

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This Settlement Agreement and Release ("Agreement") is made as of this ___ day of _____, 2013, by, between, and among the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver for AmTrust Bank, Cleveland, Ohio ("FDIC-R"), on the one hand, and Apex Home Loans, Inc. ("Apex Home Loans"), on the other hand, (individually, the FDIC-R and Apex Home Loans may be referred to herein as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties").

WHEREAS:

Prior to December 4, 2009, AmTrust Bank, Cleveland, Ohio, previously known as Ohio Savings Bank ("Bank"), was a depository institution organized and existing under the laws of the United States.

On December 4, 2009, the Office of Thrift Supervision closed the Bank and appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as its receiver. In accordance with 12 U.S.C. § 1821(d), the FDIC-R succeeded to all rights, titles, powers, and privileges of the Bank, including those with respect to the claims which are subject to this Agreement.

Between July and November, 2007, AmTrust funded a series of mortgage loan transactions involving the following named borrowers:

Borrower	Address	Loan Amount	Closing Date
(b)(4),(b)(6)			

Nationwide Home Mortgage, Inc. ("Nationwide Mortgage") performed loan origination and loan underwriting services in connection with these transactions (collectively, the "Transactions)."

FDIC-R has alleged that Apex Home Loans is the successor by merger of Nationwide Mortgage, which allegation Apex Home Loans expressly denies.

A dispute has arisen between the Parties with respect to claims by the FDIC-R related to Apex Home Loans' actions in the Transactions (hereinafter any and all present and future claims by the FDIC-R against Apex Home Loans in connection with the Transactions are referred to as the "Claims"). The Parties engaged in settlement negotiations as a result of the Claims. The Parties now deem it in their best interests to enter into this Agreement to avoid the uncertainty, trouble, and expense of litigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, undertakings, payments, and releases stated herein, the sufficiency of which consideration is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned Parties agree, each with the other, as follows:

SECTION I: Payment to FDIC-R.

A. As an essential covenant and condition to this Agreement, on or before thirty (30) days following the date the FDIC-R executes this agreement, Apex Home Loans shall pay the FDIC-R the total sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000) (the "Settlement Payment"). The Settlement Payment shall be made by check made payable to "RJ Landau Partners Client Trust Account," mailed to RJ Landau Partners PLLC, Attn: Richard J. Landau, Esq. 5340 Plymouth Rd., Suite 200, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105, Reference: AmTrust/Apex Home Loans Settlement.

B. It is expressly understood that the Settlement Payment is being made to partially compensate FDIC-R for the losses that it has alleged it has sustained in conjunction with each of

the Transactions, with the exception of the transaction involving [redacted] for the property (b)(4),(b)(6)

(b)(4),(b)(6) located at [redacted] Shaker Heights, OH (the [redacted] Transaction"). While (b)(4),(b)(6)

FDIC-R is providing Apex Home Loans with a release of those of the Claims related to the [redacted] (b)(4),(b)(6)

(b)(4),(b)(6) [redacted] Transaction, no portion of the Settlement Payment shall be applied to the losses FDIC-R

(b)(4),(b)(6) has sustained in connection with the [redacted] Transaction.

C. If the FDIC-R does not receive the Settlement Payment in full on or before the date determined by subparagraph A above ("Settlement Payment Due Date"), then the FDIC-R, in its sole discretion, shall have the right to:

1. extend the period of time for payment, including interest accruing from the Settlement Payment Due Date through the date of payment at a rate calculated in accordance with 26 U.S.C. § 6621(b)(3); or

2. enforce this Agreement and, in such event, Apex Home Loans agrees to jurisdiction in Federal District Court in Northern California and to pay all of the FDIC-R's reasonable attorney's fees and costs expended in enforcing the terms of this Agreement, provided that it prevails before a court of competent jurisdiction; or

3. declare this Agreement null and void, move to vacate any dismissal order, to which Apex Home Loans agrees to consent, and institute an action on the FDIC-R's claims, as to which Apex Home Loans waives any and all objections and defenses and covenant and agree not to assert any objections and defenses; and/or

4. seek any other relief available to it in law or equity.

Any extension of time for delivery of the Settlement Payment shall not prejudice the FDIC-R's right to take other action or seek any relief during or after such period of extension, including the right to bring an action to enforce the Agreement, or declare the Agreement null and void.

SECTION II: Releases.

Each Party acknowledges that this Agreement applies to all claims for injuries, damages, or losses of any type or nature (whether those injuries, damages, or losses are known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, patent or latent) which that Party may have against another Party arising from the Claims.

A. The FDIC-R's Release.

Upon receipt of the Settlement Payment, plus any accrued interest, and except as provided in PARAGRAPH II.C., the FDIC-R, for itself and its successors and assigns, hereby releases and discharges Apex Home Loans and its respective employees, officers, directors, representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, predecessors, successors and assigns, from any and all claims, demands, contracts, obligations, damages, actions, and causes of action, direct or indirect, in law or in equity belonging to the FDIC-R, arising out of or relating to the Claims.

Additionally, FDIC-R releases and discharges Nationwide Mortgage and its respective employees, officers, directors, representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, predecessors, (b)(4),(b)(6) successors and assigns, excluding from any and all claims, demands, contracts, obligations, damages, actions, and causes of action, direct or indirect, in law or in equity belonging to the FDIC-R, arising out of or relating to the Transactions.

B. Apex Home Loans' Release.

Effective simultaneously with the release in PARAGRAPH II.A. above, Apex Home Loans, on behalf of itself, and its respective employees, officers, directors, representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby releases and discharges the FDIC-R, and its employees, officers, directors, representatives, successors and assigns, from any and all

claims belonging to Apex Home Loans, arising out of or relating to the Claims.

C. Exceptions to Release by FDIC-R.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the FDIC-R does not release, and expressly preserves fully and to the same extent as if this Agreement had not been executed, any claims or causes of action:

a. against Apex Home Loans, or any other person or entity for liability, if any, incurred as the maker, endorser or guarantor of any promissory note or indebtedness payable or owed by them to FDIC-R, the Bank, other financial institutions, or any other person or entity, including without limitation any claims acquired by FDIC-R as successor in interest to the Bank or any person or entity other than Bank;

b. against any person or entity not expressly released by the FDIC-R in this Agreement; or

c. which are not expressly released in PARAGRAPH II.A. above.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, nothing herein limits, waives, releases, diminishes or compromises the jurisdiction and authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the exercise of its supervisory or regulatory authority to institute administrative enforcement or other proceedings seeking removal, prohibition, civil penalties, restitution or other relief it is authorized to seek pursuant to its supervisory or regulatory authority against any person, or which may arise by operation of law, rule, or regulation.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, this Agreement does not waive any claims brought on behalf of another failed institution or any claims which could be brought by the United States through the Department of Justice, the United States

Attorney's Office for any federal judicial district, or any other governmental entity. In addition, the FDIC-R specifically reserves the right to seek court ordered restitution pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Victim and Witness Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3663, et. seq., if appropriate.

SECTION III: Insolvency.

A. Insolvency.

Apex Home Loans warrants as to payments made by or on its or its behalf that at the time of such payment, it is not insolvent nor will the payment made by or on its behalf render it insolvent within the meaning and/or for the purposes of the United States Bankruptcy Code. This warranty is made by Apex Home Loans and not by its counsel.

B. Preferences.

In the event that the FDIC-R is required to return any portion of the Settlement Payment due to a final order by a court that the transfer of the Settlement Payment or any portion thereof constituted a preference, voidable preference, fraudulent transfer or similar transaction, then, in its sole discretion, the FDIC-R may, without waiver of any other rights it may have in law or equity, pursue any of the rights and remedies set forth in paragraph I(C) above, and/or otherwise permitted by law.

SECTION IV: Termination.

In the event the FDIC-R exercises **its** right to declare this Agreement null and void as provided herein, then, for the purposes of any statute of limitations or other time-based defense to any of the claims of the FDIC-R, the parties to this Agreement shall be deemed to have **reverted** to their **respective** status as of 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, September 13, 2013.

SECTION V: Notices.

Any notices required hereunder shall be sent by registered mail, first class, return receipt requested, and may also be sent by email, to the following:

If to the FDIC-R:

Richard J. Landau
RJ Landau Partners PLLC
5340 Plymouth Rd., Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 865-1585

(b)(6)

If to Apex Home Loans:

Ronald P. Friedberg
Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis
28601 Chagrin Boulevard, Suite 500
Cleveland, Ohio 44122
216-285-2921 - direct

(b)(6)

SECTION VI: Other Matters.

A. No Admission of Liability.

The undersigned Parties each acknowledge and agree that the matters set forth in this Agreement constitute the settlement and compromise of disputed claims and defenses, that this Agreement is not an admission or evidence of liability or infirmity by any of them regarding any claim or defense, and that the Agreement shall not be offered or received in evidence by or against any Party hereto, except to enforce its terms.

B. Execution in Counterparts.

This Agreement **may be executed** in counterparts by one or more of the Parties named herein and all such counterparts when so executed shall together constitute the final Agreement, as if one document had been **signed** by all Parties **hereto**; and each such counterpart, upon

execution and delivery, shall be deemed a complete original, binding the Party or Parties subscribed thereto upon the execution by all Parties to this Agreement.

C. Binding Effect.

All of the undersigned persons represent and warrant that they are a Party hereto or are authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of the respective Party, and that they have the full power and authority to bind such Party to each and every provision of this Agreement. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the undersigned Parties and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, attorneys, successors and assigns.

D. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between and among the undersigned Parties concerning the matters set forth herein and supersedes any prior agreements or understandings. No representations, warranties or inducements have been made to or relied on by any Party concerning this Agreement and its exhibits other than those contained therein.

E. Amendments.

This Agreement may not be amended or modified, nor may any of its provisions be waived, except in writing by the Party or Parties bound thereby, or by their respective authorized attorney(s) or other representative(s).

F. Reasonable Cooperation.

1. The undersigned Parties agree to cooperate in good faith to effectuate all the terms and conditions of this Agreement, including doing, or causing their agents and attorneys to do, whatever is reasonably necessary to effectuate the signing, delivery, execution, filing, recording, and entry, of any documents necessary to perform the terms of this Agreement;

2. Further, Apex Home Loans agrees to cooperate fully with the FDIC-R in connection with any action required under this Agreement which involves the Transactions. Any such cooperation that involves any out of pocket costs is subject to reasonable reimbursement by the FDIC-R pursuant to its internal guidelines and policy for such reimbursement. Such cooperation shall consist of:

- a. producing all documents pertaining to the Transactions requested by the FDIC-R, without the necessity of subpoena, in a matter that is relevant to the Bank;
- b. making themselves available upon request by the FDIC-R at reasonable times and places for interviews regarding facts pertaining to the Transactions, in a matter that is relevant to the Bank;
- c. appearing to testify as to the Transactions, upon request by the FDIC-R, in any matter pertaining to the Transactions that is relevant to the Bank;
- d. signing truthful affidavits about the Transactions upon request by the FDIC-R in a matter that is relevant to the Bank.

G. Choice of Law.

This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed and enforced according to applicable federal law, or in its absence, the internal laws of the State of Ohio, without regard to its conflicts of laws.

H. Advice of Counsel.

Each Party hereby acknowledges that he or it has consulted with and obtained the advice of counsel prior to executing this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been explained to that Party by his or its counsel.

J. Title and Captions.

All section titles and captions contained in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.

K. Authorship/Construction.

This Agreement sets forth terms and agreements jointly negotiated by the Parties. It is expressly agreed that this Agreement shall not be construed for or against any party by reason of which party drafted it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by each of them or their duly authorized representatives on the dates hereinafter subscribed.

DATE:

(b)(6)

MEYERS, ROMAN, FRIEDBERG & LEWIS

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By:

RONALD P. FRIEDBERG
Attorney for Defendant APEX HOME
LOANS, INC.

DATE:

(b)(6)

APEX HOME LOANS, INC.

By:

Signature

Eric D. Gates, President
Print Name and Title

DATE:

(b)(6)

12/16/13

APPROVED AS TO FORM

RJ LANDAU PARTNERS PLLC

By:

RICHARD J. LANDAU
Attorney for Defendant FEDERAL DEPOSIT

INSURANCE CORPORATION AS
RECEIVER FOR AMTRUST BANK

DATE:

11/28/2013

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE
CORPORATION AS RECEIVER FOR
AMTRUST BANK

(b)(6)

By:

Signature

Patrick M. McGurk, Counsel

Print Name and Title