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Facsimile: (323) 965-3908 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE 12 COMMISSION, 13 Plaintiff, 14 VS. 15 JEANETTA M. STANDEFOR, and ACCELERATED FUNDING GROUP, 16 Defendants, 17 and 18 DARRELL R. DANSBY, 19 Relief Defendant. 20 21 /// 22 23 /// 24 /// 25 /// 26 /// 27 28 ///

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA WESTERN DIVISION

> CV 08-03164 RSWL Case No.

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 20(b), 20(d)(1) and 22(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b), 77t(d)(1) & 77v(a), and Sections 21(d)(1), 21(d)(3)(A), 21(e) and 27 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d)(1), 78u(d)(3)(A), 78u(e) & 78aa. Defendants have, directly or indirectly, made use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, in connection with the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business alleged in this complaint.
- 2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because certain of the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws occurred within this district, the entity defendant is located in this district, and the individual defendant resides in this district.

SUMMARY

- 3. This matter involves an offering fraud orchestrated by defendant Jeanetta Standefor that raised approximately \$18 million from nearly 600 investors throughout California, Georgia, and Nevada between 2005 and 2007.
- 4. From late 2005 to at least March 2007, Standefor made an unregistered offering of securities through her entity Accelerated Funding Group ("AFG"). Through AFG, Standefor targeted the African-American community by offering and selling securities in the form of investments in foreclosure reinstatements. Standefor and AFG offered investors these securities, in the form of investment contracts and/or notes, which centered on AFG's alleged purchase of notes on distressed properties. Standefor and AFG solicited investors through

word-of-mouth, testimonials by other investors, and AFG's now defunct website.

- 5. AFG and Standefor falsely represented to investors that 100% of their monetary investments would be used to cure the defaults on specific residential properties and in return, the investors would receive their initial investment plus returns of up to 50% within 30 to 45 days. AFG and Standefor told investors that the investment returns were generated from the sale or refinancing of the properties by the homeowners. Investors were also promised daily interest if their stated returns were not paid out within 45 days.
- 6. In fact, AFG and Standefor were operating a Ponzi scheme. Contrary to their assertions, investor funds were not used to cure the defaults on any residential properties. Instead, AFG and Standefor pooled all investor funds into one bank account and then used these same investor funds to repay the initial investments plus purported "returns" to other investors.
- 7. Standefor also misappropriated investor funds and used this account to pay for (1) AFG's overhead, (2) Standefor's personal expenses (such as her wedding, honeymoon, home improvements, cars and car related expenses, jewelry, and tickets to entertainment events), and (3) Standefor's new husband's "consulting fees."
- 8. Through their scheme, Standefor and AFG violated the antifraud and securities registration provisions of the federal securities laws. By this action, the Commission seeks permanent injunctions, disgorgement of the defendants' illgotten gains, and civil penalties.

DEFENDANTS

9. Accelerated Funding Group ("AFG") is a California corporation based in Pasadena, California. AFG purported to be a real estate investment company that specialized in investments in foreclosure reinstatements. Between approximately 2005 and 2007, AFG raised approximately \$18,000,000 from nearly 600 investors throughout California, Georgia, and Nevada in an unregistered

10. **Jeanetta M. Standefor ("Standefor")** resides in Altadena, California and is the president of AFG. From 2005 and 2007, Standefor used over \$1.9 million of the offering proceeds to pay herself and to pay for her personal expenses. Standefor is not registered with the Commission in any capacity.

RELIEF DEFENDANT

11. **Darrell Ray Dansby ("Dansby")** resides in Altadena, California and is Standefor's husband. Between December 2005 and June 2007, approximately \$121,000 of AFG's investor funds were transferred to Dansby.

THE FRAUDULENT CONDUCT

A. THE OFFERING

- 12. Between December 2005 and March 2007, AFG and Standefor raised approximately \$18,000,000 from nearly 600 investors in at least three states through its offering of investments in a program known as the Foreclosure Reinstatement Program (the "AFG Offering"). Standefor represented to investors that AFG purchased non-performing home mortgage notes from banks at discounted prices that were then made available for purchase by AFG's investors. Standefor's pitch was that their investments would help homeowners, who were in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure, stay in their homes. Standefor claimed she told homeowners whose loans were in default, but with adequate equity, that she could save them from foreclosure by bringing their mortgages up to date with cash from AFG investors.
- 13. Standefor also told investors that 100% of their investments would be used to pay off the delinquent mortgage amount in full on the specific property they were investing in. According to Standefor, the homeowner agreed to pay a "fee" for the use of investor money. Standefor told investors that this "fee"

included amounts to pay the investor returns and a fee for AFG's efforts that would be generated from the sale or refinancing of the home.

B. THE SOLICITATION OF INVESTORS

- 14. AFG and Standefor used word-of-mouth solicitation tactics, such as acceptance of new investors on a referral basis and testimonials by other investors. These investors were from California, Georgia, and Nevada and were largely from the African-American community. AFG and Standefor also solicited investors through AFG's now defunct website, www.acceleratedfundinggroup.net. AFG and Standefor further used "investor coordinators" to help AFG disseminate information about the AFG Offering and to handle distributing paperwork for the investments. These coordinators held meetings with their family and friends, and explained the AFG Offering, utilizing information they learned from Standefor.
- 15. In some instances, Standefor personally attended these meetings to explain the AFG Offering. During one meeting, on or about August 20, 2006, at a golf course attended by more than 100 people (including approximately 10 members of the Los Angeles Police Department), Standefor represented that (1) investors would receive a high rate of return in a short amount of time, (2) the investments were secured by a lien on real property, and (3) the investments were virtually risk free because investors could get back their initial investment at any time. Standefor further promised that if the investor did not receive returns within 45 days, the investor would accrue additional daily interest.
- 16. AFG also gave potential investors offering and promotional materials that were prepared at Standefor's direction. One document entitled "How to Structure the Deal" states that the investor will invest funds to reinstate a delinquent note for the distressed property he/she is investing in, and in return, will be paid profits upon the close of escrow approximately 30 to 45 days from the time the investment is made. The document also states that if investors are not paid within the 45 day period, investors would receive additional interest for each

day beyond the 45 day period until escrow closes.

- 17. Investors also received a payout chart promising returns from 6% to 50% per investment depending on the amount invested. Specifically, the 2006 payout chart states that AFG would pay investors returns from 25% to 50% within 30 to 45 days. For 2007, investors were promised returns from 6% to 25% within 45 to 60 days, and additional interest for each day beyond the 60 day period until escrow closes.
- 18. AFG and Standefor also provided investors with a document entitled "Q & A Foreclosure Reinstatement Program," which lists frequently asked questions and answers about the AFG Offering. This document states that the investment risk is minimal because a "deal may fall through or cancel, but the investor will get back their original investment."
- 19. Once an investor expressed interest, AFG sent the investor instructions on where to wire or mail the investment funds. Shortly thereafter, the investor received investment documents, including a document titled "NOTE STRAIGHT" and a document titled "REQUEST FOR DEMAND." Standefor told investors that the 'NOTE STRAIGHT" was an assignment of AFG's interest in the note on the distressed property. Investors believed that this document illustrated the amount of their initial investment and that the investment was sufficient to bring the homeowner's mortgage current. Investors also believed that the "REQUEST FOR DEMAND," which showed the amount of the payoff (i.e., the initial investment plus returns) was the document that facilitated the investors' payout once the property was sold or refinanced.
- 20. The AFG Offering was not registered with the Commission, as required by federal securities laws and regulations.

C. MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATIONS AND OMISSIONS

21. AFG's business was a sham, designed by Standefor to attract investors by presenting herself as a legitimate, experienced business person,

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especially in the field of real estate loans and foreclosures. Rather than using investor funds as represented, Standefor misappropriated at least \$17 million of the money entrusted to her. Standefor concealed her misconduct by using funds provided by new investors to make payments to existing investors.

- AFG and Standefor asked investors to either wire transfer money to AFG's bank account at Bank of America or to mail or drop off a cashier's check to AFG's offices, which would be deposited into this same Bank of America account. The vast majority of deposits into AFG's account are funds from investors.

 Jeanetta Standefor is the only person authorized to access this account and execute checks from this account.
- 23. Contrary to AFG's and Standefor's assertions, investor funds were not used to pay off the delinquent amounts on the specific properties in which the investors believed they were investing. AFG and Standefor instead used over \$12 million of the offering proceeds to pay existing investors. AFG also used offering proceeds to pay for salaries and fees to its employees, and \$121,000 in consulting fees to Standefor's then boyfriend and current husband, Dansby. In addition, Standefor used over \$1.9 million of the offering proceeds to pay herself and her personal expenses. Standefor used investor funds in excess of \$76,000 for her wedding expenses; over \$11,000 for her honeymoon; over \$170,000 for jewelry; over \$270,000 for cars and car related expenses; almost \$180,000 for tickets to entertainment events, and \$650,000 to pay a contractor for improvements to one of her homes. Moreover, in May 2007, Standefor raised an additional \$150,000 from one investor, much of which was used to pay for her May 2007 wedding to Dansby. Standefor also invited some of her investors to her wedding, including the investor whose funds were used to pay for part of her wedding.
- 24. Neither AFG nor Standefor disclosed to investors that they used investor funds to pay for anything other than to cure defaults on the investment properties. There are no funds left in AFG's accounts. Over 65% of investor

28 through 26 above.

funds were used to pay initial investors and approximately 25% was misappropriated by Standefor.

25. Further, AFG's and Standefor's representations that the AFG Offering was "virtually risk free" because investors could cash out at anytime were also false. Many investors have made repeated demands for the return of their principal investments, but these demands have not been satisfied. Standefor has stalled investors by falsely telling them that the delay in payment is caused by the timing of the close of escrow. In reality, there were never deals with any homeowner, lender, or vendor that could cause such a delay. In fact, the risk was great because, as discussed above, Standefor never invested in distressed properties, but rather used those funds for her own personal use and to pay previous investors.

D. STANDEFOR AND AFG ACTED WITH SCIENTER

26. Standefor acted with scienter. Standefor, in her capacity as an officer of AFG, participated in presentations to potential investors, developed the pitch to investors, and directed the preparation of promotional materials in which she misrepresented the use of the offering proceeds, the source of the returns that could be earned, and the risk of investment. Further, Standefor controlled AFG's bank accounts – from which she used investor money to pay prior investors, her personal expenses, and AFG's overhead. Moreover, when the scheme was falling apart, Standefor raised additional funds from an investor specifically to pay for her wedding. Standefor's mental state is imputed to AFG because she was the president of AFG and controlled AFG.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Unregistered Offer And Sale of Securities
Violations of Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act
(Against All Defendants)

27. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 bugh 26 above.

- 28. The defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, made use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or of the mails, to offer to sell or to sell securities, or to carry or cause such securities to be carried through the mails or in interstate commerce for the purpose of sale or for delivery after sale.
- 29. No registration statement has been filed with the Commission or has been in effect with respect to the offering alleged herein.
- 30. By engaging in the conduct described above, each of the defendants violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a) and 77e(c).

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES Violations of Section 17(a) Of the Securities Act (Against All Defendants)

- 31. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26 above.
- 32. The defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, with scienter:
 - a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
 - b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of a material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
 c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which

operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the

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purchaser.

33. By engaging in the conduct described above, each of the defendants violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77q(a).

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE PURCHASE OR SALE OF SECURITIES

Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder

(Against All Defendants)

- 34. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26 above.
- 35. The defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:
 - a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
 - made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a
 material fact necessary in order to make the statements made,
 in the light of the circumstances under which they were made,
 not misleading; or
 - engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- 36. By engaging in the conduct described above, each of the defendants violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.

1	PRAYER FOR RELIEF
2	WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:
3	I.
4	Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendants committed
5	the alleged violations.
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7	Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d),
8	permanently enjoining defendants and their officers, agents, servants, employees,
9	and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of
10	them, who receive actual notice of the judgment by personal service or otherwise,
11	and each of them, from violating Sections 5(a), 5(c), and 17(a) of the Securities
12	Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a), 77e(c), and 77q(a); and Section 10(b) of the Exchange
13	Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.
14	III.
15	Order the defendants and relief defendants to disgorge all ill-gotten gains
16	from the illegal conduct alleged herein, together with prejudgment interest thereon
17	IV.
18	Order the defendants to pay civil penalties pursuant to Section 20(d) of the
19	Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77t(d), and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15
20	U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3).
21	v.
22	Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity
23	and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the
24	terms of all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable
25	application or motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.
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VI.

Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and necessary.

DATED: May 14, 2008

Ann C. Kim Attorney for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission