

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
Scott Seligman)	AA-ENF-2023-75
Institution-Affiliated Party)	
)	
Sterling Bank and Trust, FSB)	
Southfield, Michigan)	
)	

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”) intends to initiate prohibition and civil money penalty proceedings against Scott Seligman (“Respondent”) pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e), and (i) on the basis of Respondent’s activities at Sterling Bank and Trust, FSB (“Bank”);

WHEREAS, in the interest of cooperation and to avoid the costs associated with future administrative and judicial proceedings with respect to the above matter, Respondent, without admitting or denying any wrongdoing, desires to consent to the issuance of this Consent Order (“Order”) issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e), and (i);

WHEREAS, this Order, by its terms, does not bar Respondent or any of his related entities from advertising, advocating, or suggesting to third parties that they purchase shares of stock of the Bank or its holding company, provided Respondent does not act as an agent for, make representations on behalf of, or otherwise participate in the conduct of the affairs of the Bank or its holding company, and does not bar Respondent or any of his related entities from selling their shares of stock of; having deposit relationships with; receiving extensions of credit as a customer from; or receiving other traditional banking services as a customer from the

institutions and agencies set forth in paragraph (2) of Article III;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is stipulated by and between the OCC, through the duly authorized representative of the Comptroller of the Currency (“Comptroller”), and Respondent that:

ARTICLE I

JURISDICTION

(1) The Bank is an “insured depository institution” as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(c)(2).

(2) Respondent participated in the conduct of the affairs of the Bank from at least 2011 to 2019 and was an “institution-affiliated party” of the Bank as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(u), having served in such capacity within six (6) years from the date of this Order. *See* 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i)(3).

(3) The Bank is a Federal savings association within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q)(1)(C), and is chartered and examined by the OCC. *See* 12 U.S.C. §§ 1461 *et seq.*, 5412(b)(2)(B).

(4) The OCC is the “appropriate Federal banking agency” as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q) and is therefore authorized to initiate and maintain this prohibition and civil money penalty action against Respondent pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e), and (i).

ARTICLE II

COMPTROLLER’S FINDINGS

The Comptroller finds, and Respondent neither admits nor denies, the following:

(1) From 2011 to December 2019 (“the relevant period”), Respondent was not a Director on the Bank’s Board of Directors, a titled Bank officer, or a Bank employee. During the

relevant period, Respondent was a dominant influence at the Bank, issued directives to Bank officers and employees, and participated in the conduct of the affairs of the Bank.

(2) During the relevant period, the Bank offered the Advantage Loan Program (“ALP”), a low-document residential loan program, which was the Bank’s primary residential loan product during this period. The ALP presented high risks for fraud, money laundering, and lending misconduct and therefore required strong monitoring and controls. The Bank originated numerous ALP loans that had false or fraudulent loan applications. Despite deficiencies within the ALP, the Bank did not take appropriate corrective action and continued to grow the ALP.

(3) During the relevant period, Respondent participated in the operation of the ALP. Respondent contributed to a poor compliance culture at the Bank. Respondent also pressured Bank employees to quickly underwrite ALP loans. This contributed to the fraud within the ALP.

(4) Respondent’s and other insiders’ conduct contributed to the Bank’s violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1026.43(c) (the Ability to Repay rule) because the Bank originated ALP loans without making a reasonable and good faith determination of applicants’ ability to repay the loan and did not ensure that documents used to verify applicants’ employment, income, and assets were obtained from third parties and were reasonably reliable.

(5) The apparent profitability of the ALP helped support the Bank’s payment of dividends. Respondent received dividends from the Bank’s holding company. The Bank’s operation of the ALP also caused both potential and actual loss to the Bank.

(6) By reason of the foregoing conduct, Respondent violated 12 C.F.R. § 1026.43(c) and engaged in unsafe or unsound practices; which violation and practices were part of a pattern of misconduct and caused or were likely to cause loss to the Bank. Respondent also demonstrated continuing disregard for the safety and soundness of the Bank.

ARTICLE III

ORDER OF PROHIBITION

Respondent consents to, and it is ORDERED that:

(1) With respect to the institutions and agencies set forth in paragraph (2) of this Article, Respondent hereby agrees that he shall not:

- (a) participate in any manner in the conduct of their affairs;
- (b) solicit, procure, transfer, attempt to transfer, vote, or attempt to vote any proxy, consent, or authorization with respect to any voting rights;
- (c) violate any voting agreement previously approved by the “appropriate Federal banking agency,” as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q); or
- (d) vote for a director, or serve or act as an “institution-affiliated party,” as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(u).

(2) The prohibitions in paragraph (1) of this Article apply to the following institutions and agencies:

- (a) any insured depository institution, as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(c);
- (b) any institution treated as an insured bank under 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b)(3), (b)(4) or (b)(5);
- (c) any insured credit union under the Federal Credit Union Act;
- (d) any institution chartered under the Farm Credit Act of 1971;
- (e) any appropriate Federal depository institution regulatory agency; and
- (f) the Federal Housing Finance Agency and any Federal Home Loan Bank.

(3) The prohibitions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article shall cease to apply with respect to a particular institution if Respondent obtains the prior written consent of both the

OCC and the institution's "appropriate Federal financial institutions regulatory agency," as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(D).

(4) This Order shall be enforceable to the same extent and in the same manner as an effective and outstanding order that has been issued and has become final pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818.

ARTICLE IV

ORDER FOR CIVIL MONEY PENALTY

Respondent consents to, and it is ORDERED that:

(1) Respondent shall pay a civil money penalty in the amount of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000), which shall be paid in full according to the following payment schedule:

- (a) one hundred thirty-four thousand dollars (\$134,000) shall be paid upon Respondent's execution of this Order;
- (b) one hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (\$133,000) shall be paid no later than March 31, 2025; and
- (c) The final installment of one hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (\$133,000) and any outstanding balance shall be paid no later than March 31, 2026.

(2) Respondent shall make payments via pay.gov or wire transfer, in accordance with instructions provided by the OCC. The docket number of this case (AA-ENF-2023-75) shall be referenced in connection with the submitted payment.

(3) If Respondent fails to comply with any provision of this Order, then the entire balance of the civil money penalty amount described in this Article shall become immediately due and payable.

(4) This Order shall be enforceable to the same extent and in the same manner as an effective and outstanding order that has been issued and has become final pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818.

(5) Within seven (7) days from the issuance of this Order, Respondent shall provide written notification to the OCC of the address of his current place of residence by completing the form attached hereto as Appendix A and sending the completed form by mail to the Director of Enforcement, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219 or by email to the address provided by the OCC.

(6) Until the civil money penalty is paid in full, upon each and every subsequent change in place of residence, if any, Respondent shall provide written notification to the OCC of his new address within seven (7) days of such change in address by mail to the Director of Enforcement, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219 or by email to the address provided by the OCC.

ARTICLE V

BANKRUPTCY

(1) If Respondent files for bankruptcy protection, Respondent shall notify the Director of Enforcement within ten (10) days of the filing and shall provide a copy of the filing to the OCC by mail to the Director of Enforcement, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219 or by email to the address provided by the OCC.

(2) In any bankruptcy proceeding in which it is or may be contended that Respondent's obligation to pay a civil money penalty pursuant to this Order is subject to discharge, Respondent will in no manner contest the assertion of the OCC or any officer, employee, or agent of the OCC or any agent, officer, or representative of the United States, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a) or otherwise, that the civil money penalty obligation in the Order arises out of acts which result in claims not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

ARTICLE VI

CLOSING

- (1) By executing this Order, Respondent waives:
- (a) the right to a Notice of Intention to Prohibit Further Participation and Notice of Civil Money Penalty Assessment under 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e), and (i);
 - (b) all rights to a hearing and a final agency decision pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e), and (i) and 12 C.F.R. Part 109;
 - (c) all rights to seek judicial review of this Order;
 - (d) all rights in any way to contest the validity of this Order; and
 - (e) any and all claims for fees, costs, or expenses against the United States, the OCC, or any officer, employee, or agent of the OCC, related in any way to this enforcement matter or this Order, whether arising under common law or under the terms of any statute, including, but not limited to, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. § 504 and 28 U.S.C. § 2412.
- (2) Respondent shall not cause, participate in, or authorize the Bank (or any subsidiary or affiliate of the Bank) to incur, directly or indirectly, any expense relative to the

negotiation and issuance of this Order except as permitted by 12 C.F.R. § 7.2014 and Part 359. In addition, Respondent shall not, directly or indirectly, obtain or accept any indemnification (or other reimbursement) from the Bank (or any subsidiary or affiliate of the Bank) with respect to such amounts except as permitted by 12 C.F.R. § 7.2014 and Part 359; provided, however, Respondent may not obtain or accept such indemnification with respect to payment of the civil money penalty.

(3) Respondent acknowledges that he has read and understands the premises and obligations of this Order and declares that no separate promise or inducement of any kind has been made by the OCC or any officer, employee, or agent of the OCC to cause or induce Respondent to agree to consent to the issuance of this Order and/or to execute this Order.

(4) This Order constitutes a settlement of any proceedings arising out of the facts, omissions, or violations described in the Comptroller's Findings (Article II of this Order). The OCC agrees not to institute proceedings arising out of the facts, omissions, or violations described in or related to those described in Article II of this Order unless such acts, omissions, or violations reoccur. However, the facts, omissions, or violations described in Article II may be used by the OCC in future enforcement actions to establish a pattern of misconduct or the continuation of a pattern of misconduct.

(5) This Order shall not be construed as an adjudication on the merits and, except as set forth in paragraph (4) above, shall not inhibit, estop, bar, or otherwise prevent the OCC from taking any action affecting Respondent if, at any time, the OCC deems it appropriate to do so to fulfill the responsibilities placed upon the OCC by the several laws of the United States. Nothing in this Order shall affect Respondent's: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions, or make denials or arguments, in litigation or other legal proceedings.

(6) Nothing in this Order shall preclude any proceedings brought by the OCC to enforce the terms of this Order, and nothing in this Order constitutes, nor shall Respondent contend that it constitutes, a waiver of any right, power, or authority of any other representatives of the United States or agencies thereof, including the Department of Justice, to bring other actions deemed appropriate.

(7) Respondent entering into an acceptable voting agreement after obtaining written approval from the “appropriate Federal banking agency,” as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q), will not be considered a violation of this Order. Respondent shall thereafter comply with such a voting agreement.

(8) This Order is intended to be, and shall be construed to be, a final order issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818, and expressly does not form, and may not be construed to form, a contract binding on the United States, the OCC, or any officer, employee, or agent of the OCC. Respondent expressly acknowledges that no officer, employee, or agent of the OCC has statutory or other authority to bind the United States, the United States Treasury Department, the OCC, or any other federal bank regulatory agency or entity, or any officer, employee, or agent of those entities, to a contract affecting the OCC’s exercise of its supervisory responsibilities.

(9) This Order is “issued with the consent of . . . the institution-affiliated party concerned,” pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(h)(2).

(10) The terms of this Order, including this paragraph, are not subject to amendment or modification by any extraneous expression, prior agreements, or prior arrangements between the parties, whether oral or written.

(11) The provisions of this Order are effective upon issuance by the OCC, through the Comptroller’s duly authorized representative, whose hand appears below, and shall remain

effective and enforceable, except to the extent that, and until such time as, any provisions of this Order shall have been amended, suspended, waived, or terminated in writing by the OCC, through the Comptroller's duly authorized representative.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand.

/s/

Scott Seligman

3/25/24

Date

IT IS SO ORDERED.

//s// Digitally Signed, Dated: 2024.03.25

Michael R. Brickman
Deputy Comptroller for Specialty Supervision