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11 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs*
12 *and the Proposed Class*

13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
14 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
15 OAKLAND DIVISION

16 MAUDER and ALICE CHAO;
17 DEOGENESO and GLORINA PALUGOD;
and MARITZA PINEL, individually and on
18 behalf of all others similarly situated,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 vs.

21 AURORA LOAN SERVICES, LLC,

22 Defendant.

Case No.: CV-10-3118-SBA

CLASS ACTION

DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF GLORINA
PALUGOD

Date: January 13, 2015

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Courtroom 210

Judge: Hon. Sandra B. Armstrong

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1 I, Glorina Palugod, hereby declare as follows:

2 1. This declaration is based upon my personal knowledge.

3 2. I am a named plaintiff and class representatives in the above referenced action,
4 along with my husband Deogeneso Palugod.

5 3. We initiated this case because we felt that Defendant Aurora Loan Services, LLC
6 (“Aurora”), our mortgage servicer, offered us an illusory and unconscionable “Workout
7 Agreement,” which gave us hope of a loan modification, but in truth and fact was merely a ruse
8 through which Aurora duped us into paying it tens of thousands of dollars immediately before we
9 lost our home to foreclosure.

10 4. My husband and I purchased our home in San Jose, California in 1987. We
11 refinanced the property in 2004, and again in 2007 for \$740,000. On May 22, 2007, we refinanced
12 into a note with Lehman Brothers Bank (the “Note”). The original principal amount of the Note
13 was \$740,000. Aurora was the loan servicer for the Note.

14 5. In early 2009, we were suffering financial hardship as a result of an illness in my
15 family and a death of a parent. This hardship led to increased expenses and loss of income resulting
16 in our seeking to reduce our expenses and seeking help from the creditors in reducing these
17 expenses, including the Note.

18 6. Beginning in January and throughout the following months in 2009, I contacted
19 Aurora, seeking review of their loan for possible modification. Aurora offered a Workout
20 Agreement.

21 7. The Workout Agreement was drafted in its entirety by Aurora and presented as non-
22 negotiable. I was given no opportunity to suggest different or alternate terms. I was not advised to
23 seek legal counsel or advised that Aurora would offer the Workout Agreement if I retained counsel.

24 8. The Workout Agreement required me to make an initial payment of \$2,466.68 with
25 the return of the executed agreement by October 1, 2009. Thereafter, I was required to make
26 payments of \$2,466.68 by the first of each month, including November 1, 2009, until January 1,
27 2010.

1 9. I was also required to provide certain documents and information to Aurora, which I
2 did; and under the terms of the Workout Agreement, I waived certain legal rights and admitted
3 certain liabilities to Aurora.

4 10. Aurora agreed in return not to foreclose for the duration of the Workout Agreement.

5 11. I made each of the payments as I had promised and provided all of the written
6 materials and documents that Aurora sought for evaluating my loan.

7 12. After the Workout Agreement term ended on January 1, 2010, Aurora asked me to
8 continue making the payment set forth the Workout Agreement while it claimed it continued its
9 review for possible loan modification.

10 13. I made additional payments of \$2,653.00 on or about February 1, 2010, and each
11 month thereafter until May 1, 2010.

12 14. Aurora confirmed that all required documents were received and, as late as June 17,
13 2010, told me that foreclosure was being reviewed for modification.

14 15. I made my eighth payment under the Workout Agreement (as extended by Aurora)
15 on June 1, 2010.

16 16. On June 29, 2010, I was served with a Notice to Vacate, indicating that my home
17 had been sold in foreclosure on June 24, 2010.

18 17. Prior to June, I received no notice whatsoever that the foreclosure process had been
19 reinstated and never given an opportunity to exercise any other cure option.

20 18. Importantly, I was not notified that I had been denied a modification or another
21 workout option and—lacking notice of Aurora’s intent to foreclose—was not given an opportunity
22 to cure through reinstatement or pay-off.

23 19. I was not informed by Aurora of the remaining amount of arrearage on the Note
24 such that it could be reinstated by me, and I was not informed of the amount required to pay off the
25 loan in its entirety

26 20. Had I known that Aurora would not notify me that I was denied a modification and
27 not provide an opportunity to cure, as promised in the Workout Agreement, I would not have
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1 entered into the Workout Agreement. Instead, I would have let the already initiated foreclosure run
2 its course, and would not have paid \$21,504 in return for Aurora's illusory promise of an
3 opportunity to cure.

4 21. Shortly after the foreclosure occurred, I contacted my attorney, Andrew M. Oldham,
5 to rescind the sale.

6 22. My attorney and I tried to work out the situation with Aurora amicably by offering
7 alternative solutions. However, its dismissive responses forced me to pursue legal action.

8 23. My attorney, Andrew M. Oldham, contacted Thomas Loeser, Esq. of Hagens
9 Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP, who agreed to become a co-counsel and they both took the case on a
10 purely contingent basis as a class action if I would agree to serve as a representative plaintiff. I had
11 never been a representative in a class action before. Other than this case, I have never been a
12 plaintiff in a lawsuit before to my recollection.

13 24. I decided to serve as a class representative because I felt that we were mistreated by
14 Aurora and that this would likely be the only way that we could recover money that Aurora duped
15 us into paying it for the illusory promises of avoiding the foreclosure.

16 25. Based on my communications with my attorneys, and our written agreement, I
17 understood and agreed that my duty as a class representative was to represent the interests of the
18 Class as a whole, and that I could receive no special treatment compared to other Class members. I
19 was generally informed of the possibility that I could receive a modest extra award (a "service
20 award") for my efforts and initiative as class representative if the case was successful and the judge
21 determined it was appropriate, but I was never promised anything and no particular dollar amount
22 was discussed. I understood it would be a modest amount and would depend on how the case
23 proceeded. I never asked for, was offered, or expected anything in this regard, except fair and
24 customary treatment.

25 26. I agreed to the proposed settlement based on the high dollar amount recovered and
26 the advice of my attorneys, which included information about the proportion of potential damages
27 that it recovered, their efforts to obtain it, and the like. I was never pressured to agree to the
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1 settlement if I did not think it was right. My motivation to sign the Settlement Agreement had
2 nothing to do with the possibility of a service award. I understood I had the right to support, object
3 to, or comment upon the proposed settlement without affecting the possibility of a service award.

4 27. I am satisfied by the settlement, I believe it sends an important message, and I am
5 proud to have played a role in achieving this outcome. My support for the settlement is in no way
6 contingent on whether the Court elects to grant me a service award.

7 28. I would, of course, appreciate and accept any extra award that the Court deems fair
8 and appropriate for the time and effort I spent on this case. I do believe that I showed initiative and
9 took on risk in bringing this case for the benefit of the larger class of persons affected by Aurora's
10 illusory and unconscionable "Workout Agreements." Getting involved in a lawsuit with a huge
11 company like Aurora is inherently risky even in the hands of good lawyers, and engaging the
12 lawyers had risks of its own as I barely knew them when the case began. I did not take lightly the
13 fact that I would be suing my former loan servicer, the entity that foreclosed and took away my
14 home. But I really wanted to step up and do something about what I perceived as unfair policies
15 and practices. In taking on the role of class representative, I was fully committed to seeing the case
16 through, knowing that it could involve a substantial investment of time and subject me to rigorous
17 personal examination and other potential legal ramifications that I really had no way of assessing.

18 29. I understand that the Court also considers the extent of my activities in support of
19 the litigation in considering an appropriate Service award, so I recite them to the best of my ability
20 as follows: I believe I met with Mr. Oldham in person a total of 10-20 times over the course of the
21 case, and also communicated routinely with him and/or Mr. Loeser by phone and email. After the
22 first meeting, I went through the process of gathering my loan related documents for their review. I
23 recall spending significant time going over these documents and other facts with them as they
24 prepared the case. The significant legal documents I reviewed and discussed with my attorneys
25 over the course of the case included the agreement I entered with the attorneys, (which included a
26 description of my rights and responsibilities as a class representative), the complaint they prepared
27 to initiate this action, motions to dismiss my case and my lawyers' responses to those motions, a
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1 second “consolidated” complaint that joined my case with another case, motions to certify our case
2 as a class action, the settlement agreement that I eventually signed, the class notice, and this
3 declaration. I was also required to prepare for and have my deposition taken. This took me away
4 from work unpaid. It took several days to prepare for and attend the deposition in Berkeley. I also
5 attended the settlement conference in San Francisco taking a day from work. In connection with
6 each event, I engaged with my attorneys by telephone and email as necessary to ensure I
7 understood what was going on and any decisions I was making or actions I was authorizing. I
8 otherwise communicated with my attorneys regarding the case status from time to time, including
9 over the course of the mediation that led to the settlement.

10 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

11 Dated: November 14, 2014

12 /s/ Glorina Palugod
13 Glorina Palugod, Plaintiff

