2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 9 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 SOUTHERN DIVISION February 2013 Grand Jury 11 No. SA CR 13-12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 13 Plaintiff, INDICTMENT 14 v. [18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1346: Wire Fraud, Deprivation of Honest Services ARMANDO GRANILLO, 15 16 Defendant. 17 18 The Grand Jury charges: 19 COUNTS ONE THROUGH THREE [18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1346] 20 21 INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS At all times relevant to this Indictment: 22 The Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie 23 1.

Mae") was a private corporation, under conservatorship by the

Federal Housing Finance Agency, and doing business in Irvine,

elsewhere. In the ordinary course of its business, Fannie Mae

acquired single family residential properties through foreclosure

California, within the Central District of California, and

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or other transfers that Fannie Mae was then authorized to sell, commonly referred to as Fannie Mae Real Estate Owned or REO properties.

2. Defendant ARMANDO GRANILLO ("defendant GRANILLO") was employed by Fannie Mae, at its office in Irvine, California, as a Real Estate Owned Foreclosure Specialist. Defendant GRANILLO's duties included reviewing and approving applications made by real estate brokers for permission to list Fannie Mae REO properties for sale; assigning Fannie Mae REO property listings to approved real estate brokers; and approving sales offers submitted by approved brokers for the sale of Fannie Mae REO properties.

Defendant GRANILLO was paid by salary by Fannie Mae, and defendant GRANILLO was not entitled to receive compensation from the sale of Fannie Mae REO properties.

## B. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

3. From in or about November 2012 to on or about March 5, 2013, in Orange and Los Angeles Counties, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant ARMANDO GRANILLO knowingly and with intent to defraud devised, participated in, and executed a scheme to defraud Fannie Mae as to material matters, including by depriving Fannie Mae of its right to the honest services of defendant GRANILLO, namely, the performance of defendant GRANILLO's duties as a Fannie Mae REO Foreclosure Specialist, by secretly using defendant GRANILLO's official position as a Fannie Mae Foreclosure Specialist to enrich himself by soliciting and accepting gifts, payments, and other things of value from A.M., and other real estate brokers, in exchange for favorable official action taken by defendant GRANILLO, namely,

the assignment of Fannie Mae REO property listings.

- 4. The scheme to defraud operated, in substance, in the following manner:
- a. Defendant GRANILLO provided favorable official action at Fannie Mae to benefit A.M., namely, by steering Fannie Mae REO sales listings opportunities to A.M. so that A.M. could list Fannie Mae REO properties for sale and, when those properties sold, earn commissions;
- b. Defendant GRANILLO solicited and accepted gifts, payments, and other things of value in the amount of at least approximately \$11,200 from A.M., with respect to the listing opportunities that defendant GRANILLO provided to A.M. The things of value consisted of U.S. currency; and
- c. Defendant GRANILLO took steps to hide, conceal, and cover-up his fraudulent activity and the nature and scope of his dealings with A.M., including by directing A.M. to pay defendant GRANILLO in cash and by using a prepaid cellular telephone to communicate with A.M., because the usage of such a telephone could not be readily traced like an ordinary subscriber's telephone account.

## C. USE OF THE WIRES

5. On or about the dates set forth below, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant GRANILLO, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the above-described scheme to defraud, transmitted and caused the transmission of the following by means of wire and radio communication in interstate and foreign commerce:

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| COUNT | DATE              | TRANSMISSION   |
|-------|-------------------|--|
| ONE   | February 1, 2013  | Telephone call between defendant, at (949) xxx-0651 in California, and A.M., at (520) xxx-7319, in Tucson, Arizona |
| TWO   | February 12, 2013 | Telephone call between defendant, at (949) xxx-0651 in California, and A.M., at (520) xxx-7319, in Tucson, Arizona |
| THREE | February 27, 2013 | Telephone call between defendant, at (949) xxx-0651 in California, and A.M., at (520) xxx-7319, in Tucson, Arizona |

A TRUE BILL

Foreperson

ANDRÉ BIROTTE JR. United States Attorney

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