An Introduction to CARES Post-Forbearance Options

May 28, 2020

This session will provide an introduction to post-forbearance options for borrowers obtaining mortgage relief under the CARES Act. The program will review options available through FHA and the GSEs based on the most recent guidance and information available.

Speakers:

Andrea Bopp Stark, Attorney at the National Consumer Law Center
Tara Twomey, Of Counsel to the National Consumer Law Center
Geoff Walsh, Attorney at the National Consumer Law Center

*Webinar starts 25 minutes into the recording

Additional Material: Covid-19 Mortgage Chart

Reverse Mortgage Foreclosure Issues in the Covid-19 Pandemic

May 21, 2020

This webinar will discuss the home-saving options for reverse mortgage borrowers and non-borrowing spouses, including specific updates about Covid-19 related protections.

Speakers:

Sarah Bolling Mancini, Staff Attorney at the National Consumer Law Center
Odette Williamson, Attorney at the National Consumer Law Center

Recording
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Forbearance Options and CARES Act Requirements

May 14, 2020

In this session, we will go into more depth about the language of the CARES Act and the ways different government entities are implementing its requirements. We will also touch on how servicers are handling forbearance requests, and strategies to deal with servicer noncompliance.

Speakers:

John Rao, Staff Attorney at the National Consumer Law Center
Steve Sharpe, Of Counsel to the National Consumer Law Center
Tara Twomey, Of Counsel to the National Consumer Law Center


Toxic Transactions: How Land Installment Contracts Once Again Threaten Communities of Color

September 15, 2016

Speakers: Odette Williamson, National Consumer Law Center and Sarah Bolling Mancini, National Consumer Law Center

Land installment contracts, also known as “contracts for deed,” have long been a poor replacement for mortgage loans in credit-starved communities. In these transactions, the purchaser is required to take on all the obligations of homeownership, while making monthly payments to the seller, but can be evicted like a tenant for missing a single payment. Now, Wall Street-backed investors are using these transactions to turn a profit off the glut of foreclosed homes around the country.

In this webinar, we discussed NCLCs recent report documenting this trend, Toxic Transactions, highlight possible defenses to these predatory contracts, and give the framework for a proposed
regulation that would stop the abuses of this shadow housing market that is draining equity from communities of color.

*Note: Due to technical difficulties this recording is delayed. Video begins about 5-10 minutes into the first part of the presentation.

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**Discrimination in the Manufactured Housing Industry: An Inside Look at Abusive Lending and Collection Practices by the Nation’s Largest Mobile Home Company**

A recent article by the Seattle Times and BuzzFeed News has exposed discriminatory practices by the nation’s largest manufactured housing company, Clayton Homes and its lending subsidiaries Vanderbilt Mortgage and 21st Mortgage. The article alleges that borrowers of color were steered into higher-rate loans, rushed at loan closing, charged substantially higher rates, on average, than white borrowers, and subject to abusive collection practices when the loans defaulted. Customers lost their homes, thousands of dollars in down payments, and ancestral homeland put up as collateral to back the loans.

Speakers: Congressman Keith Ellison, Minnesota’s 5th District, and the authors of the report, Daniel Wagner of BuzzFeed News and Mike Baker of the Seattle Times for a discussion. “Minorities Exploited by Warren Buffet’s Mobile Home Empire”.
Discovery: Getting the Information You Need

Discovery plays a key role in mortgage litigation. The focus on this program will be on what information is available from mortgage servicers and other possible parties, but we’ll also touch on electronic (ESI) discovery and protective orders.

Presenters: **Kai Richter** (Nichols Kaster, PLLP) and **Tara Twomey** (National Consumer Law Center)

This Webinar is provided by the National Consumer Law Center and the Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF) of Chicago with a grant from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. For more information email Lauren Mahoney at lmahoney@nclc.org

Part 1: Litigation and Other Strategies to Help Reverse Mortgage Surviving Spouses

Advocates representing widows or widowers that were left off of a reverse mortgage loan taken out by their spouses have been struggling to keep foreclosure at bay. While the Plunkett litigation is ongoing, HUD has long promised a solution addressing this issue for all non-borrowing spouses. With the issuance of Mortgagee Letter 2015-03, it is clear that for most surviving spouses, HUD is extending only the “Mortgagee Optional Election,” wherein the mortgage servicer may assign the mortgage to HUD only if the spouse passes the Principal Limit Factor test. However, surviving spouses who have obtained a court order declaring the HUD regulation invalid as to them have been offered the alternative “Hold Election,” where the servicer can delay foreclosure indefinitely and then assign the loan to HUD when it reaches 98% of the Maximum Claim Amount. This alternative does not require a spouse to pass the Principal Limit Factor test. Hear from attorneys who are litigating these cases about crafting pleadings, litigation strategy, and opportunities to resolve these cases in a way that keeps widows in their homes. We will also explain how to calculate the Principal Limit Factor test in order to determine whether the Mortgagee Optional Election is a viable option.
Limiting Confidentiality in Mortgage Litigation

Confidentiality issues in mortgage litigation arise frequently. From the early stages of discovery through final settlements, lenders and servicers routinely ask practitioners and clients to keep secrets. But, do these requests go too far? Does the servicers protective order sweep too broadly? Are you putting yourself and your client at risk when you agree to confidential settlements? Are court records or trial exhibits being sealed from public view? This webinar will cover these questions and more as we look at limiting confidentiality in foreclosure defense litigation.

Presenters: Jennifer Wagner, Mountain State Justice; Leslie Bailey, Sarah Belton, Public Justice

Housing advocacy center, the National Housing Law Project, and its project partners, Western Center on Law & Poverty, the National Consumer Law Center, and Tenants Together (the HBOR Collaborative) provide free assistance to CA consumer attorneys on the states new Homeowner Bill of Rights (HBOR) and other state and federal foreclosure-related laws. The HBOR Collaboratives free services include education, advocacy, technical assistance, litigation support, a listserv for attorneys, and extensive web-based attorney resources.

The HBOR Collaborative also provides internet webinars and live trainings in areas throughout CA. Past webinar materials are archived on our website. To learn more about CA HBOR, access HBOR resource materials, and to register for this and any future trainings, consumer attorneys should go to http://calhbor.org/. Consumer attorneys can also contact HBOR collaborative staff for individual assistance with questions and cases via our webpage.

The HBOR Collaborative and its services, including this free training for attorneys, are funded by a grant from the Office of the Attorney General of California from the National Mortgage Settlement to assist CA consumers.

Client Concerns handout: Confidentiality Agreements: Should You Agree to Secrecy?
Who Owns the Note?: A Securitization Primer

Since the turn of the century, the majority of residential loans have been securitized with the mortgage loans being transferred numerous time as they move through the securitization process. This session will delve into the Uniform Commercial Code–articles 1, 3 and 9-to figure out whether loans were properly transferred between parties and who really owns the note.

Presenters: Tara Twomey (National Consumer Law Center)

This webinar is made possible by the Arizona Attorney Generals Office with funding from the National Mortgage Settlement.

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Saving Homes in Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy is one of the most effective tools for preventing foreclosure. From the automatic stay to the ability to cure mortgage arrears, bankruptcy can help save homes. But the power of bankruptcy goes beyond these two critical provisions. Any advocate working to preserve homeownership needs to know what bankruptcy can and cannot do for clients in financial distress. We will highlight the various ways in which bankruptcy can help clients keep their homes.

Presenters: Sarah Bolling Mancini and Tara Twomey, National Consumer Law Center

San Francisco-based housing advocacy center, the National Housing Law Project (NHLP), and its project partners, Western Center on Law & Poverty, the National Consumer Law Center, and Tenants Together (the HBOR Collaborative) provide free assistance to California consumer attorneys on the states new Homeowner Bill of Rights (HBOR) and other state and federal foreclosure-related laws. The HBOR Collaboratives free services include education, advocacy, technical assistance, litigation support, a listserv for attorneys, and extensive web-based attorney resources.

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