

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
MISSOURI REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS COMMISSION
AND
MATTHEW GRIFFIS

Matthew Griffis, (“Griffis”), and the Missouri Real Estate Appraisers Commission, (“MREAC”), enter into this Settlement Agreement for the purpose of resolving the question of whether Griffis’ certification as a licensed real estate appraiser, license number 2007033115, will be subject to discipline. Pursuant to § 536.060, RSMo 2000,¹ the parties hereto waive the right to a hearing by the Administrative Hearing Commission of the State of Missouri and, additionally, the right to a disciplinary hearing before the MREAC under § 621.110, RSMo Cum. Supp. 2008. The MREAC and Griffis jointly stipulate and agree that a final disposition of this matter may be effectuated as described below pursuant to § 621.045, RSMo Cum. Supp. 2008.

Griffis acknowledges that he understands the various rights and privileges afforded him by law, including the right to a hearing of the charges against him; the right to appear and be represented by legal counsel; the right to have all charges proven upon the record by competent and substantial evidence; the right to cross-examine any witnesses appearing

¹ All statutory citations are to the 2000 Revised Statutes of Missouri unless otherwise noted.

against him at the hearing; the right to present evidence on his behalf at the hearing; the right to a decision upon the record of the hearing by a fair and impartial administrative hearing commissioner concerning the charges pending against him; the right to a ruling on questions of law by the Administrative Hearing Commission; the right to a disciplinary hearing before the MREAC at which time Griffis may present evidence in mitigation of discipline; the right to a claim for attorney fees and expenses; and the right to obtain judicial review of the decisions of the Administrative Hearing Commission and the MREAC.

Being aware of these rights provided to him by law, Griffis knowingly and voluntarily waives each and every one of these rights and freely enters into this Settlement Agreement and agrees to abide by the terms of this document as they pertain to him.

Griffis acknowledges that he has received a copy of documents that were the basis upon which the MREAC determined there was cause for discipline, along with citations to law and/or regulations the MREAC believes were violated. Griffis stipulates that the factual allegations contained in this Settlement Agreement are true and stipulates with the MREAC that Griffis' license as a real estate appraiser, license number 2007033115, is subject to disciplinary action by the MREAC in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 621, RSMo Cum. Supp. 2008, and Chapter 339, RSMo §§ 339.500 to 339.549, RSMo, as amended.

The parties stipulate and agree that the disciplinary order agreed to by the MREAC and Griffis in Part II herein is based only on the agreement set out in Part I herein. Griffis understands that the MREAC may take further disciplinary action against him based on facts or conduct not specifically mentioned in this document that are either now known to the MREAC or may be discovered.

I.

Joint Stipulation of Facts and Conclusions of Law

Based upon the foregoing, the MREAC and Griffis herein jointly stipulate to the following:

1. The MREAC is an agency of the State of Missouri created pursuant to section 339.507 for the purpose of executing and enforcing the provisions of Chapter 339, RSMo.
2. Griffis is and was at all times relevant herein, licensed as a real estate appraiser, license number 2007033115.
3. Griffis' license is current and active.
4. On or about July 3, 2008, Griffis submitted an Application to Renew his real estate appraiser license online.
5. On his Application to Renew, Griffis represented that during the prior renewal period, July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008, he had completed 28 hours of continuing education as required by 20 CSR 2245-8.010(2).

6. As part of the online renewal process, Griffis read and agreed to the following statement: “Since my last renewal, I have completed the mandatory number of hours of continuing education needed to renew my license or certification.”

7. On August 1, 2008, Griffis’ license was randomly selected for a continuing education audit for the 2006-2008 renewal period.

8. The 2006-2008 renewal period requires continuing education courses be completed by June 30, 2008.

9. Griffis was required to obtain 28 continuing education hours during the 2006-2008 license period, which ended on June 30, 2008.

10. In response to the audit, Griffis submitted proof of attending the following continuing education hours:

- A. Seven hours on November 10, 2008, for a Mortgage Fraud: Protect Yourself;
- B. Seven hours on November 11, 2008, for 2008-2009 National USPAP Update Equivalent;
- C. Seven hours on November 11, 2008, for 7 hour Residential Report Writing;
- D. Seven hours on November 12, 2008, for Appraising FHA Today.

11. Griffis obtained 28 hours of continuing education after the deadline date of June 30, 2008, and after he submitted his renewal application on July 3, 2008.

12. As a licensed real estate appraiser, Griffis was required to satisfy state regulation 20 CSR 2245-8.010 which provides, in pertinent part:

(1) Each licensee who holds a certificate or license shall complete, during the two (2)-year license period prior to renewal, as a condition precedent to certification or license renewal, the required number of hours of real estate appraisal instruction approved for continuing education credit by the Missouri Real Estate Appraisers Commission as specified in section (2) of this rule. Licensees shall maintain their evidence of course participation or course completion certificates for the period set for appraisal file retention. Such evidence shall be submitted upon request by the commission.

(2) Licensees are required to complete twenty-eight (28) hours of continuing education during the two (2)-year renewal cycle. The commission may require specific courses of continuing education. A licensee shall provide verification of completion of continuing education by affidavit at the time of renewal. The affidavit shall contain a truthful statement of approved courses by the commission of continuing education taken by the licensee.

...

(11) All licensees of the state of Missouri shall complete, for continuing education credit, the seven (7) hour national Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) update course or its equivalent during each renewal cycle

13. The 28 hours of continuing education submitted by Griffis, including 7 hours of USPAP training, were all obtained after the two year license period ended on June 30, 2008, in violation of 20 CSR 2245-8.010.

14. By failing to provide true and correct information to the MREAC on his renewal application regarding his completion of continuing education, Griffis violated § 339.530, which states:

1. As a prerequisite of renewal of certification or licensure, a state-certified real estate appraiser or state-licensed real estate appraiser shall present evidence satisfactory to the commission of having met the continuing education requirements as provided in this section. The basic continuing education requirements for renewal of certification or licensure shall be the completion by the state-certified real estate appraiser or state-licensed real estate appraiser, during the immediately preceding term of certification or licensure, of continuing education as prescribed by the appraiser qualifications board and approved by the commission.

15. Based on Griffis' conduct as alleged herein, cause exists to discipline his certification as a state-certified real estate appraiser under §§ 339.532.2, RSMo, which provides in pertinent part:

2. The commission may cause a complaint to be filed with the administrative hearing commission as provided by chapter 621, RSMo, against any state-certified real estate appraiser, state-licensed real estate appraiser, or any person who has failed to renew or has surrendered his or her certificate or license for any one or any combination of the following causes:

(1) Procuring or attempting to procure a certificate or license pursuant to section 339.513 by knowingly making a false statement, submitting false information, refusing to provide complete information in response to a question in an application

for certification or licensure, or through any form of fraud or misrepresentation;

(2) Failing to meet the minimum qualifications for certification or licensure or renewal established by sections 339.500 to 339.549;

...

(10) Violating, assisting or enabling any person to willfully disregard any of the provisions of sections 339.500 to 339.549 or the regulations of the commission for the administration and enforcement of the provisions of sections 339.500 to 339.549;

...

(14) Violation of any professional trust or confidence [.]

II.

Joint Agreed Disciplinary Order

Based on the foregoing, the parties mutually agree and stipulate that the following shall constitute the disciplinary order entered by the MREAC in this matter under the authority of §§ 536.060, 621.045.3, and 621.110, RSMo.

1. **Griffis' certification is on probation.** Griffis' certification as a licensed real estate appraiser is hereby placed on PROBATION for a period of one (1) year. The period of probation shall constitute the "disciplinary period." During the disciplinary period, Griffis

shall be entitled to practice as a licensed real estate appraiser under §§ 339.500 to 339.549, RSMo, as amended, provided Griffis adheres to all the terms of this agreement.

2. **Terms and conditions of the disciplinary period.** The terms and conditions of the disciplinary period are as follows:

A. Griffis shall submit written reports to the MREAC by no later than November 1, 2009, and May 1, 2010, stating truthfully whether there has been compliance with all terms and conditions of this Agreement. Each written report shall be submitted no earlier than 30 days prior to the respective due date. Griffis is responsible for assuring that the reports are submitted to and received by the MREAC.

B. Griffis must obtain 28 hours of continuing education within the disciplinary period, which shall be in addition to and not count toward the 28 hours of continuing education required to be completed during the 2008-2010 license period in order to renew in 2010.

C. The hours earned on November 10, 2008, November 11, 2008, and November 12, 2008, as listed in paragraph 11 above, will be deemed by the MREAC to fulfill Griffis' requirement to earn 28 hours during the disciplinary period, but as such, shall not be applied to his 2010 renewal.

D. During the disciplinary period, Griffis shall maintain a log of all appraisal assignments as required by 20 CSR 2245-2.050. A true and accurate copy

of the log shall be submitted to the MREAC by no later than November 1, 2009, and May 1, 2010 during each year of the disciplinary period. Each log submitted shall be current to at least 30 days prior to the respective due date. Griffis is responsible for assuring that the logs are submitted to and received by the MREAC. Upon MREAC request, Griffis shall submit copies of his work samples for MREAC review.

E. During the disciplinary period, Griffis shall not serve as a supervising appraiser to trainee real estate appraisers under 20 CSR 2245-3.005. Within ten days of the effective date of this Agreement, Griffis shall advise each trainee real estate appraiser working under him that the supervisory relationship is terminated and comply with all other requirements of 20 CSR 2245-3.005 regarding the termination of the supervisory relationship.

F. During the disciplinary period, Griffis shall keep the MREAC apprised at all times in writing of his current work and home addresses and telephone numbers at each place of residence and employment. Griffis shall notify the MREAC in writing of any change in address or telephone number within 15 days of a change in this information.

G. Griffis shall timely renew his certification and timely pay all fees required for certification renewal and comply with all other MREAC requirements necessary to maintain his certification in a current and active state.

H. During the disciplinary period, Griffis shall comply with all provisions of §§ 339.500 through 339.549, RSMo, all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and all federal and state laws. "State" includes the state of Missouri and all other states and territories of the United States. Any cause to discipline Griffis' certification as a real estate appraiser under § 339.532.2, RSMo, as amended, that accrues during the disciplinary period shall also constitute a violation of this Settlement Agreement.

I. Griffis shall accept and comply with reasonable unannounced visits from the MREAC's duly authorized agents to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions stated herein.

J. Griffis shall appear before the MREAC or its representative for a personal interview upon the MREAC's written request.

K. If, at any time within the disciplinary period, Griffis removes himself from the state of Missouri, ceases to be currently certified under the provisions of §§ 339.500 through 339.549, RSMo, or fails to keep the MREAC advised of all current places of residence and business, the time of absence, uncertified status or unknown whereabouts shall not be deemed or taken as any part of the disciplinary period.

3. Upon the expiration of the disciplinary period, the certification of Griffis shall be fully restored if all requirements of law have been satisfied; provided, however, that in the

event the MREAC determines that Griffis has violated any term or condition of this Settlement Agreement, the MREAC may, in its discretion, after an evidentiary hearing, vacate and set aside the discipline imposed herein and may suspend, revoke or otherwise lawfully discipline Griffis' certification.

4. No additional discipline shall be imposed by the MREAC pursuant to the preceding paragraph of this Settlement Agreement without notice and opportunity for hearing before the MREAC as a contested case in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 536, RSMo.

5. This Settlement Agreement does not bind the MREAC or restrict the remedies available to it concerning any future violations by Griffis of §§ 339.500 through 339.549, RSMo, as amended, or the regulations promulgated thereunder, or of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

6. This Settlement Agreement does not bind the MREAC or restrict the remedies available to it concerning facts or conduct not specifically mentioned in this Settlement Agreement that are either now known to the MREAC or may be discovered.

7. If any alleged violation of this Settlement Agreement occurred during the disciplinary period, the parties agree that the MREAC may choose to conduct a hearing before it either during the disciplinary period, or as soon thereafter as a hearing can be held, to determine whether a violation occurred and, if so, may impose further disciplinary action.

Griffis agrees and stipulates that the MREAC has continuing jurisdiction to hold a hearing to determine if a violation of this Settlement Agreement has occurred.

8. Each party agrees to pay all their own fees and expenses incurred as a result of this case, its litigation, and/or its settlement.

9. The terms of this Settlement Agreement are contractual, legally enforceable, and binding, not merely recital. Except as otherwise contained herein, neither this Settlement Agreement nor any of its provisions may be changed, waived, discharged, or terminated, except by an instrument in writing signed by the party against whom the enforcement of the change, waiver, discharge, or termination is sought.

10. The parties to this Settlement Agreement understand that the MREAC will maintain this Settlement Agreement as an open record of the MREAC as required by Chapters 324, 339, and 610, RSMo, as amended.

11. Griffis, together with his partners, heirs, assigns, agents, employees, representatives and attorneys, does hereby waive, release, acquit and forever discharge the MREAC, its respective members, employees, agents and attorneys including former members, employees, agents and attorneys, of, or from any liability, claim, actions, causes of action, fees, costs, expenses and compensation, including, but not limited to, any claim for attorney's fees and expenses, whether or not now known or contemplated, including, but not limited to, any claims pursuant to § 536.087, RSMo (as amended), or any claim arising under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, which now or in the future may be based upon, arise out of, or relate to

any of the matters raised in this case or its litigation or from the negotiation or execution of this Settlement Agreement. The parties acknowledge that this paragraph is severable from the remaining portions of the Settlement Agreement in that it survives in perpetuity even in the event that any court or administrative tribunal deems this agreement or any portion thereof void or unenforceable.

12. Griffis understands that he may, either at the time the Settlement Agreement is signed by all parties, or within fifteen days thereafter, submit the agreement to the Administrative Hearing Commission for determination that the facts agreed to by the parties constitute grounds for disciplining Griffis' certification. If Griffis desires the Administrative Hearing Commission to review this Settlement Agreement, Griffis may submit his request to: Administrative Hearing Commission, Truman State Office Building, Room 640, 301 W. High Street, P.O. Box 1557, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

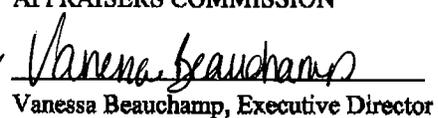
13. If Griffis requests review, this Settlement Agreement shall become effective on the date the Administrative Hearing Commission issues its order finding that the Settlement Agreement sets forth cause for disciplining Griffis' certification. If Griffis does not request review by the Administrative Hearing Commission, the Settlement Agreement goes into effect 15 days after the document is signed by the Executive Director of the MREAC.

LICENSEE

MISSOURI REAL ESTATE
APPRAISERS COMMISSION


Matthew M. Griffis

7/7/2009
Date


Vanessa Beauchamp, Executive Director

Date: 7-20-09

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