MERS LITIGATION EXAMPLE 01

Beneficiary MERS

What NOT to do!

"the people i signed with are not here nor are they being represented here"

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This is the way towards a winning plan!

Allen Carlton uf1@netzero.net

Jeff Wilner jeffwilner@myway.com

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Good article here concerning some of the more notorious offenders ...

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In Trouble? Need help? Don't know where to begin?

How to Fight Mortgage Foreclosure and Keep Your House!

This book is just what you are looking for!

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There is enough information here without downloading the whole works to help most people that may be in trouble. We understand the problems all to well and believe whole heartedly the necessity of immediate relief to preserve your assets. Foreclosure can be stopped in some cases with just a well-timed and appropriately written letter. Other cases will require critical, in depth forensic research. We are not attorneys, but do work hand in hand with experienced Real Estate Counsels. We do not offer opinions, just cold facts.

We are here to help and will do whatever we can. The point being that we have experience and data, the pertinent information required to guide any attorney, government official, investor/stock holder, homeowner, pro se, real estate agent, etc. to effectively and permanently stop most Foreclosure Proceedings or to recoup losses already incurred through fraudulent Foreclosure. This information exposes the fraud and

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If you are an Investor, Attorney, or Pro Se, a homeowner, a real estate investor; if you are about to buy a home or have recently been foreclosed on or about to be; if you are a county official dealing with budget issues or involved with land records; if you want to know more about one of the biggest secrets in modern history, a major contributing reason for the current state of our country's economy, - - -

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About:

Stop Foreclosure by showing fraud in the Land Records. Fight Foreclosure Fraud. Assignment Fraud in the Land Records. Mortgage Servicing Fraud becomes Wrongful Foreclosure - AAA Foreclosure Fraud.

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Standing or lack there of is the answer.

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READ ON

[&]quot;Your Honor, the people I signed with are not here, nor are they being represented here."

Beneficiary

MERS

"Deed of Trust"

"Excerpt from"

MDL 2119 Pleading 32

OCT 28 2009

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MDL 2119

BEFOR	RE THE	JUDICIAL	PANEL	ON MUL	LTIDISTRI	CT LITIGA	TION

In Re:	
MERS LITIGATION	

MDL Docket No. 2119

REPLY MEMORANDUM OF DEFENDANTS CITIMORTGAGE, INC., MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., MERSCORP, INC., NATIONAL CITY BANK, NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE, NATIONAL CITY CORPORATION, PNC FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP, INC., AND UNITED GUARANTY CORPORATION IN SUPPORT OF THEIR MOTION FOR TRANSFER OF ACTIONS PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1407 FOR CONSOLIDATED OR COORDINATED PRETRIAL PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION

Moving Defendants demonstrated in their Opening Memorandum (at 8-15) that Plaintiffs' overarching conspiracy theory of liability in each of the seven actions (the "Putative Class Actions") is the same. Plaintiffs also bring the same common law (e.g., unjust enrichment, intentional infliction of emotional distress, etc.) and statutory counts (TILA, HOEPA, FHA, etc.) in many of the seven cases As such, the Putative Class

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IMAGED OCT 2 8 2009

PLEADING NO. 32

MR. BROCHIN: Good morning, your Honor. Bobby Brochin on behalf of MERS.

I guess I would first note that in terms of the motion for preliminary injunction, to the extent that it is based on the wrong trustee or not having the right trustee, that would not be an issue that would involve MERS at all and doesn't pertain to it, although the notion, as Mr. Hefferon indicated, of a stranger to the transaction seems like an

extraordinary coincidence given the fact that there's no dispute that the many, many, many borrowers that are plaintiffs here, all of them have defaulted on their monthly payments to some extent.

THE COURT: Well, getting to the heart of that question, would you concede, or not, MERS is named as beneficiary and as nominee?

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ BROCHIN: MERS was -- when the loan was taken out was, yes --

THE COURT: Assuming for the sake of argument that they are not in truth and fact the beneficiary, nor do they own -- I mean, you can contest that, of course -- nor do they own any part of the note, I don't know whether that question -- it changes, if, in fact, you have some kind of fee interest under the fees permitted under the note, but assuming for the sake of argument that you're not a beneficiary in truth and fact, as nominee, I'm sure your argument is you can be an agent of the trustee or beneficiary, but would you concede that under state law, either a trustee or beneficiary must at least designate to an agent the right to give notice of default, that under state law, Nevada state law, only the beneficiary or the trustee have the authority to declare default or at least to authorize an agent to declare default, only those two parties?

MR. BROCHIN: I think that is correct, indeed.

THE COURT: Okay. So how is MERS acting in these cases?

MR. BROCHIN: Well, first, this notion of beneficiary and nominee being either exclusive or at odds with each other is just not true.

When the loans are taken out, the borrower signs a deed of trust with the lender and designates in that deed of trust that MERS is the beneficiary. So MERS is the beneficiary on that deed of trust. Nominee is the capacity in which it acts.

THE COURT: How can I go along with that? In truth and fact MERS did not advance the funds. A beneficiary in all of our parlances, day one in law school, was the party who owns the beneficial interest, not the title, and is supported by having advanced the funds. MERS didn't advance the funds here.

MR. BROCHIN: No, MERS did not.

THE COURT: There is a true beneficiary, X, Y, Z

Bank or X, Y, Z Fund. There is a true beneficiary. How can I

acknowledge that MERS is in truth and fact a beneficiary?

MR. BROCHIN: Well, I think we have to break down what you mean by beneficiary. If you're talking about the beneficial owner of the note, or the beneficiary in terms of the entity who will ultimately receive the proceeds on repayment of the note, MERS is not that entity; MERS is not.

1 What MERS is was granted the security interest, the 2 legal -- holds the legal title on the secured interest in the 3 property which is called, in deeds of trust, the beneficiary. 4 In other words, that beneficiary by definition --5 THE COURT: They were granted the equitable interest or the title interest? MR. BROCHIN: Title, legal title to the 7 8 security. 9 THE COURT: Now, under state law, the term for that is trustee, the trustee holds legal title in trust. 10 11 That's the way our foreclosure system works out west. MR. BROCHIN: Right, but in the deed of trust 12 13 they were conveyed as a party and designated as the party --14 THE COURT: They were identified as a 15 beneficiary. 16 MR. BROCHIN: By being granted -- this is the 17 words right out of the deeds of trust, by the grant being 18 granted the security interest in the property. All the 19 security interests were --20 THE COURT: You're just going around the bush 21 with semantics, and I'm not obligated to accept your meaning 22 for any terms stated in the deed of trust, nor is any court. 23 Beneficiary under state law means the equitable 24 interest. Trustee means the holder of the legal interest. 25 MR. BROCHIN: Right. MERS --

1	THE COURT: So if you're contending that MERS is
2	either the true beneficiary holding equitable interest,
3	obviously, that's not the case, or that they are true title
4	owner, that's also obviously not the case. Under state law,
5	trustee, who is also designated in each of these deeds of
6	trust, holds the legal title. They're the ones who receive
7	legal title holding it in trust.
8	MR. BROCHIN: I do not
9 .	THE COURT: Anything different there?
10	MR. BROCHIN: No, your Honor, not at all.
11	THE COURT: So you agree
12	MR. BROCHIN: I agree with everything you said.
13	THE COURT: that in truth and fact MERS is
14	not a beneficiary nor a holder of legal title.
15	MR. BROCHIN: No, I agree that MERS does not
16	hold a beneficial interest in the note.
17	THE COURT: Okay.
18	MR. BROCHIN: And I agree that MERS is not
19	performing the role as the trustee.
20	THE COURT: Nor does the language of the deed of
21	trust convey title to them.
22	MR. BROCHIN: Doesn't convey title, it conveys
23	title to the trustee.
24	THE COURT: Okay. We're all on the same wave
25	length then.

1 MR. BROCHIN: And, in fact, the deed of trust 2 conveys whatever security interests are in the property to 3 MERS as the beneficiary, and when that --4 THE COURT: No, it doesn't. No, it doesn't. MR. BROCHIN: Well, when the deed of trust is 6 recorded, when it's recorded, it lists MERS as the holder of those -- secured title holder of those secured interests, not 8 the title holder of the property. 9 THE COURT: No, it doesn't. 10 MR. BROCHIN: That's what the deed of trust 11 says. 12 THE COURT: No, it doesn't, as a matter of state 13 law. There can only be conveyance to one party unless you're 14 holding them as tenants in common. It's conveyed -- title is 15 conveyed to the trustee. MR. BROCHIN: The title of the property, but the 16 17 secured interest, the holder of the security is in the -- is 18 the beneficiary of MERS. 19 THE COURT: Okay. I reject all of your oral 20 argument for the last five minutes. You're just going around 21 the bush using semantics, and I think we were on the same wave 22 length for a moment ago when we agreed on the semantics under 23 state law, and you're just going around the bush again --24 MR. BROCHIN: Well --

THE COURT: So I reject that argument, and move

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1 on to the next point. 2 MR. BROCHIN: Okay, but to that point, the 3 beneficiary that MERS --THE COURT: If you're going to keep arguing that 5 MERS is a holder of legal title, stop, please. 6 MR. BROCHIN: I'm not suggesting that they hold 7 the legal title. 8 THE COURT: Thank you. 9 MR. BROCHIN: Now, on the complaint, though, on 10 the complaint that's been brought, the claims -- there are six 11 claims that have been brought in this action. 12 THE COURT: By the way, adding to that, I see 13 nothing wrong with saying that MERS is a designated agent. 14 Right in the -- even though the language is beneficiary, even 15 though the language is nominee, I see nothing wrong with 16 claiming that MERS is the authorized agent to act on behalf of 17 beneficiary and/or trustee. I see nothing wrong with that. 18 MR. BROCHIN: That's what the deed of trust 19 says. I mean, when it said -- when I was suggesting nominee 20 and beneficiary, they're not exclusive terms because the nominee in the deed of trust discloses that it is acting as 21 22 the nominee or in the stead of or on behalf of the lender and of the lender's successors and assigns. 23 24 THE COURT: That's fine, as long as you're not

arguing too much. When I nominate X, Y, Z fund or X, Y, Z

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broker to act on my behalf in holding 100 shares of -- in my case, it would have to be penny stock, I haven't said you are the owner, sir, I've simply said you are the nominee, you act on my behalf, you vote the shares, you receive the dividends, whatever, and it's nothing more than that,

MR. BROCHIN: I believe that's exactly the structure that's here in the relationship between the lender and MERS as the nominee for the lender.

THE COURT: All right.

18.

MR. BROCHIN: Which is disclosed on the deed of trust which is signed by the borrowers and acknowledged by the borrowers.

THE COURT: Now, counsel says MERS, having received one such designation, even if they're -- of course, he says they don't even have a designation as servicer, these terms are fictions, nominee and beneficiary, but assuming that they do have reality to them, that is, that you are at least agent for both beneficiary and trustee, he argues further you have no right to further transfer that agency status.

So you can't further -- assuming for the sake of argument you are a valid agent of both beneficiary and trustee, you have no right to further designate or transfer to a further agent the right to foreclose. Is that a true statement of law or not?

MR. BROCHIN: I do not believe so because, as

the designated party, that just establishes the relationship between MERS and the lender, but MERS is the party who is the beneficiary designated.

So as the legal beneficiary designated, let's assume it is simply as the agent or the authorized agent for the lender, it certainly has the legal authority, then, to take the granting that was given as a beneficiary and assign that or convey that to any party it may wish to choose.

THE COURT: You recognize that there is no splitting of the deed of trust from the note. You can't stand here and argue to me, Judge, we don't know where the note is, and we don't have to know because we hold the security interest, whether or not we're a beneficial owner of the note proceeds themselves, we hold -- in my opinion, and I have long since answered that one in prior published cases, you cannot split a deed of trust from a note without invalidating the security interest. You can't do that.

MR. BROCHIN: I agree, and I don't think the note and the deed of trust are split in that sense. What I think has happened is that there is a note holder, and the beneficiary serving on the deed of trust is a different entity. That entity is an authorized nominee or agent on behalf of the lender.

THE COURT: By the way, as a side question, in this wonderful MERS system invented by Wall Street, I assume,

in an attempt to securitize these big packages of loans, what 2 is the practice as to who keeps in their hands the note? 3. MR. BROCHIN: It is not MERS, it is the lender or the servicers. 5 THE COURT: Is it usually the original lender and servicer who holds a big package? They sell a hundred of these loans in a package to X, Y, Z Insurance or to X, Y, Z 7 8 Fund, and I -- again, respectfully, I apologize, this 9 wonderful MERS system, that that assignor continues to hold 10 the note or packages of notes? 11 MR. BROCHIN: I don't know the specific answer. 12 I think that practice would depend on to whom the note is sold and to what legal structure that note is sold. 13 14 THE COURT: So there was no common structure 15 even before the MERS system? 16 MR. BROCHIN: Right. 17 THE COURT: When banks bought or transferred big 18 packages of loans, there was no common practice, sometimes the 19 original lender kept the whole bundle of notes, and sometimes 20 the assignee kept the whole bundle of notes. 21 MR. BROCHIN: And I think that's still the practice in a sense. 22 23 And back to, I think, your question and what your 24 concern is, I don't disagree that there's a splitting. The

secured interest travels with wherever that note may go. So

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wherever that note goes, that secured interest travels with it, it is not split.

And therefore -- and I don't disagree with this either, it is the holder of that note who has this authority, and that's where courts -- when you come to standing on who may foreclose, it has to show that you do have -- not just being the beneficiary, but that you have either the note, or you have some authority to exercise this power on behalf of -- THE COURT: You are either the beneficiary, true, or you are the trustee, or you are their designee or agent.

MR. BROCHIN: Right, and those interests don't split, and there's no concept that they are split.

What has happened at the origination of that loan is that on that deed of trust, instead of the --

THE COURT: Now, he argues, finally, you have no proof here on this record that MERS or the Recon -- what is it Recontrust that you designate now is a designee or agent, there's simply no proof you have to the ability to come forward with that. Is that true? Is the common practice currently simply an oral statement, MERS to Recontrust, will you conduct the foreclosure on the 1, 2, 3 property?

MR. BROCHIN: No, it would not be.

THE COURT: There is a written designation.

MR. BROCHIN: Well, there would be a written

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1
     assignment, and presumably that written assignment would, as
2
     the trustee or successor trustee, would be recorded in the
     land records.
                   THE COURT: There should be a written assignment
5
    of trustee status.
 6
                   MR. BROCHIN: Right.
 7
                   THE COURT: But there would not be a written
8
     assignment of --
 9
                   MR. BROCHIN: The note.
10
                   THE COURT: -- an assignment to an agent to send
11
     notice of default.
12
                   MR. BROCHIN: No, no, there wouldn't, but your
13
    question was is there some written or oral instruction from
14
    MERS.
15
                   THE COURT: Right. Is there a letter or a
16
     recorded assignment of deed of trust, trustee status?
17
                   MR. BROCHIN: No.
18
                   THE COURT: Is there a letter that says you are
19
     our agent, you are the new servicer, et cetera?
20
                   MR. BROCHIN: Not from MERS. From the lender
21
     there would be, of course, under probably the RESPA
22
     guidelines, and when servicers change, they're required to
23
     give that notice and so forth. But MERS simply is serving as
24
     the -- let's say the lienholder of the record.
25
                   THE COURT: Right. I got that point. Go on,
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I'm sorry.

MR. BROCHIN: And I did want to address the claims that were being brought that serve as the basis for the injunctive relief because what I hear the plaintiff saying here is that the wrong trustee is showing up, and that is not, as Mr. Hefferon indicated, the basis for the complaint or the basis for the motion for preliminary injunction.

There are before you six counts in that complaint, three of which matter for the preliminary injunction. Two of those three complaints are based on conspiracy involving MERS, conspiracy to commit fraud, conspiracy to wrongfully foreclose and wrongful foreclosure.

And there are, just so you know, seven of these class actions that are pending. You asked about how many there were. There are seven, seven having these common conspiracy allegations involving MERS and seven being class actions which, while not identical classes, are similar.

I should also point out to the Court for information, that there is also a motion pending to transfer all these seven to MDL, multi-district litigation, which is --

THE COURT: You filed that petition with the MDL panel?

MR. BROCHIN: We did, your Honor. Several of the defendants, including MERS, filed the motion with the MDL panel which accepted it, and I think the responses are due

this month in terms of consideration. So when you're talking
about --

THE COURT: They then normally calendar an oral argument which would be November or December.

MR. BROCHIN: We expect that in November.

THE COURT: Okay. Just so everybody knows, that's a panel nationwide that serves to take cases pending trial because the cases come back to the original judge, but all interim proceedings go to one designated judge who handles them nationwide.

MR. BROCHIN: Right. And so we have seven of these cases, and the first one that was filed is the one in Arizona in the Federal District Court called Cervantes, and in all of these cases --

THE COURT: Judge?

MR. BROCHIN: Judge Teilborg.

And also in the other cases that are before the Court, that is, Lopez, Goodwin and Green, there are pending motions to dismiss the complaint which has the identical or virtually identical conspiracy allegations that the preliminary injunction is based upon here, in other words, you have to have a viable cause of action alleged below before this Court can entertain entering a preliminary injunction on that.

And the reason I bring that up is because the very,

1	very identical conspiracy allegations made in the Cervantes
2	case in Arizona are the ones that are before this Court, and
3	Judge Teilborg issued an order on that just two weeks ago
4	finding that it was the complaint was insufficient for
5 .	failure to plead conspiracy with the requisite particularity
6	and the failure to plead an agreement to participate in the
7	fraud.
8	THE COURT: Have you provided me a copy of his
9	order?
10	MR. BROCHIN: Indeed, we have. We attached a
11	copy of it to our memorandum opposing the injunction.
12	THE COURT: The name of that case?
13	MR. BROCHIN: It is Cervantes,
14	C-e-r-v-a-n-t-e-s.
15	And the reason this is relevant is because Judge
16	Teilborg stated the following:
17.	"Plaintiffs have not stated how or even when
18	the alleged conspiracy was formed. Plaintiffs have
19	not included any factual allegations pertaining to
20	how the defendants targeted the plaintiffs."
21	THE COURT: This is an order denying preliminary
22	injunction or dismissal with right to amend?
23	MR. BROCHIN: This is an order that granted a
24	motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6).
25	THE COURT: With right to amend.

MR. BROCHIN: With no right to amend. Right to amend was sought, leave to amend was sought.

THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. BROCHIN: The Court determined that leave to amend would be futile because the plaintiff can not add any allegations to it to cure it, and entered judgment in favor of MERS and the 20 alleged coconspirators, that's the very same allegations that are before this Court, finding that,

"The plaintiffs have failed to provide any specific factual allegations inferring a tacit conspiracy agreement. Plaintiffs have failed to state a viable claim for relief for conspiracy."

Quote, "the Court fails to see how the MERS system commits a fraud upon the plaintiffs," end quote.

Quote, "Plaintiffs' argument that MERS is a sham beneficiary is unconvincing. The fact that MERS does not obtain such rights as to collect mortgage payments or obtain legal title to the property in the event of a default does not transform MERS's status into a sham."

Quote, "Plaintiffs also do not allege that they were somehow induced into entering into their loans based upon a misunderstanding of the MERS system."

Quote, "The court finds that defendants' misrepresentations [sic] to the plaintiffs that MERS would serve as the beneficiary under the deed of trust was not a false representation, and, even if it was a false representation, it was not material."

The court concludes, quote, "At most, plaintiffs find the MERS systems to be disagreeable and inconvenient to them as consumers. Such complaints, however, do not rise to the level of fraud much less a conspiracy to commit fraud."

Plaintiffs will try to distinguish that order in Cervantes is not applicable because it was decided under the foreclosure laws of Arizona and not the law of Nevada for which injunctive relief is sought, but that is disingenuous in this respect, the claims were dismissed in Cervantes based on common law claims of conspiracy and common law claims of conspiracy to commit fraud, the very same common law conspiracy claims that are alleged here, and the law involving common law conspiracy in Arizona and common law of conspiracy in Nevada and conspiracy to commit fraud do not vary.

Indeed, they must allege facts that state a conspiracy, they must allege facts that show conspiracy that had an agreement between and among the conspirators, and for this legal issue, the law in Nevada and, of course, the law in Arizona are the same, and the pleading requirements are the

same because both this court and the district court in Arizona are bound by the recent Supreme Court decisions in *Twombly* and recently in *Hickvall* that says you have to state facts of a specific conspiracy in order to make out a plausible legal theory, and the Court in Cervantes, Judge Teilborg, left no doubts that the plaintiffs did not make such allegations, plaintiffs cannot make such allegations, and, as mentioned, judgment was entered in favor of all the defendants.

Defendants will also deflect the Court's attention on the Cervantes order claiming that this action has a third count, and the reason why I mentioned it, for wrongful foreclosure or common law of wrongful foreclosure and why that order does not apply, but, as Mr. Hefferon pointed out, common law claim for wrongful foreclosure is limited to claims where borrowers have shown they're not in default on their repayment to make the monthly payments for which none of the borrowers here can discriminate, and I would cite the Collins versus Union Federal, the Nevada case for that proposition, again, set forth in great detail in our briefs.

So, in this case, with the very same allegations in the complaint below for conspiracy, the complaint is not likely to succeed on the merits, rather the complaint for conspiracy is likely to be dismissed for failure to state a claim whatsoever, and, as mentioned, it's axiomatic that if you don't state a claim for relief on the complaint, there

could be no probability of success on the merits, and the

Court may not grant this injunctive relief citing to numerous

Ninth Circuit opinions, McNeil versus Verizon, Karen versus

State Bar of California, as well as Hilaire versus Arizona

Department of Corrections.

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13.

Now, I also did want to address, because I think the Court alluded to it at the beginning of our hearing, about the perceived claim that the plaintiffs were making, and that is that these MERS deeds of trust are void ab initio, that somehow they are to be declared illegal from the get-go, and that, too, apparently under the pleadings that they've had in the motion, is a linchpin for them to be able to be successful here.

It is not a legal issue, as the Court, I think, pointed out, it's not dependent on the facts of any of these loans, it's not dependent on the representation to the individual borrowers. In fact, these plaintiffs are claiming in this District Court of Nevada that all MERS deeds of trust should be declared void ab initio in more than 28 jurisdictions around the state court [sic], and that motion is pending right now before Judge Reed.

But that proposition, that one party is the lender and a different entity can be designated by MERS as a beneficiary, as a matter of law has no meaning. There is no support, no legal argument, there is no basis whatsoever for

the proposition that when the loan is taken out, the lender can designate its agent, as you say, or as its nominee or as its representative someone in its stead to serve as a beneficiary. There is simply no law to suggest that there's anything inappropriate or wrong with that.

Quite to the contrary, there is law that says the opposite, that is, that a party other than the lender may be named or designated as the beneficiary in deeds of trust or as the mortgagee in a mortgage. That case law dates back hundreds of years, and it's all cited in our memorandum.

Ogden versus Barker, quote,

"The mere fact that the mortgagee was not the real owner of the notes, but was simply a trustee or agent of the owner, does not affect the validity of the mortgage."

Adams versus Niemann, "A mortgage to a third person would be valid as a mortgage to a creditor."

In cases recently in the Kansas Supreme Court,

Jackson versus MERS decided in August of 2009, just two months
ago, talking about MERS, quote,

"Real ownership of the security instrument may be in one person while legal title to the security instrument is in another."

THE COURT: Can you characterize for me the Kansas decision, whether it is a minority position or

majority?

MR. BROCHIN: I'm sorry, whether it's a what

3 | position?

THE COURT: A minority or majority position.

MR. BROCHIN: Well, first of all, what I would like to do is train what the decision was about because that is important in understanding its context because I don't believe it has any applicability or effect here.

In the Kansas decision, MERS was one of many lienholders on the property. MERS was a mortgagee, it was the mortgagee recorded of record.

That case did not involve MERS foreclosing as a mortgagee, it was not a suit in any way that involved a loan for which MERS was involved, no borrower was involved who signed a MERS deed of trust. MERS was simply a junior lienholder who was getting foreclosed on by a tax lien. It was a tax lien, and they went to foreclose on the tax lien, and they did not give MERS notice of the foreclosure.

A judgment was entered on the foreclosure, and this case came about in Kansas -- a foreclosure was entered, title was transferred, and then in Kansas what came about was motions filed to vacate that final judgment and, under Kansas law, the decision to vacate by the trial court is subject to an abuse of discretion standard, and to determine whether the trial court abused its discretion, the Court looked to see if

MERS, as a junior lienholder, had a meritorious defense to the foreclosing action.

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In determining that there was no meritorious defense because it was a junior lienholder, the Court deferred to the trial court's decision that it did not abuse its discretion because MERS did not have a meritorious defense to being foreclosed out as a junior lienholder, and therefore --

THE COURT: Was the lack of meritorious defense based upon their lack of standing or the fact that they were junior and they had no right to stop that foreclosure?

MR. BROCHIN: It was the latter. This case had nothing to do with standing. I'll read it to you.

"Even if MERS was technically entitled to notice and service in the initial foreclosure action, an issue that we do not decide at this time, we are not compelled to conclude that the trial court abused its discretion in denying the motions to vacate default judgments and require joinder of MERS and Sovereign. The record lacked evidence supporting a claim that MERS suffered prejudice and would have had a meritorious defense had it been joined as a defendant to the foreclosure action."

That was the basis for the Kansas decision.

So I'm -- while the court in Kansas analyzed who MERS was, it did so trying to see if the trial court abused

its discretion in not setting aside a final judgment that had already been entered transferring title on the sale of the property.

1.2

And that's why, by the way, I think it has no relevancy whatsoever to the application for preliminary injunction in this case. I mean, here we're talking about the process of having declared at the inception of the loan the very deed of trust that was signed by all of these borrowers designating MERS as a beneficiary.

Now, there is no dispute in this case, none, and there's none pled, and there are no facts whatsoever to suggest otherwise, that the borrower borrowed money, that the borrowers promised to repay those moneys on a monthly basis, that borrowers have failed to meet that obligation to pay those monthly payments, and, most importantly to this motion, there's nothing before the Court to suggest that at the time of this loan there was some duress in naming MERS as the beneficiary instead of the lender.

And therefore, under contract principles, which a deed of trust is, all of the parties — and there is no dispute about this, MERS, the lender, the trustee, the borrowers, they all agreed that the loan was supposed to be secured, so the idea that the deeds of trust should all be declared void would run directly counter to the very basic contractual principle that at the inception of that contract

all of the parties intended for MERS to be designated as the beneficiary, but, more important, all of the parties intended that the loan be secure.

THE COURT: How much longer do you have in your argument, please?

MR. BROCHIN: Well, your Honor, I can move on quickly if you would like.

I did want to point out one other thing regarding injury, and it actually does touch a little bit on this Court's Article III standing which we've briefed so I will cover it in summary fashion.

It goes like this: The plaintiffs have really failed to allege and show, which they must, injury for the harm that they claim.

I want the Court to be mindful that in those deeds of trust what it says is that plaintiffs -- excuse me, that MERS is the beneficiary on the secured instrument, in fact, its bolded in the very deed of trust that was signed.

This Court, your Honor, has entered orders, and this court has entered orders in *Osloff*, in *Vasquez*. Recently, September 28th, in *Crochin*, the Court entered an order basically holding that the plaintiffs — that MERS has standing to foreclose, saying that the plaintiffs have demonstrated no controlling authority to show that MERS does not have any authority to initiate a foreclosure.

In fact, this court, your Honor, has cited case after case after case stating that under the right showing, MERS, as a nominee, beneficiary, someone who has been designated as a beneficiary, may have standing and a right to foreclose.

The plaintiffs' complaint, which they allege is essentially that they have been injured because there's been some misrepresentation as to who the beneficiary is, doesn't trace back to the relief that they request.

So, in other words, let's take the rhetoric of the plaintiffs at face value. Let's say they went to the thing, they said MERS is going to be the beneficiary. Assume that the plaintiffs, the borrowers, relied on that representation, assume that the plaintiffs justifiably relied on it, what they would actually be saying is that they're injured because MERS is not the beneficiary, that you lied to us telling us MERS was the beneficiary when, in fact, it's not, it's just a shell, it's some sort of phantom, straw man operation. That would mean, to its logical conclusion, that they're alleging that they've been injured because MERS was not the valid beneficiary it's suggested to be.

That doesn't make any sense. There's no injury from that. There's no connection between that alleged void deed of trust — connecting that alleged void deed of trust with the idea that there's been some sort of wrongful foreclosure, and

the reason for that, the reason there's no connection is because there's no dispute that these loans are to be secured, and therefore, if there's no dispute that the loans are to be secured, when there is a default on that, there is no dispute that the property is to come back as security for the payment of that loan.

Whether it is MERS who is the beneficiary designated or the lender is of no moment because all the parties have agreed that there was to be a foreclosure or a property used as security.

That lack of traceability, that lack of injury does not confer upon this Court -- does not confer standing upon the plaintiffs, and if the plaintiffs don't have standing, they certainly can't seek injunctive relief that this Court does not have Article III standing to consider that case.

Again, that's been briefed extensively by us, and I believe Mr. Stern will address that further, but it's an issue that shows no injury comes about as a result of the claims being made.

THE COURT: I understand the last statement, but I don't understand at all the lack of standing argument, but that's fine.

MR. BROCHIN: There's case law and --

THE COURT: Clearly, they have standing.

MR. BROCHIN: No, no, but not in this sense.

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1	THE COURT: You're saying Article III case or
2	controversy because there is no harm.
3	MR. BROCHIN: Because there's some alleged harm,
4	exactly. They have not alleged in their complaint
5	THE COURT: I understand what you're saying. It
6	seems to me obvious that there is case or controversy.
7	MR. BROCHIN: I'm really not talking about in
8	the sense that they've been harmed.
9	THE COURT: You're just saying one of the
10	elements of their claim isn't present, injury.
11	MR. BROCHIN: Injury exactly.
12	THE COURT: That's fine, that's all I'm
13	MR. BROCHIN: And the case law suggests if that
14	element is not present, standing lacks, and this court doesn't
15	have Article III
16	THE COURT: I don't buy that one, but that's
17	okay.
18	MR. BROCHIN: The cases we've presented in our
19	brief to support that.
20	THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much.
21	MR. STERN: Thank you, your Honor. Once again,
22	Ariel Stern.
23	I will be presenting brief argument on behalf of
24	four defendants, National City Bank, National City Mortgage,
25	National city Corporation and PNC Financial Services Group,

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