FILED COURT OF APPEALS DIVISION II

2015 JUL -9 PM 1:29

STATE OF WASHINGTON

No. 46906-5

COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISIONI CONTOF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPUTY

## KEY K. KIM,

Plaintiff/Appellant,

vs.

### FAY SERVICING, LLC,

Defendant/Respondent

### **RESPONDENT FAY SERVICING, LLC'S**

### ANSWERING BRIEF

Adam G. Hughes, WSBA # 34438 MARSHALL & WEIBEL, P.S. 720 Olive Way, Suite 1201 Seattle, WA 98101 Telephone: (206) 622-5306 Attorney for Respondent Fay Servicing, LLC

## Table of Contents

I.	INTF	RODUCTION	l	
II.	STATEMENT OF CASE			
	А.	2006 - Plaintiff Borrows \$298,850.00 Secured by Deed of Trust	3	
	B.	2012 – Plaintiff Purposefully Defaults on Loan	3	
	C.	April 2013 – Flagstar Issues Notice of Default and Plaintiff Employs Attorney to Help Negotiate Loan Modification	4	
	D.	April/May 2013 – Appointment of Successor Trustee and Notice of Trustee's Sale Recorded Initiating Foreclosure	5	
	E.	August-October 2013 – Servicing Transferred to Fay Servicing and Fay Servicing Attempts to Work Out Loan Modification With Plaintiff	5	
	F.	November 1, 2013 – Trustee's Sale Goes Forward Without Objection	C	
	G.	The Current Litigation10	C	
III.	ARG	UMENT 12	2	
	А.	Applicable Standard of Review12	2	
	B.	Summary Judgment Properly Granted13	3	
		1. Plaintiff's CPA Claim Properly Dismissed14	4	
IV.	CON	CLUSION	)	
CER	<b>FIFIC</b>	ATE OF SERVICE 22	2	

## **TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

### Cases

Anhold v. Daniels, 94 Wn.2d 40, 45, 614 P.2d 184 (1980)17
Grimm v. Univ. of Puget Sound, 110 Wn.2d 355, 360, 753 P.2d 517 (1988)13, 14
Hangman Ridge Training Stables, Inc. v. Safeco Title Ins. Co., 105 Wn.2d 778, 784-
5, 719 P.2d 531 (1986)14, 17, 18
Indoor Billboard/Wash., Inc. v. Integra Telecom of Wash., Inc., 162 Wn.2d 59, 82,
170 P.3d 10 (2007)
Loeffelholz v. Univ. of Wash., 175 Wn.2d 264, 271, 285 P.3d 854 (2012)12
Meyer v. University of Washington, 105 Wn.2d 847, 852 (1986)13, 14
Robinson v. Avis Rent A Car Sys., Inc., 106 Wn. App. 104, 114, 22 P.3d 818 (2001)
Schnall v. AT&T Wireless Svcs., Inc., 168 Wn.2d 125, 144, 225 P.3d 929 (2010)18
Seybold v. Neu, 105 Wn. App. 666, 677, 19 P.3d 1068 (2001)12
Smith v. Shannon, 100 Wash.2d 26, 37, 666 P.2d 351 (1983); RAP 2.5(a)20
Strong v. Terrell, 147 Wn. App. 376, 384, 195 P.3d 977 (2008)12
Swinehart v. City of Spokane, 145 Wn. App. 836, 844, 187 P.3d 345 (2008)12
Young v. Key Pharmaceuticals, 112 Wn.2d 216, 225, 770 P.2d 182 (1982)13

## Statutes

RCW 19.86	14
RCW 61.24	6, 11, 19

## Rules

CR 56(c)1	12	2
-----------	----	---

### I. INTRODUCTION

On appeal, Plaintiff asks that the dismissal of his Consumer Protection Act claim against Fay Servicing, LLC, be reversed despite having failed to provide sufficient evidence to support such a claim to the trial court.

Plaintiff argues that Fay Servicing might have purposefully misled him in order to prevent him from stopping the foreclosure sale of his Property. In support of this supposition, Plaintiff offered no evidence or a suggestion of a benefit that Fay Servicing would have obtained by such an action because none exists. Fay Servicing is a loan servicer that makes money by servicing loans, not by losing servicing on loans that are foreclosed. Plaintiff's argument that Fay Servicing might have intentionally misled him into thinking he would be receiving a loan modification is thus not only not supported by any facts, it is also nonsensical.

Plaintiff attempts to point to Fay Servicing's attempt to find a Korean interpreter to assist in their communication as the cause of his purported belief that a modification was being offered and that the trustee's sale would be postponed until such time as Fay Servicing called back with an interpreter. Despite having lived in the United States for over 30 years and owning multiple businesses, when it serves his purposes, Plaintiff claims to be unable to understand English. In other instances, he claims to understand

it well enough to claim to have been misled. Here, Plaintiff is attempting to use his alleged lack of understanding of English to hold Fay Servicing liable in a situation that he admits to intentionally creating himself by purposefully ceasing to make mortgage payments and misrepresenting his financials. The undisputed facts are that Fay Servicing did attempt to work with Plaintiff to see if a loan modification was possible, but Plaintiff's own actions caused his home to be sold at foreclosure. Plaintiff wants to center the blame on Fay Servicing for not calling back with an interpreter, but Plaintiff himself had access to interpreters, including his attorney, and could have called Fay Servicing at any time. Plaintiff wants to blame Fay Servicing for attempting to help him. Fay Servicing should not be required to stand trial over its efforts to assist Plaintiff, when at best Plaintiff can show a misunderstanding between him and Fay Servicing's phone representative caused by Plaintiff's language barrier.

The trial court properly dismissed Plaintiff's Consumer Protection Act claim against Fay Servicing because Plaintiff's own testimony and discovery responses confirmed that: (1) the only unfair or deceptive acts that occurred here were Plaintiff's own dishonest actions; (2) Plaintiff provided no evidence of any similar situation anywhere involving Fay Servicing that could support a finding that the public interest is affected; and (3) Plaintiff's own intentional actions caused his injury. The trial court's decision should be affirmed.

### II. STATEMENT OF CASE

### A. 2006 - Plaintiff Borrows \$298,850.00 Secured by Deed of Trust

On January 19, 2006, Plaintiff borrowed \$298,850.00 (the "Loan") to use toward the purchase of a home commonly known as 10423 91<sup>st</sup> Street Ct SW, Lakewood, Washington 98498 (the "Property"). *See* Complaint (CP 94-141) at ¶1.1 and ¶3.2. As security for repayment of the Loan, Plaintiff executed a Deed of Trust which was recorded under Pierce County Auditor Recording No. 20061230570 on January 23, 2006. *Id.* at ¶3.3, Ex. A.

### B. 2012 – Plaintiff Purposefully Defaults on Loan

In 2012, based upon advice from friends and people he knows in his community, Plaintiff intentionally stopped paying on the Loan under the presumption that it would help him to obtain a loan modification. During his deposition, Plaintiff testified as follows:

- **Q**. What did you do to attempt to modify your mortgage?
- **A**. First I was told that I will be qualified for modification if I don't pay for six months, so I did that.
- **Q**. Who told you that?
- A. Several people.
- **Q**. Do you recall any specific people?

- A. People, friends around and people I know.
- **Q**. Did anyone at Fay Servicing tell you that?
- **A**. The company?
- Q. Yes.
- A. No.
- Q. So you chose to not make your mortgage payments for six months so that you could then you were understanding that it would help you get a loan modification; is that correct?
- A. Yes.
- **Q**. So after waiting that six months, what did you do to attempt to get a modification?
- A. In case it wasn't successful, I have to pay the mortgage, so for every month I saved the mortgage amount so I could pay. So if you look at my credit report, it's perfect, I was never late in paying any payments including car payments, but just with this loan itself, it was intentional.

(See CP 46 - 47 underline emphasis added).

### C. April 2013 – Flagstar Issues Notice of Default and Plaintiff Employs Attorney to Help Negotiate Loan Modification

After six months without payment, the then beneficiary of the Deed

of Trust, Flagstar,<sup>1</sup> issued a Notice of Default, informing Plaintiff that he was

in default on his Loan because he had failed to make any payments for the

prior six months. See Complaint (CP 94-141) Ex. E. At about the same

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Flagstar's status as the beneficiary with the right to initiate non-judicial foreclosure under RCW 61.24 *et seq.* was previously established by Flagstar in support of its successful motion for summary judgment before the trial court and that decision was not appealed.

time as the Notice of Default was being prepared, Plaintiff engaged his attorney to assist him in obtaining a loan modification, or as Plaintiff himself put it: "I asked Attorney Kim to get me the modification, I told him this happened and this happened, so now six months has passed so please get me a modification, and I gave him the documents." (CP 47).

# D. April/May 2013 – Appointment of Successor Trustee and Notice of Trustee's Sale Recorded Initiating Foreclosure

On April 10, 2013, Flagstar executed an Appointment of Successor Trustee (the "AST") naming Northwest Trustee Services ("NWTS") as Trustee for the Deed of Trust. The AST was thereafter recorded on April 23, 2013. CP 60-61. On May 7, 2013, NWTS recorded and served a Notice of Trustee's Sale and Notice of Foreclosure. *See* Complaint (CP 94-141) Ex. C.<sup>2</sup> As of May 7, 2013, Plaintiff owed \$16,181.55 in fees and arrearages. *Id.* at p. 2, § III (CP 121). The Notice of Trustee's Sale informed Plaintiff that if he did not cure the debt, a Trustee's Sale of the Property was scheduled to occur on September 13, 2013. *Id.* at p. 1 (CP 120). The Notice of Trustee's Sale also informed Plaintiff that "anyone having any objection to the sale on any grounds whatsoever will be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to those objections if they bring a lawsuit to restrain the sale

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  It should also be noted that Plaintiff stipulated that all required notices under RCW 61.24 et seq. were properly placed and delivered. (CP 53).

## pursuant to RCW 61.24.130. *Failure to bring such a lawsuit may result in a waiver of any proper grounds for invalidating the Trustee's sale.*" *Id.* at p. 3, § IX (CP 122).

### E. August-October 2013 – Servicing Transferred to Fay Servicing and Fay Servicing Attempts to Work Out Loan Modification With Plaintiff

Effective August 1, 2013, after Plaintiff had failed to obtain a loan modification through Flagstar due to his failure to provide complete information or any proof of income (as was detailed in Flagstar's own motion for summary judgment – Filed March 21, 2014),<sup>3</sup> servicing of Plaintiff's Loan was transferred to Fay Servicing. (CP 62-63). Due to Plaintiff's Loan being in foreclosure, Fay Servicing reached out to Plaintiff to attempt to help him avoid foreclosure either by curing the default or coordinating a loan modification. (CP 63 at ¶3). Again, however, after many attempts to work with Plaintiff and obtain information from him that might have allowed Fay Servicing to provide him with a loan modification, Plaintiff provided false information and failed to provide the information needed to evaluate him for a loan modification, and no loan modification was ever offered to Plaintiff. (CP 51-52, 55-58, 63 at ¶3, and CP 69-70 at ¶2-4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Court should also be aware that while Plaintiff did provide Flagstar with information purporting to show business income, Plaintiff admitted at deposition that he received no such income. *See* CP 43-45.

During this process, plaintiff was not forthcoming with Fay Servicing. Despite receiving \$300,000.00 on August 19, 2013, from the sale of his stake in his ex-wife's business, Plaintiff intentionally hid this money from Fay Servicing. (CP 50-51). On September 11, 2013, Plaintiff submitted bank statements to Fay Servicing showing a balance as of 8/12/2013 of only \$1,076.99, and a hardship letter stating that he became delinquent on the Loan because of discontinuation in income from his business. (CP 55-58).<sup>4</sup> When questioned about this hardship letter at his deposition, Plaintiff responded as follows:

- **Q.** So at the time that you are writing this letter in September 2013, you have over \$300,000 in cash, but you are still writing a hardship letter; is that correct?
- A. Well, doesn't everybody? I mean, if you have millions of dollars, like you want to modify the loan, you don't say I have a lot of money; please modify my loan for me.

(CP 51).

Despite the above, Fay Servicing continued to attempt to work with Plaintiff to see if a loan modification might be possible. It was during the last of these phone calls, on October 17, 2013 (date confirmed at Plaintiff's deposition – CP 50), that Plaintiff contends he was offered a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Recall that Plaintiff testified in his deposition that he intentionally stopped making Loan payments in a calculated attempt to obtain a loan modification, not because he was unable to pay. (CP 46-47).

loan modification. (CP 40-42). Note, however, that the Complaint alleges only that Plaintiff was told by Fay Servicing that he could still be qualified for a loan modification, not that a modification was actually offered. *See* Complaint (CP 94 - 141) at  $\P$  5.3.

Regardless, it was later clarified in Plaintiff's deposition that no modification was ever offered, but rather because technical terms that Plaintiff did not understand were being used during his last phone call with Fay Servicing, Plaintiff unilaterally believed that a modification was being offered:

- Q. Going back to Exhibit 6 [Plaintiff's previously filed declaration Filed April 10, 2014], on Page 2, Paragraph 7, it states: I thought the modification would be finalized as negotiations between myself and the company handling the loan were making much progress with the last phone call on or about October 30, 2013 [actually October 17 as confirmed previously in deposition], we talked about that earlier, ending with the company representative telling me that he would get a Korean interpreter and call again. When you say "much progress," what do you mean by that statement?
- A. So when I was talking to Mike we talked for a while, and before we were talking he was using no technical terms, but at the end, the last call he was using a lot of technical terms. Before I had no problem understanding, but when he was using technical terms regarding modification, I could not understand. And for him to use many technical terms to explain modification, I believe that he meant that he was offering modification, so that I thought it was finalized and things were finalized. And when

Attorney Kim called me, I said everything worked out well. But Mike was the one who requested we talk about this with interpreter. It wasn't myself asking for interpreter.

(CP 47-48).

Plaintiff's entire case against Fay Servicing is built on his own unsupported and erroneous conclusion that the use of technical terms in his October 17, 2013, conversation with Fay Servicing meant that he was being offered a modification and that the Trustee's Sale would be postponed again pending finalizing a modification:

**Q**. The next sentence [of Plaintiff's previously filed declaration] says: I was under the impression that the trustee's sale would be postponed again pending finalization of the modification. What gave you that impression?

THE INTERPRETER: Could you repeat the question?

- **Q**. BY MR. HUGHES: What gave you that impression?
- A. Because Mike was very positive about it and he spoke positively. So I told Attorney Kim that according to Mike, I think modification is possible. I don't know how much it will be modified, but I believe it would be modified.
- **Q**. Did you take Mike as being helpful to you in attempting to get a modification?
- A. Yes, sure, yes.
- **Q**. Were you under the impression that Mike was doing all that he could to help you do a modification?
- A. Yes, of course. He called a lot and he was very nice.

Q. The last paragraph of this declaration says: Had I thought the trustee's sale would proceed as scheduled, I would have sought an injunction against the sale. Mr. Kim, do you know on what basis you would have sought an injunction?

\* \* \*

- **A**. So what injunction?
- **Q**. BY MR. HUGHES: On what basis would you have sought an injunction?
- **A**. I don't understand the meaning. So let's repeat this from the beginning, let's do this from the beginning.
- **Q**. Do you understand what is stated in Paragraph 8 [of his own declaration signed under penalty of perjury and submitted to this Court previously]?

A. No.

(CP 48-49).

# F. November 1, 2013 – Trustee's Sale Goes Forward Without Objection

On November 1, 2013, despite having received all foreclosure notices and being represented by an attorney in the process, the Trustee's Sale went forward without any attempt to enjoin the sale by Plaintiff. (CP 9) On November 7, 2013, a Trustee's Deed was recorded documenting the sale of the Property to IH3. *Id.* 

### G. The Current Litigation

After failing to cure his default or enjoin the Trustee's Sale of the Property, Plaintiff filed the current lawsuit alleging mainly that Flagstar did not have standing to initiate foreclosure based upon unsupported allegation that Flagstar was not the "beneficiary" under RCW 61.24.005(2). See Complaint (CP 94 - 141) at ¶4.4. Plaintiff also alleged that MERS and Fay Servicing never met the definition of "beneficiary" (see id.), but neither MERS nor Fay Servicing initiated the non-judicial foreclosure, nor were they alleged to have done so. (CP 94 - 141). Flagstar and MERS filed a motion for summary judgment on or about March 21, 2014, and their motion was granted on April 25, 2014. (CP 144-145).

Similarly, Defendant IH3 filed a motion to dismiss all claims against it, and the Court granted that motion on March 21, 2014. (CP 142-143).

Given the allegations in the Complaint, and the statements made by Plaintiff in his declaration in response to Flagstar's motion for summary judgment, Fay Servicing decided that it wanted to take Plaintiff's deposition prior to filing its own motion for summary judgment. (CP 9). Plaintiff's deposition was taken on July 17, 2014, and the relevant admissions made during that deposition are cited above and were attached to the Declaration of Adam G. Hughes filed in support of Fay Servicing's motion for summary judgment. (CP 38-58). Plaintiff's deposition confirmed that Plaintiff's claims against Fay Servicing were/are baseless, and established Plaintiff's own bad faith in the process. *Id.* Accordingly, Fay Servicing filed its motion for summary judgment, which the Trial Court granted. (CP 89-91).

### **III. ARGUMENT**

#### A. Applicable Standard of Review

The Court of Appeals reviews an order for summary judgment *de novo*, engaging in the same inquiry as the trial court. *Loeffelholz v. Univ. of Wash.*, 175 Wn.2d 264, 271, 285 P.3d 854 (2012).

Summary judgment is appropriate where the "pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with affidavits, if any, show there is no genuine issue as to any material fact, and the moving party is entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law." Civil Rule (CR) 56(c). A material fact is one on which the outcome of the litigation depends. *Swinehart v. City of Spokane*, 145 Wn. App. 836, 844, 187 P.3d 345 (2008). A defendant can move for summary judgment in either of two ways: (1) set out its version of the facts and allege that there is no genuine issue based on those facts; or (2) point out to the court that the nonmoving party lacks sufficient evidence to support its case. *Seybold v. Neu*, 105 Wn. App. 666, 677, 19 P.3d 1068 (2001).

Once a moving party meets its burden to show that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact, the nonmoving party must set forth specific facts rebutting the moving party's contention and disclosing that a genuine issue of material fact exists. *Strong v. Terrell*, 147 Wn. App. 376, 384, 195 P.3d 977 (2008). If the nonmoving party "fails to make a showing

sufficient to establish the existence of an element essential to that party's case, and on which the party will bear the burden of proof at trial," then summary judgment should be granted. *Young v. Key Pharmaceuticals*, 112 Wn.2d 216, 225, 770 P.2d 182 (1982).

Mere allegations, argumentative assertions, conclusory statements, and speculation do not raise issues of material fact to preclude summary judgment. *Grimm v. Univ. of Puget Sound*, 110 Wn.2d 355, 360, 753 P.2d 517 (1988). The party seeking to avoid summary judgment must affirmatively present the admissible factual evidence upon which he relies; he cannot rely upon the bare allegations of his pleadings. *Meyer v. University of Washington*, 105 Wn.2d 847, 852 (1986).

### B. Summary Judgment Properly Granted

Just as he did at the Trial Court, Plaintiff now asks this Court to disregard long standing summary judgment standards that require him to present admissible factual evidence, not argumentative assertions, conclusory statements, and speculation, in order to avoid summary dismissal of his CPA claim against Fay Servicing. See e.g. *Grimm*, 110 Wn.2d at 360, *Meyer*, 105 Wn.2d at 852. Again, Plaintiff has failed to provide any admissible facts that could support a CPA claim, but instead relies upon his own subjective "impressions" and understandings or beliefs without any underlying factual support. Note that Plaintiff has abandoned and not appealed the dismissal of his declaratory relief / Deed of Trust Act claim to the extent asserted against Fay Servicing.

### 1. Plaintiff's CPA Claim Properly Dismissed

To establish an RCW 19.86 Consumer Protection Act ("CPA") claim, the Plaintiff has the burden to show (1) an unfair act or deceptive act or practice, (2) occurring in trade, (3) affecting the public interest, (4) injury, and (5) a causal link between the act and resulting injury. *See Hangman Ridge Training Stables, Inc. v. Safeco Title Ins. Co.*, 105 Wn.2d 778, 784-5, 719 P.2d 531 (1986). If any of the elements is not established, a Consumer Protection Act claim cannot stand. *See Robinson v. Avis Rent A Car Sys., Inc.*, 106 Wn. App. 104, 114, 22 P.3d 818 (2001).

Plaintiff's allegations, argumentative assertions, conclusory statements, and speculation are not sufficient to create an issue of material fact to preclude summary judgment. *Grimm*, 110 Wn.2d at 360. Plaintiff must be able to present the admissible factual evidence upon which he relies; he cannot rely upon bare allegations. *Meyer*, 105 Wn.2d at 852. Plaintiff has failed to do that here.

Here, Plaintiff's CPA claim fails because he cannot meet elements 1, 3, or 5, as are set forth above. Plaintiff has no competent evidence to support: (1) his contention that Fay Servicing did anything unfair or deceptive, (2) his contention that Fay Servicing's alleged actions affect the public interest, or (3) that Fay Servicing's actions caused him injury. Rather, Plaintiff's own testimony and discovery responses confirm that (1) the only unfair or deceptive acts that occurred here were his own actions; (2) Plaintiff has no evidence of any similar situation anywhere involving Fay Servicing that could support a finding that the public interest is affected or that there is a potential for repetition of this unique set of facts, and (3) Plaintiff's own intentional actions caused his injury.

### a. No Evidence of Unfair or Deceptive Act by Fay Servicing

Following the Trial Court's dismissal of his core allegation that the Trustee's Sale was invalid, Plaintiff shifted his focus to attempt to blame Fay Servicing for allegedly tricking him into thinking he was getting a loan modification two weeks before the Trustee's Sale, thereby allegedly causing him to not enjoin the Trustee's Sale. Yet Plaintiff cannot point to a single misrepresentation made by Fay Servicing or a single basis upon which he could have enjoined the Trustee's Sale. All that Plaintiff can point to is Fay Servicing's multiple phone calls to him in a good faith effort to work out a loan modification, his illogical assumption that he was offered a loan modification despite admitting that zero terms had been offered (let alone agreed to), and Fay Servicing's offer at the end of the last call to see if it had a Korean translator to assist in further discussions given Plaintiff's purported lack of understanding of English.

Notably, Plaintiff had his own Korean translator / attorney that he hired to assist him in the modification process, who was in receipt of all foreclosure notices, and who took no action to enjoin the Trustee's Sale. Neither Plaintiff or his attorney can point to a single communication from Fay Servicing offering a loan modification or indicating that the November 1, 2013, Trustee's Sale would be postponed or cancelled. Instead, Plaintiff relies entirely on his own illogical presumption that he was offered a loan modification because Fay Servicing's representative used technical terms that he did not understand during their final phone call, thus the Trustee's Sale must be cancelled.

By contrast, Plaintiff admitted to (1) intentionally not paying his mortgage in order to attempt to negotiate a loan modification, (2) during his loan modification review with Flagstar – providing false income information about his income (CP 44-45), (3) not disclosing the \$300,000 he received from his ex-wife in August 2013, to Fay Servicing while it was attempting to obtain sufficient information from Plaintiff to determine his eligibility for a loan modification (CP 51), and (4) instead disclosing a bank account with less than \$2,000.00 and his lack of any income source (CP 55-58).

The undisputed facts of this case show that the only unfair or deceptive acts that occurred here were the acts of Plaintiff, not Fay

16

Servicing, and thus Plaintiff cannot establish the first element of a CPA claim and this claim was properly dismissed for this reason alone.

# b. No Evidence that Fay Servicing's Actions Affect the Public Interest

In order to establish the third element of a CPA claim, Plaintiff must have evidence showing that it is likely "that additional plaintiffs have been or will be injured in <u>exactly the same fashion</u>." *Hangman Ridge*, 105 Wn.2d at 790 (emphasis added). Here, in response to Fay Servicing's discovery requests, Plaintiff provided the following response:

**INTERROGATORY NO. 20:** State all facts on which You base Your claim that Fay Servicing violated the Washington Consumer Protection Act, Chapter 19.86 RCW, or may be held liable for others' violations of the Act.

### ANSWER:

As previously discussed, Fay Servicing engaged in discussions that led me to believe that my mortgage would be modified and it is presumed that there are other Washington residents whose mortgages are being serviced by Fay Servicing.

(CP 35).

Not only does Plaintiff have no evidence that any other person might be injured in "exactly the same fashion" as he has allegedly been injured here, but he alleges only that Fay Servicing services other Washington residents' loans. Plaintiff's opening brief cites to the *Anhold v. Daniels*, 94 Wn.2d 40, 45, 614 P.2d 184 (1980), decision in an attempt meet the public interest element of his CPA claim summarily concluding that because Fay Servicing is in the business of servicing mortgage loans, "potential does exist for repetition" of its actions here. All admissible evidence, however, is to the contrary. The facts show this to be an extremely unique situation in which a borrower had a language barrier, had access to an interpreter but did not use him, chose to default on his mortgage, misrepresented his financial situation, and despite having hired an attorney failed to attempt to enjoin the trustee's sale. This is not a scenario likely to be repeated, and there is absolutely no evidence in the record that could lead to the conclusion "that additional plaintiffs have been or will be injured in exactly the same fashion," as required by *Hangman Ridge supra*.

Plaintiff failed to establish the public interest impact element of a CPA claim and thus his CPA claim was properly dismissed for this reason alone as well.

### c. Fay Servicing's Actions Did not Cause Plaintiff's Injury

Proof of causation, is an essential CPA element. *Schnall v. AT&T Wireless Svcs., Inc.*, 168 Wn.2d 125, 144, 225 P.3d 929 (2010). The causal link is but-for – plaintiff must establish the "injury complained of … would not have happened" if not for defendant's acts. *Indoor Billboard/Wash., Inc. v. Integra Telecom of Wash., Inc.*, 162 Wn.2d 59, 82, 170 P.3d 10 (2007). Plaintiff's alleged injury in this case arises from the Trustee's Sale of the Property. Plaintiff claims that he was under the impression that the trustee's sale would be postponed and otherwise he would have sought an injunction to halt the sale of the Property. (CP 78). Yet, Plaintiff provided no basis upon which he would have been able to obtain an injunction of the Trustee's Sale, since the non-judicial foreclosure was initiated properly by the beneficiary of the Deed of Trust as was previously fully addressed in Flagstar and MERS' motion for summary judgment granted by the Trial Court. Additionally, Plaintiff did not dispute that he received all notices as require by RCW 61.24 *et seq.* Plaintiff had absolutely no basis for asking for an injunction.

Plaintiff's opening brief also argues for the first time on appeal that Plaintiff would have used the \$300,000.00 he had to "protect his home," but fails to cite to any portion of the record to support such an argument. Plaintiff's declaration certainly contained no such statement, but rather stated that despite Fay Servicing suggesting that he use those funds to get his loan current, he refused since he was going to use the money to "invest in a small business to have a regular source of income." (CP 77-78). As such, there is no evidence in the record to support this new argument. Additionally, an appellate court should not consider arguments, such as this one, raised for the first time on appeal. *See Smith v. Shannon*, 100 Wash.2d 26, 37, 666 P.2d 351 (1983); RAP 2.5(a).

It is also important that the undisputed facts before the Trial Court established that the only reason a Trustee's Sale was ever scheduled was because Plaintiff admittedly intentionally stopped paying on his mortgage. Fay Servicing did not cause the Property to be sold at the Trustee's Sale, Plaintiff did that himself. Fay servicing did what it could to try to help Plaintiff avoid having the Property sold at the Trustee's Sale, but Plaintiff's own admitted withholding of financial information made it impossible for Fay Servicing to provide him with a loan modification. In the end, the Trustee' Sale went forward, but Fay Servicing's actions cannot be considered to be the cause under the undisputed facts in play here.

Under the undisputed facts of this case, no reasonable factfinder could find for Plaintiff on his CPA claim and as such, Plaintiff's lawsuit was properly dismissed by the Trial Court for this reason as well.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Trial Court correctly granted Fay Servicing's motion for summary judgment. Fay Serving thus respectfully requests that this Court affirm the Trial Court's order granting Fay Servicing's motion. Respectfully submitted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.

MARSHALL WEBEL, P.S.

Adam G. Hughes, WSBA #34438 Attorneys for Respondent Fay Servicing, LLC

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Kay Spading, certify that on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015, I caused the foregoing document, Respondent Fay Servicing, LLC's Answering Brief, to be delivered to the following parties in the manner indicated below:

James K. Kim THEMIS LAW 3520 96<sup>th</sup> Street S, Suite 109 Lakewood, WA 98499 *Attorney for Plaintiff/Appellant*  [X] By First Class Mail
[] By Legal Messenger
[X] By Email
[] By Facsimile

Under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Washington,

the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015, at Seattle, Washington.

Kay Spading (