

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before The
OFFICE OF THRIFT SUPERVISION

In the Matter of)

Order No.: MW-09-01

James Wheeler)

Effective Date: January 12, 2009

Former Attorney)

Institution-Affiliated Party of)

MidFirst Bank)

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

OTS Docket No. 14191)

ORDER OF PROHIBITION

WHEREAS, James Wheeler (**Wheeler**) has executed a Stipulation and Consent to the Issuance of an Order of Prohibition (Stipulation); and

WHEREAS, **Wheeler**, by executing the Stipulation, has consented and agreed to the issuance of this Order of Prohibition (Order) by the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to delegated authority, the OTS Regional Director for the Midwest Region (Regional Director), is authorized to issue Orders of Prohibition where the individual has consented to the issuance of an order.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Prohibition.

Wheeler, except upon the prior written consent of OTS (acting through its Director or an authorized representative thereof) and any other “appropriate Federal financial institutions regulatory agency,” for purposes of 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(B)(ii), shall not:

(a) hold any office in, or participate in any manner in the conduct of the affairs of, any institution or agency specified in 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(A), including, but not limited to:

(i) any insured depository institution as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(c);

(ii) any institution treated as an insured depository institution under 12 U.S.C. §§ 1818(b)(3) and 1818(b)(4) and any subsidiary thereof, or treated as a savings and loan holding company under 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b)(9) and any subsidiary thereof;

(iii) any insured credit union under the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq.);

(iv) any institution chartered under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. §§ 2001 et seq.);

(v) any appropriate Federal depository institution regulatory agency, within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(D); and

(vi) the Federal Housing Finance Board and any Federal Home Loan Bank;

(b) solicit, procure, transfer, attempt to transfer, vote, or attempt to vote any proxy, consent, or authorization with respect to any voting rights in any institution described in 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(A);

(c) violate any voting agreement previously approved by the “appropriate Federal banking agency” within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q); or

(d) vote for a director, or serve or act as an "institution-affiliated party," as that term is defined at 12 U.S.C. § 1813(u), for an insured depository institution.

2. Effective Date, Incorporation of Stipulation.

This Order is effective on the Effective Date as shown on the first page. The Stipulation is made a part hereof and is incorporated herein by this reference.

3. Duration.

This Order shall remain in effect until terminated, modified or suspended, by written notice of such action by OTS, acting by and through its authorized representatives.

4. Compliance.

Wheeler shall promptly respond to any request from OTS for documents to demonstrate compliance with this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

OFFICE OF THRIFT SUPERVISION

By: _____

C.K. Lee
Regional Director
Midwest Region

Date: 1/12/2009

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In the Matter of)

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James Wheeler)

Effective Date: January 12, 2009

Former Attorney)

And Institution-Affiliated Party of)

MidFirst Bank)

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

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STIPULATION AND CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN
ORDER OF PROHIBITION

WHEREAS, the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), acting by and through its Regional Director for the Midwest Region (Regional Director), and based upon information derived from the exercise of its regulatory and supervisory responsibilities, has informed James Wheeler (**Wheeler**), a former attorney who provided professional services to Midland Mortgage Company (Midland), that grounds exist to initiate an administrative prohibition proceeding against him pursuant to 12 USC § 1818(e). Midland is a wholly owned subsidiary of MidFirst Bank, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, OTS Docket No. 14191 (MidFirst); and

WHEREAS, the Regional Director, pursuant to delegated authority, is authorized to issue Orders of Prohibition where the individual has consented to the issuance of an order; and

WHEREAS, Wheeler desires to cooperate with OTS and to avoid the time and expense of such administrative prohibition proceeding by entering into this Stipulation and Consent to the Issuance of an Order of Prohibition (Stipulation) and, without admitting or denying that such grounds exist, or the Findings of Fact or opinions and conclusions of OTS, but only admitting the statements and conclusions in Paragraph 1 below concerning Jurisdiction, hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Jurisdiction.

(a) MidFirst is a “savings association” within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1813(b) and 12 U.S.C. § 1462(4). Accordingly, Midfirst is an “insured depository institution” as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(c);

(b) **Wheeler** is a former attorney who provided professional services to MidFirst, through MidFirst’s wholly owned subsidiary Midland, and is an “institution-affiliated party” as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(u) and served in such capacity within six (6) years of the Effective Date as shown on the first page (see 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i)(3)); and

(c) Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q), the Director of OTS is the “appropriate Federal banking agency” with jurisdiction to maintain an administrative prohibition proceeding against savings associations and institution-affiliated parties. Therefore, **Wheeler** is subject to the jurisdiction of OTS to initiate and maintain an administrative prohibition proceeding against him pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e).

2. OTS Findings of Fact.

Wheeler had been employed as an attorney to handle mortgage foreclosures on behalf of Midland in the state of Ohio. In this professional capacity, OTS finds that beginning as early as 2004 and continuing until discovery on or about August 1, 2007 **Wheeler** used his position as

counsel of record on foreclosure actions filed, pending and resolved in the state courts of Ohio to fraudulently divert proceeds due and owing to Midland to his own professional account. Prior to discovery of this fraud **Wheeler** had obtained approximately \$595,000.00 in unauthorized payments. These unauthorized payments caused loss to Midland as well as MidFirst, as well as financial benefit to **Wheeler**. Accordingly:

(a) **Wheeler** has, directly or indirectly, violated (as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(v)) a law or regulation, and/or a final cease-and-desist order and/or a condition imposed in writing by a Federal banking agency in connection with the grant of an application or other request by MidFirst and/or any written agreement between MidFirst and OTS; and/or engaged or participated in any unsafe or unsound practices in connection with MidFirst and/or committed or engaged in any act, omission, or practice which constitutes a breach of his fiduciary duty;

(b) And, by reason of such violation, practice, or breach by **Wheeler**, MidFirst has suffered or will probably suffer financial loss or other damage; and/or the interests of MidFirst's depositors have been or could be prejudiced; and/or **Wheeler** has received financial gain or other benefit by reason of such violation, practice, or breach;

(c) And, such violation, unsafe or unsound practice, or breach by **Wheeler**: involves personal dishonesty on the part of **Wheeler**; and/or demonstrates willful or continuing disregard by **Wheeler** for the safety or soundness of MidFirst.

3. Consent.

Wheeler consents to the issuance by OTS of the accompanying Order of Prohibition (Order). **Wheeler** further agrees to comply with the terms of the Order upon the Effective Date of the Order and stipulates that the Order complies with all requirements of law.

4. **Finality.**

The Order is issued by OTS under 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e) and upon the Effective Date it shall be a final order, effective and fully enforceable by OTS under the provisions of 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i).

5. **Waivers.**

Wheeler waives the following:

(a) The right to be served with a written notice of OTS's charges against him as provided by 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e) and 12 C.F.R. Part 509;

(b) The right to an administrative hearing of OTS's charges against him as provided by 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e) and 12 C.F.R. Part 509;

(c) The right to seek judicial review of the Order, including, without limitation, any such right provided by 12 U.S.C. § 1818(h), or otherwise to challenge the validity of the Order; and

(d) Any and all claims against OTS, including its employees and agents, and any other governmental entity for the award of fees, costs or expenses related to this OTS enforcement matter and/or the Order, whether arising under common law, federal statutes or otherwise.

6. **OTS Authority Not Affected.**

Nothing in this Stipulation or accompanying Order shall inhibit, estop, bar or otherwise prevent OTS from taking any other action affecting **Wheeler** if at any time OTS deems it appropriate to do so to fulfill the responsibilities placed upon OTS by law.

7. **Other Governmental Actions Not Affected.**

Wheeler acknowledges and agrees that his consent to the issuance of the Order is solely for the purpose of resolving the matters addressed herein, consistent with Paragraph 6 above, and

does not otherwise release, discharge, compromise, settle, dismiss, resolve, or in any way affect any actions, charges against, or liability of **Wheeler** that arise pursuant to this action or otherwise, and that may be or have been brought by any governmental entity other than OTS.

8. Acknowledgment of Criminal Sanctions.

Wheeler acknowledges that the Stipulation and Order are subject to the provisions of 12 U.S.C. § 1818(j), which includes potential imprisonment of not more than five (5) years and/or a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 for his knowing participation, directly or indirectly, in any manner, in the conduct of the affairs of an institution as set forth in the Order.

9. Miscellaneous.

(a) The laws of the United States of America shall govern the construction and validity of this Stipulation and the Order;

(b) If any provision of this Stipulation and/or the Order is ruled to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable by the decision of any Court of competent jurisdiction, the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions hereof shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby, unless the Regional Director in his or her sole discretion determines otherwise;

(c) All references to OTS in this Stipulation and the Order shall also mean any of the OTS's predecessors, successors, and assigns;

(d) The section and paragraph headings in this Stipulation and the Order are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Stipulation or the Order;

(e) The terms of this Stipulation and the Order represent the final agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matters hereof, and constitute the sole agreement of the parties with respect to such subject matters; and

(f) This Stipulation and the Order shall remain in effect until terminated, modified, or suspended in writing by OTS, acting through its Regional Director, or other authorized representative.

WHEREFORE, Wheeler executes this Stipulation.

James Wheeler



By: _____
James Wheeler

Date: 12/31/08

Accepted by:

OFFICE OF THRIFT SUPERVISION



By: _____
C.K. Lee
Regional Director
Midwest Region

Date: 1/12/2009