OCT 2 6 1993

# STATE OF ARIZONA

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

In the Matter of

CHARTER TITLE AGENCY, INC.,

Respondent.

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Docket No. 8219

ORDER SUMMARILY SUSPENDING LICENSE AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The Department of Insurance ("Department") alleging below that Respondent has violated the provisions of A.R.S. Title 20, and the Director of Insurance ("Director") finding that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED summarily suspending Respondent's Arizona insurance license, effective immediately, pending the proceedings for revocation commenced this date.

day of October, 1993.

SUSAN GALLINGER

Director of Insurance

## NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

Pursuant to Titles 20 and 41 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, Respondent is hereby notified that the Department alleges the following grounds to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew its insurance license, and that Respondent is entitled to request a hearing to contest said allegations. Such a request must be in writing and received at the following address within thirty (30) days from the date hereof:

# Arizona Department of Insurance Hearing Division 2910 North 44th Street Suite 210 Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Upon receipt of a timely written request for hearing, the Director will issue a statement setting the time and place of the hearing. If no timely written request for hearing is received, the Director will enter the following allegations as findings of fact and conclusions of law, and will order the revocation of Respondent's insurance license together with appropriate civil penalties and restitution as allowed by law.

The Department alleges:

- 1. Respondent is and was at all material times an Arizona-licensed title insurance agency holding license number 0788856, and doing business as such in conjunction with its business as an escrow agent duly licensed by the Arizona State Banking Department.
- 2. On or about October 25, 1993, Respondent was found by judgment of the Superior Court in and for Maricopa County ("Court") to have caused escrow monies delivered to it in the course of its business to be transferred to other persons or entities in violation of its obligations as an escrow agent.
- 3. In the above-referenced judgment, the Court found that Respondent's conduct as described above resulted in a trust shortage in the escrow accounts of Respondent in excess of \$1,000,000.00.
- 4. In the above-referenced judgment, the Court found that Respondent's conduct as described above was fraudulent, not

in the due and lawful execution of the trust purposes, and not authorized by the parties to the escrow transactions.

- 5. By a Consent to Judgment executed on or about October 25, 1993, by Thomas Eccles, Chairman of the Board of Respondent, Respondent has admitted that the Court's findings are true.
- 6. A true and correct copy of the Judgment, Order Appointing Receiver, Permanent Injection and Consent To Same is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 7. The conduct described above constitutes a record of misappropriation, or conversion to its own use or illegal withholding by Respondent of monies belonging to policyholders, insurers, beneficiaries, or others and received in the conduct of business under Respondent's license or through its use, all within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-316(A)(4).
- 8. The conduct described above constitutes the existence of a cause for which the original issuance or any renewal of Respondent's insurance license could have been refused, all within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-316(A)(1) together with A.R.S. § 20-290(B)(2).
- 9. The conduct described above constitutes the conduct of affairs by Respondent under its insurance license showing Respondent to be incompetent or a source of injury or loss to, or repeated complaint by, the public or any insurer, all within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-316(A)(7).

WHEREFORE, if Respondent does not request a hearing to contest the above allegations, or if after hearing the Director makes a finding of one or more of the above-alleged violations,

she may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew Respondent's insurance license, impose civil penalties upon Respondent and/or order restitution, pursuant to A.R.S. § 20-316.

DATED this day of October, 1993.

SUSAN GALLINGER / Director of Insurance

COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered this 26th day of October, 1993, to:

W. Mark Sendrow, Esq. Unit Chief Counsel, Agency Office of the Attorney General 1275 W. Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Chris Herstam, Deputy Director
Charles Cohen, Assistant Deputy Director
Sandra Lewis, Executive Assistant
Gary Torticill, Assistant Director
Jay Rubin, Assistant Director
Maureen Catalioto, Supervisor
Department of Insurance
2910 North 44th Street, Suite 210
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Lawrence E. Wilk 3200 North Central Avenue, 20th Floor Phoenix, Arizona 85012 Attorney for Respondent

Charter Title Agency, Inc. 3550 North Central Avenue #102 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Chris Crawford

# CERTIFIED COPY

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GRANT WOODS
Attorney General
SYDNEY K. DAVIS, Chief Counsel, #004041
Consumer Protection & Antitrust Section
W. MARK SENDROW, #005128
Assistant Attorney General
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Department of Law Building, Room 259
1275 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Telephone: (602) 542-3702

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

STATE OF ARIZONA, ex rel. RICHARD C. HOUSEWORTH, Superintendent of Banks,

CV 93 23756

Plaintiff,

NO.

vs.

JUDGMENT, ORDER
APPOINTING RECEIVER,
PERMANENT INJUNCTION
AND CONSENT TO SAME

CHARTER TITLE AGENCEY, INC., an Arizona corporation

Defendant.

Plaintiff, State of Arizona, ex rel. Richard C.

Houseworth, Superintendent of Banks ("Superintendent") having
filed its Verified Complaint and Application for Appointment of
Receiver, for Injunctive and Other Relief and for Order to Show
Cause alleging violations of the Escrow Agents Act, A.R.S.

§ 6-801 et seg.; and Defendant Charter Title Agency, Inc.
("Charter") having been presented with the Summons and Verified
Complaint and having waived the formalities of service of

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process; having been fully advised of their right to a trial and appeal in this matter and having waived same; having admitted the jurisdiction of the Court; having admitted that the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are true; and having consented to the following Judgment; the Court now enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment.

# FINDINGS OF FACT

- This action is brought under A.R.S. §§ 6-131, 6-137 and 6-801 et seq., relating to the regulation of escrow agents.
- This action is entitled to precedence over all other civil actions pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-137(G).
- Venue is appropriate in Maricopa County pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 6-137(F) and 12-401(17).
- Plaintiff is the State of Arizona, ex rel. Richard C. Houseworth, Superintendent of Banks ("Superintendent").
- Defendant, Charter Title Agency, Inc. ("Charter"), is an Arizona corporation licensed, and doing business as an escrow agent in Arizona. Under A.R.S. § 6-801 et seq. the Superintendent exercises regulatory authority over Charter, and this Court has jurisdiction over actions filed by the Superintendent under Title 6, Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann.
- As a licensed escrow agent, Charter holds all 6. escrow monies in trust for the benefit of the parties to the

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escrow transactions. Charter is required to deposit and maintain all escrow monies in a depositary institution doing business in this state, and to keep such escrow monies separate, distinct and apart from its own funds in an account or accounts designated as "escrow accounts" or some other appropriate designation indicating that the escrow monies are not the funds of Charter, pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-834(A).

- 7. On October 20, 1993, the Superintendent of Banks commenced an examination of Charter pursuant to A.R.S.
- § 6-122. The examination has revealed that violations of Title 6, Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann., have occurred.
- 8. Defendant caused escrow monies delivered to it in the course of its business to be transferred to other persons or entities, in violation of its obligations as an escrow agent under Title 6, Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann.
- 9. The above-described transfers of escrow monies have resulted in a trust shortage in the escrow accounts of Charter in excess of \$1,000,000.00.
- 10. The above-described transfers of escrow monies were fraudulent, were not in the due and lawful execution of the trust purposes, and were not authorized by the parties to the escrow transactions.
- 11. Charter has failed to maintain accurate trust general ledgers.
- 12. Charter has failed to implement dual control procedures over its escrow trust accounts.

13. Charter has failed to reconcile its escrow trust accounts since at least June 1993.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Defendant Charter Title Agency Inc. has violated its statutory duties under A.R.S. § 6-801 et seq., by not placing and maintaining escrow funds in trust accounts, and by operating in an unsafe and unsound manner.
- 2. The Superintendent is entitled to the remedies set forth in A.R.S. §§ 6-131(A), 6-137(F) and/or 6-833(B).
- 3. Grounds exist for the appointment of the Superintendent as receiver of Defendant Charter Title Agency Inc.
- 4. Grounds exist for the granting of a preliminary injunction against Defendant Charter Title Agency Inc.

#### JUDGMENT

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED appointing a the Superintendent of Banks as Receiver of Charter Title Agency, Inc. ("Charter") with authority to conserve, rehabilitate and liquidate same as he sees fit, and directing the Receiver to:

1. Collect, receive and take exclusive custody, control and possession of all assets, bank accounts, securities, business accounts, goods, chattels, causes of action, credits, monies, affects, books and records of accounts and other papers and property or interests owned or held by Charter or controlled by Charter by means of power of attorney or other agency agreement or placed under the control of the

Receiver by court order ("receivership properties") with full power to sue for, collect, receive and take possession of such receivership properties;

- 2. Conserve, hold and manage all receivership properties in order to prevent loss, damage and injury to creditors and others who have done business with Charter; to obtain an accounting thereof and to adjust and protect the interests of such creditors and other persons doing business with Charter, as approved by the Court;
- 3. Engage and employ deputy receivers and current or previous employees of Charter or replacements of same to carry on the day-to-day business of Charter, as the Receiver may deem necessary in the performance of his duties and responsibilities in discharging the authority conferred by this Judgment;
- 4. Engage and employ attorneys, accountants, appraisers and other persons to evaluate any receivership properties, as the Receiver may deem necessary in the performance of his duties and responsibilities in discharging the authority conferred by this Judgment;
- 5. Make such payments and disbursements from the receivership properties and incur such expenses as may be necessary and advisable in discharging his duties as Receiver, and present to the Court from time to time, an accounting of all such payments, disbursements and expenses;
- 6. Subject to approval by the Court, institute, prosecute, defend, compromise, intervene in, seek stays in, or

become a party to, such suits, actions or proceedings at law or in equity as may in the Receiver's opinion be necessary for the collection, recovery, protection, maintenance or preservation of the receivership properties;

- 7. Present to the Court, as soon as practicable, his written report reflecting the existence and value of all receivership properties, the extent of any liabilities, both those claimed by others to exist and those which the Receiver believes to be the legal obligations of Charter, and any further information the Receiver believes may assist the Court in the administration of the receivership. The Receiver's report shall include a recommendation regarding the best method for conservation, rehabilitation or liquidation of Charter; and
- 8. Upon reasonable notice to the Receiver, make the books and records in the possession and control of the Receiver available to investigators of agencies of federal, state or local governments for their inspection and copying in a reasonable manner as deemed appropriate by the Receiver.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, except by leave of this Court, during the pendency of the receivership ordered herein, Charter and all customers, principals, investors, creditors, stockholders, lessors, lessees, and any other persons, entities or organizations, which have or may seek to establish or enforce any claim, right or interest against Charter, except for the Receiver, or all others acting for or on behalf of such persons including their attorneys, trustees, agents, sheriffs,

constables, marshals and other officers are enjoined from:

- 1. Commencing, prosecuting, continuing or enforcing any claim, suit or proceeding against Charter or against any of its assets, except that this Judgment does not enjoin the filing of claims with the Receiver;
- 2. Commencing, prosecuting or enforcing any claim, suit or proceeding against Charter or against any of its assets, officers, employees or agents arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences described in the Findings of Fact above, to the extent any such claim, suit or proceeding would interfere with the taking control, possession or management by the Receiver of the receivership properties or to in any way interfere with the Receiver, or to harass or interfere with said Receiver, or to interfere in any manner with the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court over the receivership properties, except that this Judgment does not enjoin the filing of claims with the Receiver and does not enjoin the continuation of any suit or proceeding against Charter or against any of their assets, officers, employees or agents which commenced prior to the entry hereof;
- 3. Commencing or prosecuting or continuing to prosecute any suit or legal proceeding in the name of or on behalf of Charter;
- 4. Enforcing or attempting to enforce any contractual provisions against Charter which provide for the forfeiture of any interest in property, the termination of a

lease or might otherwise impair or impede the ability of the Receiver to perform his duties as set forth herein;

- 5. Accelerating the due date of any obligation or claimed obligation, enforcing any lien upon, or taking or attempting to take possession of, or retaining possession of, any receivership properties, or attempting to foreclose, forfeit, alter or terminate any interests of Charter, in any property, including any leases of real or personal property, whether such acts are part of a judicial proceeding or otherwise;
- 6. Using self-help or executing or issuing, or causing the execution or issuance of any court attachment, garnishment, subpoena, replevin, execution or other legal process for the purpose of enforcing any right including impounding or taking possession of or interfering with, or creating or enforcing a lien upon any receivership properties;
- 7. Issuing or causing to be issued subpoenas duces tecum or for testimony against the Receiver or any of the Receiver's deputies or staff;
- 8. Doing any act or thing whatsoever to interfere with the taking control, possession or management by the Receiver appointed herein of the receivership properties or to in any way interfere with the Receiver, or to harass or interfere with said Receiver, or to interfere in any manner with the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court over the receivership properties; and

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9. Transferring servicing accounts from the Receivership to anyone else for servicing except that the Receiver may in his sole discretion agree to such transfers without leave of Court. Unless prior thereto, a person wishing to employ, institute or enforce any right or remedy has first sought relief from this Judgment by filing an appropriate Motion or Petition with the Court, and serving a copy thereof upon the Receiver, the Receiver's attorney of record, and the Arizona Attorney General.

# IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- Receiver is authorized to sell any and all personal property of Charter, in his sole discretion, for the best price possible under the circumstances, whether by public or private sale, public or private auction, following advertising or without advertising, as the Receiver may deem appropriate under the circumstances. The Receiver may employ and pay auctioneers for the purpose of selling such property. Notwithstanding this provision, the Receiver shall keep full and accurate records concerning the disposition of all personal property and shall account to the Court with regard to the disposition of said property and all expenses incurred prior to the termination of these proceedings.
- 2. During the pendency of these proceedings the Receiver is authorized to negotiate with lessors, lienholders, creditors and their representatives for the purpose of

permitting or allowing the Receiver to continue to perform his duties in an expeditious manner, without impairment or interference. The Receiver is authorized to negotiate modifications, renewals, terminations and extensions of obligations, including leases, provided however that the Receiver shall have no independent liability with respect to such agreements and the sole liability, if any, resulting from such agreements shall be that of the receivership estate and the assets therein, if any.

- 3. Customers of Charter who have maintained escrow accounts shall not be permitted to transfer said servicing accounts from Charter except upon the express written authorization of all parties to the servicing agreement, which authorization shall be in such form as the Receiver deems appropriate.
- 4. Upon the transferring of any records of any escrow or servicing account to a designated successor, the Receiver shall have no further responsibility or liability with respect to the records and any funds transferred.
- 5. Receiver may surrender office facilities and leasehold interests to landlords and lessors in his sole discretion, when he has deemed the facilities to be unnecessary to the carrying out of his duties.
- 6. The Receiver, in his sole discretion, may permit lessors, owners, and suppliers to retake and repossess machinery and equipment, including furniture, in his sole

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discretion and when he has deemed such machinery, equipment and furniture to be unnecessary to the performance of his duties.

- 7. With respect to any pending trustee's sale proceedings in which Charter was serving as a trustee or escrow, the Receiver shall have no responsibility to continue those proceedings nor to act as trustee.
- 8. It appearing that there is a shortage in the escrow trust accounts of Charter, the Receiver shall not disburse any portion of the funds in such escrow trust accounts at the time of the commencement of these proceedings, except upon further Order of the Court. Notwithstanding this provision, the Receiver shall disburse escrow funds received after the time of the commencement of these proceedings.
- 9. The Receiver shall, as soon as possible after the entry of this Order, notify all customers, investors, borrowers, creditors, and other interested persons regarding the pendency of these proceedings by delivering an appropriate notice to said persons by regular mail. Said notice shall include the following information:
  - A. That there is presently pending a receivership proceeding in this Court and said notice shall contain the cause number of these proceedings.
  - B. That if a person wishes to read the terms of this Order, he may secure a copy from the Clerk of the Superior Court.
    - C. That the Receiver has been given legal

custody and control of all funds, assets, documents, papers, books and records of Charter.

- D. That the Court has determined a shortage of funds exists with respect to Charter's escrow accounts.
- E. That until further Order of this Court, the Receiver is not authorized or permitted to make any disbursements to any customers, investors, borrowers or creditors or other interested persons having an interest in specific escrow accounts where the funds therein were received prior to the time of the commencement of these proceedings.
- F. That the persons receiving notice may wish to consult with an attorney of their choosing to determine how best to protect their legal rights.
- G. That any persons having an interest in any deed of trust or other security should take appropriate steps to determine that their address is correctly reflected in the Maricopa County Recorder's Office by filing an appropriate Request for Notice as provided for under Arizona law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that nothing in the foregoing paragraphs shall prevent any person from maintaining an action against any other persons in connection with matters arising out of business transacted by Charter, providing that such person does not maintain or prosecute said action against Charter or the Receiver appointed pursuant to this Judgment, in

violation of this Judgment;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Receiver named herein may, without further order of this Court, delegate the exercise of his duties to other deputies, counsel, clerks and assistants.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Charter and its officers, directors, principals, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors, accountants and assigns, and those persons in active concert or participation with them and each of them be and hereby are enjoined during the pendency of this action or further order of this Court, from directly or indirectly:

- 1. Transacting any of Charter's business except at the direction and under the supervision of the Receiver; wasting its assets, obtaining preferences, judgments, attachments, or other liens or making a levy against Charter;
- Destroying, secreting, defacing, transferring or otherwise altering or disposing of any books, records, accounts, or any other papers of any kind or nature of Charter;
- 3. Transferring, receiving, altering, selling, encumbering, pledging, assigning, liquidating or otherwise disposing of any assets, funds or property owned, controlled or in the possession of or in which an interest is held or claimed by Charter or the Receiver appointed herein;
- 4. Obstructing or interfering or refusing to cooperate with the Receiver, or his duly authorized agents, in the exercise of their lawful authority under the orders of this Court.

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5. Doing any act or thing whatsoever to interfere with the taking control, possession or management by the Receiver appointed herein of the receivership properties or to any way interfere with the Receiver, or to harass or interfere with said Receiver, or to interfere in any manner with the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court over the receivership properties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant and its officers, director, principals, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors, accountants and assigns and those persons in active concert or participation with them, and each of them be and hereby are enjoined from directly or indirectly engaging in any acts or practices in violation of Chapter 7, Title 6, Arizona Revised Statutes, as alleged in the Verified Complaint.

> DONE IN OPEN COURT this day of October, 1993.

# CONSENT TO JUDGMENT

- 1. Defendant Charter Title Agency, Inc. hereby acknowledges that it has received a copy of the Summons and Verified Complaint and waives the formalities of service of process, and is aware of its right to a trial in this matter and hereby waive same.
- 2. Defendant admits the jurisdiction of the Court to enter the foregoing Judgment, admits that the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are true and consents to the entry of the foregoing Judgment.
- 3. Defendant states that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever was made to it to induce it to enter into this Consent to Judgment, other than as set forth herein and that it has entered into this Consent to Judgment voluntarily.
- 4. Defendant acknowledges that this Consent to Judgment is solely for the purpose of settling the matters alleged in the Verified Complaint against it and does not preclude Plaintiff or any other agency or officer of this State; or subdivision thereof, from instituting other administrative, civil or criminal proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.
- 5. Defendant waives all rights to challenge to the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment on appeal or otherwise, and agree to be bound hereby.
- 6. Thomas Eccles represents that he is the Chairman of the Board of Charter Title Agency, Inc. and that as such he

1	is duly authorized by the corporate defendant to consent to the
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. 3	foregoing Judgment for and on its behalf.
4	CHARTER TITLE AGENCY, INC.
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٠. 6	By Date: 125/43
7	THOMAS ECCLES CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
8	
9	
	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:
10	GRANT WOODS, Attorney General
11	SYDNEY K. DAVIS, Chief Counsel CONSUMER PROTECTION & ANTITRUST SECTION
12	CONSCIENT TROTLETTOR & ANTITRUST SECTION
13	W Mark Dandrage
14	By /// MARK SENDROW
15	Assistant Attorney General Attorneys for Plaintiff
16	
17	JABURG & WILK, P.C.
18	By AC Filelle
19	LAWRENCE E. WILK
20	3200 N. Central Avenue The foregoing instrument is a full, true and correct copy of 20th Floor the original on file in this office of 5 1003
21	Attorneys for Defendant Attest
22	JUDITH ALLEN, Clerk of the Superior Cour of the State of Arizona, in and for the county of Maricopa
23	By . Wither Deputy
· 24	
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