



Signed and Filed: November 4, 2013

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

*Dennis Montali*

DENNIS MONTALI  
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In re	)	Bankruptcy Case
	)	No. 12-31854DM
CHERYL SANDRI,	)	
	)	
Debtor.	)	Chapter 13
_____	)	
CHERYL SANDRI,	)	Adversary Proceeding
	)	No. 13-3165DM
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
CAPITAL ONE, N.A.; U.S. BANK, as	)	
Trustee for Chevy Chase Mortgage	)	
Funding LLC Mortgage-Backed	)	
Certificates, Series 2006-1 Trust;	)	
T.D. SERVICE COMPANY; QUALITY LOAN	)	
SERVICE CORP.; and MORTGAGE	)	
ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS,	)	
INC.,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
_____	)	

MEMORANDUM DECISION ON THE MOTION OF CAPITAL ONE AND MERS TO  
DISMISS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING UNDER RULE 7012

On August 30, 2013, the court held a hearing on the motion of Capital One, N.A. ("Capital One"), U.S. Bank, as Trustee for Chevy Chase Mortgage Funding LLC Mortgage-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-1 Trust ("U.S. Bank"), and Mortgage Electronic Registration

1 Systems, Inc. ("MERS") (collectively, "Defendants") to dismiss the  
2 adversary complaint ("MTD") filed against them by plaintiff Cheryl  
3 Sandri ("Debtor"). The parties each filed supplemental briefs on  
4 September 9, 2013, and the court took the MTD under advisement.  
5 For the reasons set forth below, the court is GRANTING the MTD.<sup>1</sup>

6  
7 I. BACKGROUND<sup>2</sup>

8 "To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain  
9 sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to 'state a claim to  
10 relief that is plausible on its face.'" Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556  
11 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (quoting Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S.  
12 544, 570 (2007)). When deciding a motion to dismiss, the court  
13 considers "only allegations contained in the pleadings, exhibits

14  
15 <sup>1</sup>Debtor named two other defendants, T.D. Service Company  
16 ("T.D.") and Quality Loan Service Corporation ("Quality").  
17 Neither T.D. nor Quality joined the motion to dismiss, although  
18 Quality has filed a declaration of non-monetary status pursuant to  
19 California Civil Code section 2924l. The Ninth Circuit has not  
20 ruled on whether a 2924l declaration is recognized in federal  
21 court, although the District Court for the Northern District of  
22 California has repeatedly held that this procedural mechanism is  
23 not included in Federal Rule of Civil Procedures 7 and 12, and  
24 thus is inapplicable under the *Erie* doctrine to actions commenced  
25 in federal court. See, e.g., Iniquez v. Vantium Capital, Inc.,  
26 2013 WL 1208750 at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 25, 2013); Vann v. Wells  
27 Fargo Bank, 2012 WL 1910032 (N.D. Cal. May 24, 2012); Kennedy v.  
28 PLM Lender Servs., Inc., 2012 WL 1038632 at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 27,  
2012). This court need not decide the issue in the context of the  
MTD, but will limit the relief granted to the movants only. That  
said, given the nature of the court's reasoning, there are no  
viable claims assertable against T.D. and Quality in the  
complaint.

25  
26 <sup>2</sup>The following narrative is taken from the complaint and  
27 other court documents that provide uncontested facts. For the  
28 purposes of the MTD, the court assumes the allegations of the  
complaint to be true. See Tellabs, Inc. v. Makor Issues & Rights,  
Ltd., 551 U.S. 308, 322 (2007).

1 attached to the complaint, and matters properly subject to  
2 judicial notice." Swartz v. KPMG LLP, 476 F.3d 756, 763 (9th Cir.  
3 2007) (per curiam).

4 Even though the court may not consider any material outside  
5 of the pleadings when ruling on a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, two  
6 exceptions exist. Lee v. City of Los Angeles, 250 F.3d 668, 688  
7 (9th Cir. 2001). First, the court may consider material that a  
8 plaintiff properly submits as part of the complaint or, even if  
9 not physically attached to the complaint, material that is not  
10 contested as to authenticity and that is necessarily relied upon  
11 by the plaintiff's complaint. Id. Second, under Federal Rule of  
12 Evidence 201, the court may take judicial notice of matters of  
13 public record. Id. at 689. Here, the court is considering the  
14 allegations of the complaint, the documents referenced in the  
15 complaint (although not attached), and documents filed by Debtor  
16 in her main bankruptcy case. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence  
17 201, the court takes judicial notice of Debtor's bankruptcy  
18 filings as these are matters of public record.

19 Debtor has asserted five causes of action in her complaint:  
20 (1) Slander of Title; (2) Wrongful Foreclosure; (3) Express and  
21 Implied Breach of Agreement; (4) Violation of California Civil  
22 Code 2923.5; and (5) Violation of the Unfair Business Practices  
23 Act ([Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code] § 17200). With the exception of the  
24 fourth cause of action, all of the claims arise out of the  
25 securitization of her note and deed of trust.

26 In December 2005, Debtor executed a promissory note ("Note")  
27 in favor of Chevy Chase Bank, F.S.B. ("Chevy Chase"). To secure  
28 repayment of the Note, Debtor also executed a first priority deed

1 of trust ("DOT") against property located in Redwood City,  
2 California (the "Property") in favor of Chevy Chase. Chevy Chase  
3 was identified as the Lender and Trustee, and MERS was identified  
4 as the "beneficiary" and nominee for the lender and lender's  
5 successors and assigns. See paragraphs 6-7 of the complaint; see  
6 also Debtor's Motion to Value Security and Avoid Lien and to  
7 Declare Lien as Wholly Unsecured (with accompanying memorandum of  
8 points and authorities, Debtor's supporting declaration and  
9 exhibits) filed by Debtor in her main case (12-31854)  
10 (collectively referred to as the "Lien Strip Motion") on August  
11 21, 2012 at Docket Nos. 18, 18-1, 18-2 and 18-3. In her  
12 declaration in support of the Lien Strip Motion, Debtor stated  
13 that as of the petition date, the balance due on the Note was  
14 approximately \$346,875.

15       The DOT expressly provides that Debtor "understands and  
16 agrees that MERS holds only legal title to the interests granted  
17 by Borrower in this Security Instrument, but, if necessary to  
18 comply with law or custom, MERS (as nominee for Lender and  
19 Lender's successors and assigns) has the right: to exercise any or  
20 all of those interests, including, but not limited to, releasing  
21 and canceling this Security Instrument." See DOT at page 3  
22 (Docket No. 18-3 in Debtor's main case). In addition, the DOT  
23 provides:

24       The Note or a partial interest in the Note (together  
25 with this Security Instrument) can be sold one or more  
26 times without prior notice to Borrower. A sale might  
27 result in a change in the entity (known as the "Loan  
28 Servicer") that collects Periodic Payments due under the  
Note and this Security Instrument and performs other  
mortgage loan servicing obligations under the Note, this  
Security Instrument, and Applicable Law. There also  
might be one or more changes of the Loan Servicer

1 unrelated to a sale of the Note. If there is a change of  
2 the Loan Servicer, Borrower will be given written notice  
3 of the change which will state the name and address of  
4 the new Loan Servicer, the address to which payments  
5 should be made and any other information RESPA requires  
6 in connection with a notice of transfer of servicing. If  
7 the Note is sold and thereafter the Loan is serviced by  
8 a Loan Servicer other than the purchaser of the Note,  
9 the mortgage loan servicing obligations to Borrower will  
10 remain with the Loan Servicer or be transferred to a  
11 successor Loan Servicer and are not assumed by the Note  
12 purchaser unless otherwise provided by the Note  
13 purchaser.

14 See id. at page 11 (paragraph 20).

15 In paragraph 7 of the complaint, Debtor alleges that in 2006  
16 Chevy Chase bundled and sold her mortgage (which became  
17 securitized pursuant to a pooling and service agreement ("PSA"))  
18 to Chevy Chase Mortgage Funding LLC Mortgage-Backed Certificates,  
19 Series 2006-1 Trust ("CCFM 2006-1 Trust"), with U.S. Bank acting  
20 as Trustee.<sup>3</sup> The closing date of the PSA was March 17, 2007. See  
21 paragraph 23 of the complaint. Debtor also alleges in paragraph 8  
22 that in 2008, she entered into a mortgage loan modification with  
23 Chevy Chase and MERS. Debtor admits in paragraph 9 of the  
24 complaint that in September 2010, Chevy Chase "fully merged with  
25 Capital One Bank and ceased conducting business under the name  
26 Chevy Chase."

27 Debtor alleges in paragraph 12 of the complaint that on

---

28 <sup>3</sup>Defendants state in their memorandum of points and  
authorities in support of their MTD that Chevy Chase was retained  
as servicer of the loan, but do not provide any independent  
evidence of a servicing agreement. Nonetheless, Debtor did  
execute a loan modification with Chevy Chase in 2008, and did  
enter into an adequate protection agreement with Capital One, N.A.  
(successor-in-interest to Chevy Chase, as admitted in paragraph 9  
of the complaint) after Capital One filed a motion for relief from  
stay because Debtor had purportedly failed to make seven post-  
petition payments. See Motion for Relief From Stay at Docket No.  
49 and Adequate Protection Order at Docket No. 54, both filed in  
the main case (No. 12-31854).

1 September 13, 2011, an assignment of her DOT was recorded; through  
2 this assignment, MERS "purports to transfer the beneficial  
3 interest in Plaintiff's Deed of Trust to Capital One."  
4 Debtor avers that the assignment was signed by Charity Henson as  
5 an "Assistant Secretary of MERS." On the same day, a notice of  
6 default was recorded. On October 11, 2011, Capital One recorded a  
7 Substitution of Trustee, naming T.D. Service as the trustee.  
8 Charity Henson signed that substitution as a vice president of  
9 Capital One. See paragraphs 12-13 of the complaint.

10 Debtor does not dispute her liability under the Note and DOT.  
11 Instead, she alleges in the complaint that Capital One and its  
12 trustee (now Quality Loan Services Corporation) or assignees  
13 cannot enforce the Note and DOT, because (1) MERS did not have the  
14 legal right to assign or transfer any interest in the DOT, (2)  
15 Charity Henson was a robo-signer without authority to sign  
16 documents on behalf of MERS; (3) any assignment occurring after  
17 the closing date of the PSA (March 17, 2007) is invalid. See  
18 paragraphs 18-32 of the complaint.

19 No foreclosure sale has occurred, although an unrescinded  
20 notice of default was recorded on June 7, 2012. See paragraph 15  
21 of the Complaint. Debtor filed her chapter 13 case fifteen days  
22 later.

23

24 II. DISCUSSION

25 Approximately three weeks prior to the hearing on the MTD the  
26 Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Ninth Circuit (BAP) and the  
27 California Court of Appeals for the Fifth District issued two  
28 cases involving similar facts and claims, but reaching disparate

1 conclusions. In Nordeen v. Bank of America, N.A. (In re Nordeen),  
2 495 B.R. 468 (9th Cir. BAP 2013), BAP affirmed the dismissal of an  
3 action for monetary and declaratory relief, holding that the  
4 securitization of a deed of trust loan did not in any way alter or  
5 affect standing to enforce the deed of trust, and that debtors did  
6 not state a plausible cause of action for misleading  
7 communications regarding the identity of the note holder and deed  
8 of trust beneficiary/trustee. In contrast, in Glaski v. Bank of  
9 America, 218 Cal. App. 4th 1079 (Cal. App. 5th Dist. 2013), the  
10 court held that borrowers have standing to challenge foreclosure  
11 on the basis that assignments of loan were void, as they occurred  
12 after the closing date of the securitized trust agreement to which  
13 borrowers were not the parties.

14 At the hearing on the MTD, the court directed the parties to  
15 provide supplemental briefing regarding these two cases (neither  
16 of which is binding on the court). Having considered both  
17 supplemental briefs and other case law regarding the standing of  
18 borrowers to assert claims arising out of securitizations  
19 (including other California Court of Appeals decisions rejecting  
20 claims similar to those of Debtor), the court does not believe  
21 that Debtor has stated any cognizable claim arising from the  
22 securitization and assignments of the Note and DOT. The court  
23 will address each of Debtor's arguments in turn.

24

25 A. The Purported Robo-Signing Does Not Give Rise to a Claim  
26 For Relief

27 Debtor contends that Charity Henson is a robo-signer who was  
28

1 not authorized to act on behalf of MERS,<sup>4</sup> but this contention does  
2 not give rise to a claim of fraud where borrowers (like the Debtor  
3 here) do not dispute that they defaulted on the loan. "As to the  
4 robo-signer allegations, there does not appear to be anything  
5 about 'robo-signing' the notice of default or the notice of  
6 substitution that makes them invalid or ineffective. Even if  
7 true, 'robo-signing' does not have any bearing on the validity of  
8 the foreclosure process here." Elliott v. Mortgage Electronic  
9 Registration Systems, Inc., 2013 WL 1820904 at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Apr.  
10 30, 2013), *citing* Orzoff v. Bank of America, N.A., 2011 WL 1539897  
11 at \*2-3 (D. Nev. Apr. 22, 2011) (holding that plaintiff failed to  
12 state a claim that trustee breached its duty by "robosigning"  
13 documents related to loan where plaintiff did not dispute that she  
14 defaulted on her mortgage or that she received required notices);

---

15  
16 <sup>4</sup>Debtor indicates in her supplemental brief that she is not  
17 challenging the authority of a nominee to initiate foreclosure  
18 proceedings but is instead pursuing questions regarding the chain  
19 of title. The court thus assumes that Debtor is abandoning her  
20 position in paragraphs 16-20 of the complaint, in which she  
21 alleges that "any purported assignment of the [DOT] from MERS to  
22 any entity is false and wrongful as MERS does not own the  
23 beneficial interest in the deeds of trust maintained in its  
24 database" and that MERS could not validly assign any interest in  
25 the DOT "because it is not and was not a pecuniary beneficiary."  
26 Even if Debtor had not abandoned these contentions, they would not  
27 have survived the MTD. Courts have repeatedly addressed and  
28 rejected the contention that MERS lacked authority to assign  
mortgage instruments or to appoint successor trustees, even after  
the original promissory note has been assigned to a trust pool.  
See, e.g., Cervantes v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 656 F.3d  
1034 (9th Cir. 2011) (MERS does have the authority to "split" the  
note and DOT and assign the DOT and note to other entities);  
Cedano v. Aurora Loan Servs., LLC (In re Cedano), 470 B.R. 522,  
531 (9th Cir. BAP 2012) ("The transfer of the Note as part of the  
securitization process [does] not affect MERS' right as a nominee  
under the Deed of Trust."); see also Benham v. Aurora Loan Servs.,  
2009 WL 2880232 (N.D. Cal. 2009) ("Other courts in this district  
have summarily rejected the argument that companies like MERS lose  
their power of sale pursuant to the Deed of Trust when the  
original promissory note is assigned to a trust pool.").



1 Bucy v. Aurora Loan Servs., LLC, 2011 WL 1044045 at \*6 (S.D. Ohio  
2 Mar. 18, 2011) (plaintiff failed to state a claim for fraud based  
3 on purported "robo-signing" where "Plaintiff d[id] not dispute the  
4 accuracy of any of the salient facts, such as the amount owed or  
5 the amount in default."). Debtor here does not dispute that she  
6 is in default.

7 B. Debtor Cannot Assert a Claim for Breach of the PSA

8 Debtor relies on Glaski in asserting that any assignment of  
9 the Note that occurred after the closing date of the PSA is  
10 ineffective and thus Defendants cannot enforce the Note and DOT.  
11 The court disagrees, as Glaski is inconsistent with the majority  
12 line of cases and is based on a questionable analysis of New York  
13 trust law.

14 1. *The Weight of Authority is Against Glaski*

15 While Glaski allowed a borrower to challenge foreclosure on  
16 the basis that a securitized mortgage trustee's attempt to accept  
17 the loan after a trust's closing date was void under New York law  
18 (the law governing the pooling and servicing agreement), it is an  
19 outlier. A majority of district courts in California have held  
20 that borrowers do not have standing to challenge the assignment of  
21 a loan because borrowers are not party to the assignment  
22 agreement. See Patel v. Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems,  
23 Inc., 2013 WL 4029277 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 6, 2013) ("[T]he  
24 securitization process did not break the chain of title; MERs  
25 [sic] does have authority to assign the DOT . . .; Plaintiffs have  
26 failed to plead breach of the DOT *and do not have standing to*  
27 *assert a breach of any PSA;* and the robo-signing allegations have  
28 not been properly pled.") (emphasis added); Aniel v. GMAC Mortg.,

1 LLC, 2012 WL 5389706 at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 2, 2012) (plaintiffs  
2 lacked standing to challenge assignment of deed of trust based on  
3 noncompliance with pooling and service agreements)); Ganesan v.  
4 GMAC Mortgage, LLC, 2012 WL 4901440 at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 15,  
5 2012) (citing cases) (“[T]o the extent Plaintiff bases her claim  
6 on the theory that Defendants allegedly failed to comply with the  
7 terms of a Pooling and Servicing Agreement, the Court notes that  
8 she lacks standing to do so because she is neither a party to, nor  
9 a third party beneficiary of, that agreement.”); see also Gilbert  
10 v. Chase Home Fin., LLC, 2013 WL 2318890 at \*3 (E.D. Cal. May 28,  
11 2013) (listing numerous federal district cases holding that  
12 borrowers lack standing to challenge their liability under a note  
13 and security instrument by alleging that the assignment of such  
14 instruments did not comply with a PSA).<sup>5</sup>

15 More importantly, other California Courts of Appeal have  
16 rejected claims similar to those asserted in Glaski and by Debtor  
17 here. See, e.g. Siliga v. Mortgage Electronic Registrations  
18 Systems, Inc., 219 Cal. App. 4th 75, 161 Cal. Rptr. 3d 500 (Cal.

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 <sup>5</sup>Courts have similarly rejected other theories that  
21 securitization of a loan somehow diminishes the underlying power  
22 of sale that can be exercised upon a trustor’s breach. Zadrozny  
23 v. Bank of NY Mellon, 720 F.3d 1163 (9th Cir. 2013) (applying  
24 Arizona law, the Ninth Circuit held that the terms of the mortgage  
25 instrument precluded borrowers’ claims that assignee lacked  
26 standing to foreclose nonjudicially); Hafiz v. Greenpoint Mortg.  
27 Funding, Inc., 652 F. Supp. 2d 1039, 1042-43 (N.D. Cal. 2009)  
28 (rejecting as “both unsupported and incorrect” the “theory that  
all defendants lost their power of sale pursuant to the deed of  
trust when the original promissory note was assigned to a trust  
pool”); Chavez v. California Reconveyance Co., 2010 WL 2545006 (D.  
Nev. June 18, 2010) (“The alleged securitization of Plaintiffs’  
Loan did not invalidate the Deed of Trust, create a requirement of  
judicial foreclosure, or prevent Defendants from being holders in  
due course.”)).

1 App. 2d Cir. 2013) (decided on August 27, 2013) (borrowers lacked  
2 standing to complain about loan servicer's and assignee's alleged  
3 lack of authority to foreclose on deed of trust where borrowers  
4 were in default under the note, absent evidence that the original  
5 lender would have refrained from foreclosure); Jenkins v. JP  
6 Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., 216 Cal. App. 4th 497, 156 Cal. Rptr. 3d  
7 912 (Cal. App. 4th Dist. 2013) (borrower does not have the right  
8 to bring a preemptive judicial action to determine defendants'  
9 standing to foreclose; foreclosing party need not have beneficial  
10 interest in promissory note and deed of trust); Fontenot v. Wells  
11 Fargo Bank, N.A., 198 Cal. App. 4th 256, 272, 129 Cal. Rptr. 3d  
12 467 (1st Dist. 2011) (to recover on wrongful foreclosure claim,  
13 borrower must demonstrate that the alleged imperfection in the  
14 foreclosure process was prejudicial; no prejudice exists where  
15 borrower was in default and the assignment of the loan did not  
16 interfere with the borrower's ability to pay).

17 2. Glaski's Reasoning is Not Persuasive

18 In determining that the borrower had standing to challenge  
19 the validity of assignments that occurred after a trust document's  
20 closing date, the Glaski court held that under New York law, a  
21 transfer made in violation of the terms of the trust document was  
22 void, not voidable. The Glaski court acknowledged that under  
23 California law, a third party "and particularly the obligor"  
24 cannot successfully challenge the validity or effectiveness of the  
25 transfer when the assignment is merely voidable, not void.  
26 Glaski, 218 Cal. App. 4th at 1094. This court agrees. This  
27 court, however, does not agree with the next prong of the Glaski  
28 analysis: that an assignment violating the trust agreement or

1 pooling service agreement is void under New York state law and  
2 thus subject to challenge by non-parties.

3 New York intermediate appellate courts have repeatedly and  
4 consistently found that an act in violation of a trust agreement  
5 is voidable, not void. See Mooney v. Madden, 193 A.D.2d 933, 597  
6 N.Y.S.2d 775, 776 (1993); Leasing Serv. Corp. v. Vita Italian  
7 Rest., Inc., 171 A.D.2d 926, 927, 566 N.Y.S.2d 796, 797 (1991);  
8 Hine v. Huntington, 118 A.D. 585, 592, 103 N.Y.S. 535, 540 (1907);  
9 In re Levy, 69 A.D.3d 630, 632, 893 N.Y.S.2d 142, 144 (2010). In  
10 rejecting claims similar to those asserted here and in Glaski, the  
11 court in Calderon v. Bank of Am. N.A., 2013 WL 1741951 at \*11  
12 (W.D. Tex. Apr. 23, 2013), applied New York trust law:

13 Even assuming, as Plaintiffs insist, that New York law  
14 governs interpretation of the PSA, and assuming that the  
15 transfer of Plaintiffs' loan to the Trust violated the  
16 terms of the PSA, that after-the-deadline transaction  
17 would merely be voidable at the election of one or more  
18 of the parties – not void. Accordingly, Plaintiffs, who  
19 were not parties to the PSA, do not have standing to  
20 challenge it. [E]ven if it is true that the Note was  
21 transferred to the Trust in violation of the PSA, that  
22 transaction could be ratified by the beneficiaries of  
23 the Trust and is merely voidable.

24 Calderon, 2013 WL 1741951 at \*\*10-11 (emphasis added) (analyzing  
25 New York statutory and case law on trusts).

26 The Glaski court cited only two cases in support of its  
27 determination that acts by a trustee in contravention of a trust  
28 were void. The first, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. v. Erobo, 39 Misc.  
3d 1220(A) (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 2013), was issued by a New York trial  
court. Its reasoning and holding has been called into doubt. See  
Koufos v. U.S. Bank, N.A., 2013 WL 1189502 (D. Mass. March 21,  
2013); Orellana v. Deutsche Bank Nat. Trust Co., 2013 WL 5348596  
(D. Mass. Aug. 30, 2013). The second is an unpublished opinion by

1 the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas that  
2 relies on Erobobo and that is inconsistent with a district court  
3 decision from that district issued just days earlier. In re  
4 Saldivar, 2013 WL 2452699, at \*4 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. June 5, 2013)  
5 (transfer was void); *compare to* Sigaran v. U.S. Bank Nat. Ass'n,  
6 2013 WL 2368336 at \*3 (S.D. Tex. May 29, 2013) (holding that  
7 "assignments made after the Trust's closing date are voidable,  
8 rather than void").

9 3. *Post-Glaski Authority is Persuasive*

10 In Dick v. Am. Home Mortg. Servicing, Inc., 2013 WL 5299180  
11 at \*4-5 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 18, 2013), the plaintiffs relied on  
12 Glaski to challenge a DOT assignment as void. Observing that a  
13 majority of California courts have held that "borrowers do not  
14 have standing to challenge the assignment of a loan because  
15 borrowers are not party to the assignment agreement," the Dick  
16 court noted that it did not even have to reach the issue because  
17 the plaintiffs could not establish prejudice. "[A] plaintiff in a  
18 suit for wrongful foreclosure has generally been required to  
19 demonstrate the alleged imperfection in the foreclosure process  
20 was prejudicial to the plaintiff's interests." Id. (citation  
21 omitted). "California courts find a lack of prejudice when a  
22 borrower is in default and cannot show that the allegedly improper  
23 assignment interfered with the borrower's ability to pay or that  
24 the original lender would not have foreclosed under the  
25 circumstances." Id. at \*3 (emphasis added).

26 Debtor here was in default when the notice of default was  
27 recorded; no notice of sale has been recorded and no foreclosure  
28 sale has occurred. Shortly after the notice of default was

1 recorded, Debtor filed her chapter 13 petition. Debtor resolved  
2 Capitol One's motion for relief from stay by entering into an  
3 adequate protection stipulation, by which she agreed to cure her  
4 nonpayment of at least seven post-petition monthly payments.  
5 Debtor obtained an order valuing the junior lien on the Property  
6 at zero, asserting that the amount she owed on this note and DOT  
7 exceeded the value of the property. Under these circumstances,  
8 she cannot show that the assignment of the note or DOT after the  
9 effective date of the PSA interfered with her ability to pay or  
10 that the original lender would not have foreclosed. She therefore  
11 cannot show prejudice from the purportedly defective assignments.

12 4. Nordeen is Persuasive

13 While Nordeen involved mortgage instruments governed by  
14 Nevada law, its analysis is instructive and persuasive. The BAP  
15 affirmed an order dismissing without leave to amend a pro  
16 se complaint filed against the alleged successor beneficiary on a  
17 deed of trust and against the servicer. The BAP adopted the  
18 majority line of cases rejecting borrowers' theories that  
19 securitization and violations of the securitization trust  
20 agreement render DOTs unenforceable. "Since the securitization  
21 merely creates a separate contract, distinct from [plaintiffs']  
22 debt obligations under the note, and does not change the  
23 relationship of the parties in any way, plaintiffs' claims arising  
24 out of the securitization fail." Nordeen, 495 B.R. at 480.

25 In reaching this holding, the BAP observed:

26 [H]ome loan borrowers are not purchasing an investment  
27 when they enter into a loan agreement to purchase or  
28 refinance a home. When they sign a promissory note and  
mortgage or trust deed secured by their real property,  
they are entering into a contract for a loan transaction

1 on fixed terms, and any "upside" or investment incentive  
2 to enter into the transaction is based on a prospective  
3 increase in the value of the subject real property.  
4 Accordingly, the borrower's loan contract (the Note and  
Trust Deed in this appeal) is distinct and separate from  
any securities transaction in the "secondary market"  
encompassing assignment of the contract.

5 Id. at 479-80. The panel then noted that in the trust deed, the  
6 borrowers had agreed that the note (or a partial interest in the  
7 note) and the mortgage instrument could be transferred without  
8 prior notice. The deed of trust here contains the identical  
9 language. Thus, like the borrowers in Nordeen, Debtor consented  
10 to the securitization by explicitly agreeing that she understood  
11 that the lender may transfer the note.

12 The BAP also rejected the borrowers' fraud claims arising  
13 from confusing and misleading communications as to who held the  
14 note and who were the beneficiary and trustee under the mortgage.  
15 "Whatever confusion may have resulted from the alleged  
16 communications," the borrowers did not rely on those  
17 communications when they signed the note and trust deed. Id. at  
18 484. "And since they had defaulted [in their loan payments], they  
19 can assert no damages from the alleged communications." Id. In  
20 the present case, Debtor similarly did not rely on any alleged  
21 misrepresentations by Defendants, all of which purportedly  
22 occurred prior to the petition date. To the contrary, as late as  
23 2012 (after such communications purportedly occurred), she  
24 obtained a benefit by acknowledging her obligations to under the  
25 note and DOT: an order valuing the second lien at zero dollars.

26 C. Debtor Has No Remedy for Violation of Civil Code Section  
27 2923.5

28 Debtor alleges in 41-43 of the complaint that Capital One and

1 Quality violated California Civil Code section 2923.5 because they  
2 failed to contact her, in person or by telephone, at least 30 days  
3 prior to recording the Notice of Default on June 7, 2012. Even if  
4 Defendants failed to contact Debtor as stated, the court cannot  
5 grant any effective remedy. Civil Code section 2923.5 requires,  
6 before a notice of default may be filed, that a lender contact the  
7 borrower in person or by phone to "assess" the borrower's  
8 financial situation and "explore" options to prevent foreclosure.  
9 The only remedy afforded by section 2923.5 is, however, a one-time  
10 postponement of the foreclosure sale before it happens. Cedano,  
11 470 B.R. at 533 ("The sole remedy for a failure to comply with  
12 Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.5 is 'limited to postponement of an  
13 impending foreclosure.'" ) (citing multiple cases). In the  
14 seventeen months since the June 2012 recording of the notice of  
15 default, no notice of sale has been recorded. There is no pending  
16 foreclosure sale to postpone.

17 III. CONCLUSION

18 Debtor's complaint does not state a cognizable claim for  
19 several reasons. First, as the District Court for the Northern  
20 District has held in Patel and Ganesan, borrowers do not have  
21 standing to enforce a pooling and servicing agreement. As Debtor  
22 is neither a party to or a third party beneficiary of the PSA, she  
23 cannot invalidate her contractual obligations under the note and  
24 DOT because the assignments occurred after the closing date of the  
25 PSA. Second, as in Dick, Herrera, and Siliqa, Debtor cannot  
26 demonstrate any prejudice from the purportedly improper  
27 assignment. Third, even if the claims were cognizable, they are  
28 premature. No foreclosure sale has occurred and preemptive relief



1 "would result in the impermissible interjection of the courts into  
2 a nonjudicial [foreclosure] scheme enacted by the California  
3 Legislature." Jenkins, 216 Cal.App.4th at 513, citing Gomes v.  
4 Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 192 Cal. App. 4th 1149, 121 Cal.  
5 Rptr. 3d 819 (Cal. App. 4th Dist. 2011). Finally, as in Nordeen,  
6 the DOT contains an express consent by Debtor to the assignment of  
7 the note and DOT.

8 With the exception of the claim for violation of California  
9 Civil Code section 2923.5 (upon which the court cannot grant  
10 effective relief, as discussed above), all of the claims asserted  
11 by Debtor arise from the purported improper assignment of the note  
12 and deed of trust.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, the  
13 court will DISMISS Debtor's claims against the moving Defendants  
14 without leave to amend. Defendants' counsel should serve (in  
15 accordance with B.L.R. 9021-1) and upload an order granting the  
16 motion for the reasons set forth in this memorandum decision.<sup>7</sup>

17  
18 \*\*\* END OF MEMORANDUM DECISION \*\*\*  
19

20  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>6</sup>Debtor conceded in paragraph 36 of the complaint that her  
23 claim for violation of California Business and Professions Code  
24 section 17200 "is a derivative cause of action" and that her  
25 "ability to pursue this cause of action depends on the success or  
26 failure of [her] substantive causes of action."

27 <sup>7</sup>The court will not dismiss the action against the non-moving  
28 defendants (Quality and T.D.) in the absence of a motion to  
dismiss by them or a voluntary dismissal by Debtor. If Debtor  
believes that she has independent grounds for claims against  
Quality and T.D. notwithstanding the holdings in this memorandum  
decision, she should file and serve a 30-day (at a minimum) notice  
that a status conference is scheduled for January 31, 2014, at  
1:30 p.m.