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STATE OF FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

AG # L10-3-1145

IN RE:

INVESTIGATION OF LAW OFFICES  
OF DAVID J. STERN, P.A.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

DEPOSITION OF TAMMIE LOU KAPUSTA

12:11 p.m. - 1:58 p.m.  
September 22, 2010  
Office of the Attorney General  
110 Southeast 6th Street, 10th Floor  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Reported By:

23 Kalandra Smith  
24 Notary Public, State of Florida  
Apex Reporting Group  
25 Phone - 954.467.8204

2

1 APPEARANCES:

2 ON BEHALF OF THE STATE:

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5  
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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
9 110 Southeast 6th Street, 9th Floor  
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10  
ON BEHALF OF MS. KAPUSTA:

11  
DOUG LYONS, ESQUIRE (TELEPHONIC)

12 LYONS & FARRAR  
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13 Tallahassee, Florida 32301

14 MARSHA LYONS, ESQUIRE (TELEPHONIC)  
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15 325 North Calhoun Street  
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16  
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17 241 John Knox Road, Suite 100  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

18

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 ---

3 Deposition taken before Kalandra Smith, Court

4 Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of

5 Florida at Large, in the above cause.

6 ---

7 THEREUPON:

8 TAMMIE LOU KAPUSTA

9 having been first duly sworn or affirmed, was examined

10 and testified as follows:

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MS. CLARKSON:

13 Q State your name for the record, please.

14 A Tammie Kapusta.

15 Q I'd like you to take a look at this.

16 MS. CLARKSON: I'm handing the witness a copy

17 of the subpoena.

18 BY MS. CLARKSON:

19 Q Is that a copy of the subpoena that you  
20 received and are you here today due to that?

21 A Yes.

22 MS. CLARKSON: I'd like to mark this as A.

23 BY MS. CLARKSON:

24 Q Have you ever had your statement taken before,  
25 deposition or a sworn statement?

4

1 A No.

2 Q You just need to answer the questions verbally  
3 so that the court reporter can take them down. If you  
4 need to use the restroom or want some water just let me  
5 know. If you don't understand a question ask me to  
6 repeat it and I'll do the best I can so that you can  
7 understand the question. I'm not going to ask you to  
8 guess. Just answer it if you know.

9 A Okay.

10 Q What is your employment background for the  
11 past two years?

12 A I'm a paralegal.

13 Q Where did you get your education at?

- 14 A David Stern.
- 15 Q You worked for David Stern; is that correct?
- 16 A That's correct.
- 17 Q You no longer work for him?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q When did you start working for him?
- 20 A '08.
- 21 Q '08?
- 22 A May, March of '08.
- 23 Q Through when?
- 24 A July of '09.
- 25 Q What were your job titles at David Stern?

5

- 1 A I was the senior paralegal.
- 2 Q What were your duties there at the firm?
- 3 A I was responsible for my team from initiation
- 4 to sale.
- 5 Q What team?
- 6 A I had Aurora Loan Services, Fannie Mae,
- 7 Freddie Mac, broken down into alphabetical --
- 8 Q Aurora, Freddie, and --
- 9 A TCFM, which is Citibank and any client A
- 10 through L.

11 Q That was a lot of clients.

12 A I had twelve thousand files.

13 Q How many were on your team?

14 A Twelve girls.

15 Q All paralegals?

16 A Juniors is what they were.

17 Q What were your duties?

18 A I was responsible for everything for the file

19 from beginning of initiation to --

20 Q Explain to me what you did with the file.

21 Just walk me through a file from start to finish.

22 A When we would get the files they would be

23 checked in by Cheryl Samons and her crew. Then they

24 would come to us and we would have to file the motion

25 for summary judgement, all the affidavits required to

6

1 file that, any contested issues I handed on the files,

2 all assignments of mortgages, anything pertaining to the

3 file itself to make sure that it was done in the correct

4 manner.

5 Q Were lis pendens filed in the cases?

6 A Yes. Those were filed in a different

7 department.

8 Q Who prepared those lis pendens, do you know?

9 A At the time when I was there it was what they  
10 called a casesum department. There was a manager for  
11 that department also.

12 Q What department?

13 A They call it casesum.

14 Q Casesum?

15 A Yeah. Caseum is where it starts basically.

16 MS. LYONS: I'm sorry. What was that word?

17 THE WITNESS: It's casesum, C-A-S-E-S-U-M.

18 It's their computer system. Basically someone  
19 plugs in all the information given to them by the  
20 banks or the referral source.

21 MR. REGAN: Can I get that spelling again,  
22 please.

23 THE WITNESS: C-A-S-E-S-U-M.

24 MR. REGAN: C as in cat?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7

1 MR. REGAN: C-A-S-E-U-M?

2 THE WITNESS: S-U-M. Casesum.

3 MR. REGAN: Okay. C-A-S-U-M. Okay. Go  
4 ahead.

5 BY MS. CLARKSON:

6 Q So, somebody in the casesum department would  
7 take care of the lis pendens?

8 A Correct. They would take the referral and it  
9 would start with all the information, the borrower.

10 Everything is plugged into a system which is in the  
11 casesum department, which created all of our documents  
12 thereafter.

13 Q Okay. So the documents were created in the  
14 Law Officers of David Stern?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Were any documents created outside that came  
17 in for your signatures or came in completed?

18 A Like?

19 Q Affidavits from the lenders?

20 A Not usually. We prepared most of the  
21 affidavits.

22 Q And then you sent them out for signature?

23 A Some of them. Most of them were signed  
24 in-house.

25 Q In-house by whom?

8

1 A Cheryl Samons.



2 Q How would she have authority to sign for a  
3 lender?

4 A According to what we were aware of she had  
5 power of attorney to do that.

6 Q Did you ever see the power of attorney?

7 A No.

8 Q How many companies or lenders did she have  
9 power of attorney for that you could guess or know?

10 A A good guess would be approximately fifteen or  
11 maybe more.

12 Q So, she signed as attorney in fact or power of  
13 attorney?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Was she ever assistant secretary to any of the  
16 --

17 A Some of them stated that also. It would  
18 depend on I guess the bank that we were dealing with.

19 Q So she would be assistant secretary to some  
20 and attorney in fact for the others?

21 A Correct.

22 Q Did you have a supervisor?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Who was that?

25 A Cheryl Samons was my director. I took over

1 her position at the company when she became COO. We all  
2 reported to her.

3 Q Was she a lawyer?

4 A No.

5 Q Was she a paralegal?

6 A I guess that's what you would call her. We  
7 were under the impression.

8 Q When you say "we" who is that?

9 A The staff.

10 Q Speaking of the staff how many staff were  
11 there?

12 A When I started with the company there was  
13 approximately two hundred and twenty-five. When I left  
14 the company there was over eleven hundred.

15 Q Is that including attorneys?

16 A It would be a good guess to put them in there,  
17 yes. That was just in our building though.

18 Q You had another building?

19 A Well, there was working being done offshore.

20 Q I want to talk about that too. Is that where  
21 documents were prepared?

22 A They were preparing the casesums offshore,

23 yes.

24 Q Where offshore, do you know?

25 A I believe it was Guam and I don't remember the

10

1 other one.

2 Q Somewhere in the Philippines?

3 A The Philippines is where it was, yes.

4 Q How do you know that documents were being  
5 prepared offshore in Guam and the Philippines?

6 A Because we had several conversations about it  
7 in the firm.

8 Q Generally?

9 A Yes.

10 Q With Mr. Stern?

11 A With Cheryl Samons.

12 Q Okay. What were you told about these  
13 companies that were offshore?

14 A That they were preparing our casesums while we  
15 were sleeping.

16 Q Did they prepare anything else?

17 A Not that I'm aware of.

18 Q Did they provide documents?

19 A Not that I'm aware of.

20 Q So if they were preparing the casesums what  
21 exactly were they doing?

22 A They were inputting the information to create  
23 the documents. Casesum takes the referral from the  
24 lender and creates a document in David Stern's office  
25 with all of the information that the lender provided.

11

1 In other words, like the UPBs.

2 Q UPB?

3 A Unpaid principal balance. The lender's  
4 information, last known address, and stuff like that  
5 that the bank would have on file for that.

6 Q Instead of having to do it here in his office  
7 they would do it in Guam or the Philippines?

8 A Correct. Because our office was not putting  
9 out enough work.

10 Q Okay. Do you know what the name of these  
11 companies were?

12 A No, I do not.

13 Q Do you know if they were owned by David Stern  
14 or just hired by David stern?

15 A I don't know.

16 Q Do you know when approximately the offshore

17 casesums were begun?

18 A It would be so hard for me to say correctly  
19 without looking back on my life at that time there. It  
20 was probably when we moved in the new building, which is  
21 the building now located off of Pine Island, the 900.

22 Q 900?

23 A Yeah. Maybe six months after we moved in  
24 there.

25 Q When did you move in there?

12

1 A I want to say July or August.

2 Q Of what?

3 A Of '08.

4 Q So towards the end of '08, beginning of '09 is  
5 when you started hearing about the Guan and the  
6 Philippines companies?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Did you use process servers?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Did you have process servers in-house or were  
11 they hired out?

12 A They were hired out.

13 Q Do you know what company you used?

14 A G&Z and ProVest.  
15 Q GNZ?  
16 A G and like the little --  
17 Q Ampersand?  
18 A Yeah.  
19 Q G&Z?  
20 A Correct.  
21 Q And what else?  
22 A ProVest.  
23 Q Did you have any ProVest or G&Z employees at  
24 the Offices of David Stern?  
25 A I believe they were there but since we

13

1 occupied so many floors and there were so many people  
2 there there's a lot of things that a lot of us didn't  
3 know.

4 Q Right.

5 A It was more or less what was being said. I  
6 believe now they occupy an entire floor of David Stern's  
7 office.

8 Q ProVest?

9 A Yes.

10 Q It's ProVest?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Are they hired by David Stern? Are they paid  
13 by David Stern or are they paid by ProVest? I'm trying  
14 to find out whose employees they are if you know.

15 A I don't know.

16 Q Are they not using G&Z anymore to the best of  
17 your knowledge?

18 A No, I believe they still are.

19 Q So both?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Did you ever hear of any problems with service  
22 of process, any complaints?

23 A Those were daily phone calls.

24 Q Could you tell me about them.

25 A People were not served.

14

1 Q How did they know they weren't served?

2 A Well, some of them would go to do  
3 modifications on loans or go to take out other things  
4 and it would come up that they were in foreclosure and  
5 they would end up finding out that way that they was no  
6 actual service on them. I had tenants that were served  
7 saying that they were the property owners and they

8 weren't the property owners. Service was a complete  
9 mess.

10 Q At whose direction was service perfected?

11 A Cheryl Samons.

12 Q Did Cheryl Samons to the best of your  
13 knowledge tell the process servers just to serve  
14 anybody?

15 A I don't know that she told them that but when  
16 we would get the phone calls it would be what she would  
17 call a business decision on whether the service was  
18 completed or not. We were directed to do whatever she  
19 said.

20 Q Didn't the process server deliver a return of  
21 service?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And would they say that it was served?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And oftentimes they weren't? Is that what

15

1 you're saying?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Did you have times when service was attempted

4 numerous times or on people that did not live at the



5 property?

6 A I don't understand.

7 Q One property might have two owners; a husband  
8 and a wife.

9 A Correct.

10 Q But then the law firm would send out a  
11 subpoena for tenants A,B,C,D,E,F,G and get ten service  
12 fees for only two people?

13 A Oh yeah. That was done regularly.

14 Q Was that done intentionally to build up the  
15 service fees?

16 A I would assume so. If you're serving the  
17 defendant at the property you can't serve Jane and John  
18 Doe if you've already served the defendant there,  
19 correct?

20 Q If you say so. So they would send out  
21 multiple services?

22 A Correct. There was always a Jane and John  
23 Doe. Sometimes there would be a spouse, unknown spouse,  
24 spouse, unknown spouse. In other words, if it was Mary  
25 Jane it would be the unknown spouse of Mary Jane. Then

1 if it was James it would be the unknown spouse of James.

2 They changed it periodically on how they did it.

3 Q They'd also add tenants?

4 A Correct. There was a fee for everyone.

5 Q Do you know what the fees were?

6 A I believe it was forty-five dollars for

7 service at one attempt. Obviously two attempts was the

8 ninety dollars. Anything out of state was a hundred and

9 eighty dollars. It was out-of-state notices of action.

10 They did skip tracing. They charged an additional I

11 believe that was eighty.

12 Q Did they do the skip tracing?

13 A I can't guarantee that. They said they did

14 it.

15 Q Who was billed the forty-five dollars? Let's

16 just say it was the one service. Who was billed?

17 A It goes back to the borrowers.

18 Q Eventually?

19 A Well, it goes into your Affidavit A's and it's

20 part of your service.

21 Q Right. Okay. Before that. Because the

22 homeowner or the borrower or the defaulted one might not

23 pay so the process server has to get paid. Who pays

24 them?

25 A I would imagine it comes from the banks where

1 it's being billed to.

2 Q It's being billed to the banks?

3 A Correct.

4 Q It's not being billed to David Stern?

5 A Well, David Stern pays the bills but in return

6 I would imagine he's getting paid by the banks from what

7 we know. I don't know that for sure.

8 Q Do you ever have any reason to believe that if

9 the process server served one forty-five dollar bill

10 that it went into the affidavit as two or three?

11 A I'm not sure I understand.

12 Q If the affidavits that were filled out by Law

13 Offices of David Stern reflected the actual bill that

14 was billed or did they bill the homeowner more?

15 A There was always a fee for the Jane and John

16 Does in the bill. The bills always consisted of the

17 defendant, an unknown spouse of the defendant if there

18 wasn't a spouse, and always a Jane and John Doe.

19 Q So they were always billed for four of five?

20 A Correct.

21 Q So the bill came in to David Stern for four of

22 five?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Now, that bill was probably paid by David from  
25 the bank's money or whatever?

18

1 A Correct.

2 Q Now, this four of five is going to go on an  
3 affidavit of indebtedness?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Was it always just four of five? What I'm  
6 trying to ask you is was the bill ever inflated for the  
7 homeowner?

8 A I would say it was inflated if they are  
9 charging for a Jane and John Doe. Did we change what  
10 the actual bill said?

11 Q Yes.

12 A No, we didn't. Not that I'm aware of on my  
13 team.

14 Q Okay. About what percentage would you say of  
15 the people that were served actually got service?

16 A It became such a nuisance for me that I  
17 actually would tell the people that claimed -- they were  
18 serving people with the same names and they would call  
19 and say I'm not this person. So to protect, you know, I

20 basically said you need to send a letter to the firm  
21 because it became such a nuisance. Those were most of  
22 my calls during a day. Any given day I'd probably have  
23 a hundred different calls and most of it was service.

24 Q So fifty percent of the people?

25 A Yeah, that's a good guess.

19

1 Q Let's go to the assignments of mortgage. They  
2 were prepared in-house?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q You're smiling. You want to tell me about  
5 them?

6 A Assignments were done sometimes after the  
7 final judgement was entered.

8 Q Do you know why that is?

9 A Because that's what we were directed to do by  
10 Cheryl.

11 Q So the lis pendens is filed and you don't have  
12 an assignment in some cases?

13 A Correct.

14 Q When there was an assignment was it usually to  
15 the plaintiff or could it have been to someone else  
16 other than the plaintiff?

17 A Someone else other.

18 Q Other than the plaintiff?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Other than the plaintiff institution that was  
21 actually in the lawsuit and got the final judgement then  
22 there would be an assignment to lender somebody else?

23 A Well the lenders switched a lot in David's  
24 firm.

25 Q Meaning?

20

1 A Meaning that a lot of the times they were  
2 changing. Say Aurora had the file. They transferred it  
3 over to TCFM.

4 Q Why would they do that, do you know?

5 A I'm not aware of that, no.

6 Q You're not aware --

7 A I do not know why they did that.

8 Q You're aware of it happening?

9 A Oh yes.

10 Q You're not aware of why?

11 A Right.

12 Q Would the change the plaintiff in the lawsuit  
13 or would they just leave it alone?

14 A No. A lot of times we never did the  
15 substitution of plaintiff. Until almost to the time  
16 that I was leaving there is when things started to get  
17 ugly for them for the assignments. We were starting to  
18 have to do substitutions of plaintiff. If Nation Star  
19 had the file and they turned it over to Citibank we were  
20 foreclosing in Nation Star and not Citibank and we would  
21 need to do a substitution of plaintiff for that.

22 Q Right. Would those be ex parte for the most  
23 part?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q They wouldn't dismiss the lawsuit and start

21

1 over?

2 A No.

3 Q They just substituted?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q They made it a practice to give the defendant  
6 notice?

7 A I mean we would mail them to the defendant.

8 Q The notice of substitution of party?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Would you file an assignment at that time?

11 A Sometimes. Sometimes they were already filed.  
12 Sometimes we would have to change it. It depended on  
13 the file. It depended on how long it had been with the  
14 firm. Those were business decisions that Cheryl made on  
15 a regular basis.

16 Q Do you know what her business decisions were  
17 based on?

18 A Nope. Nobody questioned that.

19 Q Can you tell me the execution of the  
20 assignments, how it worked?

21 A Assignments were prepared again from the  
22 casesum. All of our stuff comes from the casesum. They  
23 would be stamped and signed by a notary or not. Per  
24 floor we had a designated spot to place them and Cheryl  
25 would come once a day and sign them.

22

1 Q Sign them as what?

2 A As --

3 Q For the bank?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Or for MERS or whoever it was for?

6 A Correct.

7 Q Would these notaries be there watching her as



8 she signed?

9 A No.

10 Q She would just sit there and sign stacks of  
11 them?

12 A Correct. As far as notaries go in the firm I  
13 don't think any notary actually used their own notary  
14 stamp. The team used them.

15 Q There were just stamps around?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you actually saw that?

18 A I was part of that.

19 Q You did it? Are you a notary?

20 A No, I'm not.

21 Q Did you sign as a witness?

22 A I did not. I signed as a witness on one  
23 document and after that I decided that I didn't want to  
24 put my name as a witness anymore.

25 Q Tell me about the stamps. You stamped them?

23

1 A Yeah, I had stamps. Each team had a notary on  
2 them or notaries that I was aware of. Whether they were  
3 or weren't wasn't --

4 Q You had stamps?

5 A Correct. We would stamp them and they would  
6 get signed.

7 Q Stamp them in blanks?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Who would sign them?

10 A Other people on the team that could sign the  
11 signature of the person or just a check on there or  
12 whatever.

13 Q Was that common practice?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Was that standard practice?

16 A Pretty much.

17 Q What about the witnesses?

18 A Those would be signed by juniors who were --

19 Q Standing there?

20 A Here, sign this. It has to go to Cheryl, sign  
21 it. Then it would go and sit at the desk where Cheryl  
22 would sign everything.

23 Q Out of view of the notary and out of view of  
24 the witnesses?

25 A Correct.

1 Q Do you know who implemented this procedure?

2 A Cheryl.

3 Q Cheryl did?

4 A Um-hum.

5 Q Did anybody else sign with the firm for the  
6 banks?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Who was that?

9 A There were people that were responsible for  
10 signing Cheryl's name. Cheryl, Tammie Sweat, and Beth  
11 Cerni. Those were the only three people that could sign  
12 Cheryl's name. If you ever look at assignments you'll  
13 see that they are not all the same.

14 MS. EDWARDS: What are the names again?  
15 Cheryl, Tammie?

16 THE WITNESS: Tammie Sweat and Beth Cerni.

17 MS. EDWARDS: Could you spell that.

18 MS. CLARKSON: C-E-R-N-I.

19 BY MS. CLARKSON:

20 Q Did they practice Cheryl's signature?

21 A I would assume so.

22 Q Did you ever see them?

23 A Not practicing but I've seen them sign it.

24 Q Did you see somebody sign Cheryl's name?

25 A Yes.

1 Q That wasn't Cheryl?

2 A Yes. All the time.

3 Q Did Cheryl know about this?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Was it at her direction?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What was her position with the firm?

8 A When I started she was David's paralegal and  
9 had the team that I had. When we transferred into the  
10 new building she became this COO of the company.

11 Q Was that going on when you transferred  
12 buildings and when she was the COO?

13 A She was always the COO. She just never had  
14 the title.

15 Q But now she has the title?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Did the practice still continue?

18 A Oh yes.

19 Q With the signatures?

20 A Correct.

21 Q So even though she became the COO her job  
22 description didn't change?

23 A No.

24 Q She continued to pretty much run the office?

25 A Oh yes.

26

1 Q Was David Stern aware of this as far as you  
2 know?

3 A Yes.

4 Q How do you know that he was? What makes you  
5 think that he was aware of this?

6 A Because Cheryl and David had daily meetings.  
7 David knew the practice that was going on. David's  
8 office happened to be right outside -- I sat right in  
9 front of David's office. I'm well aware of what  
10 transpired. Cheryl's office was here. Around the  
11 corner was David's office. Everything was in the loop.  
12 He was well aware of what was going on. I mean, you  
13 could hear the screaming conversations. Nothing was  
14 really a secret on the fourth floor because that's where  
15 Cheryl is.

16 Q Who was screaming at who?

17 A They were screaming at each other.

18 Q They were screaming at each other?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you know over what?

21 A Files not moving fast enough. Just stuff like  
22 that.

23 Q Business stuff?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Do you know when these assignments were

27

1 executed if Cheryl one, two, or three ever read them?

2 A No, they were never read.

3 Q They were just signed?

4 A Correct.

5 Q How many a day do you think?

6 A Oh goodness. Each floor would probably  
7 produce two, two-fifty a day.

8 Q So somewhere between four and five hundred a  
9 day easy?

10 A There's eight floors I believe.

11 Q And each floor did two to two-fifty?

12 A Yes. We all had our own spot. There was a  
13 table approximately this big.

14 Q So you sat at a conference table?

15 A No, we didn't sit at it. We just piled our  
16 files there.

17 MS. EDWARDS: For the record, the table is  
18 approximately ten feet long by three feet wide.

19 THE WITNESS: Correct.

20 MS. EDWARDS: Would be piled.

21 THE WITNESS: Correct.

22 BY MS. CLARKSON:

23 Q With files ready for assignment signatures and  
24 notaries and witnesses?

25 A Correct, yes.

28

1 Q Where would these files go then at that point?

2 A Then we would get an email saying come get  
3 your files, they've been signed by Cheryl.

4 Q So this was an assignment signing table?

5 A Correct. Assignments or Affidavit A's that  
6 she was signing.

7 Q What's an Affidavit A?

8 A The indebtedness affidavit.

9 Q Okay.

10 A I think that's all Cheryl signed for. I think  
11 Beth signed for the rest. There's your Exhibit E's. We  
12 had different exhibits. That's how they signed them.  
13 When Cheryl was out of the office Tammie would sign them

14 or Beth would go sign them.

15 Q Beth would sign but it would say Cheryl

16 Samons?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And Beth would be the signer?

19 A Correct.

20 Q Or Tammie Sweat?

21 A Right. They were located on different floors.

22 The GMAC team was on the fifth floor. Beth Cerni would

23 sign for the entire GMAC. If Cheryl had already gone to

24 the table and signed everything and you needed to sign

25 something to get it out you would go to one of them to

29

1 sign it immediately.

2 Q Then these assignments would go where?

3 A In the file.

4 Q Would they ever be sent to the recorder's

5 office?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And they were recorded?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And when you got them back from the recorder's

10 office would they be filed in court?



11 A They were supposed to be. I wasn't in court  
12 to know them. We sent them out occasionally to be  
13 recorded. It became a more stiffer practice after I  
14 guess there was a problem where the notary date didn't  
15 match the date of the assignment being initiated. There  
16 were basically three dates on there. The dates were all  
17 different.

18 Q Right.

19 A So at that point there was a huge meeting in  
20 the building by Beverly McComas and Miriam Mendieta who  
21 were the controlling attorneys there. Basically we were  
22 told if anyone sent out an assignment with the dates not  
23 being the same on them that they would be fired  
24 immediately.

25 Q Why would the dates on the other ones have

30

1 been three different dates? What would cause that?

2 A Poor practice, not paying attention, not  
3 knowing that it was supposed to be that way from the  
4 initiation. Basically they didn't train us to do it.  
5 You have people just typing in. Their being honest and  
6 typing in this date as the date as being assigned but it  
7 was executed six months ago. The dates would be

8 different for that. The issue became then the notary  
9 would sign it tomorrow and date it tomorrow.

10 Q So those attorneys knew this was going on?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Can you give me the names of the attorneys  
13 that knew?

14 A Every attorney in the firm.

15 Q What do you mean every attorney in the firm?

16 A Well, Beverly McComas.

17 Q Can you spell that, please.

18 A M-C-C-O-M-A-S, I believe and Miriam Mendieta  
19 were the controlling attorneys.

20 Q They were the controlling attorneys?

21 A Correct. They controlled the attorneys and  
22 Cheryl controlled the paralegals and anybody else.

23 Q Okay.

24 A So they would inform the attorneys what they  
25 wanted. They happened to be at the meeting for the

1 assignments. They pulled us in by team since there were  
2 so many of us and told us this is what it needs to be.  
3 They got in trouble for it and this is what needs to be  
4 happening now. Make sure that the date that it was

5 supposed to be executed is the same date that you're  
6 signing it even though it could have been six months ago  
7 and Cheryl is signing it today.

8 Q But make the dates match?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Regardless of the date it is today?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Okay. And that's the same for the notary?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And the date printed on it?

15 A Correct.

16 Q And the date that's actually typed in?

17 A Correct.

18 Q Make sure they're all the same no matter what  
19 day it is?

20 A Correct.

21 Q The two lead lawyers, what was their title?

22 Were they senior attorneys?

23 A No. They didn't really have a title. Most

24 people were just afraid of them.

25 Q Why is that?

1 A Because they were mean and nasty. They were

2 very mean.

3 Q In what way?

4 A They would demean you. They would yell and  
5 scream at you.

6 Q Condescending?

7 A Oh yeah. They would make you look like an ass  
8 in front of the entire firm.

9 Q What about the other lawyers that they  
10 controlled?

11 A They were just there to get by on what they  
12 were doing.

13 Q The other lawyers?

14 A Yes. Most of the lawyers had issue with them  
15 but it was their job.

16 Q Did anyone quit as far as you know due to the  
17 practices?

18 A I'm sure but they wouldn't come right out and  
19 say I quit because of the practices. I know that people  
20 had left because they were uncomfortable with the things  
21 that they were being asked to do, as most of us were.

22 When it got really sticky there were a lot of us that  
23 weren't here.

24 Q What does really sticky mean?

25 A They wanted us to start changing the documents

1 and stuff and doing stuff that we weren't supposed to be  
2 doing as far as service.

3 Q What documents did they want you to change?

4 A Manpower documents. A lot of judges started  
5 requiring, because of the Jane and John Doe issues,  
6 required that you have a military search for all the  
7 defendants. If you named a Jane and John Doe as an NKA  
8 you had to pull a military search on them. Unless you  
9 have somebody's social security number technically you  
10 can't pull a military search supposedly.

11 The program that we used for the program that  
12 we used, you could put in the main defendant's social  
13 security and John or Jane Doe's name and it would give  
14 us a military search saying that they were in the  
15 military.

16 Q You would get their social security number  
17 because the bank documents contained it?

18 A Correct. The lenders, the referrals had the  
19 socials.

20 Q Did you put the social in on everybody to find  
21 out their address for service?

22 A Not everybody. I personally did not do it

23 because I refused to do it. I wasn't going to falsify a  
24 military document. I was told that that's fine,  
25 somebody else on your team will do it.

34

1 Q What do you mean falsify a military document?

2 A Well, I'm using the main defendant's social  
3 security number on somebody else's name, not his name.  
4 John Doe and the main defendant was James, I was taking  
5 James' social security number and putting John Doe's  
6 name in there. I wasn't but that's what the practice  
7 was. The judges started saying we're not going to  
8 consider service completed until --

9 Q There's a military search?

10 A Correct.

11 Q So why wouldn't they use the right social  
12 security number for the right person?

13 A Because you don't have a social for an NKA or  
14 unknown tenant. They wouldn't enter a final judgement  
15 unless the military doc was there.

16 Q So you just used anybody's?

17 A Correct.

18 Q Did Stern know about that practice?

19 A Do I know if he knew personally, no. I can

20 tell you that Beverly and Miriam sent emails to the  
21 attorneys telling them that that is what to be done and  
22 if the paralegals would not do it then they are  
23 responsible for doing it. That wasn't an option.

24 Q So there were emails directing --

25 A Correct. Of course I'm not privy to those but

35

1 I was told by my own attorney because I told my attorney  
2 I'm not doing this. I'm not doing it. I refused.

3 Q When you say you told your own attorney are  
4 you talking about the attorney at the firm?

5 A No. I'm talking about my attorney from my  
6 team.

7 Q That's what I mean. At the firm.

8 A Yes.

9 Q Not your personal attorney?

10 A No, no, no.

11 Q The attorney you worked for? What attorney  
12 was that?

13 A Stephanie Burke.

14 Q B-U-R-K-E?

15 A Yeah. She got married and I don't know what  
16 her married name is. Stephanie Burke was my attorney at

17 that time. That's who I had that conversation with.

18 She is the one who told me that there was an email sent

19 and she couldn't believe that they had actually sent an

20 email saying that.

21 Q When the affidavits were created for

22 indebtedness who were they created by?

23 A Us.

24 Q Paralegals?

25 A Paralegals, juniors, yes.

36

1 Q Where did you get your figures from?

2 A We had sites we would get the information from

3 the lenders on.

4 Q Okay.

5 A They were just typed in by us based on the

6 information that they gave us. If we couldn't figure

7 something out Cheryl would help us do it.

8 Q What about your costs and attorneys fees?

9 A Those were standing, except for if they had

10 what they considered a litigated file.

11 Q A contested file?

12 A Yes. They would do a memorandum of law and

13 charge the litigation fees that were permitted.



14 Q Do you know what those litigation fees were?

15 A I believe it was \$175 for two hours is what  
16 they allowed.

17 Q What about just a standard non-contested  
18 foreclosure?

19 A Originally the fees were twelve hundred and  
20 then they went to thirteen.

21 Q What about costs?

22 A Costs were title searches. All that stuff was  
23 broke down. Probably somewhere about \$475. At one  
24 point we were putting postage in. Until probably June  
25 or July of last year postage was going in and we weren't

37

1 supposed to be doing that either. That was \$1,650 I  
2 think that we had to back out of most of -- you had your  
3 title searches, your GAP. That was on Exhibit B. On A  
4 the costs were there but everything was broke down on B.  
5 That's what they'd put in there.

6 Q Were these figures that they put in the  
7 affidavits supported by documentation?

8 A I didn't have an invoice for it. It was  
9 standard. It was automatically plugged into our  
10 documents.

11 Q You didn't plug it in?

12 A No.

13 Q Who plugged it in?

14 A It was just automatically there in our

15 program, yes.

16 Q So what you would do is get on and find out

17 much the bank was owed? Is that what you said you did?

18 You interfaced with the bank's computer or site?

19 A Yes. For the most part your UPB was put in at

20 casesum time.

21 Q Okay.

22 A As a paralegal it would be within our job to

23 make sure that the figures matched on the Affidavit A

24 and B before you actually typed out your MSJ, your

25 motion summary judgement. They were already there.

38

1 Everything just plugged in.

2 Q But over time it changes.

3 A Correct.

4 Q So how did it get changed?

5 A We would have got go in and change it but the

6 UPB never changes from the initiation of the -- in other

7 words when we get the referral from the lender, that

8 stays the same. What changes are the other costs.

9 Q What if a homeowner made payment?

10 A That was never there.

11 Q If that happened it was never reflected?

12 A No. There was instances where the UPB should

13 have been different than what it was, but again, that

14 was a business decision made by Cheryl based on where we

15 were at on the file. If we were ready to get judgement

16 on it she would just --

17 Q So there's instances that you're aware of

18 where the affidavit of indebtedness used to get the

19 foreclosure was incorrect?

20 A Correct.

21 Q And lawyers and/or COO of the firm knew this?

22 A Well, I knew Cheryl knew because as a

23 paralegal I would have to go to her and say we filed

24 this and it was this and this amount off and she would

25 just say just go with it.

39

1 Q So who is it that's signing these affidavits?

2 A Cheryl.

3 Q Did she sign them all?

4 A Again, the same amount of companies, yeah.

5 Beth and Tammie signed. Anybody who signed Cheryl's  
6 name would be those three.

7 Q All of these affidavits, were they like the  
8 assignment table?

9 A Yeah. They all went together. It was either  
10 assignments or affidavits on the table.

11 Q But these affidavits would be signed by Beth,  
12 Tammie, or Cheryl?

13 A Correct.

14 Q All signing Cheryl's name?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Were they ever read or just signed?

17 A They were just signed.

18 Q Did you ever see them just being signed?

19 A Yes. Sometimes we would just go home with a  
20 signature page because of the way we were told to do  
21 things. If you look at the Affidavit A's they are two  
22 pages for a reason. The signature page is on one and  
23 the costs are on the other.

24 Q And you just slap them together?

25 A Correct.

1 Q You said sometimes we would go home with

2 stacks of them? Is that because you signed?

3 A No.

4 Q So what did you mean?

5 A What do you mean?

6 Q Who would go home with stacks of them?

7 A Files?

8 Q Yeah.

9 A Well, I worked from home.

10 Q Okay.

11 A So any paralegal who had the right to work

12 from home would obviously take --

13 Q Take the files with you?

14 A Well, not the whole file but the paperwork

15 that I needed to type my motion or whatever it was that

16 I was doing that I needed to have. That practice

17 changed again before I left being another practice.

18 Q What was that practice?

19 A Well, I guess there was an instance where

20 Cheryl wasn't allowed to sign anymore for the

21 affidavits.

22 Q Why is that?

23 A I don't know that we were actually privy to

24 it. We were just told I believe there was a court

25 hearing of some sort. We were just told by Beverly and

1 Miriam this is the way it's going to be done. I think I  
2 want to say March 19th just because that sticks in my  
3 head.

4 Q Of this year?

5 A Of last year. From that forward anything  
6 signed by Cheryl was not usable because she got in  
7 trouble or something.

8 Q Okay.

9 A So what we had to do from that point, again  
10 the affidavits were still split in two pages, at that  
11 point we were supposed to be sending them back to the  
12 banks to be signed now. The problem being that a lot of  
13 times we wouldn't get them back or executed in time for  
14 the hearings. So we had what they called signature  
15 pages that Tammie Sweat or someone else would have in  
16 their possession. If we couldn't get it back from the  
17 bank executed in time we would just take a signature  
18 page and put it on the affidavit.

19 Q What was on the signature page?

20 A The signature and notary from the bank.

21 Q Were these documents photocopied or were they  
22 original documents?

23 A Some were photocopied.

24 Q How would you get that many from a bank

25 original? The bank supplied them to you.

42

1 A Well, what would happen would be like if I had

2 file A and that one didn't go to hearing because there

3 was something wrong with it and file B was going to

4 hearing but it was the same bank, I would take the

5 signature page from A and give it to B.

6 Q Oh give it to another file?

7 A And just re-execute this file.

8 Q Okay. That was common practice?

9 A Yes, after Cheryl couldn't sign.

10 Q Did Cheryl know?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Cheryl knew about all the practices because

13 she is the one who ran the office?

14 A She was the one who implemented them.

15 Q Were there any other activities or practices

16 over at David Stern's firm that made you feel

17 uncomfortable or that you were unwilling to do?

18 A I don't know how to answer that question.

19 It's a loaded one.

20 Q Take your time.

21 A Yeah. Some of the things that were done there  
22 just were not on the up and up.

23 Q Explain to me in as much detail as you can  
24 what those things were.

25 A I don't even know where to start with it.

43

1 Personal vendetta, work, their practices weren't nice.

2 Q I'm more concerned with their legal practice  
3 than with their attitudes.

4 A We had lost notes. That was another common  
5 practice. That's our Exhibit E's.

6 Q Explain to me about the lost notes, how that  
7 worked?

8 A Well, I believe Beth Cerni was the only one to  
9 sign for those but I'm not a hundred percent sure on  
10 that one either because they all signed for them. The  
11 lost note would be if we lost the note in-house it's an  
12 affidavit that you type up saying that the note was  
13 lost.

14 Q Okay. Tell me how those were generated?

15 A The same way everything was generated in that  
16 office.



17 Q Were there a lot of lost note affidavits?

18 A We had quite a few. More than we probably  
19 should have.

20 Q Did you lose them in-house?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did you ever find them again?

23 A Not that I'm aware of. The practice of the  
24 documents like mortgages and notes was really very  
25 disarray.

44

1 Q How so?

2 A Well, there were a lot of young kids working  
3 up there who really didn't pay attention to what they  
4 were doing. We had a lot of people that were hired in  
5 the firm that were just hired as warm bodies to do work.  
6 The training process was very stupid and ridiculous.  
7 The girls would come out on the floor not knowing what  
8 they were doing. Mortgages would get placed in  
9 different files. They would get thrown out. There was  
10 just no real organization when it came to the original  
11 documents.

12 Q So if the original note was lost who would the  
13 affidavit be executed by?

14 A Beth Cerni.

15 Q Beth Cerni did them all?

16 A She signed them. We executed them. We typed  
17 them up.

18 Q You drafted them?

19 A Correct.

20 Q She executed them?

21 A Correct.

22 Q She signed them?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Did she sign them all?

25 A As far as I know.

45

1 Q Did anybody have her signature as well?

2 A I never took it to anybody but her.

3 Q Did she sign them?

4 A Yes, she did.

5 Q Were they to be notarized?

6 A I believe so.

7 Q And if they were to be notarized how would  
8 they get notarized?

9 A The same way.

10 Q The same way as the practice you spoke about

11 earlier, just stamped?

12 A Correct.

13 Q Not in front of the witness? Not in front of

14 the signer?

15 A Correct.

16 Q These documents were then used as exhibits to

17 motions for summary judgement?

18 A Correct. The memorandum of law that we were

19 doing was also -- that says we're litigating the file

20 and the files never left the paralegal's desk. It was

21 never actually litigated in any way, shape, or form on

22 most of them.

23 Q Were most of the judgements default

24 judgements?

25 A Default meaning?

46

1 Q That the homeowner just never fought it. They

2 defaulted so you get your judgement?

3 A Not a lot of defaults were entered, no. They

4 responded. The problem is that the practice was so

5 large that there was never actually -- I had actually

6 been yelled at for trying to talk to homeowners on the

7 phone. You're giving them too much time. Start

8 working. I worked for hospice for twelve years before I  
9 went to David Stern so I just thought that there might  
10 be some kind of compassion. I would try to deal with  
11 what wasn't being done proper.

12       We were directed that that was not what our  
13 job was to do. Our job was to run the team and type the  
14 MSJs, get them out the door. Get the judgements  
15 entered. Everything was about getting the judgement  
16 entered because we have to report back to the banks. We  
17 had to do chronological things that were sent to them  
18 that were also obviously changed and fudged because the  
19 banks, some of them, are very unaware of what the  
20 process is believe it or not.

21     Q   What did you have changed?

22     A   It takes a hundred and twenty days for a  
23 foreclosure from beginning to end is what their standard  
24 practice is. Some of their files were three and four  
25 hundred days old because of the mishaps of going to

1 court and not having the proper documentation, not  
2 having the note, the mortgage. The judge would kick it  
3 back for militaries. That's when those practices would  
4 come in where it would just be do this regardless of

5 what was said. Just do it. Get it done. Get the file  
6 out of here.

7 Q Like sign the affidavit. Switch the page.

8 A Correct.

9 Q Have it notarized with somebody's stamp, we  
10 don't care who.

11 A Correct. Cheryl's big thing was moving the  
12 file. She didn't care how it got moved.

13 Q Do you know if attorneys got any bonuses for  
14 the number of foreclosure final judgements it got?

15 A Not that I'm aware of.

16 Q Do you know if lawyers got paid more if they  
17 worked on the weekends?

18 A As far as I know.

19 Q As far as you know yes?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Anything else at the firm, their practices  
22 that made you feel uncomfortable legally speaking?

23 A I was gonna say that's a loaded question  
24 again.

25 Q I'm not speaking of personality-wise.

1 A Not that I'm aware of. Their practice in

2 doing things the way they did was just wrong in itself.

3 Q This was on a daily basis?

4 A Oh yes. This was how we kept our jobs and

5 they were threatened if not. It was just a warm body.

6 They would produce and produce and produce. All they

7 cared about was getting the file out.

8 Q Did you ever hear of any of the lawyers talk

9 about the practices and being in fear of being

10 disbarred?

11 A Yes.

12 Q What was said?

13 A Just that they were in fear of what they were

14 doing and that they knew that they could get in trouble

15 for it.

16 Q They acknowledged it?

17 A Oh yeah.

18 Q They acknowledged it to you or did you hear

19 them acknowledging it to each other? Do you know who

20 these people are? Could you give me a name or two of

21 someone that you actually know said that?

22 A Do I have to?

23 Q I would appreciate it, yes.

24 THE WITNESS: Doug, do I have to?

25 MS. CLARKSON: Yes.

1 THE WITNESS: He's not even listening to me.

2 A I was friendly with a few of the attorneys.

3 There was an attorney that I was very close with. Her

4 name is Cassandra.

5 BY MS. CLARKSON:

6 Q Cassandra what?

7 A Rigaud.

8 Q Spell it.

9 A R-I-G-A-U-D.

10 Q She knew and she was scared?

11 A Oh yeah. Their jobs were threatened. Their

12 jobs were threatened. Like everybody else they have a

13 family. There's a few. Daphne is one.

14 Q Daphne who?

15 A Tako.

16 Q T-A-C-O?

17 A T-A-K-O.

18 MR. REGAN: What's the first name? Was it

19 Daphne?

20 THE WITNESS: Yes.

21 MR. REGAN: Thank you.

22 BY MS. CLARKSON:

23 Q Go ahead.

24 A I guess the attorneys that left the firm left  
25 for the nasty practices that were going on.

50

1 Q Their jobs were threatened if they didn't do  
2 it?

3 A Yeah. They would basically say this is what  
4 you're going to do or you can find another place to  
5 work, which a lot of them did because the practices just  
6 became overwhelming for everyone. The responsibility  
7 that they expected people to have was above and beyond  
8 what a human could actually do as far as case loads.

9 Q Were they paid well?

10 A Not from what I hear, no. I believe that they  
11 were very underpaid. I don't think there was an  
12 attorney there that didn't complain about the salary.  
13 Most of them would be what we would call newbies. They  
14 were just learning to stand in front of a judge, you  
15 know, litigate. That's why they stayed there. They  
16 would stay a year and they would just go because they  
17 knew it wasn't safe practice. They were newbies and  
18 they were well aware of it.

19 Q And they were scared?



20 A Oh yeah.

21 Q And they were worried about the possibility of  
22 maybe getting disbarred?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Did they as far as you know bring that to Mr.  
25 Stern's attention?

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1 A I believe that everybody was well aware of it.  
2 Miriam and Beverly were very stern and not nice. The  
3 people that were in power were very mean and nasty.

4 Q Did they ever think that they were going to  
5 get disbarred?

6 A No. They acted like they are above whatever.  
7 Basically they could do whatever they wanted which was  
8 the rule of thumb over there.

9 Q Regardless of what is required by the law?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Was there any reason for David Stern to shred  
12 any documents? Was there a shredder there?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q Did he use the shredder?

15 A Rumor has it that he used the shredder on  
16 several occasions, yes.

17 Q Did rumor say what he shredded?

18 A Documents that weren't supposed to be in the  
19 files or incorrect things that he was going. There  
20 would be other people privy to that. I was just a  
21 paralegal.

22 Q But when you say that you heard it who would  
23 you hear it from or how would you hear of it?

24 A The grapevine is very long there. When you  
25 have eleven hundred people working at a building like

52

1 that the grapevine is very long. There's a lot of  
2 things that are said or that are occurring in different  
3 departments that get through the office.

4 Q Right.

5 A Since I work directly under Cheryl there was a  
6 lot of people for some reason who thought that I was the  
7 person to tell a lot of these things to. I just  
8 listened. I don't really offer any information and  
9 never did. Yeah, there was practices where audits were  
10 coming in and we had to quickly run and get this  
11 straight or get that straight. It was mostly on the  
12 Fannie Mae files.

13 Q What would you do on the Fannie Mae files?

14 A I wouldn't do anything.

15 Q What was done to the Fannie Mae files?

16 A They were correcting the things that they were  
17 doing wrong.

18 Q Such as?

19 A Well, any practice that I just told you about.

20 Obviously the chronological orders of things. You can't  
21 lie to Fannie Mae. They'll find out, especially when  
22 they are doing an audit. There was a few instances  
23 where they were in the office and there were audits  
24 done. People were working overnight in the building to  
25 get them straight.

53

1 Q Did Fannie Mae ever find out problems with  
2 files?

3 A I am unaware of any of that.

4 Q Where did you work before you worked at David  
5 Stern?

6 A I worked for a neurologist. I did research  
7 for the FDA.

8 Q Did you work at any other place in between the  
9 neurologist and David Stern?

10 A Just mediocre jobs. I helped my friend with

11 his business or something like that. You mean have I  
12 ever worked at another law firm?

13 Q No. I wasn't asking you that.

14 A Okay.

15 Q Did you work simultaneously at David Stern and  
16 another job?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay.

19 A That was impossible. I worked a lot of hours.

20 MS. CLARKSON: Can we take a break for a  
21 minute. Do you mind?

22 THE WITNESS: No, not at all.

23 (Thereupon, a brief recess was held.)

24 BY MS. CLARKSON: (DIRECT CONTINUED)

25 Q Do you know Shannon Smith?

54

1 A Yes.

2 Q How do you know her?

3 A She works at the firm or worked. I'm not sure  
4 if she's still there. She did work at the firm.

5 Q Do you know what her duties were?

6 A She was a paralegal like me.

7 Q Do you know what her duties were?

8 A The same as mine.

9 Q Was she a notary?

10 A As far as I know.

11 Q Did you ever see her use her notary at the  
12 firm?

13 A No. We were on two different floors.

14 Q Was Shannon Smith in your group?

15 A No. She was with Homecomings I believe. She  
16 would have been on the fifth floor.

17 Q She admits in a deposition that she took that  
18 she signed assignments. Were you aware of that?

19 A Yes. I think the whole firm was aware of  
20 that.

21 Q How was it the whole firm be aware of that?

22 A Everybody knew about the deposition where she  
23 had changed the dates on the assignments I think three  
24 or four times or so or the dates were different on it.

25 There was, again, the rumor mill.

1 Q Did you ever hear of any rumors that Shannon  
2 Smith was also signing as Cheryl Samons?

3 A No.

4 Q You did not know that she may have altered her

5 signature?

6 A May have, yes, but I was not aware that she  
7 was doing it.

8 Q Did you hear it?

9 A I heard it. Anybody in the firm heard about  
10 that whole instance.

11 Q Why don't you explain it to me what you heard.

12 A Because it's not my team, it's on a separate  
13 floor, I really stayed to myself. It was just gossip.

14 Q What did you hear?

15 A Just that there was a document that she turned  
16 in that was changed a few different times in front of a  
17 judge in Hillsborough County if I'm not mistaken, if my  
18 memory recalls me correctly and that she signed  
19 something. I suppose they were saying she signed  
20 Cheryl's name or Cheryl was saying she signed her name.  
21 That was it really. We were told not to discuss it.  
22 Again, if we were caught discussing things like that you  
23 would be terminated.

24 Q Beth Cerni was a paralegal, correct?

25 A I believe so.

1 Q Did you see her practicing law?

2 A She was the team lead. She was a manager in  
3 the building on the fifth floor.

4 Q What else was on the fifth floor?

5 A GMAC and Homecomings I believe were the only  
6 ones that occupied the fifth floor if I'm not mistaking.

7 Beth Cerni was -- GMAC was her team when she started  
8 with Stern many years ago.

9 MR. REGAN: Are you saying GMAC like G-M-A-C?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 MR. REGAN: Like General Motors Acceptance  
12 Corporation?

13 THE WITNESS: Correct.

14 MR. REGAN: Thank you.

15 BY MS. EDWARDS:

16 Q Did you ever hear any conversations in the  
17 firm about any particular judges or jurisdictions where  
18 there were problems with getting the foreclosures?

19 A Oh yeah. We knew what judges were what. We  
20 had what they called a bible. The bible contained every  
21 bit of information about every judge and what they were  
22 looking for. It made our job twice as difficult because  
23 you had to go by the bible.

24 Q Was there any arrangements made with any  
25 particular judges or jurisdictions on how the

1 foreclosures would be handled by Stern's office?

2 A I believe the only one that I'm well aware of  
3 that is just a large cluster of something is Lee County  
4 judges. They used to do what they call a rocket docket.  
5 It was five hundred files from our firm every other  
6 Friday.

7 BY MS. CLARKSON:

8 Q Would be filed or heard?

9 A Would be heard.

10 BY MS. EDWARDS:

11 Q Who arranged that?

12 A As far as I know Cheryl Samons and the county.

13 Q Cheryl and who?

14 A The county. I wasn't privy to that.

15 Q So how would you find out that --

16 A Because they would call them rocket dockets.

17 We had to have five hundred files from our firm prepared

18 for it. Originally we had an in-house counsel there or

19 local counsel there. Then it went to our attorneys.

20 Two attorneys from our firm or two attorneys per floor

21 would go over to Lee County and do the rocket docket.

22 We would load their files into the car.



23 Q So that was coordinated with Cheryl with the  
24 county?

25 A As far as I know. They were put on the rocket

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1 docket basically.

2 Q What I'm trying to find out was is Cheryl  
3 involved in the implementation of the rocket docket?

4 A Oh yes. She was responsible for all  
5 scheduling anywhere. Her Beverly McComas and Miriam  
6 Mendieta.

7 Q How was it that the rocket docket was created?

8 A I am not sure. That's what they called it.  
9 They were going to do a rocket docket. Lee County I  
10 guess was our largest county for foreclosures at the  
11 time.

12 Q Were you aware of her having any meetings with  
13 anyone there to implement or to come up with the idea to  
14 come up with the rocket docket?

15 A No, I'm not aware of any meetings?

16 Q Do you know who did that?

17 A My guess would be Miriam Mendieta and Beverly  
18 McComas because they were the controlling attorneys.

19 Q They would have been involved in the original

20 implementation of the rocket docket?

21 A Correct. They are the one who assigned  
22 attorneys. They're pretty much the ones that oversaw  
23 the scheduling for that. There's a few counties that we  
24 would just send over a sheet of paper that would have  
25 your unpaid, who was defaulted, when it was defaulted,

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1 and basic information. From what my understanding is  
2 when you go over there, as long as there was no response  
3 from anybody and it isn't contested the judges would  
4 just sign off on them as far as I know.

5 Q The final judgements?

6 A Correct.

7 Q So there would be a faxed over document with  
8 the basic information about the foreclosure on it and if  
9 nobody appeared in opposition the judges would sign the  
10 final judgements?

11 A Correct.

12 Q This was in Lee County?

13 A Yes. It wasn't faxed. The attorneys brought  
14 them. So if the judge wanted to look at something the  
15 files were there. That's my assumption. The files were  
16 just loaded into these attorneys cars and they were

17 elected to drive over there. It wasn't a choice. They  
18 picked which attorneys were going to go each week or  
19 ever other week whenever they decided to do the rocket  
20 docket.

21 Q And they decided that it would be five hundred  
22 that would be handled?

23 A It was five hundred from our firm, yes.

24 Q Was it also other firms?

25 A As far as I know. I'm not privy to that

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1 information. I didn't work with other firms.

2 Q Were you aware of comparable practices to  
3 those you have just described with any other law firms  
4 in Florida?

5 A No. It wasn't something I discussed about  
6 other firms.

7 Q Are you aware of any payments that were made  
8 by David Stern's firm to any companies as a result of  
9 receiving the referrals of the foreclosure cases?

10 A Not that I'm aware of. I know that one  
11 particular bank that we dealt with, which was Aurora  
12 Leman Brothers, he had his own employees there in  
13 Aurora.

14 Q For that purpose?

15 A That was not something we knew. There's four  
16 employees that are there. I would have to look through  
17 some documents for their names. They worked for Aurora  
18 and were paid by David Stern if that makes sense. They  
19 worked in Aurora's building, ALS, but they were paid by  
20 David Stern to be there.

21 Q But you don't know what they did?

22 A It was to oversee the practice that was going  
23 on. I could tell you that Aurora did not want them  
24 there. They were not very nice to them. They constantly  
25 had issues with them. It was more or less for us like

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1 if we needed assignments to get them like that; whatever  
2 we needed to get them back immediately. Aurora was his  
3 baby and always has been.

4 Q Why is that?

5 A I believe that's what started his company.

6 Q So he had his own employees in Aurora?

7 A He went over there and hired them. They lived  
8 there. I think it's in Minneapolis. I'm not sure.

9 Q So David Stern personally went there and hired  
10 people to work in Aurora?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And you don't know what they did there but  
13 they were paid by David?

14 A Yes. They were paid by David. They had an  
15 email address by David.

16 Q So obviously knew exactly what they were  
17 doing?

18 A Oh yes.

19 Q Mr. Stern?

20 A Yes.

21 Q If you needed to get assignments quickly  
22 that's who you contacted?

23 A Correct.

24 Q What did they do?

25 A I don't know what they did on their end. All

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1 I know is I would have it by the end of the day.

2 Q An original?

3 A No, because it would come from there. It  
4 would be something that they would scan over to us or  
5 send to us or get to us overnight.

6 Q How would that have been done differently than  
7 the assignment process that you just described to us?

8 A I don't know how they did it. I just know if  
9 we needed anything that had to do with Aurora we would  
10 call there and speak to those people. Aurora was  
11 probably our messiest client.

12 Q Why?

13 A Because it was never done right from the  
14 beginning so the files were a mess.

15 Q Why is that?

16 A I have no idea. I don't know. I know that it  
17 had changed hands a lot with paralegals and Cheryl and  
18 David. It was very messy. As far as I know that's the  
19 only company that I worked with.

20 Q Do you know if those employees ever signed off  
21 on assignments or any other documents that were needed  
22 for foreclosures?

23 A I don't recall.

24 Q Do you know the names of those employees?

25 A I can't recall their names at the moment. I'm

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1 trying to think of the manager's name. Its at the tip  
2 of my tongue but I can't think of his name either.

3 Q But there were people that actually lived  
4 where Aurora is?

5 A Yes, they lived there and they were hired by  
6 David. They were actually brought to our office. Since  
7 I was the team lead for Aurora I was introduced. They  
8 shadowed me so they could see what the process was that  
9 we had to go through.

10 Q Then they then went back to Aurora and they  
11 did whatever they were doing for David Stern?

12 A Correct.

13 Q Why would there be someone there if this whole  
14 practice is down here?

15 A I don't know. I couldn't answer that  
16 question.

17 Q Are you aware of any contacts that Mr. Stern  
18 or anyone else had with Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac that  
19 assisted him in getting his referrals?

20 A No, I'm not aware of any of that.

21 Q Are you aware of any payments that were made  
22 by Stern or his office to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac or  
23 anyone that worked there?

24 A No, I'm not aware of that either.

25 Q You mentioned that there was some vindictive

1 behavior that you observed while you were working there.

2 Was any of this having anything to do with any of the  
3 litigation in the home foreclosures?

4 A Meaning? Most of the meanness came from if we  
5 didn't do their jobs what they would consider up to par.

6 Q You're talking about the people that worked in  
7 David Stern's office?

8 A Yes.

9 Q That there was vindictiveness by personnel to  
10 other personnel?

11 A Oh yes. And by Cheryl. Cheryl would scream  
12 at the top of her lungs and embarrass you.

13 Q Was she very close with David Stern?

14 A Oh yes. Their families traveled together on  
15 vacations. Their kids went to the same school.

16 Q Would you say that any information that Sheryl  
17 had would probably also be information that David Stern  
18 had?

19 A Oh yes.

20 Q Do you think there's any way that David Stern  
21 did not know the procedures you just described that  
22 Cheryl Samons was involved in?

23 A No, there's no way.

24 Q Did anyone express any concern when you left  
25 the office that you had observed things that were not



1 proper going on there?

2 A Yes. When I left the office they came to my  
3 desk to --

4 Q Why who?

5 A HR. Alicia Rhonda who I believe was the one  
6 partaking in changing files. She's the HR manager  
7 there. She would come to your desk and go through every  
8 single document that you were removing from your desk.  
9 They wouldn't allow you to take anything. Not even a  
10 sticky if it had something to do with the firm on it.

11 Q Did you have any documents that belonged to  
12 the firm when you left?

13 A I did.

14 Q What sort of documents did you have?

15 A I had numerous amounts of documents.

16 Q What type of documents were they?

17 A I didn't take them when I left. I obviously  
18 had already had them. What we've spoke about and the  
19 practice, emails, and stuff like that.

20 Q So they were documents that essentially  
21 documented what you've just described?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Do you have copies of those emails now?

24 A No, I don't.

25 Q Do you have them in your possession?

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1 A No, I don't.

2 Q Where are they?

3 A They are with my attorney.

4 Q Who are the emails from?

5 A The majority of them are from Cheryl. Some of  
6 them are from a gentleman named David Vargas which is an  
7 issue that I had. He was one of the mean people.

8 Q Were those emails sent to you or other people?

9 A No, they were sent to me. They all came from  
10 my email address.

11 Q What was the nature of those emails that you  
12 felt were important enough that you felt that you should  
13 keep them?

14 A Just the practices that weren't fair. The  
15 things that they were doing that weren't -- the things  
16 that were wrong.

17 Q Are those the things you've described so far?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And those emails document that?

20 A The emails pertain to different things:  
21 Changing UPB balances more or less, the badgering and  
22 stuff, hearing outcomes. Every day there were emails  
23 sent from each county on what the hearings were and  
24 stuff like that.

25 Q Why would you have saved those?

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1 A It just happened to be something I had because  
2 I worked from home. There were documents I would take to  
3 go over my -- we had reports that we would run. Since I  
4 had such a large amount of files it was easier for me to  
5 do it that way. That's how I initially got them. It  
6 was part of my job.

7 Q What about the documents that you have? What  
8 is the nature of those documents, other than the emails?

9 A They were just what we discussed here today.

10 Q Examples?

11 A Yes. Examples are actually from files.

12 Q And so the documents you have are examples of  
13 what you described to us?

14 A Correct. There's also one thing I remembered  
15 that I'm going to tell you because I want to make sure  
16 that I -- the Exhibit D's were our attorneys fees.

17 Those were pre-signed by the attorneys prior to us  
18 getting them.

19 Q Prior to you getting what?

20 A In other words, prior to them going out on the  
21 file. The only thing we did was fill in the fee and  
22 stamp it.

23 Q So the attorneys were signing attorneys fee  
24 affidavits without figures there?

25 A Correct.

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1 Q And after the attorneys signed the affidavits  
2 were notarized without the attorneys being there?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And the fee amount was filled in?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Were there particular attorneys that were used  
7 for those?

8 A Richard Toledo I believe was one. Suarez was  
9 the other one. I'm not sure of his first name.

10 Q So there were two?

11 A Yes. One did hearings in one county and one  
12 did hearings in the other county. We couldn't use them  
13 in the county they did hearings in.

14 Q How much were they paid for those?

15 A I have no idea.

16 Q Were they paid for filling out attorney fee  
17 affidavits?

18 A I would imagine so.

19 Q But you don't have any knowledge of that?

20 A No.

21 Q If I understood your testimony about Cheryl  
22 Samons signing affidavits of indebtedness and other  
23 affidavits, these were all left on a table for her and  
24 she signed without even reading them?

25 A Correct.

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1 Q Was that basically the case in every single  
2 situation?

3 A Yes. Yeah.

4 Q You described that there was offshore  
5 preparation of the information that was put into the  
6 software that created all of the documents in the  
7 foreclosure action; is that right?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Did anyone review to make sure that the  
10 information being inputted was accurate?

11 A That I'm not aware of. I know that initially  
12 there was a huge problem with it just because of the  
13 education between the two places. Sometimes you would  
14 be in Cheryl's office and hear a conversation about  
15 them, which is how I happen to know about those. I  
16 didn't work in the casesum department.

17 Q Do you know who was hired to put the  
18 information into the casesum software?

19 A From overseas?

20 Q Yes.

21 A No. I don't know particularly who, no.

22 Q Did David Stern know about this?

23 A Oh yes. He actually went there. Everybody  
24 was aware that he went there.

25 Q He went where?

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1 A To the Philippines and to Guam. I believe  
2 there's another place. I'm just not sure of the name.

3 Q How do you know he went there?

4 A Because we all knew that it was going to be  
5 implemented; that our case loads were going to be  
6 getting larger. In casesums Cheryl had a rule that you  
7 had to have fifteen casesums out the door a day and if

8 you didn't she would fire you if it was two consecutive  
9 days.

10 Q And the casesum was where you were putting in  
11 the information that would come from the lender?

12 A Correct. We knew that our case loads were  
13 going to get larger because they were going to be doing  
14 this offshore.

15 Q Do you know if Mr. Stern was responsible for  
16 hiring those people?

17 A As far as I know.

18 Q Do you know anything about who was paying  
19 them?

20 A He was paying them as far as I know.

21 Q Cheryl Samons worked there on a daily basis?  
22 She was there all day?

23 A Yes.

24 Q How often was Mr. Stern there?

25 A He was there every day unless he was

1 traveling.

2 Q Did he travel for purposes having to do with  
3 the law firm?

4 A Oh yeah.

5 Q For what?

6 A To visit different banks or go offshore. Most  
7 of his travels had to do with the office.

8 Q Why would he be going to the banks?

9 A I have no idea.

10 Q He traveled to visit the banks regularly?

11 A As far as I know, yes. That's what we were  
12 told, that he was out of the office for this or that  
13 meeting. A lot of times they would come to our office  
14 too. There were quite a few meetings there.

15 Q Of bank representatives?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you know anything about what the meetings  
18 were about?

19 A No. Those were behind closed doors.

20 Q Whose closed doors?

21 A David Stern's, Miriam, and Beverly.

22 Q Were those the people that attended the  
23 meetings?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Was there anyone else at the meetings that you

1 know of?



2 A Not that I'm aware of, no. Cheryl was in and  
3 out of them I know.

4 Q Did anyone keep notes from the meetings?

5 A I don't know.

6 Q If someone of those people were at meetings  
7 who would you expect to be taking notes or keeping track  
8 of what was going on?

9 A That would be Cheryl.

10 Q You mentioned that there were business  
11 decisions on whether or not they were going to be  
12 changing the principal balances due. She said they were  
13 business decisions?

14 A Well, the email subject line used to be  
15 business decision. I have to come to your office for  
16 the file because we didn't do something we were supposed  
17 to do according to her rules. So we would go there, she  
18 would look through the file, and she would make a  
19 business decision based on where we were at with the  
20 file. We didn't question her on that. That was  
21 something you just didn't do.

22 Q So she would just tell you how it was going to  
23 be?

24 A Yup.

25 Q Now, you said that in every foreclosure there

1 were summons sent out to a Jane and John Doe?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Now, are you saying that there was one sent  
4 out whether there was even an issue of whether or not  
5 there was a Jane and John Doe involved or whether or not  
6 the people, the original mortgagors were actually living  
7 in the home?

8 A Correct. A return of service would be turned  
9 in to court saying -- if they served me at home and my  
10 husband, they would turn in also for Jane and John Doe.

11 Q So they would issue the Jane and John Doe  
12 summons whether the homeowner was actually living in the  
13 home and was going to be served?

14 A Correct.

15 Q So what you're saying, if I understand it, is  
16 that this was basically padded on to the summons to give  
17 them an extra person to serve?

18 A Correct.

19 Q Extra two people to serve?

20 A Correct. Every single file that ever left the  
21 office had a Jane and John Doe on it.

22 Q And so basically they were sending a bill for

23 another ninety dollars?

24 A Correct.

25 Q So the process servers got paid an extra

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1 ninety dollars for service of a Jane and John Doe

2 whether there was any legitimate reason to think there

3 should be one listed?

4 A Correct.

5 Q So, even when you knew the mortgagors were

6 living in the home there was a Jane and John Doe

7 summons?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Who paid them?

10 A I would assume David. I'm not sure who paid

11 or what account it came from.

12 Q Was there always a Jane and John Doe no matter

13 which one of the servicers were used?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Was that amount included in the affidavit of

16 service?

17 A Correct. Except for if the bible stated it.

18 There were some judges who got wise to it and decided

19 that you can't charge for Jane and John Doe. There were

20 other judges who would say I'm only going to allow you  
21 twenty dollars for service. So, as I said, the bible  
22 was our bible. We would go by that. If Judge Smith  
23 said I'm only allowing you twenty dollars for service,  
24 no Jane and John Does at all, then that's what we would  
25 put in there. If a judge didn't complain and nobody

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1 questioned it then it was put in here.

2 Q If there's properties were sold at a  
3 foreclosure sale and they were purchased by the bank  
4 would those amounts be billed to the bank?

5 A Sale was something I never ever -- I had my  
6 own sale girl, own sale department.

7 Q Do you know if David Stern ever purchased any  
8 properties at foreclosure sales?

9 A I have heard of a few.

10 Q How did you hear about it?

11 A Because the paralegal screwed up on something  
12 or another was what the word said.

13 Q Why is he buying properties at foreclosure  
14 sales?

15 A I don't know. I couldn't answer that. I  
16 don't know.

17 Q Were there any arrangements that he had with  
18 the banks that he could bit on some and not others?

19 A I'm unaware of anything to do with sales.

20 Q Why would assignments of mortgage been  
21 recorded at Cheryl's direction after final judgements  
22 were entered?

23 A Again, I don't know. After the initiation of  
24 the file we would record them. We would be sending them  
25 in with the final judgements. In other words, if there

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1 was a file that the assignment wasn't done properly some  
2 of them we would send the motion for summary judgement  
3 and the attorney would go to court with the assignment  
4 in their hands.

5 Q Okay. Was there any discussion about the fact  
6 that that was not the correct or legal way to do that?

7 A Not to me. I was just told to do it. If an  
8 assignment needed to be with the file it needed to be  
9 with the file.

10 Q Did anybody say that it's not going to be  
11 recorded?

12 A Not that I'm aware of. I didn't learn until  
13 actually the end of that that the Fannie Mae and Freddie

14 Mac guidelines state that an assignment of mortgage has  
15 to be filed with the mortgage and the note. I was  
16 unaware of that because I didn't work on their teams  
17 until the latter part of my employment there. So at  
18 that time when we were conveying to our client through  
19 VendorScape or Landstar or whatever it was for the  
20 files, when they would question why the lis pendens  
21 hadn't been filed we would say because under Fannie Mae  
22 guidelines you can't file unless you have the  
23 assignments of mortgage and the note and the mortgage.  
24 I was unaware of that until then.

25 Q And that was at the end of the time that you

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1 worked there?

2 A Yeah. It was only the Fannie Mae files that  
3 we did it on.

4 Q So, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac had guidelines  
5 that you could not record a lis pendens or an assignment  
6 of mortgage?

7 A You weren't supposed to be filing the lis  
8 pendens prior to having those documents. I'm not saying  
9 that that's what happened because we know that they were  
10 back-dated. Technically that's when I learned you

11 weren't supposed to be doing that, even though we were  
12 doing it and it was our practice. I was unaware until  
13 that point when I started working on that particular  
14 team.

15 Q Are you aware of whether anybody else knew  
16 that that was not the way that the foreclosure should be  
17 handled?

18 A Oh yeah. The team leads. Tammie Sweat was  
19 responsible for Fannie Mae. Beth Cerni was responsible  
20 for GMAC. There was another manager Jason something or  
21 another. I don't know. He was responsible for Country  
22 Wide and stuff like that. I was told by them. That's  
23 what they told me to put in Landstar or VendorScape. My  
24 assumption would be yes they knew.

25 Q They told you to put what in?

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1 A That the lis pendens had been filed because  
2 pursuant to Fannie Mae guidelines we have to have the  
3 note and mortgage and stuff.

4 Q And were the Fannie Mae guidelines that they  
5 could not file their complaints until they have the  
6 assignments of mortgage?

7 A Correct.

8 Q So Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgages did  
9 not have complaints filed until the assignment of  
10 mortgage had been filed to reflect the proper owner?

11 A Well, that was what the guidelines were but  
12 that's not what we did. They would back-date them if  
13 need be. In other words the assignments would be  
14 back-dated to say yes that's what it was. They'd come  
15 in and audit or we'd have to give them chronological on  
16 VendorScope or Landstar so we're just typing in what  
17 they want to see. It's not necessarily what actually  
18 occurred. That's what we were told to do.

19 Q At any point are you aware of Fannie Mae or  
20 Freddie Mac becoming aware that what was being reported  
21 to them was different than what was actually happening  
22 in David Stern's firm?

23 A I'm not privy to any of that information, no.

24 Q So there was never any screaming or meetings  
25 about those issues?

1 A Oh there was screaming and meetings. What I  
2 actually knew was going on or not -- Fannie Mae came to  
3 the building often. They were there because we would  
4 all have to be under strict dress code and emails would



5 go out that Fannie Mae was in the office.

6 Q When you talked about the fact that there were  
7 ex-parte motions to substitute plaintiff filed in the  
8 foreclosure actions do you know whose decision it was on  
9 the cases to send in ex-parte motions to substitute  
10 plaintiff?

11 A It was Cheryl's decision on any of them. Some  
12 of them we got the whole theory of when I questioned why  
13 we were foreclosing -- I've actually had tenants or  
14 borrowers call me and say well my bank was this and it  
15 turned over to this, why did you foreclose on this. I  
16 would ask Cheryl and she would say just tell them it  
17 doesn't matter. I would say well what is the case with  
18 that and she would say well it doesn't matter because  
19 the bank is buying it back and it's going back to Fannie  
20 Mae anyways so who cares. That was their theory on when  
21 you didn't file a substitution of plaintiff on the file.

22 A lot of them happened to be GMAC and Nation  
23 Star. Why they are the ones, I'm not particularly sure.  
24 If it got flipped from one company to the other, which  
25 happened quite often, the substitution of plaintiffs

1 were not done on all of them I should say. If we had

2 time and we had just gotten the file and we knew it was  
3 going to be changed and I was on top of my game with my  
4 files I would get it done. But if it wasn't done, it  
5 wasn't done

6 Q Who would tell you to send in the ex-parte  
7 motions and orders?

8 A Either Tammie or Cheryl.

9 Q What about if there was an attorney on the  
10 other side?

11 A Opposing counsel they didn't really care much  
12 about. I wouldn't get involved in that. That would go  
13 to my attorney.

14 Q Were you aware of attorneys sending in  
15 ex-parte motions and orders even if there was counsel on  
16 the other side?

17 A Again, I wouldn't know. I couldn't definitely  
18 say.

19 Q Just to clarify, you said between two hundred  
20 and two hundred and fifty affidavits and assignments  
21 were signed by Cheryl a day times eight?

22 A Well, I think there's about six floors. One  
23 were reinstatements so it probably was not on there and  
24 then one was something else. Yeah, at least that.

25 Q So you're talking about fifteen thousand a

1 day?

2 A Probably, yeah.

3 MR. REGAN: No, no, no. Wait, wait, wait.

4 Eight times two-fifty, that's not fifteen thousand.

5 I'm sorry. Two thousand.

6 THE WITNESS: Two thousand.

7 BY MS. EDWARDS:

8 Q So you're saying around two thousand a day

9 were being signed by Cheryl?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Or other people on Cheryl's behalf?

12 A Correct.

13 Q So Cheryl worked as David's paralegal before

14 he got into this foreclosure business?

15 A I'm not sure how that goes. One store here

16 and one store there. I actually had a conversation with

17 Cheryl about it one day just out of curiosity. She had

18 said that she started out as his file clerk and then the

19 two of them built the company together.

20 Q Do you know whether or not Cheryl got any

21 bonuses based on the number of files closed?

22 A I'm not personally aware of it but the

23 grapevine again says she did. There were a few people  
24 that got bonuses based on what they got done.

25 Q Do you know who they were?

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1 A They were team leads, yeah. For sales it  
2 would have been Vanessa Rijos. For the firm Cheryl. As  
3 far as I know Cheryl never paid a bill for anything.  
4 Her bills were brought to the firm and paid for by the  
5 firm.

6 Q You mean her personal bills?

7 A Yes. I'm trying to think of the team leads.  
8 It's hard to remember without like a list of their names  
9 in front of me. I know Vanessa was sales. There was  
10 Kadian Doir was training. They're all in a clique so  
11 it's just how they were. David Vargas. I mean they all  
12 ended up with new cars all of a sudden and things like  
13 that.

14 Q Are any of these people personal friends with  
15 David Stern?

16 A Yes.

17 Q All of them?

18 A Not that I'm aware of with the girls but David  
19 Vargas and Cheryl Samons are very close personal friends

20 with David Stern.

21 BY MS. CLARKSON:

22 Q Are you aware of any other inflating billing

23 other than the process by David Stern?

24 A In memorandum of laws there would be inflated

25 billing since the attorneys weren't reviewing it.

83

1 Technically that's inflating it.

2 Q They didn't review them?

3 A No. I did it.

4 Q What about titles, abstract searches?

5 A Those were just a nightmare. I didn't work in

6 the title department. GAPS were supposed to be done and

7 sometimes they weren't done until after the properties

8 were sold. The title department is a complete mess

9 there. There's things that are overlooked or not seen.

10 If you had a problem with title you went to a gentleman

11 there. Brad is his first name I believe. I'm not sure

12 of his last name. He was the title person. There was

13 one other lady who worked there also who wasn't very

14 nice either.

15 Nobody really would go to any of the managers

16 like that because you would get screamed at. It wasn't

17 even -- it would be what are you stupid? Why are you  
18 asking me this question? You were told to do this and  
19 that's what you do. Okay. That's pretty much how it  
20 ended up. With the title I know for sure was a screwy  
21 thing sometimes.

22 Q Sometimes it was not done but was it always  
23 billed for?

24 A Oh yes. It was always billed. That's  
25 inputted automatically into their system unless again a

84

1 judge says you're only allowed for a title to charge  
2 this much, this much or this much, they would back it  
3 out.

4 Q And they would put that in the bible?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Do you know of any instances or many instances  
7 where title was charged but not completed?

8 A Oh yeah.

9 Q Many or any?

10 A Any. Probably many but in my own team, any.

11 Q Okay. Do you know who they got the casesums  
12 back from Guam and the Philippines?

13 A I believe everything was done electronically

14 but I'm not sure, no.

15 Q Are you aware of who the bank servicers were?

16 A Meaning?

17 Q The servicers? Who told the attorneys what to

18 do?

19 A No.

20 Q No?

21 A No.

22 Q Did you take any other documents from the

23 officer that you haven't told us about?

24 A No.

25 MR. BRIESMEISTER: Mark Briesmeister here.

85

1 BY MR. BRIESMEISTER:

2 Q Tammie, you indicated you worked there from

3 approximately March of '08 to July of '09, correct?

4 A I believe that's what it was, yes.

5 Q What's your employment history since July of

6 '09?

7 A I've worked for a condo HOA attorney. I'm

8 currently unemployed. I've actually had such a

9 difficult time getting a job because I worked at David

10 Stern's office.

11 Q So you've been unemployed since --

12 A I was employed for approximately seven months  
13 and I've been unemployed since, yes. My employment  
14 terminated there July 7th of '09.

15 Q You also indicated that your work space was  
16 directly outside the office of David Stern, correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q Did you in the course of working there ever  
19 hear any conversations, meetings, dialog between David  
20 directly and either Cheryl or other employees that would  
21 indicate to you improper conduct?

22 A On a personal level or business?

23 Q Business dealings.

24 A No.

25 Q With regard to emails and documents that you

86

1 say you took from the business, are all of the emails  
2 you got either originated by you or you are the  
3 recipient?

4 A Correct. All of them.

5 Q You have no emails that would have been  
6 directed or the recipient other than you?

7 A No. They all came from my email account.



8 Q Any emails with David Stern in the chain?

9 A Stern was in most of them when it came to like  
10 hearings and stuff like that. If I'm not mistaking the  
11 copies were David Stern, Beverly, and Miriam Mendieta.  
12 As far as I know every email he got on his Blackberry  
13 because he would respond sometimes outside the office  
14 from his Blackberry.

15 Q Email or documents related to business  
16 practices in the firm?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And you indicated that all of the documents  
19 and emails have been turned over to your attorney?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You have no others?

22 A No.

23 Q How large was the book that you called the  
24 bible?

25 A Oh good God. There's sixty-seven counties in

1 the state? It was every county and every judge  
2 pertaining to foreclosures.

3 Q Did you make any copies of any or part of  
4 that?

5 A No. That was encrypted actually. Jason is  
6 the person who controls the bible. It was encrypted as  
7 far as we knew. I do know that they watched that and if  
8 you ever got caught printing it you pretty much -- it  
9 printed by accident sometimes but the documents would  
10 get shredded because just of the way it was set up on  
11 Word or whatever.

12 MR. BRIESMEISTER: That's all for me.

13 BY MS. EDWARDS:

14 Q Is there any reason that you would have to be  
15 saying things that are not truthful here?

16 A No.

17 Q Is there any reason that you can think of for  
18 anyone at David Stern's office would say that you would  
19 say things that were not truthful about what went on  
20 there?

21 A They could say a lot of things about a lot of  
22 people there and most of the people that would say that  
23 were the ones that were being compensated. But no.

24 Q Were there any personal relationships that you  
25 were aware of that might have caused problems within the

2 A As far as people in the firm?

3 Q Yes.

4 A Yes.

5 Q Could you describe that to us.

6 A Well, David Stern had quite a few little  
7 girlfriends in the firm. David Vargas and Cheryl Samons  
8 were very involved.

9 Q Are you talking about romantically involved?

10 A Yeah. I believe there were people actually  
11 fired for questioning it.

12 Q Who else was involved in those sort of  
13 relationships?

14 A There were boyfriends and girlfriends within  
15 the firm. The policy was that fraternizing wasn't  
16 allowed. If it happened you'd have to let HR know and  
17 they would separate you in teams. I mean you put that  
18 many people in one building you're going to have  
19 relationships.

20 Q Did you say also that sort of thing was going  
21 on with David Stern and other people that worked there?

22 A Oh yeah.

23 Q How do you know that?

24 A Because those conversations I was privy to.

25 Q Could you describe the nature of those and the

1 people involved.

2 A There was a few young girls that he was very  
3 generous with and purchased properties, cars, jewelry.  
4 They would go in and out of his office, get roses, be in  
5 there for two hours. I would hear the conversations  
6 with him and David Vargas in reference to taking them on  
7 plane rides and he was going to get in trouble because  
8 he's married and things like that.

9 Q Who were those girls?

10 A Christina was one of them. I'm not sure of  
11 her last name because there were a few of them.

12 Q Which division did she work in?

13 A There was another girl named Christina  
14 Dispersio (ph). The first Christina worked in I want to  
15 say Countrywide side. She was a very very young girl.  
16 Very pretty girl. She had a four-year old daughter if  
17 I'm not mistaking. The second that the firm was aware  
18 of it because there were plenty of times when Cheryl  
19 would go storming in his door and screaming at him about  
20 the fraternizing going on and the whole firm knows  
21 about it. Of course people talk, especially when your  
22 boss is doing that.

23           They removed her from the company. Just one  
24 day you came in to work and she was gone. There were  
25 people that were there that were friends with her. The

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1 grapevine is long and it would come back. Apparently I  
2 know his right hand Paula Beachman, which has changed  
3 now because she got married, had made a comment to me  
4 one time about I don't want to know anything, I don't  
5 want to hear anything because I've already been deposed  
6 one time before because of his sexual misconduct.

7     Q   Was he involved in sexual misconduct there?

8     A   As far as I know, yes.

9     Q   Did it involve anyone other than the two women  
10 that you've described?

11    A   I'm sure there were numerous of them but I was  
12 only aware of that because it was on the fourth floor.

13    Q   That was right outside from where you worked?

14    A   Yes. When that became a whole situation  
15 because -- how it was was David's Stern office and there  
16 was a cubby and then a cubby. The first cubby was David  
17 Vargas and I was the second cubby. So I would hear  
18 everything. He would always lean over sometimes and say  
19 you're not hearing any of this and I would just hear no

20 evil, see no evil, say no evil. The conversations were  
21 there. We were there a couple months and then we got  
22 moved up to the sixth floor, our whole team. We  
23 actually expanded and there was no more room in that  
24 particular spot. So after that I wasn't aware of  
25 anything other than Stern coming up and hanging out with

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1 Vargas.

2 Q So you would overhear conversations between  
3 him and Vargas?

4 A Oh yeah.

5 Q And this was the nature of the conversations  
6 you heard?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And that Vargas was involved with Cheryl  
9 Samons?

10 A That was just something that was known and  
11 never said. Like I said, there was somebody who said it  
12 and they got fired.

13 Q But you never heard any actually conversations  
14 where Vargas said that or Cheryl?

15 A Well, he made a couple of innuendos that were  
16 inappropriate. Sometimes when I was trying to learn

17 stuff from Cheryl and I was still in the training she  
18 would be bending over the desk and he would say  
19 something that was inappropriate about her. They would  
20 spend three and four hours in the office together. He  
21 was the only paralegal in the entire building that would  
22 sit there with the door closed. He would throw anybody  
23 out of the office and walk in there. You're guess is as  
24 good as mine about what's going on behind closed doors.  
25 That's about as privy as I was and that was too much.

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1 MS. EDWARDS: I don't have any other questions  
2 to ask.

3 BY MS. CLARKSON:

4 Q The only thing I'd like to know is how you  
5 left? What terms you left on?

6 A They terminated my employment and said that it  
7 wasn't working out. That was approximately two weeks  
8 after I refused to do the military documents. I was one  
9 of those people that just didn't believe in the  
10 practices. If I thought something was wrong I would  
11 question it. I think that they don't like that.

12 Q So you were fired?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Did you leave on a good note or a bad note?

15 A Good note. The HR girl was crying her eyes  
16 out when I left.

17 MS. CLARKSON: Okay. Thank you for coming in.

18 I think I'm going to have this typed up. Would you

19 like to read or waive?

20 MR. LYONS: Read.

21 (Thereupon, the deposition was concluded at

22 1:58 p.m.)

23

24

25

1 STATE OF FLORIDA )

2 COUNTY OF BROWARD )

3

4 I, the undersigned authority, certify that TAMMIE

5 KAPUSTA appeared before me and was duly sworn.

6

7 WITNESS my hand and official seal this 22nd day of

8 September, 2010.

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Kalandra Smith  
Notary Public - State of Florida  
My Commission No.: EE3599  
My Commission Expires: 06/23/14

1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 The State of Florida, )

4 County of Broward )

5

6 I, Kalandra Smith, Court Reporter and Notary Public  
in and for the State of Florida at Large, do hereby  
7 certify that aforementioned witness was by me first duly

sworn to testify the whole truth; that I was authorized  
8 to and did report said deposition; and that the  
foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription of  
9 my reporting of said deposition.

I further certify that said deposition was taken at  
10 the time and place herein above set forth and that the  
taking of said deposition was commenced and completed as  
11 herein above set out.

I further certify that I am not an attorney or  
12 counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or  
employee of any attorney or counsel of party connected  
13 with the action, nor am I financially interested in the  
action.

The foregoing certification of this transcript does  
14 not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means  
15 unless under the direct control and/or direction of the  
certifying reporter.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
this 22nd day of September, 2010.

17

18

19

20

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Kalandra Smith  
Notary Public - State of Florida  
My Commission No.: EE3599  
My Commission Expires: 06/23/14

21

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25

1 READ AND SIGN

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3

4

5 I have read the foregoing pages and except for  
6 the corrections or amendments I have indicated on the  
7 sheets attached for such purposes, I hereby subscribe to  
8 the accuracy of this transcript.

9

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14 Signature of Deponent

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18 Date

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IN RE:

3 Deposition of:

Date taken:

4

5 DO NOT WRITE ON THE TRANSCRIPT - ENTER CHANGES HERE

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16

17 Under penalty of perjury, I declare that I have read my

18 deposition and that it is true and correct subject to

19 any changes in form or substance entered here.

20

21 Date:

22

23 Signature of Deponent:

24

25