National Cred	t Union Administration Board v. Star News Building LP e	t al	Doc. 38
1 2 3 4 5	LAW OFFICES OF RONALD RICHARD: Ronald N. Richards (SBN 176246) Email: ron@ronaldrichards.com P.O. Box 11480 Beverly Hills, California 90213 Telephone: (310) 556-1001 Facsimile: (310) 277-3325 SEYFARTH SHAW LLP Geoffrey S. Long (SBN 187429) E-mail: glong@seyfarth.com 333 South Hope Street, Suite 3900 Los Angeles, California 90071 Telephone: (213) 270-9600 Facsimile: (213) 270-9601 Attorneys for Plaintiff/Assignee/Real Party UNITED STATES CENTRAL DISTRIC FALLEN STAR, LLC, Plaintiff, v. STAR NEWS BUILDING, LP, a California limited partnership; STAR NEWS BUILDING LLC, a California limited liability Company; MICHAEL KAMEN, an individual; GERSON I. FOX, an individual; GERSON I. FOX, an individual; and ALL OTHERS, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN OR TO THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF'S TITLE,	S & ASSOCIATES, A.P.C.	Т
16	NEWS BUILDING LLC a California		т
	limited liability Company: MICHAEL	GERSON I. FOX AND FINDINGS OI UNCONTROVERTED FACTS AND	<u>ר</u>
18	KNOWN OR UNKNOWN CLAIMING	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	
_	TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST		
	ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF'S TITLE,		
	OR ANY CLOUD ON PLAINTIFF'S () TITLE THERETO; and DOES 1 through ()		
22	100, Inclusive,		
23	Defendants.		
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		PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING M Case No. CV 12-05738-R (PJWx	
	15449279v.1	Dockets.Ju	
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1 On April 1, 2013, Plaintiff/Assignee/Real Party in Interest FALLEN STAR, 2 LLC's ("Plaintiff" or "Fallen Star") Motion for Summary Judgment against Defendant 3 GERSON I. FOX ("Defendant") for Breach of Guaranty came on regularly for hearing 4 before the Honorable Judge Manual L. Real, Courtroom 8, of the United States 5 District Court, Central District of California. Ronald N. Richards and Geoffrey S. 6 Long appeared as counsel of record for Plaintiff. Gabriele M. Lashly and Jeffrey G. 7 Covner appeared as counsel of record for Defendant. 8 The Court, having considered all papers and evidence filed in support of and in 9 opposition to the Motion for Summary Judgment and having received argument from 10 counsel for Defendant, finds that there are no disputes of material fact, and Plaintiff is 11 entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The Court grants Plaintiff's Motion for 12 Summary Judgment against Defendant Gerson I. Fox, and judgment shall be entered 13 forthwith. 14

The Court's ruling granting Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment is based on the findings of uncontroverted facts and conclusions of law, set forth herein and below, and as stated on the record at the April 1, 2013 hearing on the Motion for Summary Judgment.

UNCONTROVERTED FACTS

Uncontroverted Material Fact

Supporting Evidence

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1 2	1. For value received and in exchange	Exh. "A" to Plaintiff's Appendix of
2 3	for a loan in the original principal sum of	Evidence and Declarations in Support of
	\$11,950,000 ("Loan") from Telesis	Motion for Summary Judgment
4	Community Credit Union ("Original	("Appendix of Evidence") ¹ ; Declaration
5	Lender") to Star News Building, L.P.	of Craig Page ("Page Decl."), at ¶¶ 10
6	("Borrower"), Borrower made, executed,	and 13.
7	and delivered to Original Lender a	
8	Promissory Note, dated August 8, 2008,	
9	in the original principal amount of	
10	\$11,950,000 ("Note").	
11	2. The Note provides for monthly	Exh. "A" at p. 1, ¶ 3(c).
12	payments of principal and accrued	
13	interest in the amount of \$74,747.96 on	
14	the first of each month beginning on	
15	October 1, 2008, until the entire principal	
16	balance evidenced by the Note is paid.	
17	3. The Note provides that an "Event	Exh. "A" at p. 1, ¶¶ 1 and 5.
18	of Default" under the Note includes an	
19 20	"Event of Default" under the Deed of	
20	Trust, Assignment of Rents, Security	
21	Agreement and Fixture Filing ("Deed of	
22	Trust," and defined in the Note as the	
23	Security Agreement).	
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1 2	4. Upon an Event of Default of the	Exh. "A" at pp. 1-2, ¶ 6.
3	Note, the total Indebtedness, defined as	
	the unpaid principal, interest, late	
4	charges, default interest, advances, and	
5	any other amounts due at the time under	
6	the Note and Deed of Trust, shall be	
7	accelerated by Original Lender and	
8	immediately become due and payable, at	
9	the option of Original Lender, without	
10	any prior notice to Borrower.	
11	5. The Note provides for a default	Page Decl., ¶ 30; Exh. "A" at ¶ 8.
12	interest rate of 10.4% / annum after	
13	Borrower's Event of Default.	
14	6. The Note provides, "[i]f the unpaid	Page Decl., ¶ 30; Exh. "A" at ¶ 8.
15	principal balance and all accrued interest	
16	are not paid in full on the Maturity Date	
17	[which includes maturity by acceleration	
18	upon default], the unpaid principal	
19 20	balance and all accrued interest shall bear	
20	interest from the Maturity Date at the	
21	Default Rate," <i>i.e.</i> , accrued interest is	
22	compounded at the Default Rate upon	
23	default.	
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7. The Note provides that a late	Page Decl., ¶ 30; Declaration of Ronald
charge shall be imposed if the payment of	Richards ("Richards Decl."), ¶ 18; Exh.
any installment of interest or principal	"A" at ¶ 7.
and interest or other amount payable	
under the Note is not received within 10	
day after it is due. The late charge is 5%	
of the unpaid amount after acceleration.	
8. The Note provides, "Borrower	Page Decl., ¶ 13; Exh. "A" at ¶ 11.
shall pay all expenses and costs,	
including fees and out-of-pocket expenses	
of attorneys (including Lender's in-house	
attorneys) and expert witnesses and costs	
of investigation, incurred by Lender as a	
result of any default under this Note or in	
connection with efforts to collect any	
amount due under this Note, or to enforce	
the provisions of any of the other Loan	
Documents, including those incurred in	
post-judgment collection efforts and in	
any bankruptcy proceeding (including	
any action for relief from the automatic	
stay of any bankruptcy proceeding) or	
judicial or non-judicial foreclosure	
proceedings."	

9. As security for the Loan and Note,	Exh. "C;" Page Decl., at ¶¶ 10 and 15.
but not for Defendant's written Guaranty,	
the Borrower executed and delivered to	
Original Lender, for the benefit of	
Original Lender and its assigns, a Deed of	
Trust, Assignment of Rents, Security	
Agreement and Fixture Filing which was	
recorded in the Official Records,	
Recorder's Office, Los Angeles County,	
California, on August 15, 2008, as	
instrument number 20081472972 ("Deed	
of Trust").	
10. An Event of Default under the	Exh. "C" at p. 15, ¶ 22(a), (g), and (k).
Deed of Trust includes, but is not limited	
to, "any failure by Borrower to pay or	
deposit when due any amount required by	
the Note, this Instrument or any other	
Loan Document;" "any failure by	
Borrower to perform any of its	
obligations under this Instrument as	
and when required, which continues for a	
period of 30 days after notice of such	
failure by Lender to Borrower;" or	
"Borrower voluntarily files for	
bankruptcy protection under the United	
States Bankruptcy Code."	

1	11. The Deed of Trust requires,	Exh. "C" at p. 10, ¶ 15(a), and at p. 4, ¶
2	"Borrower shall pay, or cause to be paid,	1(ee).
3	all Taxes when due and before the	
4	addition of any interest, fine, penalty or	
5	cost for nonpayment." "Taxes" are	
6	defined to include "all taxes, assessment,	
7	vault rentals and other charges which	
8	are levied, assessed or imposed by any	
9	public authority or quasi-public authority,	
10	and which, if not paid, will become a lien,	
11	on the Land or the Improvements."	
12	12. In further consideration of the	Exh. "I;" Page Decl., at ¶¶ 10 and 21.
13	Loan, Defendant Gerson I. Fox	
14	("Defendant" or "Guarantor") and	
15	Michael J. Kamen made, executed, and	
16	delivered a written Guaranty, dated	
17	August 8, 2008 ("Guaranty"), for the	
18	benefit of Original Lender, and/or its	
19	assigns.	
20	13. The obligations of Defendant and	Exh. "I" at p. 3, ¶ 11.
21	Michael J. Kamen under the Guaranty are	
22	joint and several, and Original Lender or	
23	its assigns may bring suit against one or	
24	more of said guarantors.	
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14. Pursuant to the Guaranty,	Exh. "I" at p. 1, ¶ 2.
Defendant guaranteed, inter alia, all of	
Borrower's repayment of the Loan and	
"full and prompt payment when due,	
whether at maturity or earlier, by reason	
of acceleration or otherwise, and at all	
times thereafter, and the full and prompt	
performance when due, of the entire	
Indebtedness and all costs and	
expenses, including reasonable fees and	
out of pocket expenses of attorneys and	
expert witnesses, incurred by Lender in	
enforcing its rights under this Guaranty."	
15. Defendant's obligations under the	Exh. "I" at p. 1, ¶¶ 4 and 5.
Guaranty constitute an unconditional	
guaranty of payment and not merely a	
guaranty of collection, and shall be	
performed by Defendant without demand	
by Original Lender or its assigns.	
16. The Guaranty is unsecured.	Exh. "I."
17. The Guaranty provides that	Exh. "I" at p. 2, ¶¶ 6, 8, and 9.
Original Lender, or its assign, may bring	
a separate action against Defendant	
without proceeding against the Borrower	
or any security held by Original Lender,	
and without pursuing any other remedy.	

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1	18. The Guaranty could be assigned, in	Exh. "I" at p. 3, ¶ 16.
2	whole or in part.	
3	19. The Guaranty contains explicit,	Exh. "I" at p. 2, ¶ 9; <i>see also</i> , Exh. "I" at
4	unconditional, comprehensive, and valid	p. 2, ¶¶ 6 and 8.
5	waivers of defenses, including but not	
6 7	limited to a full and complete California	
7	<i>Civil Code</i> , section 2856, waiver as	
8 9	follows:	
	The Guarantor waives all rights and	
10 11	defenses that the Guarantor may have because the debtor's debt is secured by real property. This	
11	secured by real property. This means, among other things: (1) creditor may collect from the	
12	creditor may collect from the Guarantor without first foreclosing on any real or personal property	
13	collateral pledged by the debtor. (2) If the creditor forecloses on any	
15	real property collateral pledged by the debtor (A) The amount of the	
16	debt may be reduced only by the price for which that collateral is	
17	sold at the foreclosure sale, even if the collateral is worth more than	
18	the sale price; and (B) The creditor may collect from Guarantor even if	
19	the creditor, by foreclosing on the real property collateral, has	
20	destroyed any right Guarantor may have to collect from the debtor.	
21	This is an unconditional and irrevocable waiver of any rights	
22	and defenses Guarantor may have because the debtor's debt is secured	
23	by real property. These rights and defenses include, but are not	
24	limited to, any rights or defenses based upon Section 580a, 580b,	
25	580d, or 726 of the Code of Civil Procedure.	
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1	20. Business Partners, LLC	Page Decl., ¶ 2.
2	("Servicer") was the servicer on the Loan	
3	and Note initially for Original Lender and	
4	then for National Credit Union	
5	Administration Board ("Liquidating	
6	Agent"), as the liquidating agent for	
7	Original Lender.	
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		PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING MS. Case No. CV 12-05738-R (PJWx)
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21. Borrower defaulted on its	Page Decl., ¶¶ 32 - 34; Richards Decl.,
obligations under the Loan, Note, and	¶¶ 10-12; Exhs. "Q," "R," "S," "U," and
Deed of Trust by, among other things, (a)	"V."
failing to pay property taxes for tax year	
2008 for APN # 5723-028-023 and APN	
# 5723-016-036 ("Real Property	
Collateral"), which are the real property	
collateral for the Loan, Note, and Deed of	
Trust; (b) failing to pay default interest	
since its default in September 2009 and	
Original Lender's imposition of the	
default interest rate at that time; (c)	
failing to make a payment on the Loan	
and Note the months of February through	
May 2011; (d) Borrower's filing a	
Voluntary Petition for bankruptcy under	
Chapter 11 of the United States	
Bankruptcy Code on April 29, 2011, in	
the Central District of California, Case	
No. 2:11-bk-28697-BB (the "Bankruptcy	
Action"); and (e) failing to pay the full	
indebtedness owed on the Loan and Note	
after its foregoing defaults and	
acceleration of all amounts due and	
owing on the Loan and Note on October	
1, 2009.	

1 2	22. On and about September 15, 2009,	Page Decl., ¶¶ 33; Exh. "R."
3	Servicer, on behalf of Original Lender,	
	gave notice to Borrower and Defendant of	
4	the default on the Loan and Note for	
5	failure to pay property taxes on the Real	
6	Property Collateral, and of the imposition	
7	of default interest under paragraph 8 of	
8	the Note. Because those defaults were	
9	not cured after such notice, a Notice of	
10	Default was recorded in the Official	
11	Records, Recorder's Office, Los Angeles	
12	County, California on March 17, 2011, as	
13	instrument number 11 0409586.	
14	23. Borrower has failed to cure its	Page Decl., ¶¶ 33 and 34; Richards
15	defaults, and remains in default.	Decl., ¶¶ 11 and 12; Exhs. "S," "U," and
16		"V."
17		
18	24. Following Borrower's defaults on	Page Decl., ¶¶ 30, 32, 33, and 34;
19 20	the Loan and Note, Defendant defaulted	Richards Decl., ¶¶ 13-15; Exhs. "Q and
20	on his obligations to Original Lender,	"S."
21	then Liquidating Agent, and now to	
22	Plaintiff as its assignee, pursuant to the	
23	Guaranty, by failing to pay all of the	
24	Borrower's indebtedness.	
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		PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING MSJ Case No. CV 12-05738-R (PJWx)
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1 2	27. In furtherance of the Loan	Page Decl., at ¶ 28; Richards Decl. at ¶
3	Purchase and Sale Agreement and	7; Exh. "P."
	Assignment Agreement, Liquidating	
4	Agent made, executed, and delivered to	
5	Plaintiff an Allonge to the Note, dated	
6	December 17, 2012 ("Allonge"),	
7	assigning to Plaintiff all of Liquidating	
8	Agent's right, title, interest, and remedies	
9	in and to the Note.	
10	28. In furtherance of the Loan	Richards Decl., at ¶ 8; Exh. "T."
11	Purchase and Sale Agreement and	
12	Assignment Agreement, Liquidating	
13	Agent executed and recorded an	
14	Assignment of Deed of Trust and	
15	Amendment to Deed of Trust, to Plaintiff	
16	as assignee and beneficiary, recorded in	
17	the Official Records, Recorder's Office,	
18	Los Angeles County, California, on	
19 20	December 21, 2012, as instrument	
20	number 20121988890 ("Assignment of	
21	Deed of Trust").	
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28		PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING MSJ
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	29. Pursuant to said Assignment Agreement, Allonge, and Assignment of Deed of Trust, Plaintiff is the owner of all right, title, interest, and remedies in and to, <i>inter alia</i> , the Loan, Note, Deed of Trust, Guaranty, and related loan	Page Decl., at ¶ 29; Richards Decl., at ¶ 9.
	documents.30.Subsequent to Liquidating Agent'sassignment to Plaintiff of all of OriginalLender/Liquidating Agent's right, title,interest, and remedies in and to, <i>inter</i> alia, the Loan, Note, Deed of Trust,Guaranty, and related loan documents,Borrower has remained in default of itsobligations pursuant to the Loan, Note,and Deed of Trust by, among otherthings, (a) failing to pay all outstandingprincipal, accrued interest, late fees, andother fees and costs on the Loan andNote; (b) failing to pay default interest;and (c) Borrower's continuing forwardwith the Bankruptcy Action.	Richards Decl., at ¶ 12.
 23 24 25 26 27 28 	15449279v.1	PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING MSJ Case No. CV 12-05738-R (PJWx)

1 2	31. Subsequent to Liquidating Agent's	Richards Decl., at ¶ 14.
3	assignment to Plaintiff of all of Original	
4	Lender/Liquidating Agent's right, title,	
	interest, and remedies in and to the Loan,	
5	Note, Deed of Trust, Guaranty, and	
6	related loan documents, Defendant has	
7	remained in default of his obligations	
8	pursuant to the Guaranty by, among other	
9	things, failing to pay all of the	
10	indebtedness and obligations of Borrower	
11	upon Borrower's foregoing defaults.	
12	32. As a result of Defendant's failure	Page Decl., ¶¶ 11 and 30; Richards
13	to make payment under the Guaranty,	Decl., ¶¶ 16-18; Exhs. "Q" and "S."
14	Plaintiff has been damaged in the amount	
15	of at least \$15,009,516.15 as of April 1,	
16	2013, which is composed of	
17	\$11,813,827.03 in unpaid principal,	
18	\$2,034,067.01 in accrued interest,	
19 20	\$840,956.67 in late fees, and \$320,665.44	
20	in other recoverable fees and costs	
21	incurred by Original Lender and	
22	Liquidating Agent in enforcing the rights	
23	and remedies under the Note, Deed of	
24	Trust, and Guaranty, including but not	
25	limited to attorneys' fees.	
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1	33. As of the effective date of	Page Decl., ¶ 30; Exhs. "A" at ¶ 11, "C"
2	Liquidating Agent's assignment to	at ¶ 44, "I" at ¶ 2, and "Q."
3	Plaintiff, December 20, 2012, other	
4	enforcement fees and costs incurred by	
5	Original Lender and Liquidating Agent	
6	and recoverable under the Note, Deed of	
7	Trust, and Guaranty, including credit	
8	reports, legal fees, field visits, prior	
9	unpaid late charges, reconveyance fee,	
10	statement fee, mailing and recording fees,	
11	and UCC 3 termination fees, totaled	
12	\$320,665.44.	
13	34. Additional prejudgment interest	Richards Decl., ¶¶ 16, 17; Exh. "S."
14	after the April 1, 2013 Motion for	
15	Summary judgment hearing date accrues	
16	at the daily rate of \$3,412.88.	
17	35. Plaintiff has a right to its attorneys'	Exhs. "A" at ¶ 11, "C" at ¶ 44, "I" at ¶ 2,
18	fees and costs incurred in enforcing its	and "Q."
19 20	rights under the Guaranty.	
20		
21	CONCLUSIO	NS OF LAW
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23	Conclusions of Law	<u>Authority</u>
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28		PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING MSJ
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1. Summary judgment is appropriate	Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(a).
where, like here, there are no genuine	
disputes of material fact, and the moving	
party is entitled to a judgment as a matter	
of law.	
2. Jurisdiction continues to be	Adair v. Lease Partners, Inc., 587 F.3d
appropriate in this case, notwithstanding	238 (5th Cir. 2009); Burka v. Aetna Life
the substitution of Plaintiff for the	Ins. Co., 87 F3d 478 (D.C. Cir. 1996);
National Credit Union Administration	Freeport-McMoRan, Inc. v. KN Energy
Board ("Liquidating Agent"). There	Inc., 498 US 426 (1991).
continues to be a basis for original	
jurisdiction in the United States District	
Court through federal question	
jurisdiction. Explicit federal policy	
interest mandates continuing original	
jurisdiction over this case because	
Plaintiff is merely a successor-in-interest	
to the Liquidating Agent.	
3. There is continuing federal	D'Oench, Duhme & Company v. FDIC,
jurisdiction because Plaintiff is entitled to	315 U.S. 447 (1942).
rely upon the same protection as its	
predecessor-in-interest, the Liquidating	
Agent, including protections under the	
D'Oench Duhme Doctrine.	

4. Even if remand were dis	
the only purpose it would serv	
and, therefore, it would not be	
appropriate.	
	PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING M Case No. CV 12-05738-R (PJW

1	5. By operation of law, upon Telesis 12 U.S.C. § 1787(b)(2).
2	Community Credit Union ("Original
3	Lender") being placed into involuntary
4	liquidation by the Liquidating Agent, the
5	Liquidating Agent succeeded to all rights,
6	titles, powers, and privileges of Original
7	Lender, and Liquidating Agent has the
8	following power and authority over
9	Original Lender, inter alia:
10	a) to operate Telesis, including
11	but not limited to taking over the assets of
12	and operate Telesis with all the powers of
13	the members or shareholders, the
14	directors, and the officers of Telesis, to
15	conduct all business of Telesis, to collect
16	all obligations and money due Telesis,
17	and to perform all functions of Telesis in
18	the name of Telesis (12 U.S.C.
19	§1787(b)(2)(B));
20	b) to function as Telesis's
21	officers, directors, and shareholders (12
22	U.S.C. §1787(b)(2)(C)); and
23	c) to place Telesis in
24	liquidation and proceed to realize upon its
25	assets (12 U.S.C. §1787(b)(2)(E)).
26	
27	

1	6. A written guaranty is an	California Civil Code, §§ 1550, 2787,
2	enforceable and binding contract, and	and 2792; United Central Bank v.
3	constitutes a separate and independent	Superior Court (2009) 179 Cal.App.4th
4	obligation from that of the principal debt.	212, 215.
5	7. Where a guaranty is entered into at	California Civil Code, § 2792.
6	the same time with the original	
7	obligation, or with the acceptance of the	
8	latter by the creditor, and forms with that	
9	obligation a part of the consideration to	
10	him, no other consideration need exist.	
11		
12	8. A plaintiff's burden of proof on a	Torrey Pines Bank v. Superior Court
13	cause of action for breach of written	(1989) 216 Cal.App.3d 813, 819;
14	guaranty is to establish the following	Reichert v. General Ins. Co. (1968) 68
15	essential elements: (1) a valid guaranty,	Cal.2d 822, 830.
16	(2) the borrower has defaulted, and (3) the	
17	guarantor failed to perform under the	
18	guaranty.	
19	9. A guarantor may waive his rights	California Code of Civil Procedure, §
20	and defenses provided for under	2856; Gray1 CPB, LLC v. Kolokotronis
21	California Code of Civil Procedure,	(2011) 202 Cal.App.4th 480.
22	sections 580a, 580b, 580d, and 726, and	
23	such waivers are valid and binding.	
24	10. California <i>Code of Civil</i>	Gray1 CPB, LLC v. Kolokotronis (2011)
25	Procedure, section 2856, waivers are	202 Cal.App.4th 480
26	valid and binding on guarantors.	
27		·

1	IT IS SO ORDERED.
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3	Kal
4	Dated: April 18, 2013 The Honorable Manuel L. Real
5	The Honorable Manuel L. Real United States District Court Judge
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	PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING MSJ Case No. CV 12-05738-R (PJWx)
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1		Pospostfully Submitted:
2		Respectfully Submitted:
3	DATED: April 8, 2013	LAW OFFICES OF RONALD RICHARDS & ASSOCIATES, A.P.C.
4		
5		By: <u>/ s / Ronald N. Richards</u> Ronald N. Richards
6		Attorneys for Plaintiff/Assignee/Real Party In Interest FALLEN STAR, LLC
7		III IIItelest FALLEIN STAR, LLC
8		
9		Respectfully Submitted:
10	DATED: April 8, 2013	SEYFARTH SHAW LLP
11		
12		By: <u>/ s / Geoffrey S. Long</u> Geoffrey S. Long
13		Geoffrey S. Long Attorneys for Plaintiff/Assignee/Real Party In Interest FALLEN STAR, LLC
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		PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING MSJ Case No. CV 12-05738-R (PJWx)
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