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BUKEAU UF REALESTATE

Department of Real Estate 320 W. 4th Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105 Telephone: (213) 576-6982

## BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Accusation of	) DRE No. H-41819 LA ) OAH No. 2021080606
NICHOLAS KENT DILLON II;	)
FLAT FEE GROUP, INC., doing business	
as Smart Realty Group; JASON WHITMORE,	
individually and as former designated officer	)
of Flat Fee Group, Inc; and	
MICHELLE JENNY LIN, individually and as	STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT
designated officer of Flat Fee Group, Inc.,	IN SETTLEMENT AND ORDER
	)
Respondents.	ý

It is hereby stipulated by and between Respondent MICHELLE JENNY LIN<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter "Respondent"), acting by and through her attorney Frank M. Buda, Esq., and the Complainant, acting by and through Judith B. Vasan, Counsel for the Department of Real Estate, as follows for the purpose of settling and disposing of the Accusation ("Accusation") filed on November 12, 2020, in this matter:

 All issues which were to be contested and all evidence which was to be presented by Complainant and Respondent at a formal hearing on the Accusation, which hearing was to be held in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"),

<sup>1</sup> As of July 22, 2021, Respondent Lin's registered name with the DRE is Michelle Jenny Mauer.

 shall instead and in place thereof be submitted solely on the basis of the provisions of this Stipulation and Agreement ("Stipulation").

- 2. Respondent has received, read and understands the Statement to Respondent, the Discovery Provisions of the APA and the Accusation filed by the Department of Real Estate ("Department") in this proceeding.
- 3. Respondent filed a Notice of Defense pursuant to Section 11506 of the Government Code for the purpose of requesting a hearing on the allegations in the Accusation. Respondent hereby freely and voluntarily withdraws said Notice of Defense. Respondent acknowledges that Respondent understands that by withdrawing said Notice of Defense Respondent thereby waives Respondent's right to require the Commissioner to prove the allegations in the Accusation at a contested hearing held in accordance with the provisions of the APA and that Respondent will waive other rights afforded to Respondent in connection with the hearing such as the right to present evidence in their defense, and the right to cross-examine witnesses.
- 4. This Stipulation is based on the factual allegations contained in the Accusation filed in this proceeding. In the interests of expedience and economy, Respondent chooses not to contest these factual allegations, but to remain silent and understands that, as a result thereof, these factual statements, will serve as a prima facie basis for the disciplinary action stipulated to herein. The Real Estate Commissioner shall not be required to provide further evidence to prove such allegations.
- 5. This Stipulation and Respondent's decision not to contest the Accusation are made for the purpose of reaching an agreed disposition of this proceeding and are expressly limited to this proceeding and any other proceeding or case in which the Department of Real Estate or another licensing agency of this state, another state or if the federal government is involved, and otherwise shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceedings.
- 6. It is understood by the parties that the Real Estate Commissioner may adopt this Stipulation as his Decision in this matter thereby imposing the penalty and sanctions on

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All licenses and license rights of Respondent are indefinitely suspended unless or until Respondent pays Respondent's pro rata share of \$2,235.60 for the Commissioner's reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement which led to this disciplinary action. Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check made payable to the Department of Real Estate. The payment of the investigative and enforcement costs must be delivered to the Department of Real Estate, Flag Section, at P.O. Box 137013, Sacramento, CA 95813-7013, prior to the effective date of this Decision and Order.

III.

Respondent shall, within six (6) months from the effective date of this Decision, take and pass the Professional Responsibility Examination (PRE) administered by the Department including the payment of the appropriate examination fee. If the Department is unable to offer the PRE exam within the six month period after the effective date of this Decision, the time period will be extended if Respondent requests an extension of time. If Respondent fails to satisfy this condition, the Commissioner may order suspension of Respondent's license until Respondent passes the examination.

IV.

Respondent further agrees to provide proof satisfactory to the Commissioner of having taken and successfully completed the continuing education course on management of real estate offices and supervision of real estate licensed activities as specified in Paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 10170.5 of the Business and Professions Code. Proof of satisfaction of this requirement includes evidence that Respondent has successfully completed the management and supervision continuing education course, no earlier than 120 days prior to the effective date of the Decision and Order in this matter. Proof of completion of the management and supervision course must be delivered to the Department of Real Estate, Flag Section at P.O. Box 137013, Sacramento, CA 95813-7013, within thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Decision and Order.

DATED: 2/1/2022

Judith B. Vasan, Counsel for Department of Real Estate

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## **EXECUTION OF THE STIPULATION**

I have read the Stipulation and its terms are understood by me and are agreeable and acceptable to me. I understand that I am waiving rights given to me by the California Administrative Procedure Act (including but not limited to Sections 11506, 11508, 11509 and 11513 of the Government Code), and I willingly, intelligently and voluntarily waive those rights, including the right of requiring the Commissioner to prove the allegations in the Accusation at a hearing at which I would have the right to cross-examine witnesses against me and to present evidence in defense and mitigation of the charges.

Respondent shall <u>mail the original</u> signed signature page of the stipulation herein to Judith B. Vasan, Attention: Legal Section, Department of Real Estate, 320 W. Fourth St., Suite 350, Los Angeles, California 90013-1105.

In the event of time constraints before an administrative hearing, Respondent can signify acceptance and approval of the terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Agreement by emailing a scanned copy of the signature page, as actually signed by Respondent, to the Department counsel assigned to this case. Respondent agrees, acknowledges and understands that by electronically sending the Department a scan of Respondent's actual signature as it appears on the Stipulation and Agreement that receipt of the scan by the Department shall be binding on Respondent as if the Department had received the original signed Stipulation. Respondent shall also mail the original signed signature page of this Stipulation to the Department counsel.

Respondent's signature below constitutes acceptance and approval of the terms and conditions of this Stipulation. Respondent agrees, acknowledges and understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent is bound by its terms as of the date of such signatures and that this agreement is not subject to rescission or amendment at a later date except by a separate

1	Decision and Order of the Real Estate Commissioner.
3 4	DATED: 1/31/22 MICHELE JENNY LIN Respondent
5 6 7 8	DATED: Z. 2. 22  The M. Buda, Esq. Counsel for Respondent Approved as to Form
9	* * *
11 12 13	The foregoing Stipulation and Agreement is hereby adopted as my Decision as to Respondent MICHELLE JENNY LIN and shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on APR 0 8 2022
14 15	IT IS SO ORDERED 3 '4' 22
16 17	DOUGLAS R. McCAULEY REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER
18	Dougs F. merren
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