UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

# FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

GM FUNDING INC., et al.

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Defendants.

Case No. SACV 02-1026 DOC (MLGx)

STIPULATED ORDER MODIFYING THE STIPULATED JUDGMENT AND ORDER FOR PERMANENT INJUNCTION AS TO DEFENDANTS GM FUNDING INC., ROBERT D. KUTZNER, GLOBAL MORTGAGE FUNDING INC., AND DAMIAN R. KUTZNER [95]

Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission ("Commission" or "FTC"), filed its Complaint pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), and sections 521(a) and 522(a) of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act ("GLB Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 6821(a) 6822(a).

On May 5, 2003, the Court entered the Stipulated Judgment and Order for Permanent Injunction as to Defendants GM Funding Inc., Robert D. Kutzner, Global Mortgage Funding Inc., and Damian R. Kutzner. DE 36 (the "2003 Order").

On May 31, 2016, the Commission filed a new Complaint against Damian R. Kutzner pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), and the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, Public Law 111-8, Section 626, 123 Stat. 524, 678 (Mar. 11, 2009) ("Omnibus Act"), as

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. The Contempt Application alleges that Damian R. Kutzner violated the 2003 Order by, directly or indirectly, misrepresenting to consumers that they could expect to receive \$75,000 each or to have their mortgages voided by being added to a mass joinder case to be litigated by lawyers with sufficient expertise to handle complex lender fraud matters.
- 3. Only for purposes of this action, Damian R. Kutzner admits the facts necessary to establish jurisdiction.
- 4. For purposes of any proceeding in which the FTC is a party, Damian R. Kutzner does not contest that the FTC could submit sufficient evidence to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence the following:
  - a. Damian R. Kutzner owned or controlled Brookstone Law P.C., a
     California corporation; Brookstone Law P.C., a Nevada corporation;
     Advantis Law P.C.; and Advantis Law Group P.C. (collectively, "the law firms").
  - b. Damian R. Kutzner managed and controlled the sales and marketing for the law firms, including hiring and firing sales personnel and drafting or editing sales scripts.
  - c. At least from January 1, 2011 to June 2, 2016, Damian R. Kutzner, acting alone or in concert with others, formulated, directed, controlled, had the authority to control, or participated in the acts and practices set forth in the Contempt Application.
  - d. The law firms made the following misrepresentations to consumers to convince them to sign up for litigation against their lenders:

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- i. The law firms were likely to obtain relief for consumers, including in some instances "at least \$75,000" or consumers' homes free and clear;
- ii. The law firms would seek to void consumers' mortgages;
- iii. The law firms had a team of experienced lawyers and personnel to litigate mass joinder cases alleging lender fraud and related claims on behalf of hundreds or thousands of clients simultaneously.
- iv. The law firms would file lawsuits on behalf of all consumers that paid for lender litigation services.
- e. Damian R. Kutzner managed the sales personnel that made the representations identified in paragraph 4.d, knew that the sales personnel were making these representations, and knew the representations were false.
- f. In 2016, Damian R. Kutzner helped formulate and send past due

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action and the 2016 FTC Case through the date of this Order, and agrees to bear his own costs and attorney fees in this action and the 2016 FTC Case.

6. Damian R. Kutzner and the Commission waive all rights to appeal or otherwise challenge or contest

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- 2. With respect to any loan, debt, or obligation between a person and one or more unsecured creditors or debt collectors, any product, service, plan, or program represented, expressly or by implication, to:
  - a. repay one or more unsecured loans, debts, or obligations;
     or
  - b. combine unsecured loans, debts, or obligations into one or more new loans, debts, or obligations.

#### **ORDER**

# I. BAN ON SECURED OR UNSECURED DEBT RELIEF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

**IT IS ORDERED** that Damian R. Kutzner is permanently restrained and enjoined from advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling, or assisting others in the advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling, of any secured or unsecured debt relief product or service.

## II. BAN ON FINANCIAL PRODUCTS OR SERVICES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Damian R. Kutzner is permanently restrained and enjoined from advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling any financial product or service whether directly or through an intermediary, including by consulting, brokering, planning, investing, or advising. Damian R. Kutzner is further prohibited from owning a controlling share or controlling, directly or indirectly, any entity advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling any financial product or serv

I. any other fact material to consumers concerning any good or service, such as: the total costs; any material restrictions, limitations, or conditions; or any material aspect of its performance, efficacy, nature, or central characteristics.

## IV. MONETARY JUDGMENT

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that judgment in the amount of Eighteen Million, Three Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand, Four Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Fifteen Cents (\$18,376,499.15) is entered in favor of the Commission against Damian R. Kutzner, as compensatory contempt relief. Damian R. Kutzner is ordered to pay the FTC this amount immediately upon the entry of this Order. V.

reporting on any delinquent amount arising out of this Order, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. §7701.

E. All money paid to the Commission pursuant to this Order may be deposited into a fund administered by the Commission or its designee to be used for equitable relief, including consumer redress and any attendant expenses for the administration of any redress fund. If a representative of the Commission decides that direct redress to consumers is wholly or partially impracticable or money remains after redress is completed, the Commission may apply any remaining money for such other equitable relief (including consumer information remedies) as it determines to be reasonably related to Damian R. Kutzner's practices alleged in the Contempt Application. Any money not used for such equitable relief is to be deposited to the U.S. Treasury as disgorgement. Damian R. Kutzner has no right to challenge any actions the Commission or its representatives may take pursuant to this Subsection.

#### VI. CUSTOMER INFORMATION

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Damian R. Kutzner, his officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, are permanently restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

- A. failing to provide sufficient customer information to enable the Commission to efficiently administer consumer redress. If a representative of the Commission requests in writing any information related to redress, Damian R. Kutzner must provide it, in the form prescribed by the Commission, within 14 days.
- B. disclosing, using, or benefitting from customer information, including the name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number, other identifying information, or any data that enables access to a customer's account

(including a credit card, bank account, or other financial account), that any defendant from this case or the 2016 FTC Case obtained prior to entry of this Order in connection with any product or service related to consumers' mortgages; and

C. failing to destroy such customer information in all forms in their possession, custody, or control within 30 days after entry of this Order.

*Provided, however*, that customer information need not be disposed of, and may be disclosed, to the extent requested by a government agency or required by law, regulation, or court order.

## VII. COOPERATION

- describe in detail whether and how he is in compliance with each Section of this Order; and (e) provide a copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant to this Order, unless previously submitted to the Commission.
- 2. Additionally, Damian R. Kutzner must: (a) identify all telephone numbers and all physical, postal, email and Internet addresses, including all residences; (b) identify all business activities, including any business for which he performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which he has any ownership interest; and (c) describe in detail his involvement in each such business, including title, role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control, and any ownership.
- B. For 20 years after entry of this Order, he must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in the following:
  - 1. Damian R. Kutzner must report any change in: (a) any designated point of contact; or (b) the structure of any entity that he has any ownership interest in or controls directly or indirectly that may affect compliance obligations arising under this Order, including: creation, merger, sale, or dissolution of the entity or any subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in seor jthinership

employee or otherwise and any entity in which he has any ownership interest, and identify the name, physical address, and any Internet address of the business or entity.

# C. Damian R. Kutzne

- B. personnel records showing, for each person providing services, whether as an employee or otherwise, that person's: name; addresses; telephone numbers; job title or position; dates of service; and (if applicable) the reason for termination;
- C. records of all consumer complaints and refund requests, whether received directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;
- D. all records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision of this Order, including all submissions to the Commission; and
  - E. a copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material.

## XI. COMPLIANCE MONITORING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of monitoring Damian R. Kutzner's compliance with this Order and enforcement of the monetary sanction:

- A. Within 14 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of the Commission, Damian R. Kutzner must: submit additional compliance reports or other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury; appear for depositions; and produce documents for inspection and copying. The Commission is also authorized to obtain discovery, without further leave of court, using any of the procedures prescribed by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including telephonic depositions), 31, 33, 34, 36, 45, and 69.
- B. For matters concerning this Order, the Commission is authorized to communicate directly with Damian R. Kutzner. Damian R. Kutzner must permit representatives of the Commission to interview any employee or other person affiliated with him or any company he owns, controls, or performs services for who has agreed to such an interview. The person interviewed may have counsel present.