# REAL ESTATE AGENCY BEFORE THE REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of the Real Estate License of	}	
SAMUEL FUNG	}	ORDER ON DEFAULT
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- 1.1 On May 18, 2012, the Real Estate Commissioner issued, by certified mail, a notice of intent to revoke the real estate principal broker license of Samuel Fung (Fung). The Real Estate Agency (OREA) sent the notice of intent to Fung's last known address of record with the OREA. The notice of intent was also mailed to Fung by regular first class mail in a handwritten envelope. Neither one has been returned to OREA.
- 1.2 Over twenty (20) days have elapsed since the mailing of the notice issued in this matter and no written request for hearing has been received.
- 1.3 Copies of the entire investigation file are designated as the record for purposes of default, including any submission from respondent and all information in the administrative file relating to the mailing of notices and any responses received.

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Based upon the foregoing and upon a review of the above described investigation reports, documents and files, the Real Estate Commissioner finds:

- 2.1 Oregon Administrative Rule 863-001-0006 states, in part, that a notice of intent is properly served when deposited in the United States mail, registered or certified mail, addressed to the real estate licensee at the licensee's last known address of record.
- 2.2 Fung's last known address of record with OREA was 2834 Yvonne Road, Medford, Oregon.
- 2.3 A certified mailing of the notice of intent was mailed to Fung at his last known address of record on May 18, 2012. It has not been returned to OREA.

- 2.4 The mailing in the handwritten envelope has not been returned to OREA. In accordance with ORS 40.135(1)(q), there is a presumption that the mailing properly addressed and placed with the U.S. Postal Service was delivered. That presumption has not been overcome by any evidence.
- 2.5 Over twenty (20) days have elapsed since the mailing of the notice and no written request for a hearing has been received.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

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- 3.1 Fung has been licensed in Oregon since 2002. He began doing business under the registered business name of Oregon Commercial, LLC, on May 12, 2008.
- 3.2 On September 22, 2011, OREA received an email from John Zupan (Zupan) with a newspaper article attached, which stated that Fung had pled guilty to conspiracy to defraud the United States by impeding the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The article, dated September 16, 2011, also stated that the case stems from crimes Fung committed while living in San Jose, California, between 1997 and 2006. In addition, the article stated that, according to his plea agreement, Fung prepared at least 65 fraudulent income tax returns for his clients and attempted to hide taxable assets and conceal portions of his clients' income from the IRS. As part of the Plea Agreement, Fung had agreed to pay \$1.1 million in restitution.
- 3.3 On April 12, 2005, an Indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court California Northern District (San Jose) against Samuel S. Fung. Fung was charged with 49 counts of Aiding and Assisting in the Preparation of False Tax Returns. Fung pled "not guilty" on August 11, 2005.
- 3.4 On April 12, 2007, a Superseding Indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court California Northern District as to Samuel S. Fung. The Superseding Indictment charged Fung with 70 counts of Aiding and Abetting in Preparation of False and Fraudulent Tax Returns, one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, one count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, eight counts of Wire Fraud; Aiding and Abetting, one count of Conspiracy to Blackmail and Witness Tampering, three counts of Witness Tampering; Aiding and Abetting, and three counts of Blackmail; Aiding and Abetting. Fung again pled "not guilty."

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- 3.5 On July 31, 2008, a Second Superseding Indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court California Northern District as to Samuel S. Fung and Eric Aaron Lighter (Lighter). This Indictment charged Fung with one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, one count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, eight counts of Wire Fraud; Aiding and Abetting, one count of Conspiracy to Blackmail and Witness Tampering, three counts of Witness Tampering; Aiding and Abetting, three counts of Blackmail; Aiding and Abetting, and 70 counts of Aiding and Assisting in preparation of False and Fraudulent Tax Returns.
- 3.6 On March 11, 2009, a Third Superseding Indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court California Northern District as to Samuel S. Fung. This Indictment charged Fung with one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, 22 counts of Aiding and Assisting in Preparation of False and Fraudulent Tax Returns, one count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, eight counts of Wire Fraud; Aiding and Abetting, one count of Conspiracy to Commit Blackmail and Witness Tampering, three counts of Witness Tampering; Aiding and Abetting and three counts of Blackmail; Aiding and Abetting.
- 3.7 On September 14, 2011, a Plea Agreement was filed in the U.S. District Court California Northern District as to Samuel S. Fung. A Change of Plea Hearing as to Fung was held before Judge Hon. Edward J. Davila on September 14, 2011. At this hearing, Fung entered a plea of guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States.
- Prosecuting Attorney, Charles A. O'Reilly (O'Reilly) stated the Government would prove that Fung and others conspired to defraud the United States by deceitful and dishonest means by impeding, impairing and destructing the lawful government functions of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the ascertainment, computation, assessment and collection of federal income taxes. O'Reilly stated the Government would prove that Fung conspired to commit wire fraud and in furtherance of these conspiracies, Fung and others performed overt acts identified in the Third Superseding Indictment. O'Reilly stated Fung and others individually, jointly, for themselves and on behalf of others, established fictitious business names through which they and others would receive income and held assets in order to defraud the United States of America by attempting to conceal theirs and others assets and income from the IRS and to illegally eliminate theirs and others income taxes and income tax liabilities. O'Reilly stated

 Fung and others prepared and caused to be prepared false and fraudulent federal income tax returns to be presented to the IRS for tax payers and entities identified in the Third Superseding Indictment. O'Reilly referred to charts in the Plea Agreement that specified names of clients and entities that Fung had prepared tax returns for and the dates the tax returns were prepared and stated that he believed that Fung would stipulate that those charts accurately represent the false returns that were prepared by Fung as indicated in the Plea Agreement.

- 3.9 The Court asked Fung if he had heard the Government's statement about what they would prove if the case were to go to trial. Fung answered yes. The court asked Fung if he specifically noted the facts listed in the Plea Agreement as part of those facts that the Government would prove. Fung answered yes. The Court asked Fung if those facts were true. Fung again answered yes.
- 3.10 O'Reilly said the Government would prove that in telephone calls on or about March 2, 3, and 10, 2006, in consultation and agreement with Lighter, Fung knowingly attempted to intimidate and threaten and corruptly persuade Dr. Irwin Gootnick (Dr. Gootnick) with the intent to prevent or influence Dr. Gootnick's testimony in an official proceeding in that Fung threatened Dr. Gootnick would go to jail for tax evasion if Dr. Gootnick testified for the Government in the criminal trial against Fung. O'Reilly said in these conversations Fung also attempted to persuade Dr. Gootnick to dismiss his civil lawsuit then pending against Lighter. O'Reilly said that was at least part of what the Government would prove.
- 3.11 The Court asked Fung if he heard O'Reilly's recitation of the evidence that the Government would prove at trial. Fung answered yes. The Court asked Fung if those facts, all of them, were true and correct. Fung answered yes.
- 3.12 The Court asked Fung what his plea was to count one of the Third Superseding Indictment which alleges that it's a violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 371 that beginning on or before August 2, 1997, and continuing up to and through March 31, 2006, within the Northern District of California and elsewhere, he and others unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally conspired and agreed to defraud the United States by deceitful and dishonest means by impeding, impairing, and obstructing the lawful government functions of the Internal Revenue

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Service of the Department of the Treasury of the United States of America in the assessment and collection of federal income taxes. Fung's response was "I plead guilty your honor".

- 3.13 On September 14, 2011, the Court accepted the plea and found that Fung had knowingly and voluntarily waived his constitutional rights for entry of a plea and for a jury trial. In the signed plea agreement. Fung said that he "provided false and fraudulent advice to clients that the programs we promoted were legal."
- 3.14 On June 2, 2012, Fung was sentenced to 27 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1.7 million in restitution.
- 3.15 In addition, Fung failed to report to OREA an adverse judgment against him dated July 23, 2007 in the amount of \$78,500 in favor of the Cecilia McKenzie Family Trust.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 4.1 ORS 696,301(11) and (14) (2011 Edition), which states that the real estate license of any real estate licensee may be disciplined if they have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor substantially related to the licensee's trustworthiness or competence to engage in professional real estate activity and/or if they have committed an act of fraud or engaged in dishonest conduct substantially related to the fitness of the licensee to conduct professional real estate activity without regard to whether the act or conduct occurred in the course of professional real estate activity. (4 violations of ORS 696.301(14))
- 4.2 OAR 863-015-0175 (April 13, 2007 Edition), which requires that a real estate licensee notify OREA of any adverse decision, judgment or award resulting from any suit.or action, civil or criminal, in which the licensee was named as a party, which reflect adversely on the trustworthy and competent requirements of ORS 696 and OAR chapter 863.

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### ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Fung's real estate principal broker license is revoked.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2012.

OREGON REAL ESTATE AGENCY

GENE BENTLEY

Real Estate Commissioner

DATE of service: 6/8/12

NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of this order. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within 60 days from the date of service of this order. Judicial review is pursuant to the provisions of ORS 183.482.