A. WILLIAM LOEFFLER 404,888,3372 telephone 404,982,6819 facsimile bill leaffler@troulmansanders.com

TROUTMAN SANDERS

TROUTMAN SANGERS LLP Altomeys at Law Bank of America Plaza 500 Peachtree Street, Ne. Seite 52215 Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2215 404-885,3000 (elephone froutmanganders.com

November 23, 2010

Wekesa O. Madzimoyo 852 Brafferton Place Stone Mountain, Georgía 30083

Re: Wekesa O. Madzimoyo v. GMAC Mortgage, LLC, et al., U.S. District Court,

Northern District of Georgia, Case No. 1:09-cv-2355-CAP

Dear Mr. Madzimoyo;

Enclosed is your service copy of the Initial Disclosures of Defendants GMAC Mortgage, LLC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, and the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., which has been filed in the above-referenced action.

Very truly yours,

William Louffler

Enclosure

Cc: Kelly L. Atkinson, Esq.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

WEKESA O. MADZIMOYO,)
Plaintiff,)) CIVIL ACTION FILE
v.)
) NO. 1:09-cv-2355-CAP-GGB
GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)
)

INITIAL DISCLOSURES OF DEFENDANTS GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC, JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A.

Defendants GMAC Mortgage, LLC ("GMAC"), JPMorgan Chase Bank, and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. ("Defendants"), by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby make the following initial disclosures pursuant to FED. R. Crv. P. 26(a)(I) and Local Rule 26.1, based on information currently available to them. These initial disclosures are made without waiver of any applicable objections, including without limitation:

- any objections in the disclosure of information that is protected by the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, and/nr any other applicable privilege or immunity;
- any objections based upon lack of relevance, that information or documents
 are confidential, that the production of documents would be unreasonably

cumulative or duplicative, that the information can be obtained from other source(s) more conveniently, with less burden and less expense, or, or that the burden or expense of discovery outweighs its likely benefit; and/or

any objections to the production of witnesses, documents, or things that are
outside af the jurisdictian of the Court and/or beyond Defendants'
possession or control.

These initial disclosures are made early in this litigation and may, if warranted, be supplemented, modified, or amended, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e) and Local Rule 26.1.

(1) If the defendant is improperly identified, state defendant's carrect identification and state whether defendant will accept service of an amended summons and complaint reflecting the informatian furnished in this disclosure response:

Not applicable.

(2) Provide the names of any parties whom defendant contends are necessary parties to this action, but who have not been named by plaintiff. If defendant contends that there is a question of misjoinder of parties, provide the reasons for defendant's contention.

Nane at this time.

(3) Provide a detailed factual basis for the defense or defenses and any counterclaims or cross-claims asserted by defendant in the respansive pleading. On March 23, 1999, Plaintiff Wekesa Madzimoyo obtained a mortgsge toan from FT Mortgage Companies d/b/a Equibanc Mortgage Corporation in the principal amount of \$140,600, which was secured by Plaintiffs' residence at 852 Brafferton Place, Stane Mountain Georgia, 30083 (the "Subject Property"). [Complaint, ¶ 16.] GMAC subsequently took over servicing the loan. The loan and deed were subsequently assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, and, on April 7, 2006, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association acquired JP Morgan's business. Plaintiff defaulted on the terms of the loan, and fareclosure was initiated. The foreclosure sale has been postponed. The foreclosure is proper in all respects, and Defendants deny any liability.

(4) Describe in detail all statutes, cades, regulations, legal principles, standards and customs or usages, and illustrative case law which defendant cantends are applicable to this action.

Defendants adopt and incarporate hereia by reference all of the anthority in their memorandum of law in suppart of their motion for judgment on the pleadings, filed on October 12, 2010 (Dac. No. 23-1).

(5) Provide the name and, if known, the address and telephone number of each individual likely to have discoverable information that yau may use to support your claims or defenses, unless soiely for imprachment, identifying the subjects of the information. (Attach witness list to Initial Disclosures as Attachment A.)

See Attachment A hereto.

(6) Provide the name of any person who may be used at trial to present evidence under Rules 702, 703, or 705 of the Federal Rules of Evidence. For all experts described in Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(a)(2)(B), provide a separate written report satisfying the pravisions of that rule. (Attach expert witness list and written reports to Initial Disclasures as Attachment B.)

At this time, Defendants have not retained any person who may be used at trial to present expert testimony or evidence, therefore, there is no Attachment B.

(7) Provide a capy of, or description by category and location of, all documents, data compilations, and taugible things in your possession, eustody, or control that you may use to support your claims or defenses unless solely for impeachment, identifying the subjects of the information. (Attach document list and descriptions to Initial Disclosures as Attachment C.)

See Attachment C hereto.

(8) In the space provided below, provide a computation of any category of damages claimed by you. In addition, include a copy of, or describe by category and location of, the documents or ather evidentiary material, nat privileged or protected from disclosure on which such computation is based, including materials bearing on the nature and exteat af injuries suffered, making such dacuments or evidentiary material available for inspection and copying under Fed.R.Civ.P. 34. (Attach any copies and descriptions to Initial Disclosures as Attachment D.)

Not applicable, therefore, there is no Attachment D.

(9) If defendant contends that same other person ar legal eatity is, in whole ar in part, liable to the plaintiff or defendant in this matter, state the full name, address, and telephone number of such person or eatity and describe in detail the basis of such liability.

Not applicable, at this time.

(10) Attach for inspection and copying as under Fed.R.Civ.P. 34 any insurance agreement under which any person carrying on an insurance business may be liable to satisfy part or all of a judgment which may be entered in this action or to indemnify or reimburse for payments to satisfy the judgment. (Attach copy of insurance agreement in Initial Disclosures as Attachment E.)

At this juncture, Defendants do not believe that there is any insurance coverage for the claims alleged in the Complaint, therefore, there is no Attachment E.

ATTACHMENT A

Wekesa O. Madzimoyo

Plaintiff in this suit. Plaintiff has knowledge of the facts and circumstances surrounding the subject loan transaction, the default thereunder, and the foreclosure proceedings that ensued.

Employees of GMAC and affiliates:

Juan Aguirre
 Manager-Litigation Support

Mr. Aguirre has knowledge of the account records and payment history pertaining to Plaintiff's loan. He may only be contacted through the undersigned counsel of record.

 Defendants have provided or will provide to Plaintiff certain documents that may identify additional individuals who may have discoverable information relevant to this case. The individuals identified in those documents may only be contacted through the undersigned counsel of record.

ATTACHMENT C

In accordance with Rule 26(a) and Local Rule 26.1, Defendants are making these initial disclosures based on information reasonably available to them at this time. Further discovery and developments in this case may dictate the need to identify additional relevant documents and/or tangible objects. In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e) and Local Rule 26.1, Defendants may supplement this disclosure. Without waiving any objections as to relevancy or admissibility at trial, Defendants provide the following disclosure:

- 1. Documents pertaining to Plaintiff's loan transaction, the default thereon, and the forcelosure proceedings that ensued, including without limitation:
 - Promissory Note, Security Deed, and other loan disclosures and documents.
 - Computer generated payment history and account notes.
 - Foreclosure notices and documents.

These documents will be made available for iospection at the offices of Defendants' counsel of record.

This the 23rd day of November, 2010.

/s/ A. William Loeffler

A. William Loeffler
Georgia Bar No. 755699
bill.loeffler@troutmansanders.com
Kelly L. Atkinson
Georgia Bar No. 431204
kelly.atkinson@troutmansanders.com

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP 5200 Bank of America Plaza 600 Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216 (404) 885-3000

Counsel for Defendants
GMAC Mortgage, LLC, JP Morgan
Chase Bank, and The Bank of
New York Mellon Trust Company

Certification of Counsel

I hereby certify, pursuant to Local Rule 5.1(c), that this document is submitted in Times New Roman 14 point font.

<u>/s/ A. William Loeffler</u> A. William Loeffler

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this date filed the within and foregoing using the Court's ECF system, which will effect service on the following:

Frank R. Olson, Esq.
McCurdy & Candler, L.L.C.
Building 6, Suite 700
3525 Piedmont Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30305

And I served Plaintiff a copy of same via United States mail, with adequate firstclass postage affixed thereto, addressed as follows:

> Wekeza O. Madzimoyo 852 Brafferton Place Stone Mountain, GA 30083

This 23rd day of November, 2010.

/s/ A. William Loeffler
A. William Loeffler

Discovery Documents

1:09-cv-02355-CAP-GGB Madzimoyo v. The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. et al. 4months, SUBMMG

U.S. District Court

Northern District of Georgia

Notice of Electronic Filing

The following transaction was entered by Loeffler, Alan on 11/23/2010 at 11:46 AM EST and filed on

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Case Name:

Madzimoyo v. The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. et al.

Case Number:

1:09-cv-02355-CAP-GGB

Filer:

GMAC Mortgage, LLC

JP Morgan Chase Bank, NA

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A.

Document Number: 30

Docket Text:

Initial Disclosures by GMAC Mortgage, LLC, JP Morgan Chase Bank, NA, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (Loeffler, Alan)

1:09-cv-02355-CAP-GGB Notice has been electronically mailed to:

Alan William Loeffler bill.loeffler@troutmansanders.com

Frank Reid Olson

folson@mccurdyandcandler.com

John Dale Andrle

jandrle@mccurdycandler.com

Kelly Lane Atkinson

kelly.atkinsoo(a)troutmansanders.com

1:09-cy-02355-CAP-GGB Notice has been delivered by other means to:

Wekesa O Madzimoyo 852 Brafferton Place

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

The following document(s) are associated with this transaction:

Document description: Main Document

Original filename:n/a

Electronic document Stamp:

[STAMP deecfStamp_ID=1060868753 [Date=11/23/2010] [FileNumber=4045297-0] [979e2549]8f15989fd9905b131db4a7dcf02dc5a7f53682d49422ff79b04f9c11e f05346295ec692e5a1c556t7cbf44d4a2b7ce9e031ad8efd0b421c14b34ae5]]

A. WILLIAM LOEFFLER 404 885.3372 telephore 404.962 6819 recsimile biii.loeffer@rpytnansanders.com

TROUTMAN SANDERS

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP
Altorneys at Law
Bank of America Plaza
800 Peschtres Street, NE, Suite 520s
Aliania, Georgia 30338-216
404.885,3009 talephone
troutmansenders.com

November 24, 2010

Wekesa O. Madzimoyo 852 Brafferton Place Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

> Re: <u>Wekesa O. Madzimovo v. GMAC Mortgage, LLC, et al., U.S. District Court,</u> Northern District of Georgia, Case No. 1:09-ev-2355-CAP

Dear Mr. Madzimoyo:

Enclosed are your service copies of the following documents, which have been filed in the above-referenced action:

- 1. Defendant's Motion to Strike Plaintiff's Amended Complaint; and
- 2. Defendant's Memorandum of Law in Support of Motion to Strike Plaintiff's Amended Complaint.

Very truly yours,

A William Locffler

Enclosures

Ce: Kelly L. Atkinson, Esq.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

WEKESA O. MADZIMOYO,) .
Plaintiff,)
) CIVIL ACTION FILE
v,)
) NO. 1:09-cv-2355-CAP-GGB
GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)

DEFENDANTS' MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFF'S AMENDED COMPLAINT

Defendants GMAC Mortgage, LLC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (collectively, "Defendants") submit this memorandum in support of their Motion to Strike Plaintiff's Amended Complaint. Plaintiff's Amended Complaint is due to be stricken because it was filed without consent of the Defendants or leave of Court, and leave to amend should be denied because the amendment is untimely, unduly prejudicial, and futile.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On March 23, 1999, Plaintiff Wekesa Madzimoyo obtained a mortgage loan from FT Mortgage Companies d/b/a Equibanc Mortgage Corporation in the principal amount of \$140,600, which was secured by real property located at 852 Brafferton Place, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083. [Complaint, ¶ 16.] GMAC

subsequently tonk over servicing the loan. The loan and deed were later assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, and, on April 7, 2006, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association acquired JP Morgan's husiness.

Plaintiff defaulted on the loan by failing to make the required monthly payments. When he failed to cure the default, GMAC retained the law firm of McCurdy & Candier, LLC to initiate non-judicial foreclosure. Plaintiff filed the instant action on July 29, 2009, in an attempt to halt the foreclosure.

On April 15, 2010, Defendant McCurdy & Candler LLC filed a motion for judgment on the pleadings. [Dkt. No. 16.] On October 12, 2010, these Defendants also filed a motion for judgment on the pleadings. [Dkt. No. 23.] Plaintiff filed his Amended Complaint on October 27, 2010. [Dkt. No. 26.]

ARGUMENT AND CITATION OF AUTHORITY

A. Plaintiff's Amendment Violates Rule 15.

Rule 15 requires that a plaintiff obtain "opposing party's written consent or the court's leave" before filing an amendment to a complaint, where the amendment is attempted after more than 21 days have elapsed since the defeadant's answer was filed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). Plaintiff obtained neither consent of the Defendants nor leave of Court before filing his amended pleading. Therefore, his Amended Complaint is nf no force and effect. See Hoover v. Blue Cross and Blue Shield, 855 F.2d 1538, 1544 (11th Cir. 1988) ("In general, if an

amendment that cannot be made as of right is served without obtaining the court's leave or the opposing party's consent, it is without legal effect and any new matter it contains will not be considered unless the amendment is resubmitted for the court's approval."); Baxter v. Strickland, 381 F. Supp. 487, 491 (N.D. Ga. 1974) (same). Plaintiff's Amended Complaint should therefore be stricken.

B. Leave to Amend Should Be Denied.

Leave to amend should not be granted in the instant case. The court should consider various factors when evaluating a motion for leave to amend, including undue delay and prejudice and futility. See, e.g., Forman v. Davis, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962); Best Canvas Products & Supplies, Inc. v. Ploof fruck Lines, Inc., 713 F. 2d 618, 622-23 (11th Cir. 1983).

1. Plaintiff's late tiling is unduly prejudicial.

Plaintiff's Amended Complaint comes more than fourteen (14) months after he filed his original Complaint. It also comes after all Defendants have filed dispositive motions, seeking judgment as a matter of law on Plaintiff's original pleading. Plaintiff has provided no explanation or justification for his delay.

Filing an amended complaint one month before the close of discovery has been held to constitute "undue delay" and provided a proper basis for the court to deny leave to amend. See Muegge v. Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club, Inc., 200 Fed. Appx. 936, 939 (11th Cir. 2006). In the instant case, Plaintiff's Amended

Complaint came more than two months after the close of the discovery which had previously been extended by Court Order. [Dkt. No. 14.] For these reasons, Plaintiff should not be granted leave to file his Amended Complaint.

2. Plaintiff's Amended Complaint is futile.

A claim is futile if it cannot withstand a motion to dismiss. See, e.g., Burger King Corp. v. Weaver, 169 F.3d 1310, 1315 (11th Cir. 1999) (futility is another way of saying "inadequacy as a matter of law"); Florida Power & Light Co. v. Allis Chalmers Corp., 85 F.3d 1514, 1520 (11th Cir. 1996).

Plaintiff's Amended Complaint, just as his original Complaint, fails to state a viable claim against the Defendants. His new allegations fail to be actionable for the very same reasons his original claims are due to be dismissed, as set out in the Defendants' respective motions for judgment on the pleadings. [Dkt. No. 16, 23.] Indeed, his Amended Complaint is just another "shotgun pleading."

The Eleventh Circuit has "specifically instructed district courts to prohibit, as fatally defective, shotgun pleadings similar to the one filed in this action."

B.L.E. ex rel. Jefferson v. Georgia, 335 F. Appr'x 962, 963, 2009 U.S. App.

LEXIS 23403, *2-3 (11th Cir. 2009) (citing <u>Davis v. Coca-Cola Bottling Co.</u>, 516 F.3d 955, 979 (11th Cir. 2008) and <u>Bryne v. Nezhat</u>, 261 F.3d 1075, 1130 n.108 (11th Cir. 2001)); see <u>Davis</u>, 516 F.3d at 979 and n.54 ("The complaint is a model 'shotgun' pleading of the sort this court has been roundly, repeatedly, and

consistently condemning for years, long before this lawsuit was filed." Citing illustrative Eleventh Circuit precedent and noting that "since 1985 we have explicitly condemoed shotgun pleadings upward of fifty times.").

A pleading should contain "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). "Each allegation must be simple, concise, and direct." Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(d)(1).

These rules work together to require the pleader to present his claims discretely and succinctly, so that his adversary can discern what he is claiming and frame a responsive pleading, the court can determine which facts support which claims and whether the plaintiff has stated any claims upon which relief can be granted, and, at trial, the court can determine that evidence which is relevant and that which is not.

Davis, 516 F.3d at 980 (citing Fikes v. City of Daphne, 79 F.3d 1079, 1082-83 (11th Cir. 1996)).

The hallmark of a shotgun pleading is its "rambling, prolix" nature, contravening the dictates of Rule 8. B.L.E. ex rel. Jefferson, 335 F. App'x at 963; accord Pelletier v. Zweifel, 921 F.2d 1465, 1518-19 (11th Cir. 1991) ("quintessential shotgun pleadings" contain "rambling recitatioos"). Such pleadings are "framed in complete disregard of the principle that separate, discrete canses of action should be plead[ed] in separate counts." Cesnik v. Edgewond Baptist Church, 88 F.3d 902, 905 (11th Cir. 1996); see also Fullman v. Graddick, 739 F.2d 553, 556-57 (11th Cir. 1984) ("A complaint may justifiably be dismissed

because of the conclusory, vague, and general nature of the allegations' asserted therein).

Dismissal is appropriate where "Plaintiff's complaint is an argument about the merits of his claim, rather than a complaint for relief," and contains a litany of "citations and statements of law." Rose v. GMAC Mortgage, LLC, Case Nn. 1:10-cv-1990-JEC, at Doc. No. 16, p. 4 (N.D. Ga. Sept. 20, 2010) (citing Branham v. Astrue, 2009 WL 1025393 at *1 (M.D.Ga. 2009)). With a shotgun complaint, "it is virtually impossible to know which allegations of fact are intended to support which claim(s) for relief." Anderson v. District Bd. of Trustees of Cent. Fla. Cmty. Coll., 77 F.3d 364, 366 (11th Cir. 1996); see also Johnson Enterprises of Jacksonville, Inc. v. FPL Group, Inc., 162 F.3d 1290, 1333 (11th Cir. 1998) ("district courts have the power and the duty to define the issues at the earliest stages of litigation.").

There is nothing in Plaintiff's Complaint even approximating "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Nor is there any "simple, concise, and direct" allegation of any wrongdoing that Defendants are purported to have committed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(d)(1). Accordingly, Plaintiff's Amended Complaint should be stricken.

<u>CONCLUSION</u>

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should enter an Order striking Plaintiff's Amended Complaint and allowing no further amendment to the pleadings.

This the 24th day of November, 2010.

/s/ A. William Loeffler

A. William Loeffler
Georgia Bar No. 755699
bill.loeffler@troutmansanders.com
Kelly L. Atkinson
Georgia Bar No. 431204
kelly.atkinson@troutmansanders.com

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP 5200 Bank of America Plaza 600 Pcachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216 (404) 885-3000

Counsel for Defendants
GMAC Mortgage, LLC, JP Morgan
Chase Bank, and The Bank of
New York Mellnn Trust Company

Certification of Counsel

I hereby certify, pursuant to Local Rule 5.1(c), that this document is submitted in Times New Roman 14 point font.

/s/ A. William Loeffler

A. William Loeffler

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this date filed the within and foregoing using the Court's ECF system, which will effect service on the following:

Frank R. Olson, Esq.
McCurdy & Candler, L.L.C.
Building 6, Suite 700
3525 Piedmont Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30305

And I served Plaintiff a copy of same via United States mail, with adequate firstclass postage affixed thereto, addressed as follows:

> Wekesa O. Madzimoyo 852 Brafferton Place Stone Mountain, GA 30083

This 24th day of November, 2010.

/s/ A. William Loeffler
A. William Loeffler

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

WEKESA O. MADZIMOYO,)
Plaintiff,)
) CIVIL ACTION FILE
v.)
) NO. I:09-cv-2355-CAP-GGE
GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)

DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFF'S AMENDED COMPLAINT

Defendants GMAC Mortgage, LLC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (collectively, "Defendants") move the Court to strike Plaintiff's Amended Complaint. That pleading was filed without consent of Defendants and without leave of Court, therefore running afoul of Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a). It is also untimely, unduly prejudicial to Defendants, and futile.

This motion is supported by the pleadings and Defeodants' memorandum of law filed contemporaneously herewith.

This the 24th day of November, 2010.

/s/ A. William Loeffler

A. William Loeffler
Georgia Bar No. 755699
bill.loeffler@troutmansanders.com
Kelly L. Atkinson
Georgia Bar No. 431204
kelly.atkinson@troutmansanders.com

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP 5200 Bank of America Plaza 600 Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216 (404) 885-3000

Counsel for Defendants GMAC Mortgage, LLC, JP Morgan Chase Bank, and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company

Certification of Counsel

I hereby certify, pursuant to Local Rule 5.1(c), that this document is submitted in Times New Roman 14 point font.

/s/ A. William Loeffler

A. William Loeffler

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this date filed the within and foregoing using the Court's ECF system, which will effect service on the following:

Frank R. Olson, Esq. McCurdy & Candler, L.L.C. Building 6, Suite 700 3525 Piedmont Road NE Atlanta, GA 30305

And I served Plaintiff a copy of same via United States mail, with adequate firstclass postage affixed thereto, addressed as follows:

> Wekesa O. Madzimoyo 852 Brafferton Place Stone Mountain, GA 30083

This 24th day of November, 2010.

<u>/s/ A. William Loeffler</u>

A. William Loeffler