

FILED

09 NOV -4 PM 2:14

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BY:  DEPUTY

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10  
11 MICHAEL ATLAS and GAIL ATLAS,  
12 Individually and On Behalf of All Others  
13 Similarly Situated,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 vs.

16 ACCREDITED HOME LENDERS  
17 HOLDING CO.; JAMES KONRATH;  
18 JOSEPH J. LYDON; STUART D.  
19 MARVIN; JOHN S. BUCHANAN;  
20 DAVID E. HERTZEL; and JEFFREY W.  
21 CRAWFORD,

22 Defendants.

**CASE NO. 07-CV-00488-H (CAB)**

**FINAL ORDER APPROVING  
SETTLEMENT AND PLAN OF  
ALLOCATION AND  
GRANTING PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR AWARD OF  
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND  
OTHER EXPENSES**

23 On August 24, 2007, Arkansas Teacher Retirement System ("Lead Plaintiff") filed a  
24 corrected and consolidated class action complaint against Accredited Home Lenders Holding  
25 Co. and certain officers and directors ("Defendants"). (Doc. No. 54.) The complaint alleges  
26 violations of §§ 10(b), 20(a), and 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and §§ 11,  
27 12(a)(2) and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933. (Id.) On January 4, 2008, the Court issued an  
28 order (1) denying Accredited's motion to dismiss; (2) granting in part with leave to amend  
Accredited Mortgage Loan REIT Trust's and the Individual Defendants' motions to dismiss;  
and (3) denying Plaintiff's motion to strike. (Doc. No. 86.) Defendants filed an answer on  
March 14, 2008. (Doc. Nos. 99 & 100.)

1 In March and April of 2009, the Parties participated in mediation sessions before the  
2 Honorable Layn Phillips (Ret.). (Decl. of David R. Stickney ISO Motion for Final Approval  
3 of Settlement and Plan of Allocation (“Stickney Decl.”) ¶¶ 57-61.) All negotiations were  
4 conducted at arm’s length. (Id. ¶ 61.) On April 15, 2009, the Parties agreed to a Settlement  
5 of \$22 million in cash, plus accrued interest for the benefit of the Settlement Class.<sup>1</sup> (Id. ¶ 3;  
6 see Doc. No. 210, Stipulation of Settlement.) On April 16, 2009, the Parties notified the Court  
7 that a settlement had been reached. (Doc. No. 195.)

8 On May 1, 2009, Accredited filed a voluntary Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Petition in the  
9 United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Delaware. (Stickney Decl. ¶ 65.) Pursuant to 11  
10 U.S.C. § 362, all actions against Accredited, including this litigation, were stayed. On July 7,  
11 2009, the Bankruptcy Court issued an order modifying the automatic stay to the extent  
12 necessary to allow preliminary approval of the Settlement. On August 27, 2009, the  
13 Bankruptcy Court entered an order approving Accredited’s participation in the Settlement and  
14 of the use of the proceeds of certain directors’ and officers’ liability insurance policies to fund  
15 the Settlement. (Id. ¶ 67.)

16 On July 15, 2009, Lead Plaintiff filed a motion for preliminary approval of the  
17 Settlement, certification of the Settlement Class, and approval to send notice of the Settlement  
18 to Settlement Class Members. (Doc. No. 210.) The Court granted Lead Plaintiff’s motion on  
19 August 4, 2009. (Doc. No. 213.) Pursuant to the Court’s preliminary approval order, Lead  
20 Plaintiff provided notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class through publication in The  
21 Investor’s Business Daily, postings on Internet websites, and the mailing of 4,542 Notices.  
22 (See Decl. of Jennifer Keough Re: Notice Dissemination and Publication ¶ 8.) Potential  
23 Settlement Class Members submitted two objections to the proposed Plan of Allocation and  
24 three requests for exclusion. (Doc. Nos. 220, 222 & 223 Ex. A.)

25 ///

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>1</sup>This order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Stipulation, and all  
28 capitalized terms used, but not defined herein, shall have the same meanings as in the  
Stipulation. (See Doc. No. 210, Stipulation of Settlement.)

1 On September 16, 2009, Lead Plaintiff filed a motion for final approval of Settlement  
2 and Plan of Allocation, and a motion for approval of attorneys' fees and expenses. (Doc. Nos.  
3 216 & 217.) The Court held a hearing on the motions on November 2, 2009. David Stickney  
4 and Niki Mendoza appeared on behalf of Lead Plaintiff, Kim Donaldson and Joseph Gentile  
5 appeared telephonically on behalf of Plaintiff William Kornfeld, Jr. ("Kornfeld"), and  
6 Christopher McGrath, James Gillespie, and Andrew Kay appeared on behalf of Defendants.  
7 No individuals appeared to object to the proposed settlement. (See Doc. No. 213.)

8 After due consideration of the evidence and arguments presented to the Court in the  
9 Parties' moving papers and at the November 2, 2009 hearing, the Court concludes that good  
10 cause exists to finally approve the proposed Settlement and Plan of Allocation. Moreover, as  
11 discussed below, the Court grants Lead Plaintiff's motion for an award of attorneys' fees in  
12 the amount of \$5,317,936.16 and reimbursement of litigation expenses in the amount of  
13 \$728,255.35. The Court also grants Plaintiff Kornfeld's request for a service award in the  
14 amount of \$5,000 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(4).

## 15 DISCUSSION

### 16 **I. Class Certification**

17 The proposed Settlement Class consists of all persons and entities who purchased or  
18 acquired Accredited Securities between November 1, 2005, through March 12, 2007,  
19 inclusive, and who were injured thereby. Excluded from the Settlement Class are  
20 Accredited, Berglund, Buchanan, Crawford, Erickson, Espy, Gunderson, Konrath, Lydon,  
21 Marvin, and Pratt; the officers and directors of Accredited at all relevant times; members of  
22 their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any  
23 entity in which any Defendant has or had a controlling interest, including the REIT. Also  
24 excluded from the Settlement Class are those persons who timely and validly request  
25 exclusion from the Settlement Class pursuant to the Notice of Pendency and Proposed  
26 Settlement of Class Action. (See Ex. 1, attached.)

27 The Court's "threshold task is to ascertain whether the proposed settlement class  
28 satisfies the requirements of Rule 23(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure applicable

1 to all class actions, namely: (1) numerosity, (2) commonality, (3) typicality, and (4)  
2 adequacy of representation.” Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp., 150 F.3d 1011, 1019 (9th Cir.  
3 1998). “The prerequisite of numerosity is discharged if the class is so large that joinder of  
4 all members is impracticable.” Id. Sufficient commonality exists “if there are questions of  
5 fact and law which are common to the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2); see Hanlon, 150  
6 F.3d at 1019. “The typicality prerequisite of Rule 23(a) is fulfilled if the claims or defenses  
7 of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class.” Hanlon, 150  
8 F.3d at 1020. The representative's claims “need not be substantially identical” to all class  
9 members' claims. Id. Finally, Rule 23(a) requires that all class members' interests be  
10 adequately represented. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4). “Resolution of two questions determines  
11 legal adequacy: (1) do the named plaintiffs and their counsel have any conflicts of interest  
12 with other class members and (2) will the named plaintiffs and their counsel prosecute the  
13 action vigorously on behalf of the class?” Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1020. Based on the  
14 allegations in the corrected and consolidated class action complaint and the evidence  
15 provided by the Parties, the Court concludes that the Settlement Class meets the  
16 requirements of numerosity, commonality, typicality, and adequacy of representation.

17 In addition to the prerequisites of Rule 23(a), the Parties must show that the action is  
18 maintainable under Rule 23(b)(1), (2) or (3). Amchem Products, Inc. v. Windsor, 521 U.S.  
19 591, 614 (1997); Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1022. A class meets the requirements of Rule  
20 23(b)(3) if it is able to satisfy two conditions: “common questions must predominate over  
21 any questions affecting only individual members, and class resolution must be superior to  
22 other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.” Hanlon,  
23 150 F.3d at 1022.; Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3). The first requirement is distinct from the  
24 “commonality” prerequisite of Rule 23(a) and may be satisfied by showing that the  
25 litigation is dominated by a “common nucleus of facts and potential legal remedies.” See  
26 Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1022. The Court concludes that these requirements are satisfied in this  
27 case. Accordingly, the Court finally certifies for settlement purposes the proposed class.

28 ///

1 **II. Final Approval of Proposed Settlement**

2 Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that “[t]he court must  
3 approve any settlement, voluntary dismissal, or compromise of the claims, issues, or  
4 defenses of a certified class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1)(A). The Rule further states that  
5 “[t]he court may approve a settlement, voluntary dismissal, or compromise that would bind  
6 class members only after a hearing and on finding that the settlement, voluntary dismissal,  
7 or compromise is fair, reasonable, and adequate.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1)(C); see Class  
8 Plaintiffs v. City of Seattle, 955 F.2d 1268, 1276 (9th Cir. 1992). In evaluating a settlement  
9 the Court must “balance a number of factors: the strength of the plaintiffs' case; the risk,  
10 expense, complexity and likely duration of further litigation; the risk of maintaining class  
11 action status throughout the trial; the amount offered in settlement; the extent of discovery  
12 completed and the stage of the proceedings; the experience and views of counsel; the  
13 presence of a governmental participant; and the reaction of the class members to the  
14 proposed settlement.” Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1026; see Torrisi v. Tucson Elec. Power Co., 8  
15 F.3d 1370, 1375 (9th Cir. 1993). “The relative degree of importance to be attached to any  
16 particular factor will depend upon . . . the nature of the claim(s) advanced, the type(s) of  
17 relief sought, and the unique facts and circumstances presented by each individual case.”  
18 Officers For Justice v. Civil Serv. Comm'n., 688 F.2d 615, 625 (9th Cir. 1982); see also  
19 Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1026 (“It is the settlement taken as a whole, rather than the individual  
20 component parts, that must be examined for overall fairness.”).

21 Upon review of all the evidence submitted by the Parties, the Court concludes that  
22 the Settlement considered as a whole is fair, adequate and reasonable. Plaintiffs faced  
23 significant risk in proceeding with the litigation. Accredited’s bankruptcy filing increased  
24 the risk that it would not be able to satisfy a substantial judgment and Defendants  
25 consistently argued that market forces and not any alleged misstatements were to blame for  
26 the investors’ losses. (See Stickney Decl. ¶¶ 70-1.) Additionally, litigating the complex  
27 securities fraud class action to completion would have resulted in substantial delay and  
28 expense. In contrast to the risk, delay, and complexity involved in proceeding with

1 litigation, the Settlement of \$22 million provides an immediate and valuable cash benefit to  
2 eligible Settlement Class Members. Moreover, the Settlement was reached only after Lead  
3 Plaintiff had adequate information to guide a thorough analysis of the Settlement Class'  
4 claims. In prosecuting the claim to the point of settling, Lead Plaintiff drafted a detailed  
5 consolidated complaint after reviewing and analyzing the Company's SEC filings, annual  
6 reports, and other documents, provided extensive briefing on Defendants' motion to  
7 dismiss, and reviewed over four-million pages produced by Defendants during discovery.  
8 (Id. ¶ 4.) The settlement negotiations were also fair. They were closely supervised by the  
9 Honorable Layn Phillips (Ret.) and conducted at arm's length by experienced and  
10 competent counsel. Finally, the class members' reaction to the proposed settlement has  
11 been favorable. Out of 4,542 notices, the Court received no objections to the Settlement  
12 itself. In light of the above, as well as the Court's own review of the proposed settlement,  
13 the Court concludes that the settlement is fair and reasonable and therefore warrants final  
14 approval at this time.

### 15 **III. Final Approval of Proposed Plan of Allocation**

16 The adequacy of a plan of allocation is governed by the same standards of review  
17 applicable to the settlement as a whole—the plan must be fair, reasonable, and adequate.  
18 See City of Seattle, 955 F.2d at 1284-5. The proposed Plan of Allocation was created to  
19 equitably distribute the Settlement proceeds to those Settlement Class Members who  
20 suffered economic losses as a result of the alleged false and misleading offering statements.  
21 (Stickney Decl. ¶ 77.) To ensure a fair allocation, Lead Plaintiff engaged Forensic  
22 Economics, Inc. to create a plan to allocate the settlement proceeds among claimants and to  
23 provide an opinion regarding the fairness and reasonableness of that plan. (Id. ¶¶ 78-9.)  
24 Forensic Economics allocated the Settlement proceeds among Settlement Class Members  
25 by estimating the amount of alleged artificial inflation in the daily closing market prices for  
26 Accredited securities for each day of the Settlement Class Period, taking into account  
27 changes attributable to market forces unrelated to the alleged fraud. (Id. ¶ 79.) After  
28 creating the plan, James Canessa, Vice President of Forensic Economics, declared that, in

1 his view, “the proposed Plan of Allocation is a fair and reasonable method of distributing  
2 the settlement to eligible class members.” (Decl. of James Canessa ¶ 8.)

3 Only two objections to the proposed Plan of Allocation were submitted. (Doc. Nos.  
4 220 & 222.) The first objection was filed on behalf of two individuals who purportedly  
5 purchased 800 Preferred Shares of Accredited. (Doc. No. 222.) The objection disagrees  
6 with Plaintiffs’ expert’s conclusion that Preferred Shares purchased on specific dates were  
7 not artificially inflated. (Id.) The Court, however, finds that Plaintiffs’ expert reasonably  
8 determined that there was no fraud-related inflation in Preferred Shares on the particular  
9 dates at issue in the objection. The second objection disagrees with the Plan of  
10 Allocation’s provision stating that there is no Recognized Loss attributed to short sales.  
11 (Doc. No. 220.) The Court finds that the exclusion of short sellers is reasonable and fair  
12 because short sellers are betting against the issuer of the stock and their position is  
13 antagonistic to the rest of the class.

14 Based on the information presented to the Court and the predominantly positive  
15 response by the Settlement Class, the Court finds that the proposed Plan of Allocation  
16 provides a fair and equitable basis upon which to allocate the proceeds of the Settlement  
17 Fund among the Settlement Class Members.

#### 18 **IV. Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses**

19 Also before the Court is Lead Plaintiff’s motion for approval of attorneys’ fees and  
20 expenses. (Doc. No. 217.) Lead Plaintiff is seeking attorneys’ fees in the amount of  
21 \$5,317,936.16 (25% of the \$22 million Settlement net of litigation expenses) and  
22 reimbursement of \$728,255.35 in out-of-pocket expenses. (Id.) Additionally, Plaintiff  
23 Kornfeld has separately applied to the Court for a service award in the amount of \$5,000.  
24 (Id.)

25 In a class action the court upon motion “may award reasonable attorney fees and  
26 nontaxable costs authorized by law or by agreement of the parties.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h).  
27 In “common fund” cases like this one, the Ninth Circuit has stated that “the district court  
28 has discretion to use either a percentage or lodestar method” to determine what constitutes

1 a reasonable fee. Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1029. Under the percentage method, “the court  
2 simply awards the attorneys a percentage of the fund sufficient to provide class counsel  
3 with a reasonable fee.” Id. The Ninth Circuit has established 25% of the common fund as  
4 a “benchmark” for what constitutes a reasonable fee. Id.; see Six Mexican Workers v.  
5 Arizona Citrus Growers, 904 F.2d 1301, 1311 (9th Cir. 1990).

6 The Court concludes that 25% constitutes a reasonable fee in this case. The  
7 Settlement confers a significant benefit on the members of the Settlement Class and class  
8 counsel adequately represented the class. Moreover, counsel for Lead Plaintiff faced the  
9 risk of recovering nothing for their efforts, as they were working on a contingent fee basis.  
10 The fee is also supported by the fact that none of the 4,542 potential Settlement Class  
11 Members who received the Notice submitted an objection to the fee request. Finally, a  
12 cross-check with the lodestar supports the reasonableness of the fee. Lead Plaintiff’s  
13 counsel’s lodestar is \$4,630,185. (Stickney Decl. ¶ 88.) The request for an award of  
14 \$5,317,936.16 in attorneys’ fees seeks a multiplier of only 1.1. Considering the risk and  
15 complexity of this case, the Court finds that this request is reasonable.

16 The Court approves for good cause shown the requested award of \$728,255.35 for  
17 litigation expenses. Additionally, the Court grants for good cause shown the request of  
18 Plaintiff Kornfeld for an award of \$5,000 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(4).

### 19 CONCLUSION

- 20 1. This Judgment incorporates by reference the definitions in the Stipulation, and all  
21 capitalized terms used, but not defined herein, shall have the same meanings as in the  
22 Stipulation.
- 23 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Litigation and over all  
24 parties to the Litigation, including all members of the Settlement Class.
- 25 3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court hereby  
26 certifies the Litigation as a class action for settlement purposes only. The Settlement Class  
27 consists of all persons and entities who purchased or acquired Accredited Securities  
28 between November 1, 2005, through March 12, 2007, inclusive, and who were injured



1 thereby. Excluded from the Settlement Class are Accredited, Berglund, Buchanan,  
2 Crawford, Erickson, Espy, Gunderson, Konrath, Lydon, Marvin, and Pratt; the officers and  
3 directors of Accredited at all relevant times; members of their immediate families and their  
4 legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which any Defendant  
5 has or had a controlling interest, including the REIT. Also excluded from the Settlement  
6 Class are those Persons who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class  
7 pursuant to the Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action, a list of  
8 which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

9 4. With respect to the Settlement Class, this Court finds, solely for the purposes of  
10 settlement, that: (a) the members of the Settlement Class are so numerous that joinder of all  
11 Settlement Class Members in the class action is impracticable; (b) there are questions of  
12 law and fact common to the Settlement Class which predominate over any individual  
13 question; (c) the claims of Lead Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class;  
14 (d) Lead Plaintiff and Lead Counsel have fairly and adequately represented and protected  
15 the interests of the Settlement Class Members; and (e) a class action is superior to other  
16 available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, considering: (i)  
17 the interests of the members of the Settlement Class in individually controlling the  
18 prosecution of the separate actions, (ii) the extent and nature of any litigation concerning  
19 the controversy already commenced by members of the Settlement Class, (iii) the  
20 desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of these claims in this particular  
21 forum, and (iv) the difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of the class  
22 action.

23 5. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, this Court hereby approves the  
24 Settlement set forth in the Stipulation and finds that the Settlement is, in all respects, fair,  
25 reasonable, and adequate to the Lead Plaintiff, the Settlement Class and each of the  
26 Settlement Class Members. The Court further finds that the Settlement set forth in the  
27 Stipulation is the result of arm's-length negotiations between experienced counsel  
28 representing the interests of the Parties. Accordingly, the Settlement embodied in the

1 Stipulation is hereby finally approved in all respects. The Parties are hereby directed to  
2 perform its terms.

3 6. Except as to any individual claim of those Persons who have validly and timely  
4 requested exclusion from the Settlement Class (identified in Exhibit 1), the Litigation and  
5 all claims contained therein, including the Released Claims, are dismissed with prejudice as  
6 to Plaintiffs and the other members of the Settlement Class, and as against the Released  
7 Persons. The Parties are to bear their own costs, except as otherwise provided in the  
8 Stipulation.

9 7. Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiffs and each of the Settlement Class Members shall  
10 be deemed to have, and by operation of this Judgment shall have, fully, finally and forever  
11 released, relinquished and discharged all Released Claims (including Unknown Claims)  
12 against each and all the Released Persons, whether or not such Settlement Class Member  
13 executes and delivers a Proof of Claim.

14 8. Upon the Effective Date, each of the Released Persons shall be deemed to have, and  
15 by operation of this Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished,  
16 and discharged Plaintiffs and each and all of the Settlement Class Members and their  
17 respective attorneys, from all claims (including Unknown Claims) and causes of action of  
18 every nature and description, whether known or unknown, whether arising under federal,  
19 state, common or foreign law, that arise out of or relate in any way to the institution,  
20 prosecution, or settlement of the claims against Defendants, except for claims relating to  
21 the enforcement of the settlement.

22 9. Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class Members and Plaintiffs'  
23 Counsel shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Judgment shall have, fully,  
24 finally and forever released, relinquished and discharged the Released Persons from all  
25 claims (including Unknown Claims) arising out of, relating to, or in connection with the  
26 institution, prosecution, assertion, settlement or resolution of the Litigation or the  
27 Stipulation.

28 ///

1 10. Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiffs, each of the Settlement Class Members, and  
2 anyone claiming through or on behalf of any of them, agree and covenant not to commence,  
3 institute, prosecute, or continue any action or other proceeding in any court of law or  
4 equity, arbitration tribunal, or administrative forum, asserting the Released Claims against  
5 any of the Released Persons.

6 11. Upon the Effective Date, Defendants, the Released Persons and their counsel, and  
7 anyone claiming through or on behalf of any of them, agree and covenant not to commence  
8 or institute any action or other proceeding in any court of law or equity, arbitration tribunal,  
9 or administrative forum, against Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' Counsel or any Settlement Class  
10 Member arising out of, or relating to, directly or indirectly, the institution, prosecution,  
11 assertion, settlement or resolution of the Litigation or the Released Claims.

12 12. The distribution of the Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action  
13 and the publication of the Summary Notice as provided for in the Order Preliminarily  
14 Approving Settlement and Providing for Notice constituted the best notice practicable  
15 under the circumstances, including individual notice to all members of the Settlement Class  
16 who could be identified through reasonable effort. Said notice provided the best notice  
17 practicable under the circumstances of those proceedings and of the matters set forth  
18 therein, including the proposed Settlement set forth in the Stipulation, to all Persons  
19 entitled to such notice, and said notice fully satisfied the requirements of Federal Rule of  
20 Civil Procedure 23, Section 21D(a)(7) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. §  
21 78u-4(a)(7) as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, due  
22 process, and any other applicable law.

23 13. Any plan of allocation submitted by Lead Counsel or any order entered regarding  
24 any attorney fee and/or expense application shall in no way disturb or affect this Final  
25 Judgment and Order of Dismissal with Prejudice and shall be considered separate from this  
26 Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal with Prejudice.

27 ///

28 ///

1 14. Neither the Stipulation nor the Settlement shall be:  
2 a. offered or received against any Defendant as evidence of or construed as or  
3 deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any Defendant of  
4 the truth of any fact alleged by the Settlement Class Members or the merit or validity of any  
5 claim that has been or could have been asserted in the Litigation, or the deficiency of any  
6 defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Litigation, or of any liability,  
7 negligence, fault, or wrongdoing of Defendants;  
8 b. offered or received against any Defendant as evidence of a presumption,  
9 concession, admission of any fault, misrepresentation or omission with respect to any  
10 statement or written document approved or made by any Defendant, or against Plaintiffs or  
11 any Settlement Class Member as evidence of any infirmity in the claims of Plaintiffs and  
12 the Settlement Class;  
13 c. offered or received against any Defendant as evidence of a presumption,  
14 concession, or admission of any liability, negligence, fault or wrongdoing, or in any way  
15 referred to for any other reason as against any of the Parties to this Stipulation, in any other  
16 civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may  
17 be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Stipulation; provided, however, that if this  
18 Stipulation is approved by the Court, Defendants and their Related Parties may refer to it to  
19 effectuate the release granted them hereunder; nor  
20 d. construed against Defendants, Plaintiffs or the Settlement Class as an  
21 admission or concession that the consideration to be given hereunder represents the amount  
22 which could be or would have been recovered after trial.  
23 15. The Stipulation may be filed in an action to enforce or interpret the terms of the  
24 Stipulation, the Settlement contained therein, and any other documents executed in  
25 connection with the performance of the agreements embodied therein. Defendants and/or  
26 the other Released Parties may file the Stipulation and/or this Final Judgment and Order of  
27 Dismissal with Prejudice in any action that may be brought against them in order to support  
28 a defense or counterclaim based on the principles of res judicata, collateral estoppel, full

1 faith and credit, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar, or reduction or any other  
2 theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.

3 16. Without affecting the finality of this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal with  
4 Prejudice in any way, this Court hereby retains continuing jurisdiction over: (a)  
5 implementation of this Settlement and any award or distribution of the Settlement Fund,  
6 including interest earned thereon; (b) disposition of the Settlement Fund; (c) hearing and  
7 determining applications for attorney fees and expenses in the Litigation; and (d) all parties  
8 hereto for the purpose of construing, enforcing and administering the Stipulation.

9 17. Pursuant to and in full compliance with Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
10 Procedure, this Court hereby finds and concludes that due and adequate notice was directed  
11 to all persons and entities who are Class Members, advising them of the Plan of Allocation  
12 and of their right to object thereto, and a full and fair opportunity was accorded to all such  
13 persons and entities to be heard with respect to the Plan of Allocation.

14 18. The Court hereby finds and concludes that the formula for the calculation of the  
15 claims of Authorized Claimants which is set forth in the Notice of Pendency and Proposed  
16 Settlement of Class Action (the "Notice") mailed to Class Members provides a fair and  
17 equitable basis upon which to allocate the proceeds of the Settlement Fund among the  
18 Settlement Class Members.

19 19. The Court hereby finds and concludes that the Plan of Allocation set forth in the  
20 Notice is, in all respects, fair and equitable to the Settlement Class. Accordingly, the Court  
21 hereby approves the Plan of Allocation submitted by Lead Plaintiff.

22 20. The Fee and Expense Request filed in connection with the Settlement is hereby  
23 granted.

24 21. The Court hereby awards attorneys' fees of \$5,317,936.16 (25% of the \$22 million  
25 Settlement Amount net of litigation expenses), payable to Lead Counsel. The Court also  
26 grants Lead Counsel's request for reimbursement of litigation expenses in the amount of  
27 \$728,255.35.

28 ///

1 22. The Court also grants the request of Plaintiff William F. Kornfeld, Jr. for an award  
2 of \$5,000, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(4).

3 23. Pursuant to Paragraph 6.2 of the Stipulation, the attorneys' fees and expenses  
4 awarded herein shall be paid to Lead Counsel from the Settlement Fund immediately upon  
5 entry of this Order, notwithstanding any appeals. Lead Counsel shall thereafter allocate the  
6 attorneys' fees in a manner in which it in good faith believes reflects the contributions of  
7 Plaintiffs' Counsel to the prosecution and settlement of the Litigation.

8 24. The Court finds that an award of attorneys' fees of 25% of the net Settlement Fund  
9 is fair and reasonable and consistent with the market price for the legal services, in light of  
10 the risk of nonpayment and the normal rate of compensation in the market for complex  
11 class actions. The Court finds that the fee award is fair and reasonable in light of the  
12 following factors, among others: the contingent nature of the case; the quality of the legal  
13 services rendered; the benefits derived by the Settlement Class; the public service aspects  
14 of the Litigation; the institutional Lead Plaintiff supports the fee and expense request  
15 before the Court; and the reaction of the Settlement Class.

16 25. The Court further finds that the request for reimbursement of expenses is reasonable  
17 in light of Lead Counsel's prosecution of this action against the Defendants on behalf of  
18 the Settlement Class.

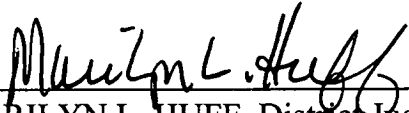
19 26. The Court finds that during the course of the Litigation, the Parties and their  
20 respective counsel at all times complied with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil  
21 Procedure 11.

22 27. In the event that the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the  
23 terms of the Stipulation or the Effective Date does not occur, or in the event that the  
24 Settlement Fund, or any portion thereof, is returned to the Defendants, then this Final  
25 Judgment and Order of Dismissal with Prejudice shall be rendered null and void to the  
26 extent provided by and in accordance with the Stipulation and shall be vacated and, in such  
27 event, all orders entered and releases delivered in connection herewith shall be null and  
28 void to the extent provided by and in accordance with the Stipulation.

1 28. There is no just reason for delay in the entry of this Judgment and immediate entry  
2 by the Clerk of the Court is expressly directed.

3 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

4 DATED: 11/2/09

  
MARILYN L. HUFF, District Judge  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

6 COPIES TO:  
7 All parties of record

8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**EXHIBIT 1**



**Persons and Entities who requested exclusion in  
Atlas v. Accredited Home Lenders Holding Co.  
Case No. 3:07-cv-00488-H-CAB (S.D. Cal.)**

**Niels and Barbara Christensen**

**Brett Reall**

**Tova Marie Shergold**