

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE**

This Settlement Agreement and Release ("Agreement") is made as of this \_\_\_ day of February 2014, by, between, and among the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver for AmTrust Bank, Cleveland, Ohio ("FDIC-R"), on the one hand, and Escrow and Title Services Inc. doing business as Bell Title Agency ("Bell Title"), on the other hand, (individually, the FDIC-R and Bell Title 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.

On or about November 29, 2007, AmTrust funded a mortgage loan to borrower [redacted] in an amount of \$640,000 (the "Loan") in connection with [redacted] purchase of a vacant lot located at [redacted] Michigan (hereinafter the [redacted] Transaction"). Bell Title performed title, closing, and escrow services in connection with the [redacted] Transaction.

A dispute has arisen between the Parties with respect to claims by the FDIC-R related to Bell Title's actions in closing the [redacted] Transaction (hereinafter any and all present and future claims by the FDIC-R against Bell title in connection with the [redacted] Transaction 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, Bell Title shall pay the FDIC-R the total sum of Three Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$337,500) (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/Bell Title Settlement.

B. 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, Bell Title agrees to jurisdiction in Federal District Court in California and to pay all of the FDIC-R's reasonable attorney's fees and costs expended in enforcing the terms of this Agreement; or

3. declare this Agreement null and void, move to vacate any dismissal order, to which Bell Title agrees to consent, and institute an action on the FDIC-R's claims, as to which Bell Title 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 Bell Title and its respective employees, officers, directors, representatives, heirs, executors, owners, administrators, 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.

### **B. Bell Title's Release.**

Effective simultaneously with the release in PARAGRAPH II.A. above, Bell Title, 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 Bell Title, 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 Bell Title, 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: 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, July 11, 2013.

**SECTION IV: 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 Bell Title:

Scott D. Stoner  
Starr, Butler, Alexopoulos & Stoner, PLLC  
20700 Civic Center Drive, Suite 290  
Southfield, MI 48076

(b)(6)

(248) 554-2700

**SECTION V: 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.

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.

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 Michigan, 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.

I. 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.

J. 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.

K. Bell Title's Claims against Other Parties.

Nothing in this release precludes Bell Title from pursuing claims or recovery against parties to the Transaction, including but not limited to, or any other party to any transaction relating to the property known as as such parties, individuals or entities are not released herein.

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:

STARR, BUTLER, ALEXOPOULOS & STONER PLLC

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By:

SCOTT D. STONER  
Attorney for Defendant ESCROW AND TITLE SERVICES, INC. doing business as BELL TITLE AGENCY

DATE: 2/5/14

ESCROW AND TITLE SERVICES INC. dba BELL TITLE AGENCY

By:

Signature)  
Leigh Kraushaar, President  
Print Name and Title



(b)(6)

DATE: 1/29/2014

APPROVED AS TO FORM

RJ LANDAU PARTNERS PLLC

By:

RICHARD J. LANDAU  
Attorney for Defendant FEDERAL DEPOSIT  
INSURANCE CORPORATION AS  
RECEIVER FOR AMTRUST BANK

(b)(6)

DATE:

1/29/2014

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE  
CORPORATION AS RECEIVER FOR  
AMTRUST BANK

By:

Signature

Patrick M. McGivick, Counsel  
Print Name and Title