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8  
 9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 10 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

NJK

Case No.: 2:16-cv-02219-JCM-~~VCF~~

11 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.

Plaintiff,

**STIPULATION AND PROTECTIVE  
 ORDER**

12 vs.

13  
 14 RIVERWALK RANCH CROSSING  
 HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION; ABSOLUTE  
 15 COLLECTION SERVICES, LLC; VAL  
 16 GRIGORIAN; and SFR INVESTMENTS POOL  
 1, LLC,

Defendants.

18 SFR INVESTMENTS POOL 1, LLC, a Nevada  
 19 limited liability company,

Counter/Cross Claimant,

21 vs.

22 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,

Counter Defendant.

25 Subject to the approval of the Court, Bank of America, N.A., (**BANA**), defendant Riverwalk  
 26 Ranch Crossing Homeowners Association (**Riverwalk Ranch**), defendant SFR Investments Pool 1,  
 27 LLC (**SFR**), and defendant Absolute Collection Services, LLC (**Absolute**), by and through its counsel  
 28 of record, Shane D. Cox, Esq. of the law firm of Absolute Collection Services, LLC, by and through

AKERMAN LLP

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1 their attorneys of record, stipulate to the following Protective Order:

2 To expedite the flow of discovery, facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over  
3 confidentiality, adequately protect material claimed to be confidential, and ensure protection is  
4 afforded only to material so designated, it is, pursuant to the Court's authority under Nevada Rule of  
5 Civil Procedure 26(c), **ORDERED** this Protective Order shall govern the disclosure, handling and  
6 disposition of documents in this litigation as follows:

7 1. **Application.**

8 1.1 This Protective Order shall govern any document, information or other  
9 material that is designated as containing "Confidential Information" as defined herein, and is  
10 produced in connection with this litigation by any person or entity (the **producing party**), whether  
11 in response to a discovery request, subpoena or otherwise, to any other person or entity (the  
12 **receiving party**) regardless of whether the person or entity producing or receiving such information  
13 is a party to this litigation.

14 1.2 The party who asserts that particular information should be treated as  
15 Confidential Information under this Protective Order has the burden of proof to establish that the  
16 information or document is entitled to such protection.

17 2. **Definitions.**

18 2.1 Confidential Information. "Confidential Information" shall mean and include,  
19 without limitation, any non-public information that concerns or relates to the following areas:  
20 confidential proprietary information, trade secrets, practices and procedures, personal financial  
21 information, commercial, financial, pricing, budgeting, and/or accounting information, information  
22 about existing and potential customers, marketing studies, performance projections, business  
23 strategies, decisions and/or negotiations, personnel compensation, evaluations and other employment  
24 information, and confidential proprietary information about affiliates, parents, subsidiaries and third-  
25 parties with whom the parties to this action have or have had business relationships.

26 2.2 Documents. As used herein, the term "documents" includes all writings,  
27 records, files, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, e-mails, video tapes, audio tapes, compact  
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1 discs, electronic messages, other data compilations from which information can be obtained and  
2 other tangible things subject to production under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

3 3. **Initial Designation.**

4 3.1 Good Faith Claims. Claims of confidentiality will be made only with respect  
5 to documents, other tangible things and information that the asserting party has a good faith belief  
6 are within the definition set forth in subparagraph 2.1 of this Protective Order. Objections to such  
7 claims made pursuant to paragraph 5, below, shall also be made only in good faith.

8 3.2 Produced Documents. A party producing documents that it believes constitute  
9 or contain Confidential Information shall state that the material is being produced under this  
10 Protective Order by describing the documents or materials to be treated as confidential in writing, by  
11 page or bates number wherever possible and/or shall produce copies bearing a label that contains or  
12 includes language substantially identical to the following:

13 **CONFIDENTIAL**

14 This label shall be affixed in a manner that does not obliterate or obscure the contents of the  
15 copies. If any person or party makes copies of documents designated as containing Confidential  
16 Information, the copying person or party shall mark each such copy as containing Confidential  
17 Information in the same form as the Confidentiality notice on the original document.

18 A party producing documents that are stored on electronic, magnetic, optical or other non-  
19 paper media, such as compact discs, DVD's, video tapes and audio tapes (collectively, "data storage  
20 devices") shall designate the data storage device as containing Confidential Information, by affixing  
21 a label or stamp to the data storage device in the manner described above at the time copies of such  
22 data storage devices are produced. If the receiving party or other persons or entities to whom  
23 disclosure is authorized pursuant to subparagraph 7.1 make a copy of any data storage device  
24 designated by the producing party as containing Confidential Information, the receiving party or  
25 other authorized person shall mark each such copy as containing Confidential Information in the  
26 same form as the confidentiality notice on the original data storage device produced. If the receiving  
27 party or other authorized person prints out or otherwise makes copies of the documents or  
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1 information stored on such data storage device, the receiving party or other authorized person shall  
2 mark each page so copied with the label or stamp specified in subparagraph 3.2.

3 3.3 Interrogatory Answers. If a party answering an interrogatory or other  
4 discovery demand believes that its answer contains Confidential Information, it shall state so in the  
5 interrogatory response, and that portion of the response will be entitled to the protections of this  
6 order.

7 3.4 Inspection of Documents. In the event a party elects to produce files and  
8 records for inspection and the requesting party elects to inspect them, no designation of Confidential  
9 Information needs to be made in advance of the inspection. For purposes of such inspection, all  
10 material produced shall be considered as Confidential Information. If the inspecting party selects  
11 specified documents to be copied, the producing party shall designate Confidential Information in  
12 accordance with subparagraph 3.2 at the time the copies are produced.

13 3.5 Deposition Transcripts. The party asserting confidentiality shall state on the  
14 record the portions it deems confidential. The failure to designate testimony on the record as  
15 confidential shall be a waiver unless the designating party notifies all other parties and files a motion  
16 to designate the testimony as confidential within 5 days of the notification.

17 3.6 Inadvertent Failure to Designate. Inadvertent failure to identify documents or  
18 things as "Confidential" pursuant to this Protective Order shall not constitute a waiver of any  
19 otherwise valid claim for protection, provided that the provisions of this paragraph are satisfied. If  
20 the designating party discovers that information should have but was not designated "Confidential"  
21 or the designating party receives notice that would enable the designating party to learn that it has  
22 disclosed such information, the designating party must immediately notify all other parties. In such  
23 event, within thirty (30) days of notifying all other parties, the designating parties must also provide  
24 copies of the "Confidential" information designated in accordance with this Protective Order. After  
25 receipt of such re-designated information, the "Confidential" information shall be treated as required  
26 by this Protective Order, and the receiving party(ies) shall promptly, and in no event more than  
27 fourteen (14) calendar days from the receipt of the re-designated information, return to the  
28 designating party all previously produced copies of the same unlegended documents or things. The

1 designating party and the parties may agree to alternative means. The receiving party(ies) shall  
2 receive no liability, under this Protective Order or otherwise, for any disclosure of information  
3 contained in unlegended documents or things occurring before the receiving party was placed on  
4 notice of the designating party's claims of confidentiality.

5 4. **Designations by Another Party.**

6 4.1 Notification of Designation. If a party other than the producing party believes  
7 that a producing party has produced a document that contains or constitutes Confidential Information  
8 of the non-producing party, the non-producing party may designate the document as Confidential  
9 Information by so notifying all parties in writing within fourteen (14) days of service of the  
10 document.

11 4.2 Return of Documents; Non-disclosure. Whenever a party other than the  
12 producing party designates a document produced by a producing party as Confidential Information  
13 in accordance with subparagraph 4.1, each party receiving the document shall either add the  
14 Confidential Information designation in accordance with subparagraph 3.2 or substitute a copy of the  
15 document bearing such designation for each copy of the document produced by the producing party.  
16 Each party shall destroy all undesignated copies of the document or return those copies to the  
17 producing party, at the direction of the producing party. No party shall disclose a produced  
18 document to any person, other than the persons authorized to receive Confidential Information under  
19 subparagraph 7.1, until after the expiration of the fourteen (14) day designation period specified in  
20 subparagraph 4.1. If during the fourteen (14) day designation period a party discloses a produced  
21 document to a person authorized to receive Confidential Information under subparagraph 7.1, and  
22 that document is subsequently designated as Confidential Information in accordance with  
23 subparagraph 4.1, the disclosing party shall cause all copies of the document to be destroyed or  
24 returned to the producing party, at the direction of the producing party. The party may thereafter  
25 disclose a copy of the document that has been marked as Confidential Information by the  
26 designating party, in accordance with subparagraphs 3.2 and 7.1.

27 5. **Objections to Designations.** Any party objecting to a designation of Confidential  
28 Information, including objections to portions of designations of multi-page documents, shall notify

1 the designating party and all other parties of the objection in writing 45 days before trial of the  
2 matter. This notice must specifically identify each document that the objecting party in good faith  
3 believes should not be designated as Confidential Information and provide a brief statement of the  
4 grounds for such belief. In accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure governing  
5 discovery disputes, the objecting and the designating parties thereafter shall confer within ten (10)  
6 days after the date of such objection in an attempt to resolve their differences. If the parties are  
7 unable to resolve their differences, the designating party shall have fourteen (14) days after the  
8 conference concludes to file with the Court a motion to deem the information as Confidential  
9 Information. Where a party authored, created, owns, or controls a document, information or other  
10 material that another party designates as Confidential Information, the party that authored, created,  
11 owns, or controls the Confidential Information may so inform the objecting party and thereafter shall  
12 also be considered a designating party for purposes of this paragraph.

13 All documents, information and other materials initially designated as Confidential  
14 Information shall be treated as such in accordance with this Protective Order unless and until the  
15 Court rules otherwise, except for deposition transcripts and exhibits initially considered as  
16 containing Confidential Information under subparagraph 3.5, which will lose their confidential status  
17 after fourteen (14) days unless so designated as Confidential Information. If the Court rules that a  
18 designation should not be maintained as to a particular document, the producing party shall, upon  
19 written request by a party, provide that party a copy of that document without the designation  
20 described in subparagraph 3.2.

21 If a designating party elects not to make such a motion with respect to documents within  
22 fourteen (14) days after the conference, information or other materials to which an objection has  
23 been made, the Confidential Information designation shall be deemed withdrawn. The objecting  
24 party shall have fourteen (14) days to respond to the designating party's motion. If no response is  
25 filed by the objecting party within fourteen (14) days, the objecting party shall be deemed to have  
26 consented to the designating party's motion.

27 6. **Custody.** All Confidential Information and any and all copies, extracts and  
28 summaries thereof, including memoranda relating thereto, shall be retained by the receiving party in

1 the custody of counsel of record, or by persons to whom disclosure is authorized under subparagraph  
2 7.1.

3 7. **Handling Prior to Trial.**

4 7.1 Authorized Disclosures. Confidential Information shall be disclosed by the  
5 receiving party only to the following persons:

- 6 a. Counsel for the parties in this litigation, including their associates,  
7 clerks, paralegals, and secretarial personnel;
- 8 b. Qualified persons taking testimony in this litigation involving such  
9 Confidential Information, and necessary stenographic, videotape and  
10 clerical personnel;
- 11 c. Experts and their staff who are retained by counsel as expert witnesses  
12 for a party in this litigation;
- 13 d. Experts and their staff who are consulted by counsel for a party in this  
14 litigation;
- 15 e. Parties to this litigation, limited to the named party and, if that party is  
16 a corporate entity, a limited number of employees of the corporate  
17 entity and its insurers;
- 18 f. Designated in-house counsel and a limited number of assistants,  
19 administrative or otherwise;
- 20 g. Outside vendors employed by counsel for copying, scanning and  
21 general handling of documents;
- 22 h. Any person of whom testimony is taken regarding the Confidential  
23 Information, except that such person may only be shown Confidential  
24 Information during his/her testimony, and may not retain a copy of  
25 such Confidential Information; and
- 26 i. This Court and this Court's staff, subject to the Court's processes for  
27 filing materials under seal.
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1 Such disclosures are authorized only to the extent necessary to investigate, prosecute, or  
2 defend the litigation.

3 Confidential Information may not be disclosed to persons under subparagraphs (c) or (d)  
4 until the receiving party has obtained a written acknowledgment from the person receiving  
5 Confidential Information, in the form of the Declaration attached hereto as Exhibit A, that he or she  
6 has received a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by it. A party who discloses  
7 Confidential Information in accordance with subparagraph 7.1 shall retain the written  
8 acknowledgment from each person receiving Confidential Information, shall maintain a list of all  
9 persons to whom a receiving party has disclosed Confidential Information and identify what  
10 documents have been disclosed, and shall furnish the written acknowledgments and disclosure list to  
11 opposing counsel as follows: (i) for a person under subparagraph (c), within thirty (30) days after the  
12 person signs the Declaration; and (ii) for a person under subparagraph (d), within thirty (30) days  
13 after the matter is finally concluded. Disclosure of Confidential Information to this Court, including  
14 judicial staff, shall be made in accordance with subparagraph <sup>7.3</sup>~~7.4~~ of this Protective Order.

15 7.2 Unauthorized Disclosures. All persons receiving Confidential Information  
16 under the terms of this Protective Order are under the jurisdiction of the state courts and U.S. federal  
17 courts located in Nevada for all matters arising from the improper disclosure or use of such  
18 information. If Confidential Information is disclosed to any person other than in the manner  
19 authorized by this Protective Order, the party or person responsible for the disclosure, and any other  
20 party or person who is subject to this Protective Order and learns of such disclosure, shall  
21 immediately bring such disclosure to the attention of the designating party. Without prejudice to  
22 other rights and remedies of the designating party, the responsible party or person shall make every  
23 effort to obtain and return the Confidential Information and to prevent further disclosure on its own  
24 part or on the part of the person who was the unauthorized recipient of such information.

25 ~~7.3 Court Filings. In the event any Confidential Information must be filed with the~~

See order issued  
concurrently herewith

~~proposed filing shall be accompanied by a motion to file the Confidential  
and the motion shall be directed to the judge to whom the Confidential~~



1 ~~Information is directed. This provision is applicable to briefs, memoranda, and other filings which~~  
2 ~~quote, summarize, or describe Confidential Information.~~

3 8. **Care in Storage.** Any person in possession of Confidential Information produced by  
4 another party shall exercise reasonable and appropriate care with regard to the storage, custody,  
5 copying, and use of such information to ensure that the confidential and sensitive nature of same is  
6 maintained.

7 9. **Handling During Trial.** Confidential Information that is subject to this Order may be  
8 marked and used as trial exhibits by either party, subject to terms and conditions as imposed by the  
9 Court upon application by any party.

10 10. **No Implied Waivers.** This Protective Order shall not be interpreted as a waiver of  
11 the right to object, under applicable law, to the furnishing of information in response to discovery  
12 requests or to object to a requested inspection of documents or facilities. Parties producing  
13 Confidential Information in this litigation are doing so only pursuant to the terms of this Protective  
14 Order. The taking of any action in accordance with the provisions of this Protective Order shall not  
15 be interpreted as a waiver of any claim or position or defense in this action, or any other actions.

16 11. **No Admission.** The designation of any item as Confidential Information shall not be  
17 construed as an admission that such material, or any testimony concerning such material, would be  
18 admissible in evidence in this litigation or in any other proceeding.

19 12. **Inadvertent Disclosure.** Nothing in this Protective Order abridges applicable law  
20 concerning inadvertent disclosure of a document that the Disclosing Party believes contains  
21 attorney-client communications, attorney work product, or otherwise privileged information. If a  
22 party inadvertently discloses documents or information subject to a claim of privilege or work  
23 product protection, such disclosure will not waive otherwise applicable claims of privilege or work  
24 product protection under applicable law. Upon discovery by the Receiving Party, or receipt of  
25 written notice from the Disclosing Party identifying privileged or protected Documents that were  
26 inadvertently produced, the receiving party shall within seven (7) business days either: (a) return or  
27 certify the destruction of all such documents, all copies, and any work product or portions of any  
28 work product containing or reflecting the contents of the subject materials; or (b) follow the

1 procedures outlined in paragraph 5 above for objecting to the designation of Confidential  
2 Information. The objecting party shall do nothing to compromise the privilege claim until the Court  
3 rules on said motion and the opportunity for appellate review is exhausted or the issue is otherwise  
4 resolved.

5 13. **Parties' Own Documents.** This Protective Order shall in no way restrict the parties  
6 in their use of their own documents and information, and nothing in this Protective Order shall  
7 preclude any party from voluntarily disclosing its own documents or information to any party or  
8 nonparty.

9 14. **Motion by Third Party to Compel Production of Confidential Information.** If  
10 any third party subpoenas Confidential Information from a party to this action or moves to compel a  
11 party to this action to produce any such information, such party shall immediately notify the parties  
12 who originally produced and/or designated such information that a subpoena has been served or a  
13 motion has been made in order to allow the parties who originally produced and/or designated such  
14 information the opportunity to seek a protective order or oppose the motion or application. If, within  
15 ten (10) days after receiving notice of a subpoena seeking Confidential Information from a receiving  
16 party, the party who originally produced and/or designated such information fails to move for a  
17 protective order, the party subject to the subpoena may produce said information. In addition, if a  
18 party is ordered to produce Confidential Information covered by this Protective Order, then notice  
19 and, if available, a copy of the order compelling disclosure shall immediately be given the parties  
20 who originally produced and/or designated such information. Nothing in this Protective Order shall  
21 be construed as requiring the party who is ordered to produce such Confidential Information to  
22 challenge or appeal any order requiring the production of such information or to subject  
23 himself/herself to any penalty for non-compliance with any legal process or seek any relief from the  
24 Court.

25 15. **No Effect on Other Rights.** This Protective Order shall in no way abrogate or  
26 diminish any pre-existing contractual, statutory, or other legal obligations or rights of any party with  
27 respect to Confidential Information.  
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16. **Modification.** In the event any party hereto seeks a Court order to modify the terms of this Protective Order, or seeks a protective order which incorporates the terms and conditions of this Protective Order said party shall make such request by written stipulation or noticed motion to all parties that must be served and filed in accordance with local court rules.

17. **Handling Upon Conclusion of Litigation.** All parties, counsel, and persons to whom disclosure was made agree to return all Confidential Information to the designating party within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of litigation between the parties, including final appellate action or the expiration of time to appeal or seek further review. In addition, counsel shall certify in writing that all such Confidential Information have been returned. Counsel for each party also shall contact each person to whom that party has provided a copy of any Confidential Information and request the documents be returned. In lieu of returning Confidential Information, the person or party in possession of such information may elect to destroy it. If the person or party in possession of Confidential Information elects to destroy it rather than return it, that person or party must notify the designating party in writing of the destruction of the information within ninety (90) days of the conclusion of litigation between the parties, including final appellate action or the expiration of time to appeal or seek further review.

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18. **Survival of the Terms of this Protective Order.**

Even after the termination of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this Protective Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs.

DATED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017.

**AKERMAN LLP**

**LIPSON, NEILSON, COLE, SELTZER & GARIN,  
P.C.**

/s/ Vatana Lay

/s/ Karen Kao

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**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

August 18, 2017

**DATED**