

## BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

**COMMISSIONERS** 

GARY PIERCE, Chairman

BOB STUMP SANDRA D. KENNEDY

> PAUL NEWMAN BRENDA BURNS

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Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

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In the matter of	DOCKET NO. S-20755A-10-0342
FIVE STAR CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC, a) Nevada limited liability company,	
	DECISION NO
JAMES PICCOLO and MARY   ELIZABETH PICCOLO, husband and wife,)	
CRAIG COTTRELL, CRD# 4552833, and ) ANDREA COTTRELL, husband and wife, )	ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, ORDER FOR RESTITUTION, ORDER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND CONSENT TO SAME
CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC, an Arizona ) limited liability company,	BY: RESPONDENTS CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC AND MICHAEL ROBERTS
and (	
MICHAEL ROBERTS, an unmarried man,	
Respondents. )	

CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS ("Respondents") elect to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal under Articles 11 and 12 of the Securities Act of Arizona, A.R.S. § 44-1801 et seq. ("Securities Act") with respect to this Order To Cease and Desist, Order For Restitution, Order For Administrative Penalties and Consent To Same ("Order"). CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS admit the jurisdiction of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission"); neither admit nor deny the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order; and consent to the entry of this Order by the Commission.

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I.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC ("CHARLEVOIX") was, at all relevant times, an Arizona limited liability company organized on February 26, 2003. On November 9, 2009, the Commission administratively dissolved CHARLEVOIX. At all relevant times, MICHAEL ROBERTS was the sole manager/member of CHARLEVOIX.
- MICHAEL ROBERTS ("ROBERTS"), an unmarried man, is a resident of Scottsdale,
   Arizona. At all relevant times, the offering documents provided to offerees and investors stated that
   ROBERTS was the president and CEO of CHARLEVOIX.
- 3. CHARLEVOIX was an Arizona homebuilder that built several real estate developments in Arizona. The funds raised from investors were to be used to fund the development costs for one of the CHARLEVOIX developments.
- 4. JAMES PICCOLO ("PICCOLO") negotiated with ROBERTS to allow FIVE STAR CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC ("FIVE STAR") to offer the Charlevoix Note (as defined below) including negotiating the commissions that FIVE STAR would receive.
- 5. Between October 2005 and November 2006, Nouveau Riche Corporation ("Nouveau Riche") operated as "an educational company that educates people on real estate residential real estate investing." Nouveau Riche conducted a series of classes on "dealing with residential real estate." Nouveau Riche sold home study programs and held seminars known as "Intensives" throughout the United States. Intensives were usually two-day seminars held throughout the United States to promote Nouveau Riche educational programs. CRAIG COTTRELL ("COTTRELL"), an instructor at Nouveau Riche, conducted some of the Intensives.
- 6. In the fall of 2005, as a benefit to the Nouveau Riche students, FIVE STAR, through COTTRELL, offered Nouveau Riche students who attended some of the Intensives an investment opportunity to purchase notes in CHARLEVOIX real estate developments. Those Nouveau Riche students interested in making an investment received a document titled "Loan Agreement"

("Charlevoix Notes"). The Charlevoix Notes set forth the terms of the investment including the expected return, the collateral and the maturity date.

- 7. On October 1, 2005, after an Intensive, FIVE STAR and COTTRELL sent each of the attendees an email offering the attendees the opportunity to invest in the Charlevoix Notes ahead of other Nouveau Riche students. The email stated that "Jim [PICCOLO], Mike [ROBERTS] and I [COTTRELL] are very excited to share this fantastic offer with our community" and "the Phoenix Nouveau Riche community is the first to get the chance to act on the incredible 'Charlevoix Homes' opportunity before next Tuesday's nationwide conference call with Jim Piccolo, Mike Roberts (CEO of Charlevoix Homes) and myself."
- 8. The October 1, 2005, email also included a link to a power point presentation that further explained the Charlevoix Notes.
- 9. Furthermore, the October 1, 2005, email requested that people interested in making the investment in the Charlevoix Notes should "make [their] payments out to 'Charlevoix Homes' and mail or deliver (remember this is first come/first serve) them to [COTTRELL] . . ." at FIVE STAR's Scottsdale, Arizona, address.
- 10. On October 11, 2005, another email was sent to each of the prospective investors and provided another internet link for a "presentation that explains this exciting opportunity in detail including financials." The email also provided a website link to obtain a copy the Charlevoix Notes.
- 11. Once the Nouveau Riche students sent their funds to FIVE STAR and COTTRELL, COTTRELL would notify CHARLEVOIX. CHARLEVOIX would then mail the Charlevoix Notes to investors. One of the terms of the Charlevoix Notes was a return of eighteen percent (18%) per annum. CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS received the investors' funds from FIVE STAR.
- 12. The investors were told by CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS that the Charlevoix Notes were to be secured either by a "2<sup>nd</sup> Deed of Trust held on behalf of all investors by Five Star

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Capital Markets" or by a "lien on lots." No second deed of trust or lien for the benefit of the investors, either individually or for the benefit of FIVE STAR, was ever recorded.

- 13. The Charlevoix Notes offering documents provided to investors stated that the investments were guaranteed by a "Charlevoix Home Corporate guarantee." However, there was no Charlevoix guarantee.
- 14. From October 2005 through November 2006, Charlevoix Notes were sold to 105 investors who invested \$5,616,226.59.
- 15. From October 2005 through November 2006, CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS were not registered as a securities dealers or salesmen with the Commission.
- 16. COTTRELL was a securities salesman with Source Capital Group between May 12, 2006 and November 2006, during which time COTTRELL offered and sold the Charlevoix Notes.
  - 17. The Charlevoix Notes were not registered with the Commission.
- 18. CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS misrepresented to offerees and investors that the investments in Charlevoix Notes were guaranteed by a "corporate guarantee" from CHARLEVOIX when, in fact, there was no corporate guarantee.

II.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Article XV of the Arizona Constitution and the Securities Act.
- 2. CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS offered or sold securities within or from Arizona, within the meaning of A.R.S. §§ 44-1801(15), 44-1801(21), and 44-1801(26).
- 3. CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS violated A.R.S. § 44-1841 by offering or selling securities that were neither registered nor exempt from registration.
- 4. CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS violated A.R.S. § 44-1842 by offering or selling securities while neither registered as a dealer or salesman nor exempt from registration.

- 5. CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS, directly or indirectly, violated A.R.S. § 44-1991 by (a) employing a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud, (b) making untrue statements or misleading omissions of material facts, or (c) engaging in transactions, practices, or courses of business that operate or would operate as a fraud or deceit.
  - a. CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS misrepresented to offerees and investors that the investments in the Charlevoix Notes were guaranteed by a "corporate guarantee" in CHARLEVOIX when, in fact, there was no corporate guarantee.
  - b. CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS misrepresented to offerees and investors that the Charlevoix Notes were secured by a second deed of trust held on behalf of the investors by FIVE STAR or a lien recorded on the lots for the benefit of investors. There was no second deed of trust recorded for the benefit of FIVE STAR investors or any liens recorded on the lots to benefit the investors.
- 6. ROBERTS directly or indirectly controlled persons or entities within the meaning of A.R.S. § 44-1999, including but not limited to CHARLEVOIX. Therefore, ROBERTS is jointly and severally liable under A.R.S. § 44-1999 to the same extent as CHARLEVOIX for any violations of A.R.S. § 44-1991.

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#### **ORDER**

THEREFORE, on the basis of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and CHARLEVOIX's and ROBERTS' consent to the entry of this Order, attached and incorporated by reference, the Commission finds that the following relief is appropriate, in the public interest, and necessary for the protection of investors:

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS and any of their agents, employees, successors and assigns, permanently cease and desist from violating the Securities Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS comply with the attached Consent to Entry of Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS, along with any respondent against whom an order is entered under Docket No. S-20755A-10-0342, are jointly and severally liable to pay restitution to the Commission in the principal amount of \$5,577,226.59. Payment is due in full on the date of this Order. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona" to be placed in an interest-bearing account controlled by the Commission. Any principal amount outstanding shall accrue interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum from the date of the Order until paid in full.

The Commission shall disburse the funds on a pro-rata basis to investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any restitution funds that the Commission cannot disburse because an investor refuses to accept such payment, or any restitution funds that cannot be disbursed to an investor because the investor is deceased and the Commission cannot reasonably identify and locate the deceased investor's spouse or natural children surviving at the time of the distribution, shall be disbursed on a pro-rata basis to the remaining investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any funds that the Commission determines it is unable to or cannot feasibly disburse shall be transferred to the general fund of the state of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2036, that CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS, jointly and severally, shall pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$150,000. Payment is due in full on the date of this Order. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona." Any amount outstanding shall accrue interest as allowed by law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that payments received by the state of Arizona shall first be applied to the restitution obligation. Upon payment in full of the restitution obligation, payments shall be applied to the penalty obligation.

Decision No. 72212

Decision No.

For purposes of this Order, a bankruptcy filing by CHARLEVOIX<sup>1</sup> or ROBERTS<sup>2</sup> shall be an act of default. If CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS do not comply with this Order, any outstanding balance may be deemed in default and shall be immediately due and payable. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if CHARLEVOIX and ROBERTS fail to comply with this order, the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against them, including application to the superior court for an order of contempt. On August 18, 2008, CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC filed for protection under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. <sup>2</sup> On July 15, 2008, Michael Roberts filed for protection under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Mr. Roberts received a discharge on January 1, 29, 2009.

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#### CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

- 1. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS admit the jurisdiction of the Commission over the subject matter of this proceeding. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS acknowledge that they have been fully advised of their right to a hearing to present evidence and call witnesses and they knowingly and voluntarily waive any and all rights to a hearing before the Commission and all other rights otherwise available under Article 11 of the Securities Act and Title 14 of the Arizona Administrative Code. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS acknowledge that this Order To Cease and Desist, Order For Restitution, Order For Administrative Penalties and Consent To Same ("Order") constitutes a valid final order of the Commission.
- 2. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS knowingly and voluntarily waive any right under Article 12 of the Securities Act to judicial review by any court by way of suit, appeal, or extraordinary relief resulting from the entry of this Order.
- 3. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS acknowledge and agree that this Order is entered into freely and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.
- 4. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS understand and acknowledge that they have a right to seek counsel regarding this Order, and that they have had the opportunity to seek counsel prior to signing this Order. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS acknowledge and agree that, despite the foregoing, CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS freely and voluntarily waive any and all right to consult or obtain counsel prior to signing this Order.
- 5. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS neither admit nor deny the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS agree that they shall not contest the validity of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order in any present or future proceeding in which

the Commission or any other state agency is a party concerning the denial or issuance of any license or registration required by the state to engage in the practice of any business or profession.

- 6. By consenting to the entry of this Order, CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS agree not to take any action or to make, or permit to be made, any public statement denying, directly or indirectly, any Finding of Fact or Conclusion of Law in this Order or creating the impression that this Order is without factual basis. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS will undertake steps necessary to assure that all of their agents and employees understand and comply with this agreement.
- 7. While this Order settles this administrative matter between CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS and the Commission, they understand that this Order does not preclude the Commission from instituting other administrative or civil proceedings based on violations that are not addressed by this Order.
- 8. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS understand that this Order does not preclude the Commission from referring this matter to any governmental agency for administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings that may be related to the matters addressed by this Order.
- 9. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS understand that this Order does not preclude any other agency or officer of the state of Arizona or its subdivisions from instituting administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings that may be related to matters addressed by this Order.
- 10. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS agree that they will not apply to the state of Arizona for registration as securities dealers or salesmen or for licensure as an investment adviser or investment adviser representative until such time as all restitution and penalties under this Order are paid in full.
- 11. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS agree that they will not exercise any control over any entity that offers or sells securities or provides investment advisory

services within or from Arizona until such time as all restitution and penalties under this Order are paid in full.

- 12. MICHAEL ROBERTS agrees that he will continue to cooperate with the Securities Division including, but not limited to, providing complete and accurate testimony at any hearing in this matter and cooperating with the state of Arizona in any related investigation or any other matters arising from the activities described in this Order.
- 13. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS consent to the entry of this Order and agree to be fully bound by its terms and conditions.
- 14. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS acknowledge and understand that if they fail to comply with the provisions of the order and this consent, the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against them, including application to the superior court for an order of contempt.
- 15. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS understand that default shall render them liable to the Commission for its costs of collection and interest at the maximum legal rate.
- 16. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS agree and understand that if they fail to make any payment as required in the Order, any outstanding balance shall be in default and shall be immediately due and payable without notice or demand. CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC and MICHAEL ROBERTS agree and understand that acceptance of any partial or late payment by the Commission is not a waiver of default by the Commission.

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Decision No. 72212

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1	17. MICHAEL ROBERTS represents that he is manager of CHARLEVOIX HOMES
2	LLC and has been authorized by CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC to enter into this Order for and on
3	behalf of it.
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5	( flill ffills)
6	MICHAEL ROBERTS
7	, CHARLEVOIX HOMES LLC
8	Alleman
9	By MICHAEL ROBERTS Its Manager
10	STATE OF ARIZONA )
11	County of MWicopa) ss
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13	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE me this 19th day of January, 2011.
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15	NOTĂRY PUBLIC
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18	June 9, 2013
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Decision No. 72212

1 2	SERVICE LIST FOR:	Five Star Capital Markets, LLC, James Piccolo, Mary Elizabeth Piccolo, Craig Cottrell, Andrea Cottrell, Charlevoix Homes LLC an Michael Roberts	ď
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4	NAME & ADDRESS		
5	Jeffrey Matura		
6	Graif Barrett & Matura, PC 1850 N. Central Ave., Ste. 50	00	
7	Phoenix, Arizona 85004 Attorneys for Five Star Capit James Piccolo and Mary Eliz	al Markets, LLC,	
8	Craig Cottrell and Andrea Co	ottrell	
9   10	Michael Roberts 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd., # Scottsdale, Arizona 85525	213	
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