τ	Case 2:13-cr-00018-JCM-GWF D	Document 1 Filed 01/15/13 Page 1 of 19	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	_	FILED	
9	DISTRICT OF NEVADA -000-		
10	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
11		) CASE NO.: 2:13-cr-018	
12	Plaintiff,	) DATE FILED:	
13	v.	)	
14 15	LEON BENZER, KEITH GREGORY, CHARLES M¢CHESNEY BARRY LEVINSON, RICKY ANDERSON,	<ul> <li>VIOLATIONS:</li> <li>18 U.S.C. § 1349 (conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud – 1 count); 18 U.S.C. § 1343</li> <li>(wire fraud- 14 counts); 18 U.S.C. § 1341</li> </ul>	
16 17	MARIA LIMON, JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, RUDOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ,	(whe hadd 14 counts), 18 U.S.C. § 1041 (mail fraud- 2 counts); 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (false statement $-1$ count)	
18	SALVATORE RUVOLO DAVID BALL, and		
19	EDITH GILLESPIE,		
20	Defendants.	ý	
21			
22	INI	DICTMENT	
23			
24	INTRODUCTION		
25	THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:		
26	At all times material to this I	ndictment:	

Pursuant to Nevada law, a homeowner's association (HOA) is a 1. corporation that governs a common interest community, as defined under NRS 116.021. A HOA is controlled by the developer until the housing units are sold, at which time the control is transferred to the bona fide homeowners. Only bona fide homeowners can be members in the 4 HOA.

Following transfer of control by the developer, a HOA is governed by a 2. board of directors with a minimum of three members, all of whom must be bona fide homeowners. The board members are elected by the bona fide homeowners annually.

Under Nevada law, HOA board members are fiduciaries. Any person 3. nominated for the board must make a good faith effort to disclose any financial, business, professional, or personal relationship or interest that would result or would appear to a reasonable person to result in a potential conflict of interest.

Consistent with their fiduciary duties and pursuant to Nevada law, HOA 4. board members may not solicit or accept any form of compensation, gratuity, or other remuneration that would improperly influence or reasonably appear to influence the board members' decisions or would result or reasonably appear to result in a conflict of interest.

Consistent with their fiduciary duties, the board of directors is empowered 5. to make decisions related to the common interests of the homeowners, including but not limited to: adopting and amending bylaws and budgets; hiring managers, employees, agents, attorneys, independent and contractors; instituting or defending the community in litigation; and causing additional improvements or maintenance repairs to be made.

Before hiring individuals and companies to work on behalf of the HOA, 6. the HOA board usually obtains three bids for consideration. The three bids are usually presented during public board meetings with an opportunity for the homeowners to comment and discuss the issues at hand. The property manager is usually selected first, and then the property manager helps to identify and obtain bids for other services.

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7. Under Nevada law, property managers must earn a Community
 Association Management (CAM) license before being able to work in the state of Nevada.
 Property managers have fiduciary obligations to act in the best interest of the community,
 safeguard financial and confidential information for the community, and disclose any affiliation
 or financial interest with any other person or business that furnishes goods or services to the
 community.

8. Chateau Versailles, Chateau Nouveau, Park Avenue, Jasmine, Vistana,
8 Sunset Cliffs, Palmilla, Pebble Creek, Mission Ridge, Mission Pointe, and Horizons at Seven
9 Hills, common interest communities, were located in Las Vegas, Nevada. Each had an HOA
10 board consisting of at least three people.

9. From at least in or about August 2003 through at least in or about
 February 2009, Defendants participated in a scheme to fraudulently obtain loans on properties
 within these and other HOAs, fraudulently infiltrate the boards of these HOAs, and then award
 legal and construction work to co-conspirators.

10. Defendant LEON BENZER, a Las Vegas resident, owned Silver Lining
Construction Company (SLC), a construction company incorporated in the state of Nevada. SLC
purported to specialize in home building and repairs, including repairs involving so-called
construction defects (CDs).

19 11. Co-Conspirator Ralph Priola, charged separately, was an employee of
20 SLC, and one of BENZER's principal assistants.

12. Co-Conspirator A was a law firm in Las Vegas that specialized in
construction defect litigation. Co-Conspirator B was a Nevada attorney who owned and
controlled Co-Conspirator A. Co-Conspirator B was, along with BENZER, a mastermind of the
conspiracy and also one of its principal sources of funding. Co-Conspirator B participated in the
conspiracy until the death of Co-Conspirator B in March 2012. BENZER and his coconspirators, through the use of "straw purchasers" via financed transactions, caused the

purchase or transfer of approximately 37 condominium units in an effort to take control of HOA boards through the nomination and election of these straw purchasers as HOA board members. The straw purchasers, once elected were under the direction and control of **BENZER** and SLC. As a result of the scheme, 33 of these 37 condominiums went into foreclosure. 4

Defendant KEITH GREGORY, a Las Vegas resident, was an attorney 13. licensed in Nevada who did work for BENZER and SLC, and who, through the actions of SLC controlled boards, was hired and acted as general counsel at the Vistana and Sunset Cliffs HOAs and who, at the direction of SLC and BENZER, purported to represent an SLC and BENZER controlled board candidate in an action against an HOA board that SLC and BENZER were attempting to control.

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#### Defendant CHARLES McCHESNEY (AKA "CHUCK 14.

McCHESNEY"), a Las Vegas resident, was a private investigator who began working for BENZER in 2004, and a straw purchaser and SLC controlled board member at the Chateau Nouveau HOA.

Defendant BARRY LEVINSON, a Las Vegas resident, was an attorney 15. licensed in Nevada who did work for SLC and BENZER and who, through the actions of SLC and BENZER controlled boards, acted as general counsel at the Park Avenue and Pebble Creek HOAs and who, at the direction of SLC and BENZER, purported to represent an HOA in an effort to secure board positions for SLC and **BENZER** controlled candidates.

Defendant RICKY ANDERSON, a Texas resident, was a straw purchaser 16. and an employee of SLC and BENZER who, in an e-mail to BENZER described his duties as, among others, "HOA Enforcer."

Defendant MARIA LIMON, a North Las Vegas resident, was a straw 17. purchaser and worked as an unlicensed property manager at one of the SLC owned and controlled property management companies used during the conspiracy.

> Defendant JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ (AKA "LUIS ALVAREZ"), a 18.

Henderson resident, was employed by SLC, acted as a straw purchaser at certain HOAs targeted
 by the conspirators, was an SLC controlled board member, and assisted in the rigging of at least
 one HOA election.

4 19. Defendant RODOLFO ALVAREZ (AKA "RUDY ALVAREZ"), a Las
5 Vegas resident and brother of JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, was employed by SLC, a straw
6 purchaser at the Vistana HOA, and an SLC controlled board member.

7 20. Defendant SALVATORE RUVOLO (AKA "SAM RUVOLO" and
8 "SAL RUVOLO"), a Henderson resident, was a straw purchaser and an SLC controlled board
9 member at the Park Avenue and Chateau Nouveau HOAs.

1021. Defendant DAVID BALL, a Las Vegas resident, was a real estate agent11who was a straw purchaser and an SLC controlled board member at Chateau Nouveau, and a12recruiter of another straw purchaser and SLC controlled board member at Chateau Nouveau.

13 22. Defendant EDITH GILLESPIE, a Las Vegas resident, was BENZER's
14 half-sister, a straw purchaser at a HOA, and a recruiter of other straw purchasers and board
15 candidates on behalf of BENZER.

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## COUNT ONE

## THE CONSPIRACY

23. From at least in or about August 2003 through at least in or about February 2009, in the District of Nevada and elsewhere, Defendants

> LEON BENZER, KEITH GREGORY, CHARLES McCHESNEY, BARRY LEVINSON, RICKY ANDERSON, MARIA LIMON, JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ, SALVATORE RUVOLO DAVID BALL, and EDITH GILLESPIE,

with others known and unknown to the United States, did knowingly and intentionally conspire, combine, confederate and agree to commit certain offenses against the United States, that is:

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a. to devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, that affected a financial institution; and for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, each Defendant or their coconspirators did knowingly place or caused to be placed in a post office and authorized depository for mail matter a thing to be sent and delivered by the U.S. Postal Service or any private or commercial interstate carrier, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341; and,

b. to devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to
obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses,
representations, and promises, that affected a financial institution; and for the purpose of
executing such scheme and artifice, each Defendant or their coconspirators did knowingly
transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign
commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, in violation of Title 18, United States
Code, Section 1343.

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## **OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY**

24. The objects of the conspiracy, of which Defendants LEON BENZER, KEITH GREGORY, CHARLES McCHESNEY, BARRY LEVINSON, RICKY ANDERSON, MARIA LIMON, JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ, SALVATORE RUVOLO, DAVID BALL, and EDITH GILLESPIE were members, which began from at least as early as in or around August 2003 and continued through at least in or around February 2009, were for the co-conspirators to:

a. facilitate the purchase of units in the housing developments identified
above by straw purchasers acting at the secret direction of the conspirators;

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b. employ the straw purchasers to elect HOA board candidates designated by

the co-conspirators, thereby gaining the control of HOA boards;

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manipulate and influence the conduct of HOA business including, but not c. limited to, the appointment of designated property managers, the hiring of designated lawyers and law firms, and the hiring of designated contractors; and,

unlawfully enrich the co-conspirators as a result of the scheme by causing 5 d. the puppet HOA boards to award legal, construction, and other work to entities controlled by co-6 conspirators. 7

MANNER AND MEANS

In order to achieve the objects of the conspiracy, Defendants LEON 25. BENZER, KEITH GREGORY, CHARLES McCHESNEY, BARRY LEVINSON, RICKY ANDERSON, MARIA LIMON, JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ, SALVATORE RUVOLO, DAVID BALL, and EDITH GILLESPIE and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, used the following manner and means, among others:

The Defendants and their co-conspirators enlisted real estate agents to a. identify condominium units within HOA communities for purchase by co-conspirators in 16 connection with the scheme. 17

The co-conspirators enlisted individuals to act as straw purchasers to h. 18 complete and sign mortgage loan applications to purchase properties within the HOA 19 communities on behalf of the true beneficial owners, and made false and fraudulent statements 20 that concealed the identity and financial interest of the true beneficial owners of the properties 21 from banks, mortgage companies, HOAs, and bona fide homeowners. Defendant LEON 22 BENZER - and at certain times relevant to this Indictment, Co-Conspirator B - funded the 23 down payments, and the co-conspirators sent emails and spreadsheets, many via interstate wire, 24 outlining the purchase and payment terms (two of which were entitled "Condosinlinetobuy" and 25 "Money back to LB on cash deals.") 26

The co-conspirators used several licensed notaries to assist the notarizing 1 c. of documents, at times fraudulently, in furtherance of the conspiracy without the signatory 2 appearing before him/her or without entering the transaction into his/her notary book as required 3 by his/her State of Nevada notary license. 4

Various co-conspirators joined the conspiracy when they agreed to d. become straw purchasers at a particular HOA. Many co-conspirators would and did sign and submit false and fraudulent loan applications and supporting documents to financial institutions 7 in order to finance and close on the properties. The co-conspirators, through the use of "straw 8 purchasers" would and did cause the purchase or transfer of approximately 37 condominium 9 units, 33 of which went into foreclosure as a result of the scheme. 10

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Once the straw purchases were complete, the beneficial owners and coe. conspirators often rented the units. In most instances, the beneficial owners (not the straw purchasers) received the rental payments and continued to pay the mortgages and various expenses associated with the straw purchases.

In furtherance of the scheme, in or about August 2005, August 2006, f. 15 January 2007, and February 2007, a co-conspirator opened and managed approximately six bank 16 accounts at the request and pursuant to the instructions of LEON BENZER and SLC under the 17 names of limited liability companies controlled by BENZER in order to, among other things, 18 conceal the identity of the beneficial owners. The co-conspirators would send and cause to be 19 sent numerous interstate wire transfers made to and from these accounts to fund the conspiracy 20 and to pay co-conspirators for their participation in the scheme. Defendant BENZER, together 21 with Co-Conspirators A, B and Priola would and did cause deposits of approximately 22 \$1,981,077, \$700,000 and \$300,000 into these accounts, among others. In excess of 23 approximately \$8,000,000 moved through these six accounts. 24

Several conspirator straw purchasers allowed the co-conspirators to 25 g. transfer a 1% or greater ownership interest in the purchased unit to another co-conspirator to 26

make it appear that the new owner was a bona fide homeowner in the HOA and was qualified to run for a position on the HOA board of directors.

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h. The co-conspirators would and did refinance the properties in order to
increase the conspiracy's capital from which conspirators could be paid for their services and
additional condominiums could be purchased, often submitting false, fraudulent or misleading
information to the financial institutions.

i. The conspirator straw purchasers and those co-conspirators who acquired
a transferred interest in the properties often agreed to run for election to HOA boards. These coconspirators, including Defendants JOSE ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVEREZRODRIGUEZ, RICKY ANDERSON, MARIA LIMON, CHARLES McCHESNEY,
SALVATORE RUVOLO, and DAVID BALL, were paid or promised cash, checks, or things
of value for their participation, all of which resulted in a personal financial benefit to the coconspirators.

j. To ensure the co-conspirators would win the elections, the co-conspirators
often employed deceitful tactics, such as creating false phone surveys to gather information
about homeowners' voting intentions, using mailing lists to vote on behalf of out-of-town
homeowners who were unlikely to participate in the elections, and submitting fake and forged
ballots.

Certain co-conspirators assisted in rigging certain HOA board elections 19 k. by, among other things, preparing forged ballots for out-of-town homeowners and either 20 transported the ballots or caused the ballots to be transported or mailed to California and 21 thereafter to have the ballots mailed back to Las Vegas from various locations around California, 22 to make it appear that the ballots were completed and mailed by bona fide homeowners residing 23 outside Nevada. The co-conspirators also hired private investigators to find "dirt" on bona fide 24 candidates in order to influence the elections. Certain other co-conspirators - who were 25 attorneys - assisted the conspiracy by serving as general counsel for HOAs and purporting to act 26

in the interest of the homeowners, while in reality they were serving the interests of BENZER
 and the other conspirators.

1 The co-conspirators attempted to create the appearance that the elections 3 were legitimate and free from corruption by hiring "independent" attorneys as "special election 4 masters," to supervise the HOA board elections. These "special election masters," working with 5 the HOAs' licensed property managers, were obligated to: (i) contact the bona fide homeowners 6 to inform them of the election; (ii) mail the bona fide homeowners election ballots and voting 7 instructions; (iii) collect and secure those election ballots returned by mail until the date of the 8 election; and (iv) preside over the HOA board election, including supervising the counting of 9 ballots. However, in truth and fact, certain "special election masters" were paid in cash, check, 10 or promised things of value, by or on behalf of LEON BENZER and SLC for their assistance in 11 allowing co-conspirators to rig the elections by allowing the co-conspirators access to the ballots 12 after they were collected but before they were counted. 13

m. Once elected, the straw purchasers and SLC controlled board members would and did meet with co-conspirators in order to manipulate board agendas as well as board votes, including the selection of property managers, contractors, general counsel and attorneys to represent the HOA.

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**OVERT ACTS** 

26. The following overt acts were committed by at least one of the conspirators, in the District of Nevada and elsewhere, in furtherance of the conspiracy:

a. On or about September 7, 2005, RUVOLO was a straw purchaser of unit
1199 at the Chateau Nouveau HOA.

b. On or about October 5, 2005, J. ALVAREZ was a straw purchaser of unit
24 2514 at Seven Hills HOA.

c. On or about November 3, 2005, McCHESNEY sold unit 1122 to a SLC
employee.

On or about November 18, 2005, BENZER and other co-conspirators d. 1 caused the transfer of \$183,000 for the purchase of condominiums. 2 On or about November 18, 2005, RUVOLO was a straw purchaser of unit 3 e. 401 at Park Avenue. 4 On or about December 13, 2005, GILLESPIE was a straw purchaser at 5 f. Chateau Versailles HOA. 6 On or about March 30, 2007, BALL was a straw purchaser of and earned 7 g. a broker's commission on unit 2028 at Chateau Nouveau HOA. 8 On or about September 21, 2007, BENZER, R. ALVAREZ and other co-9 h. conspirators caused the Vistana mobilization fee of \$1,098,000 to be paid to BENZER. 10 On or about September 24, 2007, BENZER caused a bribe payment of i. 11 \$10,000 to be made to GREGORY. 12 On or about October 30, 2007, BENZER, R. ALVAREZ and other co-13 j. conspirators caused the Vistana CD settlement funds of \$1,190,056.80 to be paid to BENZER. 14 On or about January 10, 2008, BENZER, R. ALVAREZ and other co-15 k. conspirators caused the Vistana CD settlement funds of \$1,189,151 to be paid to BENZER. 16 On March 5, 2008, BALL sent an email via interstate communication to, 1. 17 among others, RUVOLO and MCCHESNEY, subject line "RE: Chateau Nouveau-1001, 1341, 18 bldg 47," authorizing repairs to be conducted by Silver Lining Construction. 19 On or about March 5, 2008, MCCCHESNEY sent an email via interstate 20 m. communication, subject line "RE: Chateau Nouveau-1001, 1341, bldg 47," authorizing repairs to 21 be conducted by Silver Lining Construction. 22 On or about April 15, 2008, BENZER and other co-conspirators caused 23 n. the mailing of forged ballots for the Park Avenue HOA election in which RUVOLO and other 24 25 co-conspirators ran for the HOA board. On or about July 9, 2008, LEVINSON sent a letter to Castle Management 26 0.

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1	terminating the company's contract at Pebble Creek HOA.
2	p. On or about September 18, 2008, GREGORY sent an email via interstate
3	communication to BENZER, subject line "Sunset Cliffs," regarding a petition for recall at the
4	Sunset Cliffs HOA.
5	All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.
6	COUNTS 2 THROUGH 15
7	WIRE FRAUD
8	27. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26.
9	28. From at least in or about August 2003 through at least in or about February 2009,
10	in the District of Nevada and elsewhere, Defendants
11	LEON BENZER,
12	JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ,
13	DAVID BALL, EDITH GILLESPIE,
14	KEITH GREGORY, CHARLES McCHESNEY, and
15	SALVATORE RUVOLO
16	with others known and unknown to the United States, did knowingly and intentionally devise
17	and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means
18	of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, that affected a
19	financial institution; and for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, the following
20	Defendants, acting in concert with and aiding the others, did knowingly transmit and cause to be
21	transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs,
22	signals, pictures, and sounds:
23	WIRE TRANSFERS
	THE COMMENTATION

24	COUNT	DEFENDANT(S)	APPROX. DATE	WIRE COMMUNICATION
25	2	BENZER, RUVOLO	9/7/05	Wire for \$180,215.00 from Bank of America in New York via Fedwire to US Bank in Portland,
26				Oregon

3	BENZER, J. ALVAREZ	10/10/05	Wire for \$177,365.78 from Fremont Investment and Loan in California, through New York via Fedwire to First American Trust Company in California.
4	BENZER, McCHESNEY	11/3/05	Wire for \$234,666.36 from Deutsche Bank Trust Companies America in New York to First American Trust Company in California.
5	BENZER	11/18/05	Wire for \$183,000 from Strategic One Consulting Group LLC's account #XXXXXX8090 at Wells Fargo Bank, in California to Blue Sky Mgmt's account XXXXX0160 at Bank of North Las Vegas in Nevada.
6	BENZER, RUVOLO	11/18/05	Wire for \$200,110.98 from JP Morgan Chase through New York via Fedwire to First American Trust Company in California.
7	BENZER, GILLESPIE	12/13/05	Wire for \$233,174.22 from Lehman Brothers Bank FSB via Fedwire to First American Trust Company in California
8	BENZER, BALL	3/30/07	Wire for \$8,990.00 from Bank of America via Fedwire to Washington Mutual Bank.
9	BENZER, R. ALVAREZ	9/21/07	Wire for \$1,098,000 from Vistana's account #XXXX0474 at Wachovia Bank via Portland, Oregon to <b>BENZER's</b> account XXXX-XXX- 7214 at U.S. Bank National Association in Las Vegas, Nevada.
10	BENZER, GREGORY	9/24/07	Wire for \$10,000 from <b>BENZER's</b> personal account #XXXX-XXXX-7214 at U.S. Bank National Association to <b>GREGORY's</b> personal account XXXXX0590 at Wells Fargo Bank.
11	BENZER, R. ALVAREZ	10/30/07	Wire for \$1,190,056.80 from Vistana's account #XXXX0474 at Wachovia Bank via Portland, Oregon to <b>BENZER's</b> account XXXX-XXX- 7214 at U.S. Bank National Association in Las Vegas, Nevada.
12	BENZER, R. ALVAREZ	1/10/08	Wire for \$1,189,151 from Vistana's account #XXXX0474 at Wachovia Bank, via Fedwire to Silver Lining Investment's account XXXXXX9004 at First National Bank of Nevada

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· [[	Cas	e 2:13-cr-00018-J	CM-GWF D	ocument 1 Filed 01/15/13 Page 14 of 19
1			Ē	<u>CMAILS</u>
2	COUNT	DEFENDANT	APPROX.	WIRE COMMUNICATION
. 3		· · _ · _ · _ · _ · · · · · ·	DATE	
4	13	BENZER, BALL,	3/5/08	BALL sent an email via interstate communication to, among others, RUVOLO and
5		RUVOLO,		MCCHESNEY, subject line "RE: Chateau
6		MCCHESNEY		Nouveau-1001, 1341, bldg 47," authorizing repairs to be conducted by Silver Lining
7	1.4		2/5/09	Construction MCCCHESNEY sent an email via interstate
8	14	BENZER, MCCHESNEY	3/5/08	communication, subject line "RE: Chateau
9		_		Nouveau-1001, 1341, bldg 47," authorizing repairs to be conducted by Silver Lining
li		<u></u>		Construction
10	15	BENZER, GREGORY	9/18/08	<b>GREGORY</b> sent an email via interstate communication to <b>BENZER</b> , subject line "Sunset
11 12				Cliffs," regarding a petition for recall at the Sunset Cliffs HOA
12		I		
14	In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.			
15			<u>COUNTS</u>	16 THROUGH 17
16			<u>MA</u>	IL FRAUD
17	29. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26.			incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26.
18	30. From at least in or about August 2003 through at least in or about February 2009,			ust 2003 through at least in or about February 2009,
19	in the District of Nevada and elsewhere, Defendants			
20	LEON BENZER,			
21	BARRY LEVINSON, and			and
22	SALVATORE RUVOLO			
23	1	<b>x</b>		ed States, did knowingly and intentionally devise
24				defraud and to obtain money and property by means
25	of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, that affected a			
26	financial institution; and for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, the following			

Defendants, acting in concert with and aiding the others, did knowingly place or caused to be placed in a post office and authorized depository for mail matter a thing to be sent and delivered by the U.S. Postal Service or any private or commercial interstate carrier:

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Count	Defendant	Approx. Date	MAILING
16	BENZER,	4/15/08	Eleven ballots mailed from Long Beach, CA to
	RUVOLO		Platinum in Las Vegas, NV.
17	BENZER,	7/9/08	Letter from BARRY LEVINSON to Castle
	LEVINSON		Management terminating contract at Pebble Creek.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

#### <u>COUNT 18</u>

# FALSE STATEMENT TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

31. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26.
32. On or about August 26, 2009, in North Las Vegas, Nevada, within the District of Nevada, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the Government of the United States,

#### MARIA LIMON

17 knowingly and willfully made and caused to be made a material false, fictitious, and fraudulent 18 statement and representation, that is, during the course of an official investigation being 19 conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police 20 Department, defendant LIMON falsely stated in substance that she did not communicate with 21 BENZER regarding Crystal Management and that she did not know BENZER was behind 22 Crystal Management, when in truth and in fact, as LIMON well knew, BENZER had funded 23 and controlled Crystal Management, which was a property manager at Chateau Nouveau and 24 other HOAs, operating at **BENZER**'s direction to further the objects of the scheme outlined 25 above.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

1	FORFEITURE ALLEGATION ONE					
2	Conspiracy to Commit Wire and Mail Fraud					
3	1. The allegations contained in Count One of this Criminal Indictment are hereby					
4	re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to					
5	the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States					
6	Code, Section 2461(c).					
7	2. Upon conviction of the felony offense charged in Count One of this Criminal					
8 9 10	Indictment, LEON BENZER, KEITH GREGORY, CHARLES McCHESNEY					
11	BARRY LEVINSON, RICKY ANDERSON,					
12	MARIA LIMON, JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ,					
12	RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ, SALVATORE RUVOLO					
14	DAVID BALL, and EDITH GILLESPIE,					
15	defendants herein, shall forfeit to the United States of America, any property which constitutes or					
16	is derived from, proceeds traceable to violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341					
17	and 1343, specified unlawful activities as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections					
18	1956(c)(7)(A) and 1961(1)(B); and Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, conspiracy to					
19	commit such offenses, a criminal forfeiture money judgment up to \$24,871,109.86 in United					
20	States Currency.					
21						
22	3. If any property subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code,					
23	Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), as a result of any act or					
24	omission of the defendants -					
25	a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;					
26	b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;					

-	Case 2:13-cr-00018-JCM-GWF Document 1 Filed 01/15/13 Page 17 01 19			
1	c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;			
2	d. has been substantially diminished in value; or			
3	e. has been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without			
4	difficulty;			
5	it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to			
6	seek forfeiture of properties of the defendant for the criminal forfeiture money judgment up to			
7	\$24,871,109.86 in United States Currency.			
8	All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United			
9	States Code, Section 2461(c); Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1343, specified			
10	unlawful activities as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(c)(7)(A) and			
11	1961(1)(B); Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349; and Title 21, United States Code,			
12	Section 853(p).			
13				
14	FORFEITURE ALLEGATION TWO			
15	Conspiracy to Commit Wire and Mail Fraud			
16	1. The allegations contained in Count One of this Criminal Indictment are hereby re-			
17	alleged and incorporated herein by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to the			
18	provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(2)(A).			
19	2. Upon conviction of the felony offense charged in Count One of this Criminal			
20	Indictment,			
21	LEON BENZER, KEITH GREGORY, CHADLES M. CHESNEY			
22	CHARLES McCHESNEY BARRY LEVINSON, DICK ANDERSON			
23	RICKY ANDERSON, MARIA LIMON,			
24	JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ, RODOLFO ALVAREZ-RODRIGUEZ,			
25	SALVATORE RUVOLO DAVID BALL, and			
26	EDITH GILLESPIE,			

defendants herein, shall forfeit to the United States of America, any property constituting, or
 derived from, proceeds obtained directly or indirectly as a result of violations of Title 18, United
 States Code, Section 1341; Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; and Title 18, United
 States Code, Section 1349, conspiracy to commit such offenses, a criminal forfeiture money
 judgment up to \$24,871,109.86 in United States Currency.

3. If any property subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code,
7 Section 982(a)(2)(A), as a result of any act of omission of the defendants –

a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;

c. had been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;

d. has been substantially diminished in value; or

e. had been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States of America, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any properties of the defendant up to \$24,871,109.86 in United States Currency.

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1	All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(2)(A); Title 18, United
2	States Code, Sections 1341, 1343, and 1349; and Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p).
3	
4	<b>DATED:</b> January, <u>15</u> , 2013
5	
6	A TRUE BILL:
7	
8	/s/ FOREPERSON
9	
10	
11	DENIS J. MCINERNEY
12	Chief Fraud Section, Criminal Division
13	U.S. Department of Justice
14	CHARLES G. LA BELLA
15	KATHLEEN McGOVERN Deputy Chiefs
16	THOMAS B. W. HALL MARY ANN MCCARTHY
17	Trial Attorneys
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