Agreement in no way binds or limits future actions DFI may take with respect to Respondent or any other person, individual, or company, for the same or similar violations.

EFFECTIVE DATE

It is expressly understood that this Settlement Agreement shall become effective upon the last date of signature below.

The ORIGINAL, signed Agreement with all pages attached must be returned.
Keep a copy for your records.

MEGAN BRETTELL
Respondent

ROBERT M. GRIESER
Deputy Superintendent for Consumer Finance
Ohio Division of Financial Institutions

MARK L. RHEA
Consumer Finance Staff Attorney
Ohio Division of Financial Institutions