PRESTON DuFAUCHARD
California Corporations Commissioner
ALAN S. WEINGER
Deputy Commissioner
JUDY L. HARTLEY (CA BAR NO. 110628)
Senior Corporations Counsel
Department of Corporations
320 West 4th Street, Ste. 750
Los Angeles, California 90013-2344
Telephone: (213) 576-7604 Fax: (213) 576-7181

Attorneys for Complainant

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS

OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of THE CALIFORNIA CORPORATIONS COMMISSIONER, Complainant, vs. LEILA PALOMARES, Respondent.	File No.: 963-2166 ORDER BARRING LEILA PALOMARES FROM ANY POSITION OF EMPLOYMENT, MANAGEMENT OR CONTROL OF ANY ESCROW AGENT

The California Corporations Commissioner finds that:

1. On July 30, 2010, Escrow of the West ("EOTW"), an escrow agent licensed by the Commissioner under the California Escrow Law (California Financial Code § 17000 et seq.), submitted a Statement of Identity and Employment Application for Respondent Leila Palomares ("Palomares") indicating that Palomares was employed with EOTW as an escrow assistant. Palomares stated in her application in response to question number 6 that she had been convicted of burglary in 1998.

2. On November 2, 2010, Palomares was asked to explain the events that led to her arrest and conviction. In a February 17, 2011 response, Palomares stated "In regards to my arrest in 1998, I was working at Great Western Bank, now know as Chase and I was unlawful accused of

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signing for Atm cards. . . ." In a further response dated March 8, 2011, Palomares stated "I was accused of conspiracy with another person, which name, honestly I don't remember. We were both accused of forgery of credit card/ATM cards. I used to go with her to different stores where she would purchase different items at different times. And the restitution fine I had to paid was for items purchased prior to my arrest. She would make me sign for some. . . ."

3. The Commissioner's investigation into the application of Palomares confirmed that Palomares, on or about May 26, 1998, was convicted of three counts of Penal Code section 484f(b) (forgery re: access card transactions), a crime which is substantially related to the qualification, functions and duties of a person engaged in the escrow business, and is also an offense identified in subdivision (b) of California Financial Code section 17414.1. The court documents further disclosed that Palomares obtained the access cards (credit/ATM cards) through her employment at Great Western Bank and was almost nine years older than her accomplice, whom Palomares claimed made Palomares engage in the unlawful activity. On or about May 10, 2001, Palomares obtained an order expunging the conviction pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4. Pursuant to California Financial Code section 17423 (g), the court's order expunging the conviction is not relevant with respect to bar proceedings under the Escrow Law.

4. Forgery is a crime involving moral turpitude, which is substantially related to the qualification, functions and duties of a person engaged in the escrow business.

5. A conviction of forgery, whether or not it is expunger pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4, constitutes grounds under Financial Code section 17423 to bar a person from any employment, management or control of any escrow agent.

6. On May 10, 2011, the Commissioner issued a Notice of Intention to Issue an Order Pursuant to California Financial Code Section 17423 (Bar from Employment, Management or Control of Any Escrow Agent), Accusation and accompanying documents against Palomares and Palomares was personally served with those documents on May 10, 2011. The Department has received no request for a hearing or any other response from Palomares and the time to request a hearing has expired.

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NOW GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that Leila Palomares is hereby barred from any position of employment, management or control of any escrow agent. This order is effective as of the date hereof.

Dated: May 26, 2011
Los Angeles, CA

PRESTON DuFAUCHARD
California Corporations Commissioner

By_____
Alan S. Weinger
Deputy Commissioner

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