

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JACQUELINE KIM SELBY,  
  
v.  
  
BANK OF AMERICA, INC., et al.  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
Defendants.

Case No. 09cv2079 BTM(JMA)  
**ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO  
DISMISS**

Defendant Aztec Foreclosure Corporation (“Aztec”), EMC Mortgage Corporation (“EMC”), and GMAC Mortgage LLC (“GMAC”), each have filed a motion to dismiss Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint. For the reasons discussed below, Defendants’ motions are **GRANTED.**

**I. BACKGROUND**

This case arises out of ten loans obtained by Plaintiff, which are secured by liens on five residential properties owned by Plaintiff.

On October 17, 2005, Plaintiff refinanced her property located at 2831 Angell Avenue, San Diego, CA 92122 (the “Angell property”). She borrowed \$648,000 from Stearns Lending, Inc (“Stearns”). (Aztec RJN, Ex. A.) The loan was secured by a Deed of Trust, which named Stearns as the lender, MERS as a nominee for the lender and a beneficiary, and Carriage Escrow, Inc. as the trustee. (Id.) In a Substitution of Trustee executed on May

1 28, 2009, The Bank of New York, which identified itself as the present beneficiary under the  
2 deed of trust, substituted Aztec as the trustee. (Aztec RJN, Ex. D.) On May 26, 2009, Aztec  
3 recorded a Notice of Default and Election to Sell Under Deed of Trust. (Aztec RJN, Ex. B.)  
4 On August 26, 2009, Aztec recorded a Notice of Trustee's Sale, scheduling the public sale  
5 of the Angell property to take place on September 16, 2009. (Aztec RJN, Ex. C.) The sale  
6 of the property was suspended. EMC is the alleged servicer of the Angell property loan.

7 GMAC is the alleged servicer of the second loans secured by junior liens on Plaintiff's  
8 other four properties. Foreclosure proceedings have not been initiated with respect to these  
9 second loans.

## 10 11 **II. STANDARD**

12 A motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) should be granted  
13 only where a plaintiff's complaint lacks a "cognizable legal theory" or sufficient facts to  
14 support a cognizable legal theory. Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dept., 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th  
15 Cir. 1988). When reviewing a motion to dismiss, the allegations of material fact in plaintiff's  
16 complaint are taken as true and construed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. See  
17 Parks Sch. of Bus., Inc. v. Symington, 51 F.3d 1480, 1484 (9th Cir. 1995). Although  
18 detailed factual allegations are not required, factual allegations "must be enough to raise a  
19 right to relief above the speculative level." Bell Atlantic v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 127 S.Ct.  
20 1955, 1965 (2007). "A plaintiff's obligation to prove the 'grounds' of his 'entitle[ment] to  
21 relief' requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements  
22 of a cause of action will not do." Id. "[W]here the well-pleaded facts do not permit the court  
23 to infer more than the mere possibility of misconduct, the complaint has alleged - but it has  
24 not show[n] that the pleader is entitled to relief." Ashcroft v. Iqbal, \_\_\_ U.S. \_\_\_, 129 S.Ct.  
25 1937, 1950 (2009) (internal quotation marks omitted).

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 **III. DISCUSSION**

2 **A. Aztec's Motion to Dismiss**

3 The FAC alleges that Aztec violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”),  
4 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(6)(A), which prohibits “[t]aking or threatening to take any nonjudicial action  
5 to effect dispossession or disablement of property if . . . there is no present right to  
6 possession of the property claimed as collateral through an enforceable security interest.”  
7 According to Plaintiff, “Bank of New York’s substitution of Aztec was a legal nullity as Bank  
8 of New York lacked the power of sale since it had not recorded the assignment by which it  
9 allegedly acquired plaintiff’s promissory note.” (FAC ¶ 32.) Plaintiff also asserts a claim  
10 against Aztec under California’s Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200,  
11 based on Aztec’s alleged violation of the FDCPA.

12 Aztec argues that Plaintiff should not be able to maintain her claims against Aztec  
13 without first tendering a sum sufficient to cure the default. However, as explained in the  
14 Court’s previous Order on Motions to Dismiss filed on February 10, 2010, the Court declines  
15 to require a tender in this case because Plaintiff is not attempting to set aside a sale that has  
16 already taken place. See Karlsen v. American Sav. & Loan Assn., 15 Cal. App. 3d 112, 117  
17 (1971) (“A valid and viable tender of payment of the indebtedness owing is essential to an  
18 action to cancel a voidable sale under a deed of trust.”) Moreover, the Court has required  
19 Plaintiff to post a monthly bond to protect Defendants’ financial interests.

20 Aztec next argues that it is not a “debt collector” within the meaning of the FDCPA and  
21 was not attempting to collect a “debt.” The Court rejects this argument. As explained in the  
22 Court’s prior order, although a mortgage servicer is not a “debt collector” under the FDCPA’s  
23 general definition of the term, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), Aztec qualifies as a “debt collector” for  
24 purposes of § 1692f(6).

25 Section 1692a(6) specifies that *for the purposes of § 1692f(6)*, the term debt collector  
26 “also includes any person who uses any instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails  
27 in any business the principal purpose of which is the enforcement of security interests.”  
28 Thus, even though the FDCPA generally does not apply to actions taken in pursuit of

1 foreclosure, “the statute expands its reach to enforcers of security interests in one specific  
2 instance: where that party seeks to take property to which ‘there is no present right to  
3 possess.’” Rousseau v. Bank of New York, 2009 WL 3162153, at \* 8 (D. Colo. Sept. 29,  
4 2009). See also Overton v. Foutty & Foutty, LLP, 2007 WL 2413026, at \* 6 (S.D. Ind. Aug.  
5 21, 2007) (“If a person invokes judicial remedies only to enforce the security interest in  
6 property, then the effort is not subject to the FDCPA (other than § 1692f(6) and §  
7 1692i(a)).”); Burnett v. Mortg. Elec. Registration Sys., Inc., 2009 WL 3582294, at \* 3 (D. Utah  
8 Oct. 27, 2009) (“§ 1692f(6) still regulates trustees’ conduct while engaging in non-judicial  
9 foreclosures.”).<sup>1</sup>

10 Although Aztec qualifies as a “debt collector” for purposes of § 1692f(6), Plaintiff’s  
11 claim fails because Plaintiff has not alleged facts showing that Aztec had no legal right to  
12 initiate foreclosure proceedings against the Angell property. In her opposition to EMC’s  
13 motion to dismiss, Plaintiff advances several arguments as to why Aztec had no legal right  
14 to initiate foreclosure against the Angell property. Although Plaintiff’s arguments are  
15 somewhat muddled, the Court will attempt to address each of them.

16 Plaintiff’s primary argument is that Aztec could not initiate foreclosure on behalf of  
17 Bank of New York, because Bank of New York did not record an assignment of the  
18 promissory note. Plaintiff relies on Cal. Civ. Code § 2932.5, which provides:

19 Where a power to sell real property is given to a mortgagee, or other  
20 encumbrancer, in an instrument intended to secure the payment of money, the  
21 power is part of the security and vests in any person who by assignment  
22 becomes entitled to payment of the money secured by the instrument. *The  
power of sale may be exercised by the assignee if the assignment is duly  
acknowledged and recorded.*

23 (Emphasis added.) Plaintiff contends that because no assignment of the note was ever

---

24  
25 <sup>1</sup> Aztec also argues that Plaintiff’s FDCPA claim fails because Aztec is immune under  
26 Cal. Civ. Code § 2924(d), which provides that statutory nonjudicial foreclosure procedures  
27 are privileged under Cal. Civ. Code § 47. California courts have held that the protection  
28 granted to nonjudicial foreclosure proceedings is the qualified, common interest privilege of  
Cal. Civ. Code § 47(c)(1). A state litigation privilege, however, does not defeat a federal  
cause of action. See Pardi v. Kaiser Found. Hosp., 389 F.3d 840, 851 (9th Cir. 2004)  
(holding that California’s litigation privilege did not bar retaliation claim under ADA); OEI v.  
N Star Capital Acquisitions, LLC, 486 F. Supp. 2d 1089 (C.D. Cal. 2006) (holding that  
California’s litigation privilege did not grant immunity in connection with FDCPA claim).

1 recorded, Bank of New York had no power of sale to exercise.

2 Plaintiff's argument fails because § 2932.5 does not apply where the power of sale  
3 is set forth in a deed of trust. Section 2932.5 applies only to mortgages that give a power  
4 of sale to the creditor, not to deeds of trust which grant a power of sale to the trustee. Roque  
5 v. Suntrust Mortg., Inc., 2010 WL 546896, at \*3 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 10, 2010). See also  
6 Stockwell v. Barnum, 7 Cal. App. 413, 417 (1908) ("The transferee of a negotiable  
7 promissory note, payment of which is secured by a deed of trust whereby the title to the  
8 property and the power of sale in case of default is vested in a third party as trustee, is not  
9 an encumbrancer to whom power of sale is given, within the meaning of section 858 of the  
10 Civil Code [predecessor to § 2932.5]."). Accordingly, courts have rejected claims that  
11 defendants lack the right to foreclose where there is no recorded assignment evidencing the  
12 transfer of the underlying loan. See Roque, 2010 WL 546896, at \*3 (rejecting argument that  
13 power of sale in the deed of trust was no longer valid because the chain of ownership was  
14 unrecorded); Parcray v. Shea Mortg. Inc., 2010 WL 1659369, at \* 11 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 23,  
15 2010) (finding no merit to plaintiff's argument that the foreclosure sale was void because it  
16 was not initiated by Shea and there was no recorded assignment evidencing the transfer of  
17 the loan from Shea to ALS).

18 Plaintiff also argues that MERS was unable to convey any right to conduct or initiate  
19 a foreclosure sale because MERS was not an economic beneficiary under the trust. It  
20 appears that this argument is rooted in the language of Cal. Civ. Code § 2932.5, which  
21 states, "Where a power to sell real property is given to a mortgagee, or other encumbrancer,  
22 in an instrument intended to secure the payment of money, *the power is part of the security*  
23 *and vests in any person who by assignment becomes entitled to payment of the money*  
24 *secured by the instrument.* (Emphasis added.) But, as already discussed, section 2932.5  
25 does not apply to deeds of trusts and the beneficiaries and trustees thereunder. See  
26 Wurtzberger v. Resmae Mortg. Corp., 2010 WL 1779972, \* 3-4 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 29, 2010)  
27 (rejecting argument that MERS could not assign beneficiary interest in deed of trust because  
28 MERS was not an economic beneficiary and therefore did not have the power of sale).

1           Upon review of the language of the Deed of Trust, it is clear that MERS had the legal  
2 right to initiate nonjudicial foreclosure and could assign such right. The Deed of Trust named  
3 MERS and its successors and assigns as the beneficiary (as nominee for Lender and  
4 Lender's successor and assigns). The Deed of Trust also provided:

5           Borrower understands and agrees that MERS holds only legal title to the  
6 interests granted by Borrower in this Security Instrument, but, if necessary to  
7 comply with law or custom, MERS . . . has the right: to exercise any or all of  
8 those interests, including, but not limited to, the right to foreclose and sell the  
9 Property; and to take any action required of Lender including, but not limited  
10 to, releasing and canceling this Security Instrument.

11 (Aztec RJN, Ex. A.) Courts have held that regardless of whether MERS is an economic  
12 beneficiary or not, this language grants MERS the power to initiate foreclosure under Cal.  
13 Civ. Code § 2924.<sup>2</sup> See Wurtzberger, 2010 WL 1779972, at \* 4 (explaining that since the  
14 Deed of Trust named MERS as the beneficiary it had the right to foreclose and the authority  
15 to assign its beneficial interest under the deed of trust); Pantoja v. Countrywide Home Loans,  
16 Inc., 640 F. Supp. 2d 1177, 1188-90 (N.D. Cal. 2009) (holding that pursuant to the plain  
17 terms of the Deed of Trust and § 2924, MERS had a right to conduct the foreclosure  
18 process); Santarose v. Aurora Bank FSB, 2010 WL 2232819, at \* 5 (S.D. Tex. June 2, 2010)  
19 (“By the plain language of the Deed of Trust, MERS had the right to foreclose the  
20 property.”).<sup>3</sup>

21           Finally, Plaintiff argues that under the terms of the Deed of Trust, only the original

---

22           <sup>2</sup> California Civil Code §§ 2924-2924k provide a “comprehensive framework for the  
23 regulation of a nonjudicial foreclosure sale pursuant to a power of sale contained in a deed  
24 of trust.” Moeller v. Lien, 25 Cal. App. 4th 822, 830 (1994). Within this framework,  
25 nonjudicial foreclosure proceedings can be instituted by “the trustee, mortgagee, or  
26 beneficiary, or any of their authorized agents” by filing a notice of default with the office of  
27 the recorder. Cal. Civ. Code § 2924(a)(1). No less than three months after the filing of the  
28 notice of default, a notice of sale may be given by “the mortgagee, trustee, or other person  
authorized to take the sale.” Cal. Civ. Code § 2924(a)(3).

29           <sup>3</sup> Plaintiff cites to Saxon Mortgage Serv., Inc. v. Hillery, 2008 WL 5170180, at \*5 (N.D.  
30 Cal. Dec. 9, 2008), where MERS purportedly assigned both the deed of trust *and the*  
31 *promissory note*, and the court held that there was insufficient evidence that MERS either  
32 held the promissory note or was given the authority by the lender to assign the note. Here,  
33 there is no allegation that MERS, as opposed to Stearns, assigned the promissory note. Nor  
34 is there an allegation that the promissory note was not assigned or was assigned to  
someone other than Bank of New York, resulting in a splitting of the note and deed of trust.  
The only allegation is that the assignment of the note was not recorded.

1 lender, i.e., Stearns, had the right to appoint a successor trustee. This argument is  
2 contradicted by the actual language of the Deed of Trust. Paragraph 24 of the Deed of Trust  
3 provides: "Lender, at its option, may from time to time appoint a successor trustee to any  
4 Trustee appointed hereunder by an instrument executed and acknowledged by Lender and  
5 recorded in the office of the Recorder of the county in which the Property is located. . . . This  
6 procedure for substitution of trustee shall govern to the exclusion of all other provisions for  
7 substitution." Nothing in this paragraph or the other provisions of the Deed of Trust preclude  
8 Stearns from assigning its rights under the Deed of Trust. Indeed, Paragraph 13 states,  
9 "The covenants and agreements of this Security Instrument shall bind (except as provided  
10 in Section 20) and benefit the successors and assigns of Lender."

11 As noted by the Court at the hearing on October 26, 2010, there are some gaps in the  
12 documentation pertaining to the Deed of Trust and the transfer of rights thereunder.  
13 Specifically, there is no documentation before the Court regarding the substitution of the  
14 Bank of New York as beneficiary, and there is no proof that Aztec was acting as an  
15 authorized agent of the beneficiary or trustee when it filed the Notice of Default. However,  
16 the FAC does not allege that the Bank of New York was not actually the beneficiary, nor  
17 does the FAC allege that Aztec was not an authorized agent of the beneficiary or trustee.  
18 Therefore, the issues raised by the Court do not affect the outcome of the motions to  
19 dismiss.

20 Plaintiff has not stated facts supporting a plausible claim that Aztec lacked the legal  
21 right to initiate nonjudicial foreclosure against the Angell property. Therefore, Plaintiff's  
22 FDCPA claim fails as does Plaintiff's § 17200 claim.

23

24 **B. EMC's Motion to Dismiss**

25 Plaintiff's sole claim against EMC is for violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.  
26 Plaintiff alleges that EMC along with Aztec, collected money by claiming that defendants had  
27 the power to foreclose even though they lacked such power as a result of the failure to  
28 record the assignment(s) of the promissory note. Plaintiff also alleges that EMC made "a

1 deliberate effort to conceal the identit[y] of the true onwer[ ] of [the] promissory note[ ],” and  
2 failed to provide copies of “executed promissory notes, assignment instruments, note  
3 endorsements, allonges, pooling and servicing agreements, mortgage identification  
4 numbers, and other documents and information that would enable borrowers to track where  
5 their notes went after origination.” (FAC ¶ 92.)

6 As for Plaintiff’s claim that EMC engaged in unfair business practices by collecting  
7 mortgage payments under threat of foreclosure, as discussed above, Plaintiff has not  
8 established that Aztec lacked the legal right to institute nonjudicial foreclosure proceedings  
9 against the Angell property. Therefore, this claim fails.

10 With respect to Plaintiff’s claim that EMC deliberately concealed the identity of the  
11 true owner of the promissory note, Plaintiff has not provided any facts in support of this  
12 claim. Under TILA, “Upon written request by the obligor, the servicer shall provide the  
13 obligor, to the best knowledge of the servicer, with the name, address, and telephone  
14 number of the owner of the obligation or the master servicer of the obligation.” 15 U.S.C.  
15 § 1641(f)(2). In the Court’s prior order, the Court pointed out that there was no evidence that  
16 Plaintiff ever asked EMC for information regarding the identity of the owner of the obligation.  
17 The Court granted Plaintiff leave to amend her TILA claim to include any factual allegations  
18 regarding specific requests for the identity of the owner of the note. In the FAC, Plaintiff  
19 does not allege a TILA claim against EMC. Furthermore, Plaintiff does not recite any facts  
20 about requests to EMC for information regarding the identity of the owner of the note or  
21 actions taken by EMC to deceive Plaintiff regarding the true owner.

22 Plaintiff claims that EMC failed to provide various documents, including “executed  
23 promissory notes, assignment instruments, note endorsements, allonges, pooling and  
24 servicing agreements, mortgage identification numbers, and other documents and  
25 information that would enable borrowers to track where their notes went after origination.”  
26 (FAC ¶ 92.) Even assuming that Plaintiff specifically requested these documents (which  
27 Plaintiff does not allege), it does not appear that EMC had any legal duty to produce all  
28



1 documents that may help Plaintiff uncover the chain of ownership.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, in light of  
2 TILA's requirement that upon written request by the borrower, the servicer provide, to the  
3 best of its knowledge, information regarding the owner of the obligation or the master  
4 servicer, the FAC does not allege facts showing that any refusal by EMC to produce  
5 documentation regarding transfer(s) of the note harmed Plaintiff in any significant way.  
6 Therefore, the Court finds that any refusal by EMC to produce the various documents sought  
7 by Plaintiff does not constitute an "unfair" act within the meaning of California's Unfair  
8 Competition Law.<sup>5</sup>

9 Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for violation of § 17200 against EMC. Accordingly,  
10 EMC's motion to dismiss is granted.

### 11

### 12 **C. GMAC's Motion to Dismiss**

13 The FAC asserts claims against GMAC for (1) violating California's Rosenthal Fair  
14 Debt Collection Practices Act ("RFDCPA"), Cal Civ. Code § 1788.17, by contacting and  
15 harassing plaintiff in writing 31 times after being directly notified of attorney representation,  
16 in contradiction of 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(6) ; and (2) violating Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

17 GMAC contends that as a loan servicer, it is not a "debt collector" under the RFDCPA.  
18 Some district courts have held that because the RFDCPA "mirrors" the FDCPA, and a loan  
19 servicer does not meet the general definition of a "debt collector" under the FDCPA, a loan  
20 servicer is not a "debt collector" under the RFDCPA. See, e.g., LAL v. American Home  
21 Servicing, Inc., 680 F. Supp. 2d 1218, 1224 (E.D. Cal. 2010); Nool v. HomeQ Servicing, 653

---

22  
23 <sup>4</sup> RESPA, 12 U.S.C. § 2605(e), governs the duty of loan servicers to respond to  
24 qualified written requests by borrowers. A QWR must request information regarding the  
25 *servicing* of the loan. 12 U.S.C. § 2605e(1)(A). It seems that the documents sought by  
26 Plaintiff do not pertain to the servicing of the loan. At any rate, Plaintiff does not assert a  
27 RESPA claim against EMC.

28 <sup>5</sup> It is unclear how courts should determine whether an "unfair" act or practice took  
place in the context of a consumer action. Rubio v. Capital One Bank, \_\_\_ F.3d \_\_\_, 2010 WL  
2836994, at \*8 (9th Cir. July 21, 2010). Under the balancing test, courts look to whether the  
harm to the consumer is outweighed by the practice's utility. Id. Under the alternative test,  
the plaintiff must show that the practice violates public policy as declared by specific  
constitutional, statutory, or regulatory provisions. Id. Plaintiff's claim fails under either test.

1 F. Supp. 2d 1047, 1053 (E.D.Cal. 2009). The Court is not convinced by the reasoning of  
2 these courts.

3 Despite the overlap between the federal and state statutory schemes, the definition  
4 of “debt collector” is broader under California law. The FDCPA defines a “debt collector” as  
5 “any person who uses any instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails in any  
6 business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, or who regularly  
7 collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, *debts owed or due or asserted to be*  
8 *owed or due another.*” 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) (emphasis added). Therefore, under the  
9 FDCPA, a debt collector does not include the consumer’s creditors, a mortgage servicing  
10 company, or any assignee of the debt (as long as the debt was not in default at the time it  
11 was assigned). Perry v. Stewart Title Co., 756 F.2d 1197, 1208 (5th Cir. 1985). In contrast,  
12 the RFDCPA defines a “debt collector” as a person who “*on behalf of himself or herself or*  
13 *others engages in debt collection.*” (Emphasis added.) As the Court observed in its previous  
14 order, this definition seems broad enough to encompass mortgage servicers. See Fullmer  
15 v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA, 2010 WL 95206, \*7 (E.D. Cal. Jan. 6, 2010) (rejecting  
16 argument of loan servicer that it was not a “debt collector” under the RFDCPA).

17 Plaintiff’s RFDCPA claim fails for a different reason. Plaintiff’s RFDCPA claim is  
18 premised on a violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(6). However, Plaintiff does not allege facts  
19 establishing a violation of § 1692b(6). Section 1692b(6) provides:

20 Any debt collector communicating with *any person other than the consumer*  
21 for the purpose of acquiring location information about the consumer shall . .  
22 . after the debt collector knows the consumer is represented by an attorney  
23 with regard to the subject debt and has knowledge of, or can readily ascertain,  
such attorney’s name and address, not communicate with any person other  
than that attorney, unless the attorney fails to respond within a reasonable  
period of time to communication from the debt collector.

24 Section 1692b(6). By its terms, § 1692b(6) “prohibits a debt collector from communicating  
25 with *third-persons* other than the consumer’s attorney when the debt collector knows the  
26 consumer is represented by an attorney, for the purpose of acquiring location information  
27 about the consumer.” James v. Chase Bank USA, N.A., 2010 WL 3069696, \* 2 (S.D. Cal.  
28 Aug. 4, 2010) (internal quotation marks omitted) (emphasis added). Plaintiff complains that

1 GMAC contacted *her* after being notified that she was represented by an attorney.  
2 Therefore, § 1692b(6) is inapplicable.

3 Section 1692c(a)(2) governs communication with the consumer after the debt  
4 collector obtains knowledge that the consumer is represented by an attorney. Section  
5 1692c(a)(2) provides:

6 Without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector  
7 or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction, a debt collector  
8 may not communicate with a consumer *in connection with the collection of any*  
9 *debt . . .* if the debt collector knows the consumer is represented by an  
10 attorney with respect to such debt and has knowledge of, or can readily  
ascertain, such attorney's name and address, unless the attorney fails to  
respond within a reasonable period of time to a communication from the debt  
collector or unless the attorney consents to direct communication with the  
consumer.

11 (Emphasis added). Plaintiff alleges that GMAC contacted her via e-mail and written letters  
12 31 times after being notified that she was represented by an attorney. (FAC ¶ 50.)  
13 However, Plaintiff does not provide any detail regarding the communications. Therefore,  
14 the Court has no basis for concluding that the communications were for purposes of debt  
15 collection. See, e.g., Bailey v. Security Nat'l Serv. Corp., 154 F.3d 384 (7th Cir. 1998)  
16 (holding that letter from mortgage service corporation informing the debtor of the current  
17 status of the account was not a communication in connection with the collection of a debt);  
18 Salsbury v. Trac A Chec, Inc., 365 F. Supp. 2d 939 (C.D. Ill. 2005) (holding that telephone  
19 call informing debtor that debt collector would not be contacting plaintiff again due to  
20 plaintiff's representation by an attorney was not a communication in connection with the  
21 collection of a debt); Gillespie v. Chase Home Finance, LLC, 2009 WL 4061428, at \* 5 (N.D.  
22 Ind. Nov. 20, 2009) (holding that letters providing information regarding the possibility of  
23 workout options were not the types of communications that § 1692c proscribes).

24 The RDCPA contains a provision similar to § 1692c(a)(2):

25 No debt collector shall *collect or attempt to collect* a consumer debt by means  
26 of the following practices: . . . Initiating communications, other than statements  
27 of account, with the debtor with regard to the consumer debt, when the debt  
28 collector has been previously notified in writing by the debtor's attorney that the  
debtor is represented by such attorney with respect to the consumer debt and  
such notice includes the attorney's name and address and a request by such  
attorney that all communications regarding the consumer debt be addressed  
to such attorney, unless the attorney fails to answer correspondence, return

1 telephone calls, or discuss the obligation in question. This subdivision shall not  
2 apply where prior approval has been obtained from the debtor's attorney, or  
3 where the communication is a response in the ordinary course of business to  
4 a debtor's inquiry.

5 Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.14. Again, the communication must be in the context of collection  
6 efforts. See Marcotte v. General Elec. Capital Services, Inc., \_\_\_ F. Supp. 2d \_\_\_, 2010 WL  
7 1573680, at \* 7 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 20, 2010) (holding that communications at issue were  
8 actually billing statements and did not violate § 1788.14). Plaintiff has not alleged facts  
9 establishing that GMAC's e-mails and letters attempted to collect a debt. Therefore,  
10 Plaintiff's RFDCPA claim is dismissed for failure to state a claim.

11 Because Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for violation of the RFDCPA, to the extent  
12 Plaintiff's § 17200 claim against GMAC is premised on the RFDCPA claim, Plaintiff's §  
13 17200 claim also fails. Plaintiff's § 17200 claim fails for the additional reason that Plaintiff  
14 has not established the loss of money or property as a result of the alleged RFDCPA  
15 violation. Under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17204, in order to have standing to bring a §  
16 17200 suit, the plaintiff must have "suffered injury in fact and [have] lost money or property  
17 as a result of unfair competition." The Court is not persuaded that attorney's fees incurred  
18 in suing for a violation constitutes injury within the meaning of § 17204 (otherwise, any  
19 plaintiff filing suit would be able to show injury).

20 To the extent Plaintiff's § 17200 claim is based on (1) GMAC acting with other  
21 defendants to collect mortgage payments under threat of foreclosure even though an  
22 assignment(s) of the promissory note was not recorded, a circumstance that allegedly  
23 deprives the current owner of any power to foreclose; (2) GMAC's "deliberate effort to  
24 conceal the identities of the true owners of the promissory notes"; and (3) GMAC's failure  
25 to provide various documents pertaining to the chain of ownership of the note, Plaintiff's  
26 claim is dismissed for the same reasons as discussed above in connection with EMC's  
27 motion to dismiss. The FAC does not set forth facts establishing that the owner(s) of the  
28 notes at issue lacks the power to foreclose or that GMAC refused to respond to a request  
to provide the identity of the owner of the promissory notes (or deliberately provided incorrect  
information in response thereto). In addition, for the reasons previously discussed, any

1 failure by GMAC to provide the various documents sought by Plaintiff does not constitute an  
2 unfair business practice.

3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

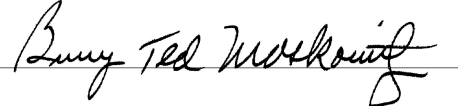
**IV. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons discussed above, the Court **GRANTS** Aztec’s motion to dismiss [Doc. No. 62], EMC’s motion to dismiss [Doc. no. 63], and GMAC’s motion to dismiss [Doc. No. 61]. Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint is **DISMISSED** as to these defendants. However, the Court will give Plaintiff one more chance to amend her complaint to state claims against these defendants. If Plaintiff chooses to amend her complaint, she must file the Second Amended Complaint within 20 days of the entry of this Order.

The preliminary injunction shall remain in effect as against all Defendants until entry of final judgment or until otherwise ordered by the Court.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED: October 27, 2010

  
Honorable Barry Ted Moskowitz  
United States District Judge