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RULE 26.1 CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Appellant has no parent corporation and no publicly held corporation owns 10% or more of its stock.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the United States Supreme Court decided the matter of *Jesinoski vs Countrywide Home Loans*, 135 S.Ct. 790 (2015) (“*Jesinoski*”). This decision finally clarified the rescission rights of the parties under the Truth in Lending Act (“TILA”) 15 U.S.C 1601. Per *Jesinoski*, Appellant, Mr. Paatalo, rescinded the loan on his property in Oregon, by sending a letter to the predecessor of Appellee, Washington Mutual Bank, F.A., the original lender. The lender did nothing and acquiesced.

In 2009, though deceased, Washington Mutual Bank declared a default and foreclosed upon the Appellant’s home and sold it at a Trustee’s sale to Appellee. Later in 2012, the Appellant and J.P. Morgan Chase into a settlement agreement. However, that agreement was rendered moot as a result of the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Jesinoski*, because the loan upon which the Settlement Agreement was based, was previously rescinded by operation of law; effectively voiding Appellant’s Deed of Trust.

In light of the *Jesinoski* decision, Appellant brought a declaratory action in the US District Court in Oregon asking the

1 Court to declare the foreclosure null and void due to his legal and
2 valid rescission which predated the foreclosure. Appellees
3 answered the complaint but did not counterclaim upon the
4 settlement agreement. The lower Court agreed with Appellant
5 about the validity of the rescission, denying Appellees' motion to
6 dismiss, but later granted summary judgment to the Appellee by
7 imposing conditions upon the Appellant's rescission, and upon the
8 settlement agreement, and dismissed the action. Appellant
9 sought reconsideration and was denied. ER 6
10
11

12
13 Appellant now seeks an order vacating the dismissal based
14 upon the lower court's error in imposing conditions upon TILA; its
15 error granting summary judgment when it could not do so as a
16 matter of law; and upon its error in finding Appellant had
17 rescinded the loan contract, but the settlement agreement left
18 Appellant without recourse after Jesinoski.
19
20

21 **STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION**

22

23 The district court had subject matter jurisdiction under 28
24 U.S.C. § 1331 because Plaintiff brought claims arising under
25 federal law. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §

1 1291. The district court's grant of summary judgment is an
2 appealable final decision. The district court issued its ruling and
3 ordered entry of judgment on 09/03/13. ER 5 Appellant timely
4 filed a Notice of Appeal on 10/6/2016. ER 7 See FED. R. APP. P.
5 4(a)(2), 4(a)(1)(A).
6

7 8 **STATEMENT OF ISSUE PRESENTED**

9
10 Can the lower court impose conditions upon the
11 determination of the US Statute, specifically the Truth in Lending
12 Act, after Jesinoski? Can the lower court grant summary
13 judgment to the Appellee, when the Supreme Court ruled as a
14 matter of law that Appellant had rescinded the loan?
15
16

17 **STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

18
19 William J. Paatalo ("Mr. Paatalo") sued in district court for
20 declaratory relief per the Jesinoski decision in which Justice Scalia
21 said in seven simple pages, that rescission of a loan, by the
22 borrower, is effective upon notice, not the filing of a lawsuit. ER 1
23
24

25 The parties and the lower Court agreed that Appellant timely
rescinded his loan with Washington Mutual Bank, F.A., now

1 succeeded by J.P. Morgan Chase Bank. However, the district
2 court granted defendants' motion for summary judgment, stating
3 that Plaintiff had to show he had a conditional right to rescind the
4 loan under TILA, and that the settlement agreement entered into
5 between the parties was valid. ER 4 This contradicts the ruling in
6 both Jesinoski and Yamamoto vs. Bank of New York, 329 F. 23d.
7 1167, which held that when the creditor acquiesces or fails to
8 respond within the twenty (20) day response period, rescission is
9 accomplished automatically when the consumer has given notice.
10 No such condition is imposed either by statute or by
11 interpretation. The lower court erred in imposing one.
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16 The lower court also erred in interpreting a settlement
17 agreement between the parties as having effected Appellant's
18 rescission. This is contrary to basic contract law. A contract
19 cannot exist which violates law. This is what the lower court did
20 in finding the settlement agreement negated Appellant's
21 rescission.
22
23

24 Furthermore, the lower court erred in holding the settlement
25 agreement had an effect upon TILA and Jesinoski, when it

1 preempted the settlement agreement rendering it void as to
2 public policy.

3 4 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

5
6 Plaintiff purchased the property at 400 East 3rd Street,
7 Yachats, Oregon 97498 for \$449,500.00 on June 23, 2004. A
8 Warranty Deed was issued to Plaintiff and recorded as Sale
9 Document No. 409480. Plaintiff refinanced the subject property
10 with a simultaneous First and Second Deed of Trust("DOT") with
11 Washington Mutual Bank, F.A. ("WMB") on August 10, 2006.
12 The first DOT was for \$880,000.00 on an "Option Arm" loan, with
13 the second DOT being a revolving equity line of credit ("HELOC").
14
15

16 ER 1

17
18 In September of 2007, Plaintiff was solicited by WMB by
19 phone with an offer to increase his (HELOC) account by
20 \$45,000.00. Plaintiff did not make an application, nor did Plaintiff
21 seek a credit increase to this account prior to WMB's solicitation.
22 Due to no requirements being made of Plaintiff, in terms of
23 providing income document or filling out new applications,
24 Plaintiff accepted the offer for the credit increase. Shortly after
25

1 the increase to the HELOC, Plaintiff engaged in a dispute with
2 WMB in the fall of 2007 for misapplying payments and reporting
3 false derogatory information to the credit reporting agencies on
4 the HELOC account. While the dispute continued with WMB for
5 the next four months, Plaintiff began to suspect fraud, and
6 realizing that numerous violations under the Truth-In-Lending Act
7 ("TILA") had been discovered, such as the failure to provide
8 proper "Notices of Rescission" on the 2006 loans, the hyper-
9 inflated 260% increase on the appraised valuation of Plaintiff's
10 property, and the falsifying of Plaintiff's income on his
11 "Residential Loan Application" without his knowledge and
12 consent, Plaintiff sent a written "Notice of Rescission" on both
13 loans via certified mail to WMB on or about March 29, 2008. ER

18 1

19
20 Shortly after WMB received Plaintiff's notice to rescind,
21 Plaintiff received a letter from WMB declining his rescission and
22 attaching a "payoff quote" of just under one million dollars. The
23 letter informed Plaintiff that to rescind, he would have to first
24 "tender" back the full amount of the debt which was impossibility.
25

1 After Plaintiff's rescission was declined and/or conditioned by
2 WMB, his disputes did not end. Plaintiff entered protracted
3 litigation beginning in July of 2008 against WMB, but due to
4 WMB's failure on September 25, 2008, his claims outside of the
5 TILA violations went to the FDIC. Plaintiff did not file a TILA
6 Rescission claim in court against WMB, or through the FDIC's
7 FEIRRA claims-process because Plaintiff was told he had to tender
8 first; an act that was impossible for Plaintiff to perform. WMB did
9 not challenge the rescission letter in court nor did WMB take
10 steps to properly rescind the transaction as was required under
11 15 U.S.C. § 1635(b).
12
13
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15

16 On April 2, 2009, while Plaintiff's claims against WMB were
17 in the hands of the FDIC, and after his credit had been
18 negligently destroyed by WMB, WMB declared a default by
19 recording a "Notice of Default And Election To Sell" document in
20 the Lincoln County, Oregon land records. On July 31, 2009, a
21 series of documents including a "Notice of Foreclosure,"
22 "Trustee's Notice of Sale," and affidavits claiming that WMB was
23 the beneficiary of Plaintiff's Deed of Trust were recorded in the
24 Lincoln County records. No assignments of either of Plaintiff's
25

1 Deeds of Trust were recorded in the Lincoln County, Oregon land
2 records transferring any of WMB's alleged beneficial interests to
3 any other entity; specifically, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
4

5 On August 18, 2009, a Trustee's Deed was issued to
6 JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as the purchaser of the subject
7 property for cash consideration in the amount of \$410,000.00. In
8 late 2010, JPMorgan Chase filed an unlawful detainer action
9 against Plaintiff in Lincoln County State Court under Case No.
10 103837. Plaintiff answered the complaint with counterclaims
11 asserting facts related to TILA violations, and recorded a "Lis
12 Pendens" on the property in the Lincoln County Land Records. In
13 the midst of defending the unlawful detainer action, and with the
14 Lis Pendens recorded on title of the property, JPMorgan Chase
15 sold the subject property for \$285,000.00 on July 12, 2011. The
16 Lis Pendens remains on title to this day. Having reviewed the now
17 recent U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Jesinoski v. Countrywide,
18 Plaintiff sent JPMorgan Chase ("Chase") an additional "Notice" via
19 certified mail on April 21, 2015 memorializing the March 29, 2008
20 rescission. Chase never replied. And Appellant filed suit in the
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1 US District Court Oregon on 7/29/2015 ER 1 for declaratory
2 relief.

4 **SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT**

5
6 The lower court erred in granting summary judgment to
7 Chase. It could not do so as a matter of law. The lower court
8 erred in imposing conditions on Appellant's rescission because
9 that contravenes TILA and the Jesinowski decision. The lower
10 court erred in failing to find that TILA and the Jesinowski decision
11 preempted any settlement agreement and rendered it void as to
12 public policy. The lower court erred because it failed to consider
13 the important public policy of protecting the consumer that
14 Congress expressly intended in the passing of TILA. ER 4, ER 5,
15 ER 7.

19 **STANDARD OF REVIEW**

20
21 The district court's ruling granting summary judgment and
22 dismissal of the action based upon TILA and Jesinowski, are
23 questions of law reviewed de novo, *United States v. Sahhar*, 56
24 F.3d 1026, 1028 (9th Cir. 1995), and the same standard applies
25 to any mixed questions of law and fact underlying these

1 judgments, *Berger v. City of Seattle*, 569 F.3d 1029, 1035 (9th
2 Cir. 2009). Finally, the district court's operative "factual"
3 determinations also subject to de novo review.
4

5 **I.**

6 **ARGUMENT**

7 **A. THIS COURT HAS JURISDICTION**

8
9 The district court's order granting the summary judgement
10 is found at ER 4. The district court's ruling granting summary
11 judgment and dismissal of the action based upon TILA and
12 *Jesinowski*, see, are questions of law reviewed de novo, *United*
13 *States v. Sahhar*, 56 F.3d 1026, 1028 (9th Cir. 1995), and the
14 same standard applies to any mixed questions of law and fact
15 underlying these judgments, *Berger v. City of Seattle*, 569 F.3d
16 1029, 1035 (9th Cir. 2009).
17
18

19 However, the district court "should be reversed if it] based
20 its decision on an erroneous legal standard or on clearly
21 erroneous findings of fact." *Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky*, 586 F.3d
22 1109, 1119 (9th Cir. 2009); *Yokoyama v. Midland Nat'l Life Ins.*
23 *Co.*, 594 F.3d 1087, 1091 (9th Cir. 2010) ("An error of law is an
24 abuse of discretion"). The court's conclusions of law are reviewed
25

1 de novo and its findings of fact for clear error. Alliance for the
2 Wild Rockies, 632 F.3d at 1131.

3 "Thus, where, as here, the appeal turns on a pure question
4 of law, this Court undertakes "plenary" review of the case without
5 any deference to the district court's decision. Gorbach v. Reno,
6 219 F.3d 1087, 1091 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (citation and
7 quotation marks omitted).
8
9

10 **B. THE LOWER COURT ERRED IN IMPOSING CONDITIONS ON**
11 **RESCISSION INAPPOSITE TO TILA AND JESINOSKI**

12
13 On Jan. 13, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court released its
14 opinion in Jesinoski v. Countrywide Home Loans (No. 13-684)
15 and resolved a circuit split on an important issue arising under
16 the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. §1601-1677 ("TILA").
17

18 Under TILA, a borrower has the right to rescind certain loans
19 for up to three years after the loan is consummated. To
20 exercise this right, borrowers must "notify the creditor" of their
21 intention to rescind the loan within three years.
22

23 The Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1635 (b) provides in
24 clear language:
25

"(b) Return of money or property following rescission -

1 When an obligor exercises his right to rescind under
2 subsection (a), he is not liable for any finance or other charge,
3 and any security interest given by the obligor, including any such
4 interest arising by operation of law, becomes void upon such a
5 rescission. Within 20 days after receipt of a notice of rescission,
6 the creditor shall return to the obligor any money or property
7 given as earnest money, down payment, or otherwise, and shall
8 take any action necessary or appropriate to reflect the
9 termination of any security interest created under the
10 transaction. If the creditor has delivered any property to the
11 obligor, the obligor may retain possession of it. Upon the
12 performance of the creditor's obligations under this section, the
13 obligor shall tender the property to the creditor, except that if
14 return of the property in kind would be impracticable or
15 inequitable, the obligor shall tender its reasonable value. Tender
16 shall be made at the location of the property or at the residence
17 of the obligor, at the option of the obligor. If the creditor does
18 not take possession of the property within 20 days after tender
19 by the obligor, ownership of the property vests in the obligor
20 without obligation on his part to pay for it. The procedures
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1 prescribed by this subsection shall apply except when otherwise
2 ordered by a court.”

3 The parties and the Court agreed that the Plaintiff rescinded
4 the loan. Mr. Paatalo notified the creditor (borrowers must “notify
5 the creditor” of their intention to rescind the loan within three
6 years) timely ER 3. The court found that in the Order ER 2.

7
8 The lower court specifically found in ER 2, “Taking the
9 allegations in the complaint as true, if those notices actually
10 rescinded the loan, plaintiff’s complaint will survive the motion to
11 dismiss. If, on the other hand, notice of intent to exercise the
12 conditional right of rescission did not actually effect the
13 rescission, defendant is entitled to dismissal. The Supreme Court
14 answered this question in Jesinoski. A unanimous Court declared
15 “rescission is effected when the borrower notifies the creditor of
16 his intention to rescind.” Jesinoski, 135 S. Ct. at 792 (emphasis
17 added).
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22 Thus, if as plaintiff alleges, WMB failed to provide the
23 required disclosures and plaintiff delivered written notice of
24 rescission in March 2008, the rescission was effected and the
25 security interest in plaintiff’s property voided at that time.”

1 "Defendant disputes this reading, arguing Jesinoski concerns
2 the time period in which a borrower must provide written notice
3 of his intent to exercise a right to rescind. The court agrees
4 Jesinoski's holding concerns the three-year life of the rescission
5 right. The question, however, was whether a borrower can
6 exercise her rescission right by sending written notice of
7 rescission within three years, or whether she must also file a
8 lawsuit within that time period to enforce her rescission right.
9 Jesinoski, 135 S. Ct. at 791. The Court had to determine when
10 rescission actually occurred in order to answer that question.
11
12
13

14 The lower court then said in clear terms, "The question here
15 is what happens when the unwinding process is not completed
16 and neither party files suit within the TILA statute of limitations.
17 In such circumstances, Jesinoski directs that the rescission and
18 voiding of the security interest are effective as a matter of law as
19 of the date of the notice."
20
21

22 The lower court also rejected the Defendants argument that
23 Jesinoski meant that the TILA law was being applied to it
24 retroactively. "But there is no retroactivity issue here. When a
25 court interprets a statute, it is not "retroactive" to apply the

1 decision to transactions already entered into, because the court is
2 determining what the law has always meant. As the Supreme
3 Court explains,

4
5 When this Court construes a statute, it is explaining its
6 understanding what the statute has meant continuously since the
7 date when it became law. . . . Thus, it is not accurate to say that
8 the Court's decision . . . 'changed' the law that previously
9 prevailed . . . when the case was filed. Rather, given the
10 structure of our judicial system, [a Supreme Court] opinion
11 interpreting a statute finally decides what [the statute] had
12 always meant and explains why the Courts of Appeals have
13 misinterpreted the will of the enacting Congress. *Rivers v.*
14 *Roadway Exp., Inc.*, 511 U.S. 298, 313 n.12 (1994)." ER 2.

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18 In the granting of the Defendant's summary judgment
19 motion however, the lower court said something very different.
20 It found that "To prevail on his claims, plaintiff must show that he
21 had a conditional right to rescind the loan and that he exercised
22 that right within the relevant timeframe." ER 4
23
24

25 This is clearly not what Jesinoski has said. No such
condition was imposed by Justice Scalia in this decision. The

1 lower court is simply wrong and erred in placing a condition upon
2 Plaintiff.

3
4 **C. THE LOWER COURT ERRED IN GRANTING SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

5
6 Summary judgment is appropriate if the "movant shows that
7 there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the
8 movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ.
9 P. 56(a). Because of the Jesinoski decision, the Appellant was
10 entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law, not the
11 Appellee.
12

13
14 The lower court itself found, "Summary judgment is
15 inappropriate if reasonable jurors, drawing all inferences in favor
16 of the nonmoving party, could return a verdict in the nonmoving
17 party's favor." Diaz v. Eagle Produce Ltd. P'ship, 521F.3d1201,
18 1207 (9th Cir. 2008). See ER 4
19

20
21 Furthermore, the lower court itself agreed with Appellant,
22 about the facts and the law, in its prior order denying the
23 Defendant's Motion to Dismiss. ER 2. It was irrelevant what
24 happened after the rescission per the Supreme Court in
25

1 Jesinowski. The settlement agreement cannot change the fact of
2 rescission, and it is moot. The court itself stated that Jesinoski
3 was not retroactively applying law, it was simply explaining what
4 the statute meant.
5

6
7 Courts must view the evidence and all reasonable inferences
8 in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. *Weitz Co. v.*
9 *Lloyd's of London*, 574 F.3d 885, 892 (8th Cir. 2009). However,
10 "summary judgment procedure is properly regarded not as a
11 disfavored procedural shortcut, but rather as an integral part of
12 the Federal Rules as a whole, which are designed `to secure the
13 just, speedy and inexpensive determination of every action.'" *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 327 (1986) (quoting Fed.
14 R. Civ. P. 1).
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19 The moving party bears the burden of showing that there is
20 no genuine issue of material fact and that it is entitled to
21 judgment as a matter of law. *Enter Bank v. Magna Bank of Mo.*,
22 92 F.3d 743, 747 (8th Cir. 1996). A party opposing a properly
23 supported motion for summary judgment "must set forth specific
24 facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial." *Anderson v.*
25

1 Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 256 (1986); see also Krenik v.
2 Cty. of Le Sueur, 47 F.3d 953, 957 (8th Cir. 1995).

3
4 The defendant could not show that it was entitled to
5 judgment as a matter of law, but the Plaintiff could. ER 3. The
6 Jesinoski case clarified these issues so that Plaintiff rescinded the
7 contract upon notice, and upon the failures of Washington Mutual
8 Bank. There is simply no argument to be made that there is a
9 genuine issue of material fact. Neither WMB or J.P. Morgan
10 Chase contested the rescission, nor did J.P. Morgan Chase
11 counter-claim for its force and effect. It did just as Washington
12 Mutual had done, it acquiesced. Therefore, Jesinoski gave
13 summary judgment to Appellant.
14
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18 **D. TILA PREEMPTS THE FORMATION OF THE SETTLEMENT**
19 **AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT VIOLATES PUBLIC POLICY**

20
21 Generally, federal law recognizes three species of banking
22 law preemption. The first, express preemption, arises when
23 Congress states its intent to preempt state law in a statute. The
24 second, field preemption, is preemption [that] may be inferred
25 when federal regulation in a particular field is so pervasive as to

1 make reasonable the inference that Congress left no room for the
2 States to supplement it. In such cases of field preemption, the
3 mere volume and complexity of federal regulations demonstrate
4 an implicit congressional intent to displace all state law. This is
5 exactly what Congress intended when it enacted TILA. *Silvas v.*
6 *E*Trade Mortgage Corp.*, 514 F.3d 1001, 1004 (9th Cir. 2008)
7 (citing *Bank of Am. v. City & County of San Francisco*, 309 F.3d
8 551, 558 (9th Cir. 2002)); *Wachovia Bank v. Burke*, 414 F.3d
9 305, 313 (2d Cir. 2005) (addressing preemption in National Bank
10 Act)
11 Act)
12 Act)
13 Act)

14 While there may be a state interest in upholding release and
15 settlement agreements, they can have no effect when they
16 contravene federal law. This could not be clearer as to our
17 national banks. Federal preemption of state law as applied to
18 federally chartered institutions—such as a National Bank, Federal
19 Savings Bank, or Federal Savings and Loan—is of constitutional
20 and statutory origin. The Supreme Court recently reiterated the
21 rule of preemption in *Watters v. Wachovia Bank* 550 U.S. 1
22 (2007) *Rose v. Chase Bank USA, N.A.*, 513 F.3d 1032, 1037 (9th
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1 Cir. 2008); Jefferson v. Chase Home Fin., No. 06-6510, 2008 WL
2 1883484, at *12-14 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 29, 2008)

3 Just as the Federal Reserve has stated "a state law is
4 "inconsistent" if "it requires a creditor to make disclosures or take
5 actions that contradict the requirements of the Federal law." 12
6 C.F.R. § 226.28 (2008). The same must be said of a decision
7 which contradicts the express clarification of a statute.
8
9

10 Judge Aiken had no power to reinterpret and contradict
11 Jesinoski. She said so herself as "Jesinoski revealed the
12 majority of federal courts had "misinterpreted the will of the
13 enacting Congress," Rivers, 511 U.S. at 313 n.12, in allocating to
14 borrowers the burden to go to court to enforce their statutory
15 rescission rights under TILA." She misinterpreted the will of
16 Congress by failing to recognize their preemption in this area;
17 and by imposing a condition upon Plaintiff.
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21 Here there can be no doubt that the interpretation of TILA
22 by the Jesinoski case preempts any such action or reaction which
23 happened after Appellant's rescission. Mr. Paatalo rescinded his
24 loan, and any such agreement in contravention of the rescission
25 is void. This is what Justice Scalia made patently clear.

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II.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should reverse the district court's Judgment for Appellee and direct the court to enter judgment for Appellant.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DATED: February 8, 2017

/s/ John A. Cochran
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I declare that I am a resident of the Washington County, State of Oregon. I am over 18 years of age and a party to the entitled action.

I served the forgoing documents(s) described as: **APPELLANT'S OPENING BRIEF; EXCERPTS OF THE RECORD VOLUME I OF I** on the following person whose address is listed in ATTACHED SERVICE LIST by sending a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope or transmitting, as follows:

(By U.S. Mail) I caused such envelope, with postage thereon fully prepaid, to be placed in the United States mail at _____

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(Email) I caused the foregoing document(s) to be transmitted by email to the addressee(s) listed above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America.

DATED: February 8, 2017

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3 **Honorable District Judge Ann Aiken**

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15 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

16 I hereby certify that I electronically filed the foregoing with the
17 Clerk of the Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the
18 Ninth Circuit by using the appellate CM/ECF system on February
19 8, 2017.

20 I certify that all participants in the case are registered CM/ECF
21 users and that service will also be accomplished by the appellate
22 CM/ECF system.

23
24
25 DATED: February 8, 2017

/s/ John A. Cochran

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Case No. 16-35818
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

WILLIAM J. PAATALO
APPELLANT

vs.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON
RESPONDENT

APPELLANT'S EXCERPTS OF THE RECORD
VOLUME 1 OF 1

APPEAL FROM THE JUDGMENT OF THE US
DISTRICT COURT OREGON
JUDGE ANN AIKEN
CASE NO. 15-cv-01420-AA

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EXCERPTS OF RECORD

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