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5 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
7

8 KENNETH E. BOATRRIGHT JR.,

No. C -12-00009 EDL

9 Plaintiff,

**AMENDED ORDER RE: DEFENDANT'S
MOTION TO DISMISS**

10 v.

11 AUORA LOAN SERVICES,

12 Defendant.
13 _____/

14 On February 7, 2012 Defendant Aurora Loan Services (“Defendant”) filed a Motion to
15 Dismiss Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint. On April 27, 2012, the Court issued an Order
16 granting Defendant’s motion without leave to amend on the grounds that judicial estoppel barred
17 Plaintiff’s complaint. On May 7, 2012, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Reconsideration, which was
18 stricken without prejudice because Plaintiff failed to comply with Civil Local Rule 7-9. On May 10,
19 2012, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Leave to File a Motion for Reconsideration in compliance with
20 Local Rule 7-9. On June 1, 2012, the Court denied Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to File a Motion for
21 Reconsideration, but ordered the parties to file briefs regarding whether the dismissal of Plaintiff’s
22 bankruptcy case constituted acceptance by the bankruptcy court of Plaintiff’s incomplete schedule of
23 assets for purposes of the second factor of the judicial estoppel analysis. See Hamilton v. State Farm
24 Fire & Cas. Co., 270 F.3d 778, 782-83 (9th Cir. 2001) (stating that in deciding whether to exercise
25 its discretion in applying judicial estoppel: (1) “. . . a party’s later position must be ‘clearly
26 inconsistent’ with its earlier position;” (2) the party must have “succeeded in persuading a court to
27 accept that party’s earlier position, so that judicial acceptance of an inconsistent position in a later
28 proceeding would create ‘the perception that either the first or the second court was misled;” and
(3) the court must determine “whether the party seeking to assert an inconsistent position would

1 derive an unfair advantage or impose an unfair detriment on the opposing party if not estopped.”)
2 (internal citation omitted). In ruling on Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss, the Court had found that the
3 question of whether Plaintiff persuaded the bankruptcy court to accept his incomplete schedule of
4 assets was a close one. Although the Court decided that question against Plaintiff, the Court ordered
5 further briefing on that issue in light of Gottlieb v. Kest, 141 Cal.App.4th 110 (2006). The parties
6 filed their briefs on June 18, 2012.

7 The Court has carefully reviewed the parties’ June 18, 2012 briefs as well as the other briefs
8 filed in connection with Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss. For the following reasons, the Court has
9 reconsidered its April 27, 2012 Order and issues this Amended Order granting in part and denying in
10 part Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss.

11 **Legal Standard for Motion to Dismiss**

12 A complaint will survive a motion to dismiss if it contains “sufficient factual matter . . . to
13 ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009)
14 (citing Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1974 (2007)). The reviewing court’s
15 “inquiry is limited to the allegations in the complaint, which are accepted as true and construed in
16 the light most favorable to the plaintiff.” Lazy Y Ranch LTD v. Behrens, 546 F.3d 580, 588 (9th
17 Cir. 2008).

18 A court need not, however, accept as true the complaint’s “legal conclusions.” Iqbal, 129 S.
19 Ct. at 1949. “While legal conclusions can provide the framework of a complaint, they must be
20 supported by factual allegations.” Id. at 1950. Thus, a reviewing court may begin “by identifying
21 pleadings that, because they are no more than conclusions, are not entitled to the assumption of
22 truth.” Id.

23 Courts must then determine whether the factual allegations in the complaint “plausibly give
24 rise to an entitlement of relief.” Id. Though the plausibility inquiry “is not akin to a probability
25 requirement,” a complaint will not survive a motion to dismiss if its factual allegations “do not
26 permit the court to infer more than the mere possibility of misconduct” Id. at 1949 (internal
27 quotation marks omitted) & 1950. That is to say, plaintiffs must “nudge[] their claims across the
28 line from conceivable to plausible.” Twombly, 550 U.S. at 570.

1 **Discussion**

2 The allegations in the complaint in this case are set forth in detail in the Court’s April 27,
3 2012 Order and are incorporated here by reference.

4 **1. Plaintiff is not judicially estopped from proceeding on his claims against Defendants**

5 “Judicial estoppel is an equitable doctrine that precludes a party from gaining an advantage
6 by asserting one position, and then later seeking an advantage by taking a clearly inconsistent
7 position.” Hamilton v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co., 270 F.3d 778, 782 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing, e.g.,
8 Rissetto v. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 343, 94 F.3d 597, 600-601 (9th Cir.1996)). “This court
9 invokes judicial estoppel not only to prevent a party from gaining an advantage by taking
10 inconsistent positions, but also because of ‘general consideration[s] of the orderly administration of
11 justice and regard for the dignity of judicial proceedings,’ and to ‘protect against a litigant playing
12 fast and loose with the courts.’” Hamilton, 270 F.3d at 783 (quoting Russell v. Rolfs, 893 F.2d 1033,
13 1037 (9th Cir.1990)); see also Swahn Group, Inc. v. Segal, 183 Cal.App.4th 831, 841 (2010) (same).
14 A court may consider three factors in deciding whether to exercise its discretion in applying judicial
15 estoppel: (1) “. . . a party's later position must be ‘clearly inconsistent’ with its earlier position;” (2)
16 the party must have “succeeded in persuading a court to accept that party's earlier position, so that
17 judicial acceptance of an inconsistent position in a later proceeding would create ‘the perception that
18 either the first or the second court was misled;” and (3) the court must determine “whether the party
19 seeking to assert an inconsistent position would derive an unfair advantage or impose an unfair
20 detriment on the opposing party if not estopped.” Hamilton, 270 F.3d at 782-83 (quoting New
21 Hampshire v. Maine, 532 U.S. 742, 750-51 (2001)). This is not an inflexible standard, or an
22 “exhaustive formula for determining the applicability of judicial estoppel.” Hamilton, 270 F.3d at
23 783; see also Neighbors v. Mortgage Electronic Registration System, 2009 WL 192445, * 1, 4 (N.D.
24 Cal. Jan. 27, 2009) (non-judicial foreclosure began and Notice of Trustee’s Sale recorded prior to
25 homeowner’s initiation of bankruptcy proceedings, and homeowner did not disclose claims against
26 mortgagee as assets in bankruptcy proceeding, despite having knowledge of all the facts underlying
27 the claims before filing for bankruptcy, so homeowner estopped from prosecuting claims: “Plaintiff
28 has thus clearly taken inconsistent positions because she failed to list her claims against defendants

1 as assets in the bankruptcy proceedings as she was required to do under 11 U.S.C. § 521(1), and then
2 later sued defendants on the same claims.”).

3 A debtor filing for bankruptcy has a duty to schedule all property that the debtor owes. 11
4 U.S.C. § 521(1). “Causes of action are separate assets which must be formally listed.” Cusano v.
5 Klein, 264 F.3d 936, 947 (9th Cir. 2001). At the conclusion of the bankruptcy proceedings, all
6 assets properly scheduled by the debtor, and not otherwise administered by the trustee, are
7 “abandoned to the debtor.” 11 U.S.C. § 554(c). If a debtor fails to “properly to schedule an asset,
8 including a cause of action, that asset continues to belong to the bankruptcy estate” and does not
9 revert to the debtor. Cusano, 264 F.3d at 945-46, 948; see also Stein v. United Artists Corp., 691
10 F.2d 885, 891 (9th Cir. 1982) (“ . . . abandonment results only when the trustee knows of the
11 existence of the property, so that, at the least, an intent to disclaim can be inferred. When the
12 bankrupt fails to list an asset, he cannot claim abandonment because the trustee has had no
13 opportunity to pursue the claim.”). Once a claim becomes part of the bankruptcy estate, “only the
14 trustee has the authority to prosecute and/or settle” the claim. Cain v. Hyatt, 101 B.R. 440, 442
15 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 1989).

16 Although the question of whether judicial estoppel applies remains a close one, the Court
17 has determined upon reconsideration that the Hamilton factors weigh against barring Plaintiff’s
18 action based on judicial estoppel. It is undisputed that Plaintiff took inconsistent positions in this
19 case and his earlier bankruptcy cases by failing to list his claims against Defendant in this
20 bankruptcy schedules, and that Plaintiff had knowledge of his claims relating to his mortgage loan
21 before filing his bankruptcy schedules as described in the Court’s April 27, 2012 Order. Further,
22 Plaintiff may have gained an unfair advantage by pursuing these claims against Defendants after
23 failing to disclose them in the bankruptcy proceedings. See Hamilton, 270 F.3d at 784 (“The debtor,
24 once he institutes the bankruptcy process, disrupts the flow of commerce and obtains a stay and the
25 benefits derived by listing all his assets. . . . Hamilton's failure to list his claims against State Farm
26 as assets on his bankruptcy schedules deceived the bankruptcy court and Hamilton's creditors, who
27 relied on the schedules to determine what action, if any, they would take in the matter.”).

28 The third factor, however -- whether Plaintiff persuaded the bankruptcy court to accept his

1 incomplete schedule of assets -- weighs against application of judicial estoppel. A discharge of
2 debts by the bankruptcy court is not the only method of satisfying the third factor. See Hamilton,
3 270 F.3d at 784 (“Our holding does not imply that the bankruptcy court must actually discharge
4 debts before the judicial acceptance prong may be satisfied. The bankruptcy court may “accept” the
5 debtor's assertions by relying on the debtor's nondisclosure of potential claims in many other
6 ways.”); see also Allers-Petrus v. Columbia Recovery Group, 2009 WL 799676, at *2 (W.D. Wash.
7 Mar. 24, 2009) (“The bankruptcy court need not discharge debts before the judicial acceptance
8 prong is satisfied. The court in Hamilton applied judicial estoppel to the claim despite the
9 bankruptcy court's vacation of the prior discharge.”). But dismissal of Plaintiff’s bankruptcy case
10 alone, without any showing that the bankruptcy court relied on Plaintiff’s incomplete schedules, is
11 insufficient to meet the third prong. On similar facts, the court in Gottlieb v. Kest, 141 Cal.App.4th
12 110 (2006) denied application of judicial estoppel. The court stated:

13 As stated more recently: “[W]hile the Ninth Circuit has used sweeping language
14 condemning ‘playing fast and loose’ with courts, its narrow holdings more cautiously
15 require that the [bankruptcy] court have ‘accepted’ the earlier position before
16 imposing a judicial estoppel.... [¶] The meaning of ‘acceptance’ in the bankruptcy
17 context is construed broadly to ‘protect [] the integrity of the bankruptcy process.’ ...
18 Among other possibilities, the grant of a discharge (even if later revoked) or the
19 confirmation of a plan may constitute sufficient ‘acceptance’ of the accuracy of
20 schedules so as to permit judicial estoppel.” (In re An-Tze Cheng (Bankr.9th
21 Cir.2004) 308 B.R. 448, 453, *affd. mem.* (9th Cir.2005) 160 Fed.Appx. 644, citations
22 omitted.)

23 RKG did not submit a reorganization plan, creditors did not accept a plan, and the
24 bankruptcy court did not review or confirm a plan. At no time did the bankruptcy
25 court rely on the value of RKG's assets. And the Chapter 11 case was dismissed
26 without a determination as to any purported debts. Such a dismissal is intended to “
27 ‘undo the bankruptcy case, as far as practicable, and restore all property rights to the
28 position in which they were found at the commencement of the case.’ ” (In re
Weston (E.D.Cal.1989) 110 B.R. 452, 456, *affd. mem.* (9th Cir.1992) 967 F.2d 596;
see In re Space Bldg. Corp. (D.Mass.1996) 206 B.R. 269, 273–274.) “After an order
of dismissal, the debtor's debts and property are subject to the general laws,
unaffected by bankruptcy concepts.” (In re Income Property Builders, Inc. (9th
Cir.1982) 699 F.2d 963, 965.) Thus, RKG's nondisclosure of its legal claims did not
affect any unpaid creditor's ability to pursue it or Gottlieb for the full amount due—as
illustrated by Kest's cross-complaint. In short, Gottlieb, as RKG's assignee, did not
successfully assert his prior position.

Gottlieb, 141 Cal.App.4th at 141-42.

Defendant’s argument to the contrary, relying on Thomas v. Gordon, 85 Cal.App.4th 113
(2000) is not persuasive. In Thomas, which was decided prior to New Hampshire and Gottlieb, a

1 doctor brought an action against the accountant for two corporations organized to support a medical
2 clinic for the alleged failure to keep the plaintiff informed of the corporations' financial affairs. The
3 plaintiff admitted to having transferred her assets to the corporation for the purpose of keeping the
4 assets from her creditors. The plaintiff had filed three documents in connection with her bankruptcy
5 petitions in which she failed to list any interests or funds in the corporation among her assets. The
6 plaintiff's bankruptcy petitions were dismissed. In applying judicial estoppel to dismiss the case
7 against the accountants, the court stated:

8 We believe that this is a situation which warrants application of the doctrine of
9 judicial estoppel even absent proof of success in the earlier litigation. Appellant
10 brazenly admits that she transferred her most valuable asset-her income stream-to a
11 corporation owned wholly by her paramour in order to keep it out of the hands of her
12 creditors. She then filed for bankruptcy, clearly expecting to reclaim her funds from
13 her trusted friend after all of her lawful debts were discharged. Not once, but three
14 times, she signed documents under oath for filing with the bankruptcy court which
15 claimed to list all of her assets but said nothing about any interest in Women's Health
16 or Nationwide or the funds she allegedly believed were being held for her there.
17 Assuming that the doctrine of judicial estoppel should be applied to an unsuccessful
18 litigant only in the rare situation where the litigant has made an egregious attempt to
19 manipulate the legal system, we agree with the trial court that "this is as egregious as
20 it gets"

21 Thomas, 85 Cal.App.4th at 119. Unlike in Thomas, here there has been no showing that Plaintiff
22 *intentionally* failed to list the claims against Defendant in his schedules in "an egregious attempt to
23 manipulate the legal system." Plaintiff's case is not "as egregious as it gets."

24 Nor does the automatic stay of proceedings that accompanies a bankruptcy filing appear to
25 be sufficient to show that Plaintiff was successful at causing the bankruptcy court to accept his
26 position. See Gottlieb v. Kest, 141 Cal.App.4th 110 (2006) (applying Ninth Circuit law). The
27 Gottlieb court stated:

28 The automatic stay cannot be deemed an adoption or acceptance of RKG's prior
position because it was not premised even in part on RKG's nondisclosure of the legal
claim. . . .

As the Ninth Circuit explained: "Under the Bankruptcy Code, when a debtor files his
petition for bankruptcy, he receives the benefit of an automatic stay that is imposed
on his creditors, ... preventing them from proceeding to collect on their claims....
Under Chapter 11, the stay is also intended to give the debtor time to reorganize his
assets in order to rehabilitate his business. . . . Simply put, RKG was entitled to an
automatic stay regardless of whether it disclosed its legal claim.

In Hamilton, *supra*, 270 F.3d 778, the Ninth Circuit, in discussing whether an
automatic stay by itself constitutes success for purposes of judicial estoppel,

1 concluded that the debtor there had successfully asserted his prior position because he
2 “enjoy[ed] the benefit of both an automatic stay and a discharge of debt in his
3 Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceeding.” (Hamilton, supra, at p. 785, italics added.) The
4 court also stated that success would be shown where, for example, a bankruptcy court
5 had relied on the nondisclosure of a legal claim in deciding whether to lift a stay or
6 confirm a reorganization plan. (Id. at p. 784.) These examples would make little
7 sense if an automatic stay alone were deemed success.

8 Id. at 144; see also Spann v. DynCorp Tech. Servs., 403 F. Supp. 2d 1082, 1089 (M.D. Ala. 2005)
9 (“[The plaintiff], instead of amending her bankruptcy case to reflect the [legal] claims she now
10 brings, dismissed the bankruptcy. If ... judicial estoppel would be defeated had [the plaintiff]
11 amended her bankruptcy schedules, then it is certainly defeated by her dismissal of the bankruptcy
12 outright. [The defendant] asserts that, although [the plaintiff’s] bankruptcy was dismissed, she
13 nonetheless benefitted from it through the automatic stay on collection activity, and that benefit is an
14 ‘inequity’ that judicial estoppel should bar. It is true that a benefit sufficient to trigger judicial
15 estoppel does not have to involve full discharge of a party’s debts.... To be sure, [the plaintiff]
16 derived the benefit of an automatic stay as a result of her bankruptcy petition; however, that benefit
17 existed irrespective of the claims she listed (or failed to list) in her filings. In this case, the automatic
18 benefit of a stay on collection action prior to dismissal of a bankruptcy case is not a benefit that
19 threatens judicial integrity in a way sufficient to provide a basis for judicial estoppel.”); Stallings v.
20 Husmann Corp., 447 F.3d 1041, 1045 (8th Cir. 2006) (where a debtor fails to disclose legal claims
21 on its bankruptcy schedules, and the bankruptcy case is dismissed without a discharge of debts, the
22 debtor has not successfully asserted its position for purposes of judicial estoppel).

23 Here, unlike in Hamilton, the bankruptcy court did not certify or confirm a bankruptcy
24 plan, and there is no evidence that the bankruptcy court made any orders at all regarding Plaintiff’s
25 schedules. Thus, there has been no acceptance by the bankruptcy court of Plaintiff’s schedules and
26 no showing that he achieved any success in the bankruptcy case. Therefore, the balance of equities
27 tips against concluding that Plaintiff is judicially estopped from proceeding in this case. Thus,
28 Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss based on judicial estoppel is denied.

2. Plaintiff’s loan origination claims fail because Aurora was not involved in the origination process

There are no allegations that Defendant had any involvement in the origination of

1 Plaintiff's loan. Indeed, it is undisputed that the lender was Magnus, not Defendant Aurora. Am.
2 Compl. ¶ 16-20; Ex. A. Plaintiff alleges that he obtained a 30-year Adjustable Rate Mortgage from
3 Magnus. Am. Compl. ¶ 15. The deed of trust lists Magnus, not Defendant, as the lender. Am.
4 Compl. Ex. A. Thus, Plaintiff cannot state a claim against Defendant for claims arising from loan
5 origination. See Hafiz v. GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, 652 F. Supp. 2d 1039, 1050 (N.D. Cal.
6 2009) ("Aurora was neither involved in Hafiz's credit application nor in the origination or issuance
7 of the loan to Hafiz. On the face of the complaint, Aurora could not have violated RESPA, the FHA,
8 or the ECOA.").

9 Plaintiff, however, argues that he needs discovery to clarify the agreement between
10 Magnus and Defendant assigning his loan. In particular, Plaintiff argues that Defendant is Plaintiff's
11 only link to the name of the true foreclosing lender. Further, Plaintiff argues that the date of the
12 assignment is September 17, 2010 and the substitution of trustee is dated October 8, 2010, but the
13 Notice of Default was recorded on August 27, 2010, so Plaintiff argues that he needs discovery to
14 clarify the relationship between the parties. The case cited by Plaintiff, Alfaro v. Community
15 Housing Improvement Sys. & Planning Ass'n., 171 Cal.App.4th 1356 (2009), however, does not
16 stand for the proposition that Defendant should not be dismissed on the grounds that Plaintiff
17 requires discovery.

18 Plaintiff also argues that this case is similar to Velasquez v. GMAC, 605 F. Supp. 2d 1049
19 (C.D. Cal. 2008). Velasquez, however, is inapposite. There, the plaintiff alleged that the loan
20 originator and the loan servicing "worked together in distributing, selling, and servicing the loans,
21 that they initiated the scheme in order to maximize the loans they sold to consumers and to
22 maximize profits, that [the loan servicer] had full knowledge of [the loan originator's] wrongful acts,
23 and actively participated as an assignee and/or buyer." Id. at 1068. The court found that the
24 plaintiff there had essentially alleged aiding and abetting. Plaintiff here has not alleged that
25 Defendant aided and abetted Magnus in this way.

26 The loan origination claims (claims 1, 6, 8 and 9) fail because Defendant was not involved
27 in loan origination. Accordingly, Defendant's motion to dismiss is granted as to these claims.
28 Although it appears that amendment would be futile because it appears to be undisputed that

1 Defendant was not involved in loan origination, the Court grants Plaintiff leave to amend with the
2 caution that amendments must be made in good faith.

3 **3. Plaintiff lacks standing to challenge Defendant’s right to foreclose**

4 Defendant argues that Plaintiff lacks standing to challenge Defendant’s authority to
5 foreclose. Plaintiff does not dispute that he has defaulted on his loan, but challenges whether
6 Defendant is the proper party to foreclose. Defendant argues that if it defrauded an interested party
7 from their rightful interest in the deed of trust, that party would have a claim against Defendant, but
8 Plaintiff would not. See Fontenot v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., 198 Cal.App.4th 256, 272 (2011) (“If
9 MERS indeed lacked authority to make the assignment, the true victim was not plaintiff but the
10 original lender, which would have suffered the unauthorized loss of a \$1 million promissory note.”);
11 Gomes v. Countrywide Home Loans, 192 Cal.App.4th 1149, 1156-57 (2011) (“Gomes appears to
12 acknowledge that California's nonjudicial foreclosure law does not provide for the filing of a lawsuit
13 to determine whether MERS has been authorized by the holder of the Note to initiate a foreclosure.
14 He argues, however, that we should nevertheless interpret the statute to provide for such a right
15 because the ‘Legislature may not have contemplated or had time to fully respond to the present
16 situation.’ That argument should be addressed in the first instance to the Legislature, not the courts.
17 Because California's nonjudicial foreclosure statute is unambiguously silent on any right to bring the
18 type of action identified by Gomes, there is no basis for the courts to create such a right. We
19 therefore conclude that the trial court properly sustained Defendants' demurrer to the first and
20 second causes of action in Gomes's complaint.”).

21 Gomes left the door open for a properly pled claim to determine the authority of a party to
22 foreclose. The Gomes stated that: “It is also significant that in each of these cases, the plaintiff’s
23 complaint identified a *specific factual basis* for alleging that the foreclosure was not initiated by the
24 correct party. Gomes has not asserted *any* factual basis to suspect that MERS lacks authority to
25 proceed with the foreclosure. He simply seeks the right to bring a lawsuit to find out *whether* MERS
26 has such authority. No case law or statute authorizes such a speculative suit.” Gomes, 192
27 Cal.App.4th at 1156 (emphasis in original). Unlike here, the issue in Gomes was whether the
28 company selling the property in the nonjudicial foreclosure sale (MERS) was authorized to do so by

1 the owner of the promissory note. See id. at 1155 (rejecting the argument that a plaintiff may test
2 whether the person initiating the foreclosure has the authority to do so; “[t]he recognition of the right
3 to bring a lawsuit to determine a nominee’s authorization to proceed with foreclosure on behalf of
4 the noteholder would fundamentally undermine the nonjudicial nature of the process and introduce
5 the possibility of lawsuits filed solely for the purpose of delaying valid foreclosures”). The Gomes
6 court distinguished a case that relied on the same argument presented by Plaintiff here precisely
7 because, in that case, “the plaintiff alleged wrongful foreclosure on the ground that assignments of
8 the deed of trust had been improperly backdated, and thus the wrong party had initiated the
9 foreclosure process. No such infirmity is alleged here.” Id.

10 Here, Plaintiff has not provided allegations that, if taken as true, would support his
11 argument that the foreclosure was initiated by the wrong party. See Opp. at 8-9; Tamburri v.
12 Suntrust Mortg., 2011 WL 6294472, at *11 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 15, 2011) (finding that there was a
13 specific factual basis for the plaintiff’s claim where the plaintiff, in part, alleged that the entity that
14 issued the notice of default acted before it had authority to do so). In Tamburri, a notice of default
15 was recorded listing US Bank as the beneficiary, even though the assignment of the deed of trust
16 naming US Bank as the grantee was recorded *after* the notice of default. Under those facts, the court
17 in Tamburri held that the bank had wrongfully asserted an interest in the property which it did not
18 have:

19 While MERS’ Substitution of Trustee (Recontrust) and Assignment of Deed (U.S.
20 Bank) is dated June 8, 2010, see Docket No. 9, the notary public signature date is
21 June 10, 2010, the day *after* Recontrust recorded the notice of default, and the
22 assignment was not recorded until June 21, 2010. The Notice of Default, by contrast,
23 was dated June 8, 2010, and recorded June 9, 2010. Thus, insofar as Plaintiff
24 contends that the Notice of Default (NOD) is invalid due to a lack of authority to
25 foreclose, Plaintiff’s claim is similar to those in Sacchi and Ohlendorf. At the time of
26 the NOD, there had been no assignment.

27 Tamburri, 2011 WL 6294472, at *12 (emphasis in original). The Tamburri court denied the
28 defendant’s motion to dismiss as to the plaintiff’s wrongful foreclosure claim insofar as it was based
29 on the plaintiff’s allegations that the wrong party initiated foreclosure without any interest in the
30 subject property.

31 In this case, the notice of default was signed by Quality Loan Service Corporation and
32 recorded on August 27, 2010. RJN Ex. C. On September 1, 2010, Aurora as beneficiary substituted

1 Quality Loan Service Corporation as trustee. RJN Ex. B. The assignment from MERS to Defendant
2 Aurora was signed and notarized on September 10, 2010 and recorded on September 17, 2010. RJN
3 Ex. A. That substitution was recorded on October 8, 2010. Id. Although the notice of default was
4 recorded before the assignment to Defendant Aurora, there are no allegations that Defendant Aurora,
5 as the assignee of MERS, could not properly assume the foreclosure proceedings as of the time of
6 the assignment. There are no allegations that the assignment to Defendant was back-dated to a time
7 earlier than the notice of default in an effort to provide authority to the entity that recorded the
8 notice, as it was in Tamburri. Thus, Plaintiff has not alleged a factual basis for his claim that
9 Defendant lacked the authority to foreclose, and therefore, he lacks standing to challenge
10 Defendant's right to foreclose.

11 **4. Plaintiff has stated a claim for violation of California Civil Code section 2923.5**

12 Section 2923.5 requires that: "A mortgagee, beneficiary, or authorized agent shall contact
13 the borrower in person or by telephone in order to assess the borrower's financial situation and
14 explore options for the borrower to avoid foreclosure. . . . A notice of default filed pursuant to
15 Section 2924 shall include a declaration that the mortgagee, beneficiary, or authorized agent has
16 contacted the borrower, has tried with due diligence to contact the borrower as required by this
17 section, or that no contact was required pursuant to subdivision (h)."). Plaintiff alleges that Aurora
18 initiated foreclosure proceedings before contacting Plaintiff to discuss his loan situation as required
19 by section 2923.5. Am. Compl. ¶¶ 77-81. Plaintiff alleges that any contact between the parties was
20 initiated by Plaintiff. Am. Compl. ¶ 82.

21 The requirements of section 2923.5 are narrow, and do not require the lender to have much
22 more than minimal contact with a debtor to assess the debtor's position and inform them of various
23 options. Mabry v. Superior Court, 185 Cal.App.4th 208, 232 (2010) (construing section 2923.5
24 narrowly). The Mabry court stated:

25 First, to the degree that the words "assess" and "explore" can be narrowly or
26 expansively construed, they must be narrowly construed in order to avoid crossing
27 the line from state foreclosure law into federally preempted loan servicing. Hence,
28 any "assessment" must necessarily be simple-something on the order of, "why can't
you make your payments?" The statute cannot require the lender to consider a whole
new loan application or take detailed loan application information over the phone.
(Or, as is unlikely, in person.)

1 Second, the same goes for any “exploration” of options to avoid foreclosure.
2 Exploration must necessarily be limited to merely telling the borrower the traditional
3 ways that foreclosure can be avoided (e.g., deeds “in lieu,” workouts, or short sales),
4 as distinct from requiring the lender to engage in a process that would be functionally
5 indistinguishable from taking a loan application in the first place. In this regard, we
6 note that section 2923.5 directs lenders to refer the borrower to “the toll-free
7 telephone number made available by the United States Department of Housing and
8 Urban Development (HUD) to find a HUD-certified housing counseling agency.” The
9 obvious implication of the statute's referral clause is that the lender itself does not
10 have any duty to become a loan counselor itself.

11 Finally, to the degree that the “assessment” or “exploration” requirements impose, in
12 practice, burdens on federal savings banks that might arguably push the statute out of
13 the permissible category of state foreclosure law and into the federally preempted
14 category of loan servicing or loan making, evidence of such a burden is necessary
15 before the argument can be persuasive. For the time being, and certainly on this
16 record, we cannot say that section 2923.5, narrowly construed, strays over the line.

17 Mabry, 185 Cal.App.4th at 232.

18 Although Plaintiff alleges that all contact was initiated by him, other allegations of the
19 complaint show that Defendant contacted Plaintiff. Plaintiff alleges that on May 5, 2010, Defendant
20 sent him a letter advising him that he may be eligible for a loan modification. Am. Compl. ¶ 25.
21 There are no allegations that he contacted Defendant first about the loan modification. Defendant
22 argues that the May 5, 2010 letter shows that Defendant complied with section 2923.5. However,
23 the statute states that the lender must contact Plaintiff in person or by phone and there are no
24 allegations or evidence showing that this was done before the notice of default was filed. Therefore,
25 Plaintiff has stated a claim for violation of section 2923.5, and Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss this
26 claim is denied.

27 **5. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for fraud**

28 Claims sounding in fraud are subject to a heightened pleading standard. Rule 9(b) of the
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires that “[i]n allegations of fraud or mistake, a party must
state with particularity the circumstances constituting fraud or mistake.” To satisfy the rule, a
plaintiff must allege the “who, what, where, when, and how” of the charged misconduct. Cooper v.
Pickett, 137 F.3d 616, 627 (9th Cir. 1997). In other words, “the circumstances constituting the
alleged fraud must be specific enough to give defendants notice of the particular misconduct so that
they can defend against the charge and not just deny that they have done anything wrong.” Vess v.
Ciba-Geigy Corp. U.S.A., 317 F.3d 1097, 1106 (9th Cir. 2003). Further, when charging fraud

1 against a business entity, the pleading requirements are more strict:

2 The requirement of specificity in a fraud action against a corporation requires the
3 plaintiff to allege the names of the persons who made the allegedly fraudulent
4 representations, their authority to speak, to whom they spoke, what they said or
wrote, and when it was said or written.

5 Tarmann v. State Farm Mutual Auto Ins. Co., 2 Cal.App.4th 153, 157 (1991).

6 Plaintiff's fraud claim alleges fraud in the origination of the loan. Not only is this claim
7 dismissed on the grounds stated above that Defendant was not involved in loan origination, it is
8 dismissed for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff alleges that the payment on the adjustable rate
9 mortgage that he obtained was \$3,134.37, which he alleges appeared to be calculated based on a
10 fully amortized principal and interest payment. Am. Compl. ¶ 52. Plaintiff alleges, however, that
11 Defendant did not disclose to Plaintiff that the payment was an interest only payment. Am. Compl.
12 ¶ 52. Plaintiff alleges that there was no indication that the interest rate would change after five
13 years, and that the interest rate would change every twelve months. Am. Compl. ¶ 52. Plaintiff
14 alleges that he was not provided with a payment schedule. Am. Compl. ¶ 52. Plaintiff alleges that
15 had Defendant disclosed that the amount of the monthly payment necessary to pay down the
16 principal during the first five years of the loan, Plaintiff would not have entered into the loan. Am.
17 Compl. ¶ 52. Plaintiff also alleges that had Defendant explained the real calculation of the full
18 payment, which was not actually a fully amortized payment, Plaintiff would not have entered into
19 the loan. Am. Compl. ¶ 53. Plaintiff also alleges that had Defendant explained the concept of a
20 limited payment, which resulted in increased payments, Plaintiff would not have entered into the
21 loan. Am. Compl. ¶ 54. Plaintiff alleges that had Defendant disclosed how the terms of the loan
22 could affect its affordability and create the possibility of the loss of the property, he would not have
23 entered into it. Am. Compl. ¶ 55. Plaintiff also alleges that the loan documents stated that the
24 interest rate "may" change, when in reality the interest rate was actually going to change. Am.
25 Compl. ¶ 56. Plaintiff alleges that he only recently discovered the fraud when he reviewed the loan
26 documents during the loan modification process, within the prior two years. Am. Compl. ¶ 59.
27 Plaintiff alleges that he did not fill out the loan application, and that his income was inflated on the
28 application. Am. Compl. ¶ 60. Plaintiff alleges that as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing in

1 inflating Plaintiff's income and qualifying Plaintiff for a loan he could never afford, Plaintiff has
2 suffered financial hardship. Am. Compl. ¶ 63. In addition, Plaintiff alleges that he was not given
3 enough time to read the loan documents at closing and was pressured to sign quickly. Am. Compl. ¶
4 68. Finally, Plaintiff alleges that he justifiably relied on Defendant's deception, which caused his
5 injuries. Am. Compl. ¶ 70.

6 Plaintiff has failed to state his fraud claim with particularity. Plaintiff's complaint states
7 that "Defendants" made certain statements, and does not distinguish between Defendants in this
8 case. In fact, it appears that the allegations in this claim are not against Defendant Aurora. Instead,
9 Plaintiff argues in his opposition brief that he alleged that Magnus, the original lender and
10 predecessor in interest to Defendant withheld material facts over the phone and at the closing in
11 November and December 2006 for the purpose of trapping Plaintiff in an unaffordable loan. Opp. at
12 11-12. These allegations do not support a fraud claim against Defendant Aurora. Thus, Defendant's
13 Motion to Dismiss the fraud claim is granted.

14 **6. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for breach of contract**

15 In order to state a breach of contract claim, a plaintiff must plead the following elements:
16 "the existence of the contract, performance by the plaintiff or excuse for nonperformance, breach by
17 the defendant, and damages." First Commercial Mortgage Co. v. Reece, 89 Cal. App. 4th 731, 745
18 (2001). Plaintiff alleges that in or about November 2010, he was advised that he was approved for a
19 Special Forbearance Agreement. Am. Compl. ¶ 93. Plaintiff alleges that the terms of the agreement
20 provided that Plaintiff would pay a stipulated payment of \$3,134.38 as the first payment, and
21 thereafter five monthly payments of \$2,983.00. Am. Compl. ¶ 94. Plaintiff alleges that the terms of
22 the agreement provided in consideration of the promises therein, Defendant would forbear from
23 exercising any or its rights and remedies existing during the term of the agreement. Am. Compl. ¶
24 95. Plaintiff alleges that the agreement provided that Plaintiff was to provide financial information
25 to Defendant. Am. Compl. ¶ 96. Plaintiff signed the agreement, and as a result, Defendant placed
26 the foreclosure sale on hold. Am. Compl. ¶¶ 97-98. Plaintiff alleges that on or about February 3,
27 2011, Defendant advised Plaintiff that since he was complying with the terms of the agreement,
28 Defendant would consider him for a permanent loan upon submission of further financial

1 information. Am. Compl. ¶ 99. Plaintiff alleges that he made all payments under the agreement, yet
2 on May 25, 2011, Quality recorded a notice of trustee's sale. Am. Compl. ¶¶ 100-01. Plaintiff
3 alleges that therefore, Defendants breached the written agreement it entered into with Plaintiff "not
4 to foreclose on the Subject Property while it was reviewing Plaintiff for a permanent loan
5 modification agreement." Am. Compl. ¶ 103. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants "reiterated and
6 assured Plaintiff that they would not proceed with a foreclosure of Plaintiff's property while they
7 were in the forbearance agreement, and while Defendant was reviewing him for a permanent loan
8 modification agreement. Am. Compl. ¶ 104. Plaintiff alleges that on or about July 8, 2011, based
9 on the fact that he would imminently be approved for a loan modification, Plaintiff sent a check to
10 Defendant in the amount of \$4,021.22, which Defendant would not accept. Am. Compl. ¶ 105.

11 Plaintiff's allegations, however, are contradicted by the forbearance agreement itself. Am.
12 Compl. Ex. E. Where an exhibit to a pleading is inconsistent with the pleading, the exhibit controls.
13 Gamble v. GMAC Mortg. Corp., 2009 WL 400359, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 18, 2009) (granting motion
14 to dismiss where the allegations in the complaint of the date of an agreement were contradicted by
15 an exhibit). Here, the forbearance agreement states, in relevant part:

16 8. Status of Default and Foreclosure. Customer acknowledges that if the Lender
17 previously notified the Customer that the account was in default, that the Note and
18 Security Instrument are accelerated and the debt evidenced by the Note is due in full,
19 the account remains in default, such Loan Documents remain accelerated, and such
20 debt due in full, although Customer may be entitled by law to cure such default by
21 bringing the loan evidenced by Note current rather than paying it in full. Lender's
22 acceptance of any payments from Customer which, individually, are less than the
23 total amount due to cure the default described herein shall in no way prevent Lender
24 from continuing with collection action, or require Lender to re-notify Customer of
25 such default, re-accelerate the loan, re-issue any notice, or resume any process prior
26 to Lender proceeding with collection action if Customer Defaults. Customer agrees
27 that a foreclosure action if commenced by the Lender against Customer will not be
28 withdrawn unless Lender determines to do so by applicable law. In the event
Customer Defaults, the foreclosure will commence, or resume from the point at which
it was placed on hold, without further notice.

24 Am. Compl. Ex. E at 3. In this case, the notice of default was recorded on August 27, 2010, and the
25 forbearance agreement was signed in December 2010. Therefore, Plaintiff had already been notified
26 that his account was in default, triggering application of paragraph 8. Plaintiff's allegation that
27 Defendant breached the written agreement "not to foreclose on the Subject Property while it was
28 reviewing Plaintiff for a permanent loan modification agreement," is contradicted by paragraph 8,

1 which states that Defendant does not agree to forego foreclosure. Thus, Defendant's motion to
2 dismiss is granted.

3 Defendant also argues that any oral promises not to foreclose are unenforceable under the
4 statute of frauds. "A modification of a contract is a change in the obligations of a party by a
5 subsequent mutual agreement of the parties." Secrest v. Security Nat. Mortg. Loan Trust 2002-2, 167
6 Cal.App.4th 544, 553 (2008). "A contract coming within the statute of frauds is invalid unless it is
7 memorialized by a writing subscribed by the party to be charged or by the party's agent." Secrest,
8 167 Cal.App.4th at 552 (citing Cal. Civ. Code § 1624)). An "agreement by which a lender agreed to
9 forbear from exercising the right of foreclosure under a deed of trust securing an interest in real
10 property comes within the statute of frauds." Secrest, 167 Cal.App.4th at 547. "An agreement to
11 modify a contract that is subject to the statute of frauds is also subject to the statute of frauds."
12 Secrest, 167 Cal.App.4th at 553. To the extent that Plaintiff bases this claim on alleged oral
13 promises, those are barred by the statute of frauds unless the promises were in writing or could be
14 performed within one year.

15 **7. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for breach of the implied covenant of good faith**
16 **and fair dealing**

17 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair
18 dealing when Defendant willfully did not accept mortgage payments from Plaintiff in an attempt to
19 force Plaintiff's property into foreclosure. Am. Compl. ¶¶ 127-130. Plaintiff also alleges that
20 Defendant also breached the covenant of good faith and fair dealing when Defendants continued the
21 foreclosure process despite Defendants' assurances that Defendants would suspend all foreclosure
22 activity while reviewing Plaintiff for a loan modification. Am. Compl. ¶¶ 132-133.

23 The covenant of good faith is an implied term arising out of a contract itself. Kim v.
24 Regents of Univ. of Cal., 80 Cal.4th 160, 164 (2000). "The existence of a contractual relationship is
25 thus a prerequisite for any action for breach of the covenant." Id. "It is universally recognized the
26 scope of conduct prohibited by the covenant of good faith is circumscribed by the purposes and
27 express terms of the contract." Carma Developers (California), Inc. v. Marathon Development
28 California, Inc., 2 Cal.4th 342, 373 (1992) (stating that an implied covenant of good faith and fair
dealing cannot contradict the express terms of a contract). Here, because Plaintiff has not stated a

1 claim for breach of contract, he cannot state a claim for breach of the implied covenant of good faith
2 and fair dealing.

3 Further, in Foley v. Interactive Data Corp., 47 Cal.3d 654, 693 (1988), the California
4 Supreme Court reigned in the extension of the tort remedies for violation of the implied covenant of
5 good faith and fair dealing. See Price, 213 Cal.App.3d at 478 ("But the implications of the court's
6 analysis [in Foley] presage a close scrutiny of tort recovery for breach of the implied covenant of
7 good faith and fair dealing outside of the insurance context. The decision surely precludes the sort of
8 loose extension of tort recovery, based on 'quasi-fiduciary' relationship, sanctioned in Commercial
9 Cotton v. United California Bank, supra, 163 Cal.App.3d 511."). In a case interpreting Foley, the
10 state court of appeals stated:

11 While Foley may leave this question open, albeit narrowly, it is clear from the court's
12 failure to find sufficiently insurance-like characteristics to justify permitting tort
13 actions against employers who discharge employees in bad faith, that it would not
14 permit such an action in an ordinary commercial context where a lender refuses to
15 honor an oral commitment to extend or "roll over" short-term loans. Foley, impliedly
16 if not expressly, limits the ability to recover tort damages in breach of contract
17 situations to those where the respective positions of the contracting parties have the
18 fiduciary characteristics of that relationship between the insurer and insured.

19 Mitsui Manufacturers Bank v. Superior Court, 212 Cal.App.3d 726, 730 (1989).

20 Thus, here, where the relationship between Plaintiff and Defendants is that of lender and
21 borrower, it is unlikely that California law would uphold a claim for breach of the covenant of good
22 faith and fair dealing. Accordingly, Defendant's motion to dismiss this claim is granted without
23 leave to amend based on Foley.

24 **8. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for violation of RESPA**

25 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to respond to his qualified written request (QWR)
26 and a validation of debt (VOD) seeking information as to the servicing of Plaintiff's note that were
27 sent on September 26, 2011. Am. Compl. ¶¶ 115-16. Plaintiff alleges that by failing to respond to
28 those documents, Defendants have failed to provide Plaintiff with proof of the debt allegedly owed,
causing Plaintiff's inability to make adequate payments on his loan resulting in substantial negative
amortization and lost equity on his home. Am. Compl. ¶ 117. Plaintiff alleges that his inability to
determine the amount Defendants allege is owed by Plaintiff has resulted in substantial fees and

1 penalties. Am. Compl. ¶ 118.

2 Defendant argues that Plaintiff’s claim is conclusory because it fails to explain why his
3 correspondence was a proper QWR under 12 U.S.C. § 2605(e)(1)(B)(ii):

4 (e) Duty of loan servicer to respond to borrower inquiries

(1) Notice of receipt of inquiry

5 (A) In general

6 If any servicer of a federally related mortgage loan receives a qualified written
7 request from the borrower (or an agent of the borrower) for information relating to
8 the servicing of such loan, the servicer shall provide a written response
9 acknowledging receipt of the correspondence within 20 days (excluding legal public
10 holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays) unless the action requested is taken within such
11 period.

(B) Qualified written request

12 For purposes of this subsection, a qualified written request shall be a written
13 correspondence, other than notice on a payment coupon or other payment medium
14 supplied by the servicer, that--

15 (i) includes, or otherwise enables the servicer to identify, the name and account of the
16 borrower; and

17 (ii) includes a statement of the reasons for the belief of the borrower, to the extent
18 applicable, that the account is in error or provides sufficient detail to the servicer
19 regarding other information sought by the borrower.

20 See also Harris v. American General Finance, Inc., m2005 WL 1593673, at *3 (D. Kan. July 6,
21 2005) (“A letter cannot be “qualified” under the statute if it does not relate to the servicing of the
22 account, i.e. the allegation of an inaccurate account.”). Specifically, Defendant argues that the QWR
23 is not a proper one because Plaintiff’s letter does not challenge how the loans were serviced and
24 does not allege any particular problems with the servicing of the loan. See Pettie v. Saxon Mortg.
25 Servs., 2009 WL 1325947, at * (W.D. Wash. May 12, 2009) (“Plaintiffs' Inquiry Letter provided no
26 such statement. Instead it said: “we dispute the amount that is owed according to the Monthly
27 Billing Statement and request that you send us information about fees, costs and escrow accounting
28 on our loan. This is a ‘qualified written request’ pursuant to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures
Act (section 2605(e))” No where in the Inquiry Letter do Plaintiffs offer any reasons for their dispute
of the amount due on the loan. RESPA § 2605(e)(1)(B) clearly requires that a disputing party give
specific “reasons” for claiming that an account is in error. Plaintiffs offer no reason why the clear
and unambiguous meaning of the statute should not govern this case. Nor do they cite to any case
law interpreting RESPA § 2605(e)(1)(B) in another light. Allowing borrowers to allege error without
justification for their belief for such error would permit frivolous requests for document production

1 at the expense of loan and servicing companies. Because Plaintiffs failed to provide any statement of
2 reasons for their dispute of the loan amount, their Inquiry Letter does not constitute a qualified
3 written request under RESPA.”)

4 Here, the QWR states that “I suspect violations of RESPA or of TILA in the processing of
5 certain fees associated with my loan and loan documentation.” Compl. Ex. K. Plaintiff’s QWR is
6 not a proper one because it does not include a statement of the reasons that Plaintiff believes that the
7 account is in error or provide sufficient detail to Defendant regarding other information sought by
8 Plaintiff. Thus, Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for violation of RESPA, and Defendant’s Motion
9 to Dismiss this claim is granted. Although it appears that amendment would be futile because the
10 language of the QWR appears to be undisputed, the Court grants Plaintiff leave to amend with the
11 caution that amendments must be made in good faith.

12 **9. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for violation of TILA**

13 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants violated TILA by failing to provide Plaintiff with accurate
14 material disclosures and by not taking into account the intent of the legislature in approving TILA
15 which was to fully inform home buyers of the pros and cons of adjustable rate mortgages and
16 negative amortization mortgages. Am. Compl. ¶ 138. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to
17 inform him that the principal balance of the loan would increase, and that the amount of the monthly
18 payment would dramatically increase. Am. Compl. ¶ 139. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to
19 provide any disclosures until months after the loan closed. Am. Compl. ¶ 140. Plaintiff alleges that
20 the statute of limitations was tolled due to Defendants’ failure to effectively provide the required
21 disclosures, and Plaintiff’s inability to discovery the TILA violations until going through the loan
22 modification process. Am. Compl. ¶ 141.

23 Plaintiff’s TILA claims are time-barred. The statute of limitations for a TILA claim is one
24 year for a damages claim and three years for a rescission claim. 15 U.S.C. § 1635(f), 1640(e). Here,
25 Plaintiff’s loan closed in December 2006, but Plaintiff did not bring this action until 2012, beyond
26 even the longest limitations period.

27 Plaintiff argues, however, that his TILA claims are equitably tolled. “Equitable tolling is
28 generally applied in situations ‘where the claimant has actively pursued his judicial remedies by

1 filing a defective pleading during the statutory period, or where the complainant has been induced or
2 tricked by his adversary's misconduct into allowing the filing deadline to pass.' " O'Donnell v.
3 Vencor, Inc., 465 F.3d 1063, 1068 (9th Cir.2006) (quoting Irwin v. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, 498
4 U.S. 89, 96 (1990)). "Equitable tolling may be applied if, despite all due diligence, a plaintiff is
5 unable to obtain vital information bearing on the existence of his claim." Santa Maria v. Pacific Bell,
6 202 F.3d 1170, 1178 (9th Cir. 2000). "If a reasonable plaintiff would not have known of the
7 existence of a possible claim within the limitations period, then equitable tolling will serve to extend
8 the statute of limitations for filing suit until the plaintiff can gather what information he needs." Id.;
9 see also Stoll v. Runyon, 165 F.3d 1238, 1242 (9th Cir.1999) ("Equitable tolling applies when the
10 plaintiff is prevented from asserting a claim by wrongful conduct on the part of the defendant ...").

11 Even construing the complaint liberally, Plaintiff has failed to allege sufficient facts
12 demonstrating entitlement to equitable tolling. Assuming that Defendant's acts violated TILA,
13 Plaintiff had the information he needed to discover and bring an action regarding the alleged wrongs
14 more than three years before filing suit. See Meyer v. Ameriquest Mortgage Co., 342 F.3d 899, 902
15 (9th Cir. 2003) ("The failure to make the required disclosures occurred, if at all, at the time the loan
16 documents were signed."). Nothing in the complaint suggests that Plaintiff was prevented from
17 comparing his loan documents and disclosures with TILA statutory and regulatory requirements.
18 See Hubbard v. Fidelity Federal Bank, 91 F.3d 75, 79 (9th Cir.1996) (determining that the plaintiff's
19 TILA claims based on the failure to make disclosures was time-barred: "Hubbard argues the statute
20 of limitations should have been tolled until she discovered 'there were possible 'anomalies' or errors
21 in her loan.' However, nothing prevented Hubbard from comparing the loan contract, Fidelity's
22 initial disclosures, and TILA's statutory and regulatory requirements."). Nor did Plaintiff plead any
23 facts demonstrating that equitable tolling is warranted under the circumstances, such as "facts
24 showing that he actively pursued his judicial remedies by filing a defective pleading during the
25 statutory period, was induced or tricked by defendants' misconduct into allowing the filing deadline
26 to pass, or was unable to obtain vital information bearing on the existence of his TILA claim, despite
27 all due diligence." Rosal v. First Fed. Bank of Cal., 671 F. Supp. 2d 1111, 1123 (N.D. Cal. 2009).
28 Plaintiff has failed to sufficiently allege tolling.

1 Plaintiff's TILA claim is dismissed for failure to state a claim and because it is time-barred.
2 Although it appears that amendment would be futile because this claim is time-barred, the Court
3 grants Plaintiff leave to amend with the caution that amendments must be made in good faith.

4 **10. Plaintiff has not stated a claim for rescission**

5 Plaintiff alleges that he is entitled to rescind the loan because of the TILA violations, failure
6 to provide proper disclosures, intentional fraudulent acts, fraudulent concealment and public policy.
7 Am. Compl. ¶¶ 149-152. Rescission is a remedy, not a claim. In addition, rescission is not
8 appropriate because Plaintiff has not made an unconditional offer of payment and representation of
9 their present ability to pay. See Joshua Tree Townsite Co. v. Joshua Tree Land Co., 100 Cal.App.2d
10 590, 596 (1950) ("A party to a contract who has defaulted cannot seek rescission. Rescission is not
11 allowable where the party demanding it cannot or does not restore the other party to the condition he
12 would have been in but for the contract.") (internal citations omitted). Therefore, Defendant's
13 Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's rescission claim is granted without leave to amend.

14 **11. Plaintiff's claim for injunctive relief fails**

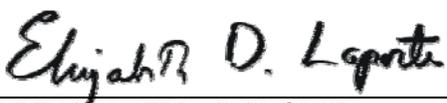
15 Plaintiff seeks a stay of the foreclosure sale, which according to the opposition brief was to
16 take place on April 9, 2012. Am. Compl. ¶¶ 182-185; Opp. at 20. Injunctive relief is not a claim,
17 but a remedy. See Cox Communications v. City of San Marcos, 204 F. Supp. 2d 1272, 1283 (S.D.
18 Cal. 2002) (dismissing a claim for injunctive relief because it is not a claim, but is a remedy). This
19 claim is dismissed, but to the extent that Plaintiff files an amended complaint, he may include
20 injunctive relief in his prayer for relief.

21 **Conclusion**

22 Defendant's motion to dismiss is granted in part and denied in part, with leave to amend as
23 stated above. Any amended complaint shall be filed no later than July 26, 2012. The Clerk of the
24 Court shall reopen this closed case. A case management conference is set for August 28, 2012 at
25 3:00 p.m. A joint case management conference statement shall be filed no later than August 21,
26 2012. **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

27 Dated: July 9, 2012

28


ELIZABETH D. LAPORTE
United States Magistrate Judge

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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