



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY ANNOUNCES

HISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN AN ELDER ABUSE CASE

San Mateo – Calif. – The Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County announced today that it has settled an elder abuse case involving the bilking of an 89 year old widow, Pauline Reade, out of nearly \$600,000. Ms. Reade faced foreclosure on the Pacifica home she has lived in since 1951 after Fetuu Tupoufutuna, a scam contractor, tricked her into signing loan documents in the sum of hundreds of thousands of dollars with various banks and mortgage entities.

The Reade lawsuit was filed in San Mateo County Superior Court by **Hope Nakamura** of the **Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County** and **Niki Okcu** of the law firm of **Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy**, who handled the case pro bono. The suit was filed after Ms. Reade suddenly received a Notice of Trustee's Sale stating her home would be sold at a public sale. The lawsuit was filed to stop the sale against various individuals and entities involved in the loan transaction, including, RBS Financial, Products, Inc. Deutsche Bank National Trust Co., GMAC Mortgage, LLC, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Executive Trustee Services, Paul Financial, Fetuu Tupoufutuna and Mohammed Ali George.

Although the exact terms of the settlement are confidential, it can be disclosed that the lien on Ms. Reade's property will be completely removed and she will have no obligation under the loan which currently exceeds \$420,000. Hope Nakamura said Ms. Reade will also receive compensation in the settlement, but could not disclose the amount. **Ms. Reade's lead lawyer, Niki Okcu, said "Ms. Reade is a poster child for elder abuse. Tragically, there are hundreds of other similar cases, but the resources needed to fight these cases are simply not there. In this case, the result we achieved will allow Ms. Reade to live in her home."** Legal Aid Society works to educate seniors about the rise of financial elder abuse and provides assistance when abuse occurs.

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