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9 GEOFFREY LYNCH

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

ELECTRONICALLY
FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Francisco

04/05/2024
Clerk of the Court

BY: MARK UDAN
Deputy Clerk

CGC-24-613682

GEOFFREY LYNCH

Plaintiff,

v.

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.; QUALITY
LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION; JUSTIN
LUU; XIAO PING WU; and DOES 1-20,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.:

**GEOFFREY LYNCH'S COMPLAINT
FOR:**

- 1) VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL
CODE § 2923.55
- 2) VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL
CODE § 2923.7
- 3) VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL
CODE § 2924.17
- 4) VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL
CODE § 3273.11
- 5) WRONGFUL FORECLOSURE
- 6) TRESPASS
- 7) WRONGFUL EVICTION
- 8) CONVERSION
- 9) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION
OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
- 10) UNFAIR BUSINESS
PRACTICES
- 11) SLANDER OF TITLE
- 12) QUIET TITLE

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff, GEOFFREY LYNCH ("Plaintiff"), on information and belief, allege as follows:

1 this time, and Plaintiff therefore sue said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs
2 allege, on information and belief, that Doe Defendant is responsible for the actions herein
3 alleged. Plaintiffs will seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint when the names of
4 said Doe Defendant have been ascertained.

5 13. At all times mentioned herein, whenever an act or omission of a business entity is alleged,
6 said allegation shall be deemed to mean and include an allegation that the business entity
7 acted or omitted to act through its authorized officers, directors, agents, servants, and/or
8 employees, acting within the course and scope of their duties, that the act or omission was
authorized and/or ratified by the business entity.

9 14. Plaintiff purchased Subject Property on August 16, 2017, and held title to the Property
10 until the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale was recorded on March 17, 2023.

11 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

12 15. In July 2012, Governor Edmund Brown signed the California Homeowners Bill of Rights
13 ("HBOR") into law. The striking urgency of the factual findings by the California
14 Legislature demonstrate how dire the current foreclosure crisis is. The Legislature found
15 that "California is still reeling from the economic impacts of a wave of residential property
16 foreclosures that began in 2007. From 2007 to 2011 alone, there were over 900,000
17 completed foreclosure sales. In 2011, 38 of the top 100 hardest hit ZIP Codes in the Nation
18 were in California, and the current wave of foreclosures continues apace. All of this
19 foreclosure activity has adversely affected property values and resulted in less money for
20 schools, public safety, and other public services. In addition, according to the Urban
21 Institute, every foreclosure imposes significant costs on local governments, including an
22 estimated nineteen thousand two hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$19,229) in local
23 government costs. And the foreclosure crisis is not over; there remain more than two
million 'underwater' mortgages in California."

24 16. It is essential to the economic health of this state to mitigate the negative effects on the
25 state and local economies and the housing market that are the result of continued
26 foreclosures by modifying the foreclosure process to ensure that borrowers who may
27 qualify for a foreclosure alternative are considered for, and have a meaningful opportunity
28 to obtain, available loss mitigation options. These changes to the state's foreclosure
process are essential to ensure that the current crisis is not worsened by unnecessarily

1 adding foreclosed properties to the market when an alternative to foreclosure may be
2 available. Avoiding foreclosure, where possible, will help stabilize the state's housing
3 market and avoid the substantial, corresponding negative effects of foreclosures on
4 families, communities, and the state and local economy. (Assem. Bill No. 278 (2011-2012
5 Reg. Sess.), § 1 (subdivisions designations omitted).)

6 17. The legislative history of Assembly Bill No. 278 recognized extensive “‘spillover’ costs”
7 of “the foreclosure epidemic”: “By some estimates the foreclosure crisis will strip
8 neighboring homeowners of \$1.9 trillion in equity as foreclosures drain value from homes
9 located near foreclosed properties by 2012. . . . Meanwhile, state and local governments
10 continue to be hit hard by declining tax revenues coupled with increased demand for social
11 services. In fact, the Urban Institute estimates that a single foreclosure costs \$79,443 after
12 aggregating the costs borne by financial institutions, investors, the homeowner, their
13 neighbors, and local governments.” (Sen. Rules Com., Off. Of Sen. Floor Analyses,
14 Conference Report on Assem. Bill No. 278 (2011-2012 Reg. Sess.) June 27, 2012, pp. 14-
15 15.)

16 18. When a borrower is in danger of defaulting, a commonsense approach under a traditional
17 mortgage would be for the lender and borrower to mutually agree to modify the terms of
18 the loan [¶] Despite the apparent mutual interest of loan holders and borrowers, many
19 distressed homeowners report obstacles when trying to obtain a loan modification or short-
20 sale approval. (See e.g. ‘Loan Modifications Elude Local Homeowners,’ Sacramento Bee
21 (January 17, 2011).) [¶] . . . [¶] Some analysts and leading economists have cited a
22 failure by banks to provide loan modifications as a single reason that the foreclosure crisis
23 continues to drag on.¶ (Sen. Floor Analysis of Assem. Bill No. 278 at pp. 15-16.)

24 19. According to the legislative history, “borrowers can find their loss-mitigation options
25 curtailed because of dual-track processes that result in foreclosures even when a borrower
26 has been approved for a loan modification.” (Sen. Floor Analysis of Assem. Bill No. 278,
27 pp. 20-21.)

28 20. The same legislation provides homeowners who are facing foreclosure or whose homes
have actually been lost to foreclosure with a remedy if the lender or loan servicer
materially violated the provisions of the Act intentionally, recklessly, or through “willful
misconduct.” (Assem. Bill No. 278, §§ 16 & 17, adding *Civil Code*, § 2924.12): those

1 facing foreclosure may seek an injunction, while those who have lost their homes may
2 seek treble actual damages or statutory damages of \$50,000, whichever is greater.

3 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

4 21. The real property that is the subject of this action is commonly known as 2301 26th
5 Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116.

6 22. Plaintiff acquired titled through a Grant Deed recorded on August 16, 2017, as San
7 Francisco County Recorder's Office Document No. 2017-K49580-00. As part of the
8 purchasing of the property, Plaintiff executed a first position Deed of Trust with Wells
9 Fargo Bank, N.A. in the amount of \$1,364,000.00 recorded on September 29, 2017, as
10 San Francisco County Recorder's Office Document No. 2017-K520541-00.

11 23. Defendants recorded a Notice of Default on August 15, 2022, as San Francisco County
12 Recorder's Office Document No. 2022077602, stating the amount of default was
13 \$273,468.70.

14 24. Defendants recorded a Notice of Trustee's Sale on December 1, 2022, as San Francisco
15 County Recorder's Office Document No. 2022108349, stating that the total amount due
16 was \$1,568,372.63.

17 25. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff has lost his home, as a result of his wrongful eviction
18 following the wrongful foreclosure, along with general damages.

19 26. Further, Plaintiff is entitled to an order setting aside the foreclosure sale and restoring title
20 to Mr. Lynch's name, in addition to other remedies demanded below.

21 27. On February 5, 2020, around the date Defendants executed the declaration attached to the
22 Notice of Default, agents of Wells Fargo drilled through the locks of the front door,
23 installed an interior latch to the garage door, shut off the water for the entire Subject
24 Property, stuck stickers on the toilets in the Subject Property, applied non-toxic anti-freeze
25 in the Subject Property, and applied automotive cooling throughout the Subject Property.

26 28. At the time of this unlawful entry, the Plaintiff was the sole owner of the subject property
27 and occupied the subject property.

28 29. On this point, Plaintiff never gave Defendant or anyone else his permission for their
entrance and alterations to Plaintiff's property.

30. The unconsented entrance and alterations to Plaintiff's property caused substantial harm
to Plaintiff.

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