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Firm Bar No. 14000 CHERIE L. HOWE Assistant Attorney General State Bar No. 013878 1275 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2997 Telephone: (602) 542-7725 Facsimile: (602) 542-4377 Consumer@azag.gov Attorneys for the State of Arizona

TERRY GODDARD

Attorney General

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA STATE OF ARIZONA, ex rel., TERRY

GODDARD, Attorney General,

Plaintiff,

ASSET CREATION, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company; and MARVIN WILLIAMSON and JANE DOE WILLIAMSON, husband and wife,

Defendants.

Case No: <u>CV 2010 - 001340</u>

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND OTHER RELIEF

(Unclassified Civil)

For its complaint, Plaintiff, the State of Arizona upon the relation of Terry Goddard, Attorney General ("the State"), alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

Asset Creation, LLC ("Asset Creation") is located in Phoenix, Arizona and represents itself as providing residential mortgage loan modification services to consumers. Defendant Marvin Williamson is the sole member and manager of Asset Creation and directs its operations. The State alleges that Defendants violated the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act,

Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") § 44-1521 et seq., by, among other things: misrepresenting to consumers that Asset Creation could obtain specific results for them; creating the false impression that if Asset Creation was not successful in obtaining a loan modification for consumers, that it would refund their fees to them; and misrepresenting to consumers the length of time that Asset Creation has been performing loan modification services.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This action is brought pursuant to the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act to obtain injunctive relief to prevent the unlawful acts and practices alleged in this Complaint and other relief, including restitution, civil penalties, costs of investigation and attorney's fees.
- 2. This Court has jurisdiction to enter appropriate orders both prior to and following a determination of liability pursuant to the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act.
 - 3. Venue is appropriate in Maricopa County pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-401.

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff Terry Goddard is the Attorney General of Arizona.
- 5. Defendant Asset Creation, LLC is an Arizona limited liability company whose address is 333 East Virginia Avenue, #203, Phoenix, Arizona, 85004.
- 6. Defendant Marvin Williamson, an Arizona resident, is the sole member and manager of Asset Creation, LLC. Defendant Williamson's actions alleged herein were taken in furtherance of his and Defendant Jane Doe Williamson's marital community. As the member and manager of Asset Creation, LLC, Defendant Williamson, with actual and/or constructive knowledge, approved, endorsed, directed, ratified, controlled or otherwise participated in the illegal acts and practices alleged herein.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

7. Asset Creation, LLC was formed in 2005 and began offering loan modification services to consumers in January, 2008, first providing such services in or around March,

2008.

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- 8. Asset Creation advertises mortgage loan modification services on its websites, located on the World Wide Web at www.homesaveandrescue.com and www.assetcreation.com, and has done so since approximately January, 2008.
- 9. Asset Creation charges consumers "enrollment fees" for its loan modification services in amounts ranging from \$1,680 to \$3,430.
- 10. At all times relevant hereto, Asset Creation included the following statements on its websites:
 - "I founded Asset Creation in 2003 to assist distressed homeowners with alternatives to foreclosure."
 - "Asset Creation has been conducting foreclosure assistance and delinquent mortgage debt reduction since 2003."
 - "Guaranteed to give you peace of mind or you don't pay a dime!"
 - "Your bank will negotiate with us to accept less than your past due amount!"
 - "We can and will assist you no matter your situation"
- 11. From approximately July, 2008 through November, 2008, Asset Creation advertised its loan modification services in a Spanish language publication in the Phoenix metropolitan area and represented, among other things, that it could obtain a 50% reduction in homeowners' mortgage payments.
- 12. From approximately December, 2008 through March, 2009, Asset Creation advertised its loan modification services in a Spanish language publication in the Phoenix metropolitan area and represented, among other things, that it offered a money-back guarantee to consumers and that it could obtain a 50% reduction in homeowners' mortgage payments.

- 13. At all times relevant hereto, Asset Creation provided all of its potential clients with a "Client Proposal" before they agreed to hire Asset Creation for loan modification services and before Asset Creation had any contact with the consumer's lender or lender's representative.
- 14. At all times relevant hereto, Asset Creation's "Client Proposal" outlined a projected new loan amount, interest rate, and term, including principal, interest, taxes and insurance with a highlighted amount at the bottom of the page entitled "TOTAL PAYMENT" that projected a mortgage payment approximately 20% lower than that of the consumer's then-current payment.
- 15. Contrary to Asset Creation's representations on its websites that it was founded in 2003 "to assist distressed homeowners with alternatives to foreclosure" and that it had been conducting foreclosure assistance and delinquent mortgage debt reduction since 2003, Asset Creation did not begin providing loan modification services until approximately March, 2008.
- 16. Contrary to Asset Creation's representations on its websites that its services are "guaranteed to give you peace of mind or you don't pay a dime," Asset Creation does not provide refunds to all consumers for whom it is not able to successfully obtain a loan modification.
- 17. Contrary to Asset Creation's representations in its print advertising that it provided a money-back guarantee to consumers, Asset Creation did not provide refunds to all consumers for whom it was not able to successfully obtain a loan modification.
- 18. Contrary to Asset Creation's representations that a consumer's bank would negotiate with it to accept less than the consumer's past due amount, that it could obtain a 50% reduction in the consumer's mortgage payments, that it could help any consumer, regardless of his or her situation, and that it could obtain at least a 20% reduction in the consumer's then-current mortgage payment, Asset Creation had no knowledge of or control

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over whether a consumer's lender, or lender's representative, would negotiate with it on behalf of any consumer or whether it would agree to any modification whatsoever at the time of its aforementioned representations.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Consumer Fraud Act, A.R.S. § 44-1521, et seq.

Plaintiff re-alleges the prior allegations of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

- 19. The Defendants engaged in the use of deception, deceptive acts or practices, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, or concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact with intent that others rely upon such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with its advertisement, sale or delivery of services. Such acts and practices include:
 - a. Misrepresenting to consumers that it could obtain specific results for them in its advertising and by the use of its Client Proposals given to all prospective clients;
 - b. Creating the false impression that consumers would receive a refund of their fees if Asset Creation was unable to obtain a loan modification on the consumer's behalf, and;
 - c. Misrepresenting that Asset Creation has been providing loan modification services to consumers since 2003;
- 20. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Asset Creation and Marvin Williamson acted willfully, in violation of A.R.S. § 44-1531.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

1. Enter an injunction against Defendants prohibiting them from engaging in the unlawful acts and practices alleged in this Complaint and from doing any acts in furtherance

of such acts and practices, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 44-1528;

- 2. Order Defendants to restore to all persons any money and property acquired by any unlawful means or practice alleged in the Complaint, as deemed appropriate by the Court pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1528;
- 3. Order Defendants to pay to the State of Arizona a civil penalty of no more than \$10,000 for each willful violation of the Consumer Fraud Act, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1531;
- 4. Order Defendants to pay the State of Arizona its costs of investigation and prosecution of this matter, including reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1534, and;
 - 5. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this /3/2day of January, 2010.

TERRY GODDARD Attorney General

By: ___

Cherie L. Howe

Assistant Attorney General

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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