## Attorney General Becerra Announces Arrest and Indictment of Three Individuals in \$7 Million Statewide Mortgage Fraud Scheme

Press Release / Attorney General Becerra Announces Arrest and Indictment of... <a href="https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-announces-arrest-and-indictment-three-individuals-7">https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-announces-arrest-and-indictment-three-individuals-7</a>

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SACRAMENTO— California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today announced the indictment and arrest of three individuals on a 121-count felony indictment for allegedly operating a mortgage fraud scheme throughout California. The scheme resulted in a combined loss of over \$7 million. The victims, many of whom were elderly and in financial distress, sought mortgage relief services from Grand View Financial in the Counties of San Diego, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Placer, Solano, Mendocino, San Francisco, El Dorado, and Sacramento.

The operators of Grand View Financial—Steven Rogers, Robert Sedlar, and Audrey Gan—were indicted by a grand jury in the Sacramento Superior Court for conspiracy, grand theft, elder abuse, filing false or forged documents in a public office, and engaging in a prohibited act as a foreclosure consultant.

"Individuals who prey on vulnerable communities to enrich themselves will be held accountable by the California Department of Justice," **said Attorney General Becerra**. "My office will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to identify and prosecute those who disregard the rule of law."

Between 2015 and 2019, the defendants allegedly conspired to steal money and homes from distressed homeowners using a company called Grand View Financial. The company launched a mortgage and foreclosure assistance program that advertised assistance to desperate homeowners facing foreclosure. The defendants promised consumers that if they transferred their house and paid money to Grand View Financial, the company would eliminate the mortgage lien and deed the home back to the homeowner, clear of any liens. During this time, the defendants allegedly filed false court proceedings, false documents with the county recorders offices, and false bankruptcies.

The indictment and arrests are the result of a joint investigation by the California Department of Justice, Fraud and Special Prosecutions Section and White Collar Crime Team; the United States Office of

Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; the United States Office of Inspector General, Federal Housing Finance Agency; the United States Trustee Program; the United States Marshals Service; the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office; and the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office.

Attorney General Becerra is committed to protecting Californians from mortgage fraud and other financial crimes. If you believe you may have been targeted by Grand View Financial, please contact the California Department of Justice. For those located in California, please call: 1-800-952-5225. For those located outside of California, please call: 1-916-322-3360.

It is important to note that a criminal indictment contains charges that must be proven in a court of law. Every defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

A copy of the indictment can be found <u>here</u>

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Redacted GVF indictment\_Redacted.pdf

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