Message from Commissioner Davi

As the number of licensees in this State rapidly approaches 520,000, the Department of Real Estate continues to exceed the highest number of licensees ever recorded since the creation of the Department in 1917.

These are amazing times for the real estate industry. We have seen record growth over the past decade, both in the number of licensees and in the market. Recently, several bond measures, which will invest over $26 billion into much needed infrastructure, were passed by the voters of our great State. This re-investing in our infrastructure is critical and is a major step in preparing for the future.

Part of the bond package was the dedication of nearly $2 billion for housing. I am excited to see how the State, through the leadership of Governor Schwarzenegger and the State Legislature, will dedicate these funds towards housing for Californians.

I have enjoyed my travels throughout the State when I visit consumer groups or trade associations and provide them with updates concerning the Department and the licensee population. I appreciate the helpful feedback I receive from the many members of the public and licensees about what is happening in their respective markets. The real estate market has clearly cooled over the past year or so, and the effect of that transition can be seen by the increased market time of listings to sale and the reduction in the number of resale transactions. This has a direct impact on the Department in that the complaints submitted and filed against real estate licensees have increased, partly due to the change in the market as well as the number of licensees. We are trying to address this increase in workload with the dedication of new personnel in the enforcement, audit and legal sections for the current fiscal year. Although we have seen an increase in cases filed, we are able to keep up with them and take the appropriate action against those licensees that are violating the law. Rest assured the Department is committed to ensuring that the public is protected in real estate transactions as that is our mission, and we take it very seriously.

If you, in your activities, come across illegal activity involving a real estate licensee, please do not hesitate to file a complaint with the Department. The complaint form is easy to obtain by visiting www.dre.ca.gov. At the Web site you can print a complaint form (RE 519 Licensee/Subdivider Complaint Form), complete it and then mail it to the department at the district office location nearest to you.

Together we can work to ensure that the public is protected in every real estate transaction in California.

Real estate brokers must produce records upon DRE’s request – It’s The Law

Real estate brokers are required to maintain books and records that were prepared in connection with all transactions for which a real estate license is required. The Department of Real Estate retains the right to inspect a real estate broker’s books and records upon reasonable notice. Although the law on this subject is clear, there are brokers who refuse to produce records when requested to do so and it is important to note that the failure to do so constitutes a basis for disciplinary action against the broker’s license.

A case in point involves an Appellate Court decision that sustained the Department’s disciplinary action against a broker for willfully failing to retain records in accordance with Section 10148 of the California Business & Professions (B&P) Code. The facts of the case are as follows:

A real estate broker who managed a property on behalf of an owner collected a security deposit in the amount of $1,475 from a tenant. Upon his retirement, the broker transferred the management of this property to another individual. Shortly after this occurred, the property owner was informed that the tenant’s security deposit was missing.

Continued on page 10
First-time homebuyer requirements waived

from the California Housing Finance Agency

There is a perception that most government housing programs are aimed at first-time homebuyers. First-timers tend to need the most assistance, and are most dependent on real estate agents to guide them through the process. For that reason, government programs have often been seen as a niche product for agents and their associated loan officers.

There’s a catch to this, though. If a buyer purchases a home in what is known as a “Federally Designated Target Area” (Targeted Area), he or she can still qualify for the California Housing Finance Agency’s below-market rates, without being a first-time homeowner.

That’s right: the buyer can still get CalHFA’s fixed rate and lower payments while buying a second, third or tenth house if the house is in a Targeted Area.

The Federal Government has set up various Targeted Areas in order to encourage development, or redevelopment of historically impoverished or under-utilized urban and rural areas. The boundaries of these Targeted Areas are set by census tracts, and boundaries are reset every ten years after the decennial census. Thirty-three of California’s 58 counties contain Targeted Areas, and almost half are contained in Los Angeles County.

The technical definition of a Targeted Area is a census tract in which 70% of the families earn less than 80% of the state’s median income. Keep in mind, however, that the area boundaries are set every ten years, so the last boundaries were set in 2000. Much has happened in the real estate market in the past six years, so many Targeted Areas look vastly different than before.

Not only is the first-time homebuyer requirement waived in a Targeted Area, but the two other main restrictions on income and purchase price are relaxed. In Targeted Areas, the purchase price limits are generally higher (so as to encourage more development), and the maximum allowable income is also generally higher.

The advent of high-powered search technology, in addition to the government putting more information on the Internet, has made the search for properties very simple. It’s a three-step process:

1. Determine the city or cities where your borrower would like to purchase.
2. Go to the California Housing Finance Agency’s Targeted Areas Web site at www.tinyurl.com/ylls63.
3. Follow the simple directions for finding either an address or a census tract boundary.

The Targeted Areas can be a very powerful tool for helping your clients who want to move up to the next size home while maintaining an affordable payment. Take a look into this very flexible program, and you can also get more information on CalHFA’s entire range of programs for first-time homebuyers at www.calhfa.ca.gov.
An overview of the administrative disciplinary process

by Wayne S. Bell, Chief Counsel

One of the most important functions of the California Department of Real Estate (DRE) is to protect the public and the real estate profession from licensees who fail to adhere to their professional and legal responsibilities, from persons and entities that engage in licensed activities without being licensed, and from applicants for licensure or renewal of a license who do not have the requisite honesty, truthfulness and integrity.

DRE investigates applicants for licensure and for renewal of licensure, complaints and inquiries from the public, licensees, regulatory agencies and others regarding unlicensed activities, and unethical, deceptive, unprofessional and unlawful conduct by licensees. Sometimes DRE learns that a license applicant or licensee has had another license issued by the State or federal government suspended or revoked, discovers one or more criminal convictions, or ascertains misconduct through its own audits and compliance reviews of licensees. Or DRE might learn of a potential disciplinary violation through the media.

The Legal section of DRE, which has attorneys in Sacramento and Los Angeles, is responsible for, among other duties, the statewide prosecution of disciplinary actions. In the last fiscal year, the Legal section filed about 1900 formal actions.

California law authorizes the Commissioner of Real Estate (Commissioner) and/or DRE to revoke or suspend a person's or entity's real estate license, restrict the use of a license, or refuse to renew or grant a license. A summary list of the types of disciplinary actions and the germane laws and regulations is set forth in the “Disciplinary Action” portion of the Real Estate Bulletin. The least severe license discipline is known as a public reproof, which is a censure, rebuke or reprimand issued by DRE that is a matter of public record. The level of discipline sanction is dependent upon the violations by the individual or entity penalized.

In the case of individuals and entities engaged in the practice of real estate without being licensed, or who violate the provisions of the Subdivided Lands Act or other laws and regulations under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner or DRE, DRE issues Desist and Refrain Orders. Such administrative orders recite the results of DRE’s investigation, state the reasons for the order, and command that the named person and/or entity desist and refrain from certain specified acts. Failure to obey a Desist and Refrain Order issued for the violation of certain offenses may be punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or both fine and imprisonment. See Section 11023 of the California Business and Professions Code.

Because DRE's disciplinary actions are conducted to protect the public and are not penal in nature, DRE may, when appropriate, refer matters to law enforcement authorities, or to a criminal prosecution agency, such as the Department of Justice.

**Administrative Disciplinary Proceedings**

What follows is a basic primer intended to give the reader a basic understanding of, and to answer some common questions regarding, the administrative disciplinary process and proceedings brought by DRE.

The Legal section initiates formal disciplinary proceedings by filing a pleading called a “Statement of Issues” in connection with an application for license matter, or a pleading known as an “Accusation” in connection with a matter pertaining to an existing licensee. In either case, the pleading sets forth and describes the particular facts that form the basis for the disciplinary action sought, and asks for a hearing and a decision imposing discipline.

As of the date of publication of this article, the majority of formal administrative actions brought by DRE arise because an applicant for licensure or a licensee is convicted of one or more crimes that meet certain threshold tests. Yet there are many Accusation cases brought against licensees based on some malfeasance in real estate transactions, improper record keeping, and/or some other breach of duty or violation of the law.

Not all cases where formal disciplinary proceedings have been brought will result in formal hearings. In some cases, both DRE and the Respondent (as the individual or entity named in the pleadings and against whom discipline is sought is known) agree to certain disciplinary sanctions by entering into a negotiated agreement and signing a Stipulation and Waiver in license application cases, or a Stipulation and Agreement in cases regarding an existing license.

If a Respondent fails to file a Notice of Defense, which essentially notifies DRE that the Respondent objects to the pleading filed by the department and wishes to proceed to a hearing on the merits, a default decision against the Respondent will usually result. The Commissioner will thereafter enter an Order imposing disciplinary action.

Those cases that proceed to formal hearings are decided by an Administrative Law Judge under the auspices of the California Office of Administrative Hearings. The administrative hearing process is conducted in accordance with the California Administrative Procedure Act. See Section 11370, and those sections that follow, of the California Government Code.

**Burden and Standard of Proof**

In a proceeding involving the issuance of a license, the burden of proof is on the applicant to show that he or she is qualified to hold the license. The standard of proof is a preponderance of the evidence, which means that the applicant must have stronger evidence...
Disciplinary Action: June 06 - August 06

- A list of actions is not published in this Bulletin until the 30-day period allowed for court appeal has expired, or if an appeal is filed and the disciplinary action is stayed, until the stay is dissolved. Names of persons to whom licenses are denied on application are not published.
- Licensees are listed alphabetically by the District Office region of responsibility.
- The license type is listed in parentheses after the licensee’s name. [REB – Real estate broker; RREB – Restricted real estate broker; RES – Real estate salesperson; RRES – Restricted real estate salesperson; PRLS – Prepaid rental listing service; RPRLS – Restricted prepaid rental listing service; REO – Real estate officer; REC – Real estate corporation]
- Below are brief summaries of various regulations and code sections. The full text of the sections is available on the DRE Web site www.dre.ca.gov under Real Estate Law and/or Regulations.
- Disciplinary actions that are “stayed” means there is “a delay in carrying out” all or part of the recommended discipline.

### Commissioner’s Regulations

- 2715 Licensee’s failure to maintain current business or mailing address with DRE
- 2725 Failure of broker to exercise reasonable supervision over the activities of his or her salespersons
- 2726 Failure to have broker-salesperson agreements
- 2731 Unauthorized use of fictitious business name
- 2752 Broker’s failure to notify DRE of salesperson employment
- 2753 Broker’s failure to retain salesperson’s license at main office or return the license at termination of employment
- 2831 Failure to keep proper trust fund records
- 2831.1 Inadequate separate trust fund beneficiary records
- 2831.2 Reconcile trust account
- 2832 Failure to comply with trust fund handling provisions
- 2832(e) Failure of broker acting as escrow holder to deposit trust funds in trust account by next business day following receipt
- 2834 Trust account withdrawals by unauthorized or unbonded person
- 2835 Retention of broker funds in trust account
- 2840 Failure to give approved borrower disclosure
- 2950(d) Failure of broker handling escrows to maintain records and accounts
- 2950(e) Failure by broker to make escrow records available for inspection
- 2950(g) Broker-handled escrow disbursement without written instructions
- 2950(h) Failure to disclose interest in the agency holding the escrow
- 2951 Improper record keeping for broker handled escrows

### Business and Professions Code

- 480(c) Denial of license on grounds of false statement in license application
- 490 Substantially related criminal conviction
- 490(a) Substantially related criminal conviction
- 10130 Acting without license
- 10137 Unlawful employment or payment of compensation
- 10145 Trust fund handling
- 10148 Failure to retain records and make available for inspection
- 10159.2 Failure by designated officer to supervise licensed acts of corporation
- 10159.5 Failure to obtain license with fictitious business name
- 10160 Failure to maintain salesperson licenses in possession of broker
- 10161.8 Failure of broker to notify Commissioner of salesperson employment
- 10162 Failure to maintain a place of business
- 10175(a) Procuring a real estate license by misrepresentation or material false statement
- 10177(b) Conviction of crime
- 10177(d) Violation of real estate law or regulations
- 10177(f) Conduct that would have warranted denial of a license
- 10177(g) Negligence or incompetence in performing licensed acts
- 10177(h) Failure to supervise salespersons or licensed acts of corporation
- 10229(a) Failure to make escrow reports
- 10229(b)(3) Failure to file quarterly multi-lender trust account reports
- 10229(j)(6) Violation of multi-lender requirements
- 10229(m) Failure to file annual multi-lender trust account reports
- 10229(n) Failure to file multi-lender threshold status
- 10231 Accepting loan funds for other than a specific loan
- 10232(a) Violation of multi-lender requirements
- 10232.2(c) Failure to provide trust funds reports
- 10234 Failure by broker negotiating mortgage loan to record or cause trust deed to be recorded
- 10240 Failure to give mortgage loan disclosure statement
- 10241 Improper mortgage loan disclosure statement

### Financial Code

- 4973 Violation of covered loan law
- 4975 Violation of covered loan requirements
- 4979 Violation of covered loan requirements

### REVOKED LICENSES

#### Fresno Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensee Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Violation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arias, Irene V. (RES)</td>
<td>9810 N. Rowell, Fresno</td>
<td>7/6/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee, Edwin Sunmin (RES)</td>
<td>15744 La Moine St., Hacienda Heights</td>
<td>7/31/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caughell, Christopher W. (RES)</td>
<td>6449 N. Millbrook, Fresno</td>
<td>6/26/06</td>
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#### Los Angeles Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensee Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Violation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caposino, Brian (RES)</td>
<td>235 N. Citrus St., West Covina</td>
<td>6/12/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandra, Jagdish (REB)</td>
<td>1937 Avenida del Ossa, Fullerton</td>
<td>6/5/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscus, William H. II (RES)</td>
<td>6252 Royal Oak, Huntington Bch</td>
<td>8/16/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashanchi, Ashkan Seyed (RES)</td>
<td>29206 Whites Point Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes</td>
<td>7/25/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee, Edwin Sunmin (RES)</td>
<td>15744 La Moine St., Hacienda Heights</td>
<td>6/30/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majidi, Mohammad (RES)</td>
<td>17947 Bullock St., Encino</td>
<td>6/1/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martinez, Frank Richard (RES)</td>
<td>49 Corte Vioriosa, San Clemente</td>
<td>6/12/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rillamas, Christopher John (RES)</td>
<td>12392 Redwing, Apt. 2, Apple Valley</td>
<td>6/22/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romo, Brandon Carl (RES)</td>
<td>11 West Ave. Junipero, San Clemente</td>
<td>7/25/06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.dre.ca.gov
Winter 2006

School, Leslie Greer (RES)
PO Box 519, Bellflower
Effective: 8/10/06
Violation: 10176(a)(b)(c)(i), 10177(g)

Oakland Region

Bittner, John William Von (RES)
3535 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara
Effective: 6/14/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Chen, Cindy (RES)
2935 Van Ness, #6, San Francisco
Effective: 6/13/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Chu, Chiu Wah (RES)
4706 Blackfoot Ave., San Diego
Effective: 8/10/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Dickman, Brett Francis (RES)
6435 Montego Ct., San Jose
Effective: 6/22/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Do, Mike (RES)
1800 Evans Ln., #3103, San Jose
Effective: 6/13/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Gilden, Steven K (RES)
181 Henry St., San Francisco
Effective: 6/13/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Heard, Johnny Lewis Jr. (RES)
2332 Harrison St., #509, Oakland
Effective: 6/13/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Katami, Adan Farrid (RES)
586 Somerset St., San Francisco
Effective: 7/21/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Montez, Summer Breeze (RES)
2845 Modesto Ave., Oakland
Effective: 6/10/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Vanderostyne, Ruth Ann (RES)
1253 Madalen Dr., Milpitas
Effective: 6/30/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Watson, Milton Ray (RES)
380 Morris Phelps Dr., Tracy
Effective: 6/27/06
Violation: 490(a), 10177(b)

Sacramento Region

Bundy, Jason Free (RES)
9292 Airhill Way, Orangevale
Effective: 7/17/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Coldani, Kimberly Ruth (RES)
14090 Hwy 160, Walnut Grove
Effective: 6/22/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Kenneth Amaradio Inc. (REC)
2815 Bechelli Ln., Redding
Effective: 8/29/06
Violation: 2731, 2831.2, 2832, 2832.1, 10177(d)

Renteria, Jesus (RRES)
74 McDermott Ave., Mountain House
Effective: 8/23/06
Violation: 10176(a)(i)

San Diego Region

Bohrer, Jeremy Jason (RES)
2020 Camino Del Rio North, #803, San Diego
Effective: 7/27/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Grubba, Keith Gregory (REB, REO)
3726 Belgian Dr., Norco
Effective: 7/6/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Haghighi, Mansour (RES)
4706 Blackfoot Ave., San Diego
Effective: 7/19/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Orozco, Heriberto (RES)
669 Rue La Blanc, Chula Vista
Effective: 6/21/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Pasto, John R. (REB)
4402 Fairmount Ave., San Diego
Effective: 6/22/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Peltier, Daniel Joseph (RES)
2943 Unicornio St., #14, Carlsbad
Effective: 8/28/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Rubí, Gilberito (RES)
736 Elsa Dr., Chula Vista
Effective: 6/8/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Scott, Mark A. (RES)
1321 Granite Springs Dr., Chula Vista
Effective: 7/26/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Shaw, Rhett C. (RES)
4545 Saddle Mountain Ct., San Diego
Effective: 7/26/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Stoligrosz, Trevor Lee (RES)
190 Belfiora Way, Oceanide
Effective: 7/27/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Verdugo, Haydee Jerez (REB)
44100 Monteoya Ave., Ste. 2161, Palm Desert
Effective: 7/31/06
Violation: 2831.1, 2831.2, 10145, 10176(c), 10177(d)(g)

Fresno Region

Armstrong, Irma Aldana (REB)
422 Salinas St., Salinas
Effective: 7/6/06
Violation: 10176(a), 10177(g)

Right to RREB license on terms and conditions

Combs, Lewis Scott (RES)
7944 N. Maple, #102, Fresno
Effective: 7/5/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Los Angeles Region

Aguilar, Julio Cesar (RES)
11716 Rosecrans Ave., Norwalk
Effective: 7/5/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Arndt, Kathryn Lynn (RES)
PO Box 1248, Cedar Glen
Effective: 8/14/06
Violation: 10177(f)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Brown, Ronald John (REB)
28564 Williams Canyon Rd., Silverado
Effective: 6/15/06
Violation: 490
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

California Empire Financial Group, Inc. (REC)
10681 Foothill Blvd., Ste. 200, Rancho Cucamonga
Effective: 7/24/06
Violation: 2831.1, 2831.2, 2832, 2832.1, 2834, 2835, 2950(d), 2951, 10145, 10176(e), 10177(d)(g)
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Correa, Michael (REB)
700 S. Flower St., Stc. 1100, Los Angeles
Effective: 8/16/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Crane, James Louis (RES)
6922 La Pesa, Los Angeles
Effective: 6/15/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

CRE, Inc. (REC)
8407 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles
Effective: 6/20/06
Violation: 2831.1, 2831.2, 2832, 10177(d), 10240
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Day, Nathan Andrew (RES)
900 Citrus Pl., Newport Beach
Effective: 8/31/06
Violation: 490
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Easley, April Anne (RES)
10705 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley
Effective: 6/28/06
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Hand, Jehu T. (REB)
24351 Rasto Rd., Apt. B, Dana Point
Effective: 6/12/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Ingalliner, Albert Joseph (RES)
12534 Valley View St., Ste. 310, Garden Grove
Effective: 6/19/06
Violation: 4973, 4975, 4979, 10130, 10176(b), 10177(d)(g)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Shugar, Allen David (REB)
520 Washington Blvd., #106, Marina Del Rey
Effective: 7/12/06
Violation: 490
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Thantron, Jack (REB)
3407 S. Main St., #N, Santa Ana
Effective: 7/12/06
Violation: 490
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Vallarino, Thomas (RES)
1214 Tenneyson St., Ste. 4, Manhattan Beach
Effective: 6/27/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Oakland Region

Breton, Brandt Eugene (REB)
1500 E. Hamilton, #102, Campbell
Effective: 7/13/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Haniff, Al (RES)
P.O. Box 56187, San Jose
Effective: 8/29/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Medina, Miguel (RES)
2833 Junction Ave., #202, San Jose
Effective: 8/30/06
Violation: 490(a), 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

REVOKED WITH A RIGHT TO A RESTRICTED LICENSE

Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Right to RREC license on terms and conditions
**Sacramento Region**

Bourbaniotis, Konstantinos G. (RES)
110 Ruth Ct., #6, Sacramento
Effective: 7/18/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

**San Diego Region**

AJPROP.com, Inc. (REC)
3358 30th St., San Diego
Effective: 8/24/06
Violation: 2833, 2832, 2832.1, 2833, 10145, 10159.2, 10176(f), 10177(d)
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Alessop, James D. Jr. (REB, REO)
1019 Laguna Seca Loop, Chula Vista
Effective: 6/27/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Boucher, Mark Joseph (RES)
612 California Oaks Dr., Vista
Effective: 6/28/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Burrell, James Patrick (REB, REO)
3358 30th St., San Diego
Effective: 8/24/06
Officer of: AJPROP.com Inc.
Violation: 2833, 2832, 2832.1, 2833, 10145, 10159.2, 10176(f), 10177(d)(h)
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Conrad, Antonio Vesslinova (RES)
13715 Rosecroft Way, San Diego
Effective: 8/8/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Dillon, Shawn David (RES)
37686 Newcastle Rd., Murrieta
Effective: 7/5/06
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

**Los Angeles Region**

SUSPENDED

**Villacorta, Jaime Salvador (RES)**
5009 York Blvd., Los Angeles
Effective: 7/26/06
Violation: 10137, 10177(d)
Suspended for 30 days

**Farias, Ruth Georgene (REB, REO)**
131 N. Tustin Ave., Ste. 210, Tustin
Effective: 6/22/06
Violation: 2731, 2840, 10145, 10159.2, 10177(d)(g)(h), 10240
Suspected for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Fidelity National Mortgage Corp. (REC)**
2001 East 4th St., Ste. 120, Santa Ana
Effective: 7/3/06
Violation: 2832.1, 2834, 10145
Suspected for 90 days-stayed for 2 years on terms & conditions

**Hitman, Edward Theodore (REB, REO)**
22722 Lambert St., Ste. 1712, Lake Forest
Effective: 7/26/06
Violation: 2731, 10137, 10177(d)
Suspended for 90 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**International Millennium Assoc. (REC)**
7320 Firestone Blvd., #214, Bell
Effective: 6/20/06
Violation: 2831.1, 2832, 2834, 10177(d)
Suspended for 250 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Mark 1 Mortgage (REC)**
11911 Artesia Blvd., Ste. 100, Cerritos
Effective: 7/26/06
Violation: 2725, 2831, 2831.1, 2832, 10145, 10177(d)(g)(h)
Suspended for 90 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Pereira, Vincent O. (RES)**
5015 Birch St., Newport Beach
Effective: 7/26/06
Violation: 10177(g)
Suspended for 120 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Prather, Fletcher Lee (REB, REO)**
11911 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos
Effective: 7/26/06
Violation: 10177(h)
Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Ricco, Jose Antonio (REB, REO)**
11822 Downey Ave., Downey
Effective: 6/20/06
Violation: 2831.2, 2832, 2834, 10177(d), 10240
Suspended for 250 days-all but 50 days stayed for 2 years on term and conditions

**Riley, Michael James (REB)**
366 Camino De Estrella, #253, San Clemente
Effective: 7/10/06
Violation: 10159.2, 10177(h)
Suspended for 90 days-all but 15 days stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Ruvalcaba, Yesenia Emma (REB, REO)**
4378 N. Hacienda Blvd., La Puente
Effective: 8/7/06
Violation: 10159.2, 10177(h)
Suspended for 120 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

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940 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont
Effective: 6/22/06
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**PUBLIC PROOFAL**

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**San Diego Region**

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Disciplinary Process

Continued from page 3

of fitness for licensure, however slight the edge in evidence might be. This is the standard of proof in civil trials.

DRE has the burden of proof if the case involves disciplinary action against a real estate licensee. The standard of proof is also greater in a case such as this because a licensee is considered to have a property right in the license. Here DRE must have “clear and convincing proof to a reasonable certainty”. In order to prevail, DRE must have evidence indicating that the matters to be proved are reasonably certain.

The Hearing Process

An administrative hearing is a quasi-judicial, contested proceeding where evidence is introduced and argument is made, and the hearing rooms generally look like courtrooms. Some Respondents mistakenly believe that administrative hearings are informal. They are evidentiary trials with only a slight relaxation of evidentiary rules. A Respondent is entitled to be represented by an attorney at all stages of the disciplinary process, including the hearing and any appeals.

Respondents should be fully prepared to litigate and pursue their side of the case by presenting evidence and facts favorable to them and/or by challenging DRE’s charges and claims. In the case where criminal convictions form the basis for DRE’s request for disciplinary action, Respondents are permitted to introduce evidence of extenuating circumstances by way of mitigation or explanation, as well as any evidence of rehabilitation. Section 2911 and Section 2912 of Title 10, Chapter 6, Article 18.5 of the California Code of Regulations (Regulations of the Commissioner) provide criteria for determining rehabilitation.

After the Formal Hearing

After the formal hearing is conducted, the Administrative Law Judge issues what is known as a “Proposed Decision”, which contains findings of fact, factors in aggravation, mitigation, justification and rehabilitation, conclusions of law, and recommended disciplinary action, if any.

The Commissioner examines each case, and may adopt or reject (which is sometimes stated as “non adopt”) the Proposed Decision, or he or she may reduce the recommended disciplinary penalty.

If the Commissioner rejects the Proposed Decision, he or she may not increase or enhance the penalty unless he or she reviews the record including the transcript of the hearing, and decides the matter himself or herself by issuing a Decision After Rejection, or unless another hearing is held.

If dissatisfied with the Commissioner’s decision, the Respondent has a right to petition the Commissioner for reconsideration, the right of appeal, by what is known as a writ of mandate, to the Superior Court, and, if necessary, to the appropriate California Court of Appeal, or to the California Supreme Court.

The administrative hearing process is lengthy, but it is designed to ensure due process and to protect the rights of the individuals and entities involved.

Applicants for a real estate license who are denied a plenary (or unrestricted) license but granted a restricted license, and licensees who have their licenses suspended, revoked or revoked with the right to a restricted license, can petition the Commissioner for reinstatement of that license, or for removal of restrictions pertaining to any restricted license, after a period of time has elapsed from the effective date of the decision. The procedure and process of petitioning for reinstatement or removal of restrictions will be described in a future article in the Real Estate Bulletin.

Summary of 2006 Legislation

September 30, 2006 marked the end of the two-year legislative session during which 1,871 bills wound their way through the process and landed on the Governor’s desk. Of these bills, 1,378 were signed into law and 493 were vetoed. The following brief legislative summaries are of legislation from the 2006 session that affect real estate licensees and subordinates. These summaries are intended to alert you to pertinent changes to the law. We encourage you to consult the statutes for complete information. Copies of the bills can be obtained on-line at www.leginfo.ca.gov. Please note that “SB” refers to a Senate bill and “AB” to an Assembly bill and the Chapter number refers to the sequence that the bill was filed with the Secretary of State. The name appearing after the bill number is the name of the author. All statutes are effective January 1, 2007 unless otherwise noted.

SB 504 (Torlakson) Real property sales contracts (Chapter 51)

Existing law defines a real property sales contract (RPSC) as an agreement in which one party agrees to convey title of real property to another party upon the satisfaction of specified conditions set forth in the contract and that does not require conveyance of title within one year from the date of formation of the contract. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor for the seller to increase the encumbrances/loans on a property sold under a RPSC without the buyer’s consent.

SB 504 excludes from the definition of a RPSC a contract that involves the purchase of a condominium and the

Continued on page 9
Legislation Update
Continued from page 8

project is subject to a conditional public report issued by the DRE. This bill was an urgency measure and became effective June 30, 2006.

SB 983 (Lowenthal) Subdivisions: conversions (Chapter 636)

The Subdivision Map Act requires a subdivider, prior to the filing of a tentative map to convert apartments to condominiums, to give a 60-day notice to each tenant of the subject property and to each person applying after the date for rental of a unit of the subject property. The act also requires a subdivider who fails to give the required notice to pay each prospective tenant his or her actual moving expenses and the first month’s rent in an amount not to exceed $500 for each expense. SB 983 increased the expense amount to $1,100.

SB 1560 (Battin) Homeowners associations: elections (Chapter 310)

Last year, SB 61 (Battin) established new election procedures for CIDs. A complementary bill, AB 1098 (Jones) established a specified list of documents that an HOA must make available to an association member. SB 1560 is a non-controversial clean-up measure to clarify last year’s measures. Both AB 1098 and SB 61 passed with a delayed effective date of July 1, 2006. SB 1560 was an urgency measure and was effective September 18, 2006.

SB 1609 (Simitian) Reverse Mortgages: annuities (Chapter 202)

This bill requires applicants for reverse mortgages to obtain financial counseling and receive certification of such prior to making an application. SB 1609 also prohibits a lender from requiring the purchase of an annuity as a condition of obtaining a reverse mortgage loan. With respect to annuities, this bill prohibits a reverse mortgage lender or a broker arranging a reverse mortgage loan from offering an annuity to the borrower or referring the borrower to anyone for the purchase of an annuity prior to the closing of the loan or before the expiration of the borrower’s right to rescind. In addition, the bill requires a reverse mortgage contract be translated into the appropriate language when negotiations for the reverse mortgage contract were conducted in that language. The bill was suggested by the Consumer Legal Services in East Palo Alto and the Elder Financial Protection Network.

AB 790 (Yee) Real estate licenses: discipline (Chapter 199)

Existing law allows the Department of Real Estate (DRE) to suspend or revoke a real estate license or deny issuance of a real estate license to a real estate license applicant who has knowingly authorized, directed, connived at, or aided in the publication, advertisement, distribution, or circulation of any material false statement or representation concerning his or her business, or concerning any business opportunity or any land or subdivision offered for sale.

AB 790 amends existing law to allow the DRE to also suspend or revoke a real estate license or deny issuance of a real estate license to a real estate license applicant who has knowingly authorized or distributed any material false statement or representation concerning his or her designation or certification of special education, credential, or trade organization membership. The California Association of Mortgage Brokers sponsored AB 790.

AB 2100 (Laird) Homeowner associations: reserves (Chapter 188)

Existing law requires a homeowners association (HOA) to annually prepare an operating budget and every three years to perform a reserve study to assess the adequacy of reserves earmarked to fund the repair or replacement of major common interest components within the development, such as the roof(s) or re-plastering of a pool. AB 2100 requires that the board of directors of a HOA adopt a reserve-funding plan based on the reserve study. This bill also establishes new requirements for the review of contracts.

AB 2429 (Negrette McLeod) Conditional Salesperson License; repeal (Chapter 278)

Existing law authorizes the Department of Real Estate to issue, under specified conditions, an 18-month conditional real estate salesperson’s license to persons who have successfully completed a college level course in real estate principles and passed the real estate salesperson’s license examination.

Effective October 1, 2007, AB 2429 repeals the DRE’s authority to issue a conditional license, thus effectively mandating that all real estate salesperson license applicants complete three college level real estate courses, as specified, prior to taking the real estate salesperson’s license examination. The California Association of Realtors® sponsored AB 2429.

AB 2591 (Keene) State agencies: accounts: reports. (Chapter 506)

AB 2591 Requires the Department of Finance (DOF) to collect data on uncollected debt from specified state agencies, including the Department of Real Estate, and submit this information to the Legislature in an annual report. The California Association of Collectors sponsored AB 2591.

AB 2602 (Leiu) Interest bearing trust accounts (Chapter 107)

Existing law allows a real estate broker to place trust funds in an interest
**DRE Records Request of Brokers**

Continued from page 1

security deposit was not transferred to the new individual managing the property. Accordingly, the property owner filed a complaint with the Department alleging that the broker had failed to relinquish the security deposit to the new property manager.

After being contacted by the Department, the broker maintained he paid cash to the new property manager for the security deposit without obtaining any receipt or other evidence of the transaction. The Department subpoenaed the broker’s trust account records and was advised that he could not locate the corresponding records. Instead of producing the required transaction and trust account records, the broker offered his bank records to the Department to reconstruct the account.

The Department filed an accusation against the broker alleging that he failed to retain the required trust account records for the property and make them available for the Department’s inspection. Because the records were not produced, the Department sought disciplinary action against the broker, pursuant to Section 10177(d) of the B&P Code, for failing to maintain and produce records upon the Department’s request as required by Section 10148 of the B&P Code.

Approximately seven months later, the broker found the corresponding records. The Department proceeded with its charge that the broker had failed to produce the trust account records upon request. At the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge found in a proposed decision that the broker’s tardiness in providing the requested records was not motivated by intent to withhold or deceive. However, the decision also found that the broker failed to retain the records in a manner that allowed him to make them available to the Department on request, and as a result, there were grounds for disciplinary action against the broker. His license was revoked with a right to a restricted broker license. The Department adopted the decision, and the broker petitioned for a Writ of Administrative Mandate to appeal the Department’s decision in Superior Court. A Superior Court judgment was subsequently issued upholding the Commissioner’s findings and discipline and formally denied the broker’s petition for Writ of Administrative Mandate.

The broker appealed the Superior Court decision on the basis that his failure to produce the records was not a willful act. The Appellate Court sustained the Department’s disciplinary action and held that the broker had a duty to maintain records in a manner so they can be readily found. When the broker was unable to produce his trust account records upon request, a violation occurred.

This Decision makes it clear that real estate brokers must comply with Section 10148 of the B&P Code and produce upon the Department’s request all documents either executed or obtained by the broker in connection with any transaction that requires a real estate license. Brokers must retain these records for a period of three years from the close of the transaction, or from the date of the listing if the transaction was not consummated.

When a representative from the Department requests records in connection with a specific transaction, or for an audit or office survey, the best course of action is to comply in the spirit of cooperation. Further, the records produced must be full, complete and unaltered. As was made clear in the case described above, to do less could establish a basis for disciplinary action.

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**Legislation Update**

Continued from page 9

bearing trust account in specified circumstances. AB 2602 expands these circumstances to allow real estate brokers who service commercial loans to place trust funds (loan payments) into an interest bearing trust account with the permission of the investor (note owner). The California Mortgage Bankers Association sponsored AB 2602.

**AB 2624 (Houston) Homeowner associations; foreclosure (Chapter 575)**

Last year SB 137 (Ducheny) established, among other things, a 90-day redemption right on property that was foreclosed on by a homeowners association for delinquent assessments. AB 2624 establishes procedures governing the 90-day redemption period in a non-judicial foreclosure in a common interest development. The United Trustee’s Association sponsored AB 2624.

**AB 2800 (Laird) Housing discrimination: real estate licensee discipline (Chapter 578)**

AB 2800 enacts the Omnibus Housing Nondiscrimination Act by which various non-discrimination provisions in existing law related to housing would be made consistent with the protections against discrimination afforded by the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

With respect to the real estate law, AB 2800 expands the provisions for which a real estate licensee can be disciplined. Specifically, existing law states it is unlawful for a licensee to induce “panic selling” due to the present or prospective entry into a neighborhood of a person of another race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin. This bill expands the class of protected characteristics to include sex, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, source of income, or disability.

The author sponsored AB 2800.

**AB 3020 (Montanez) Real estate: time-share developments. (Chapter 429)**

The Vacation Ownership and Time-Share Act of 2004 (VOTA) was enacted on July 1, 2005. VOTA effectively changed how time-share offerings are regulated in California. AB 3020 made several clarifying changes to VOTA. The American Resort Development Association sponsored AB 3020.
Real estate publications

Ordering information
DRE publications are available:

On the Internet — All DRE publications are available free of charge on the DRE Web site at www.dre.ca.gov.

In person from District Offices — Complete Parts A, B, and C (if appropriate). Offices are located in Sacramento, Los Angeles, Oakland, Fresno, and San Diego.

By mail — Photocopy or remove this page from your Bulletin. Complete Parts A, B, and C (if appropriate). Mail it with the proper fee to:

Department of Real Estate Book Orders P.O. Box 187006 Sacramento, CA 95818-7006

By fax — Complete Parts A, B, and C. Fax form to (916) 227-0361.

By phone — Have credit card information ready, then call Book Order desk at (916) 227-0852.

Acceptable payment methods
- Personal check, cashier’s check or money order should be made payable to: Department of Real Estate.
- VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards may be used to purchase DRE publications.
- Cash is acceptable only if purchasing in person and only if it’s the exact amount of purchase.

California sales tax
Use 7.25%tax rate, unless purchase location or delivery address is in the following counties: Alameda (8.25%), Fresno (7.875%), Los Angeles (8.25%), Marin (7.75%), Sacramento (7.75%), and San Diego (7.75%). Requests and fees will be returned if the appropriate sales tax is not included.

Miscellaneous information
- Publications noted as free are limited to one copy; DRE grants requestor permission to reproduce these publications for complimentary distribution only.
- Prices are subject to change.
- Orders received with incorrect payments will be returned.
- All sales are final — no refunds.
- Allow 4–6 weeks for delivery.
- Volume discounts are available. Contact DRE at (916) 227-0852 prior to ordering.

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Real Estate Law Book and CD

Each year, the Real Estate Law Book and CD is updated to reflect changes in laws and regulations.

The 2007 Real Estate Law Book and CD will be available for purchase in January 2007. This important reference for licensees contains:

- The Real Estate Law (from the Business and Professions Code);
- The Real Estate Commissioner’s Regulations (from the California Code of Regulations);
- Portions of the Administrative Procedure Act (from the Government Code); and
- Pertinent excerpts from various California Codes.

The cost will be $25, plus tax. Orders will be accepted after January 1, 2007. Use the order form on page 11 or submit a Publications Request (RE 350). (The RE 350 is available on the DRE Web site or from any District Office.)

The 2007 Real Estate Law will also be available on the DRE Web site at www.dre.ca.gov.

Did You Know....

- There are nearly 520,000 real estate licensees in California.
- There are only four registered licensees in Alpine County or one licensee for every 290 people in the county.
- The county with the most licensees is Los Angeles County with 124,651 or one licensee for every 80 people.
- The highest density of licensees per capita is in Mono County with one licensee for every 41 people.
- Of counties with more than a million people, San Diego has more licensees per capita with one licensee for every 58 people.
- The counties of Alpine, Colusa, Modoc, Sierra, and Trinity all have fewer than 100 registered licensees.

If yes, please change your license mailing address. Use the eLicensing online system at www.dre.ca.gov to make the change or submit the appropriate “change” form: RE 214 for salespersons; RE 204 for brokers; RE 204A for corporations.