| 1  | CLOTHILDE V. HEWLETT  |  |  |  |
|----|---|--|--|--|
| 2  | Commissioner MARY ANN SMITH   |  |  |  |
| 3  | MARY ANN SMITH     Deputy Commissioner  |  |  |  |
|    | MIRANDA LEKANDER  |  |  |  |
| 4  | Assistant Chief Counsel AFSANEH EGHBALDARI (State Bar No. 250107)                               |  |  |  |
| 5  | Senior Counsel  |  |  |  |
| 6  | Department of Financial Protection and Innovation 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 315                   |  |  |  |
| 7  | San Diego, California 92108   |  |  |  |
| 8  | Telephone: (619) 610-2153<br>Facsimile: (619) 209-3612  |  |  |  |
| 9  | Attorneys for Complainant   |  |  |  |
| 10 | BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND INNOVATION                                    |  |  |  |
| 11 | OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  |  |  |  |
| 12 | In the Matter of: NMLS NO.: 1102575   |  |  |  |
| 13 | THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCIAL   |  |  |  |
| 14 | PROTECTION AND INNOVATION,  |  |  |  |
| 15 | ) STATEMENT OF ISSUES Complainant,  |  |  |  |
| 16 | v. }  |  |  |  |
| 17 | WILLIAM RASHAD JACKSON,   |  |  |  |
| 18 | Respondent.   |  |  |  |
| 19 | )   |  |  |  |
| 20 | Clothilde V. Hewlett, the Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation                   |  |  |  |
| 21 | (Commissioner), is informed and believes, and based on such information and belief, alleges and |  |  |  |
| 22 | charges Respondent William Rashad Jackson (Jackson) as follows.                                 |  |  |  |
| 23 | I.  |  |  |  |
| 24 | <u>Jurisdiction</u>   |  |  |  |
| 25 | 1. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over the licensing and regulation of persons and           |  |  |  |
| 26 | entities engaged in the business of making, brokering or servicing residential mortgage loans,  |  |  |  |
| 27 | including mortgage loan originators, under the California Financing Law (CFL) (Fin. Code,       |  |  |  |
| 28 | § 22000 et seq.), and California Residential Mortgage Lending Act (CRMLA) (Fin. Code, § 50000   |  |  |  |
|    |   |  |  |  |

- et seq.). The Commissioner is authorized to administer the CFL, CRMLA, and the rules and regulations promulgated in title 10 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
- 2. In January of 2020, Jackson applied for a mortgage loan originator (MLO) license with the Commissioner.
- 3. Under the provisions of Financial Code sections 22109.1, 22172, 50141, and 50513, the Commissioner brings this action to deny Jackson's pending MLO license application because Jackson pleaded guilty to, and was convicted of, a misdemeanor theft in 2019, and withheld information by failing to initially disclose the theft conviction, by failing to disclose an outstanding judgment, and by failing to amend his application to disclose MLO license application denials by other state agencies. As such, Jackson does not meet the minimum criteria to hold an MLO license.

II.

### **Statement of Facts**

- 4. To become licensed by the Commissioner as a mortgage loan originator (MLO), an individual must submit a uniform application form (Form MU4) through the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System & Registry (NMLS). The NMLS contains a detailed set of instructions for filing license applications, including answering the Disclosure Questions, and a checklist of items to be completed and uploaded by the applicant, who is fully responsible for meeting all the requirements of the license.
- 5. The Disclosure Questions in the Form MU4 must be answered truthfully and correctly. Further clarification in the Disclosure Explanations section is required for any "Yes" responses and certain "No" responses. All MLO applicants and licensees are required to promptly amend or update their responses when material changes occur by submitting an amended Form MU4.

### **MLO** License Application

6. On or about January 7, 2020, Jackson submitted an MLO license application to the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (Department) by filing a Form MU4 through the NMLS.

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- 7. A review of Jackson's Form MU4 filings dated January 7, 2020 and January 16, 2020, revealed that the only "Yes" response was to the Termination Disclosure Question Q(2), which asks: "Have you ever voluntarily resigned, been discharged, or permitted to resign after allegations were made that accused of fraud, dishonesty, theft, or the wrongful taking of property?"
- 8. Jackson vaguely explained the "Yes" response and stated, "[e]mployer discussion on company policy."
- 9. The Department subsequently discovered that Jackson has a misdemeanor conviction for theft from 2019, which he failed to initially disclose, and an outstanding judgment and MLO license application denials from other state agencies, which he failed to entirely disclose. 2019 Misdemeanor Theft Conviction
- 10. Jackson submitted and attested to two Form MU4 filings dated January 7, 2020 and January 16, 2020, in which he answered "No" to Criminal Disclosure Question (H)(1), which asks: "Have you ever been convicted of or pled guilty to . . . misdemeanor involving: (i) financial services or financial services-related business, . . . (iv) theft or wrongful taking of property?"
- 11. In 2019, Jackson was charged with First Degree theft in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
- 12. Court documents show that Jackson stole \$1,155.00 from his teller drawer while employed at the BB&T Capitol Hill Bank branch in Washington, DC in July of 2019. Jackson admitted to the theft to the bank personnel during a surprise audit.
- 13. In August of 2019, Jackson pleaded guilty to, and was convicted of, a misdemeanor theft for wrongful taking of property in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
- 14. Jackson was sentenced to six months of unsupervised probation, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,155.00 to the victim.
- 15. On January 21, 2020, Jackson submitted an amended Form MU4 disclosing his theft conviction. But Jackson did not change his answer to Criminal Disclosure Question (H)(1) to "Yes" until January 30, 2020.

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### Outstanding Judgment

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- Jackson submitted and attested to about ten Form MU4 filings from January 7, 2020 16. and February 20, 2020, in which he answered "No" to Financial Disclosure Question (D), which asks: "Do you have any unsatisfied judgments or liens against you?"
- 17. In or about February of 2017, Crouse Health Hospital, Inc. (Crouse Health) obtained a judgment against Jackson in the amount of \$12,302.25.
- 18. Jackson failed to disclose the Crouse Health judgment, or change his answer to Financial Disclosure Question (D) to "Yes."
- 19. In January of 2020, Jackson uploaded to the NMLS a letter about negative credit information and a page tracking an outstanding balance at Capital One. Jackson did not disclose the Crouse Health judgment.

### **MLO** License Application Denials

- Regulatory Action Disclosure Question (K)(6), asks: "Has any State or federal 20. regulatory agency . . . denied or suspended your . . . application for licensure . . .?"
- 21. According to the NMLS, Jackson submitted MLO license applications in other states.
- 22. On or about March 12, 2020, State of Nebraska, Department of Banking and Finance (Nebraska Dept. of Banking and Finance) denied Jackson's application for an MLO license because of Jackson's misdemeanor theft conviction and because he withheld information from his application. Nebraska Dept. of Banking and Finance determined that Jackson failed to demonstrate such financial responsibility, character, and general fitness as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that he would operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently.
- 23. On April 24, 2020, August 5, 2020, and August 17, 2020, Jackson's MLO license applications were denied by regulatory agencies in Hawaii, Washington, and Kansas for the similar reasons as the denial by the Nebraska Dept. of Banking and Finance.
- 24. Jackson has yet to submit an amended Form MU4 to the Commissioner to disclose the Nebraska, Hawaii, Washington and Kansas MLO license application denials, and change his answer to Question (K)(6) to a "Yes."

25. The Department created license items in the NMLS requesting Jackson to update this NMLS and disclose other state MLO license application denials and the judgment. Since February of 2020, Jackson has not updated his MLO license application.

### III.

# <u>Failure to Meet Minimum Criteria for Licensure – Financial Responsibility, Character and</u> General Fitness

- 26. The Commissioner must deny an application for an MLO license if the application fails to demonstrate such financial responsibility, character, and general fitness as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this division. (Fin. Code, § 22109.1, subd. (a)(3), Fin. Code, § 22172, subd. (a)(2), Fin. Code, § 50141, subd. (a)(3), Fin. Code § 50513, subd. (a)(2).)
- 27. As described in paragraphs 4-15, above, Jackson pleaded guilty to, and was convicted of, misdemeanor theft by stealing \$1,155.00 while working as a teller in a bank.
- 28. The misdemeanor theft conviction involved stealing \$1,155.00 from a bank while employed at the bank, which shows a deceitful and dishonest character.
- 29. Jackson also failed to truthfully answer the Criminal Disclosure Question and withheld information about his misdemeanor theft conviction in his Form MU4 filings dated January 7, 2020 and January 16, 2020, which further shows a dishonest character.
- 30. As described in paragraphs 16-19, above, Jackson failed to disclose his judgment in the amount of \$12,302.25 in his Form MU4 filings.
- 31. As described in paragraphs 20-25, above, Jackson was required to, but never amended his Form MU4 to disclose the MLO license application denials.
- 32. The theft conviction, Jackson's failure to initially disclose the conviction and disclose the judgment, and failure to amend his application to disclose the MLO license application denials show that Jackson lacks the necessary character and general fitness to operate honestly and truthfully, as required by Financial Code sections 22109.1, subdivision (a)(3), and 50141, subdivision (a)(3).

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33. As such, Jackson does not meet the minimum criteria for licensure under the CFL and CRMLA, and the Commissioner must deny Jackson's application for an MLO license.

### IV.

### **Withheld Information**

- 34. The Commissioner may deny an MLO license application if the applicant withholds information or makes a material misstatement in an application for a license or license renewal. (Fin. Code, §§ 22172, subd. (a)(2), and 50513, subd. (a)(2).)
- 35. As described in paragraphs 4-15, above, Jackson failed to truthfully answer the Criminal Disclosure Question by withholding information about his misdemeanor conviction in his Form MU4 filings dated January 7, 2020 and January 16, 2020.
- 36. As described in paragraphs 16-19, above, Jackson failed to truthfully answer the Financial Disclosure Question and disclose his judgment in his Form MU4 filings from January 7, 2020 to February 20, 2020.
- 37. As described in paragraphs 20-25, above, Jackson was required to, but failed to update his NMLS and disclose the MLO license denials in his Form MU4.
- 38. As such, the Commissioner is authorized to deny Jackson's application for an MLO license.

### V.

## **Applicable Statutes**

- 39. Financial Code section 22109.1 provides in pertinent part:
  - (a) The commissioner shall deny an application for a mortgage loan originator license unless the commissioner makes, at a minimum, the following findings:

. . .

(3) The applicant has demonstrated such financial responsibility, character, and general fitness as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this division.

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| 40. | Financial | Code section | 22172 | provides in | pertinent ' | part |
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(a) The commissioner may do one or more of the following:

. . .

- (2) Deny, suspend, revoke, condition, or decline to renew a mortgage loan originator license if an applicant or licensee fails at any time to meet the requirements of Section 22109.1 or 22109.4, or withholds information or makes a material misstatement in an application for a license or license renewal.
- 41. Financial Code section 50141 provides in pertinent part:
  - (a) The commissioner shall deny an application for a mortgage loan originator license unless the commissioner makes, at a minimum, the following findings:

. . .

- (3) The applicant has demonstrated such financial responsibility, character, and general fitness as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this division.
- 42. Financial Code section 50513 provides in pertinent part:
  - (a) The commissioner may do one or more of the following:
  - (2) Deny, suspend, revoke, condition, or decline to renew a mortgage loan originator license if an applicant or licensee fails at any time to meet the requirements of Section 50141 or 50144, or withholds information or makes a material misstatement in an application for a license or license renewal.

# VI. Praver

For the reasons set forth above, pursuant to Financial Code sections 22109.1, 22172, 50141, and 50513, the Commissioner finds that William Rashad Jackson fails to meet the minimum criteria for licensure because he was convicted of misdemeanor theft, he withheld information in his Form MU4 filings, and has not demonstrated the character and general fitness required under Financial Code sections 22109.1, subdivision (a)(3), and 50141, subdivision (a)(3).

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| 1  | WHEREFORE IT IS PRAYED that the mortgage loan originator license application filed |   |  |
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| 2  | by William Rashad Jackson be denied.   |   |  |
| 3  | Dated: February 15, 2022   | CLOTHILDE V. HEWLETT                                |  |
| 4  | San Diego, California  | Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation |  |
| 5  |  | Bv·   |  |
| 6  |  | By: Afsaneh Eghbaldari                              |  |
| 7  |  | Senior Counsel<br>Enforcement Division              |  |
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STATEMENT OF ISSUES