Official Order of the Texas Commissioner of Insurance

Date: <u>04/07/2022</u>

Subject Considered:

North Star Title Company, LLC 1305 Antoine Dr. Houston, Texas 77055

Consent Order
TDI Enforcement File No. 28784

General remarks and official action taken:

This is a consent order with North Star Title Company, LLC (North Star Title). North Star Title failed to timely submit the Title Agent's Unencumbered Assets Certification and the Title Agent Certification of Agent's Quarterly Tax Reports. North Star Title has agreed to pay an administrative penalty of \$12,000.

Waiver

North Star Title acknowledges that the Texas Insurance Code and other applicable law provide certain rights. North Star Title waives all of these rights, and any other applicable procedural rights, in consideration of the entry of this consent order.

Findings of Fact

- 1. North Star Title, firm identification number 92658, holds a title insurance agency license issued by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) on July 2, 2008.
- 2. Title agencies, including North Star Title, are required to file with TDI the Title Agent's Unencumbered Assets Certification (Form T-S1). Form T-S1 must be submitted annually to TDI between September 1 and September 30 of each year.

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- 3. North Star Title failed to timely submit Form T-S1 during September in 2018, 2019, and 2020. The 2018 report was not received until January 2019. The 2019 and 2021 reports were submitted on September 7, 2021.
- 4. Title agencies, including North Star Title, are required to file with TDI the Title Agent Certification of Agent's Quarterly Tax Reports (Form T-S5). Form T-S5 must be submitted to TDI no later than 45 days after the end of the quarter.
- 5. North Star Title failed to timely submit Form T-S5 for the first three quarters of 2018, all four quarters of 2019 and 2020, and the first two quarters of 2021. The reports for all these quarters were submitted on September 21, 2021.

Conclusions of Law

- 1. The commissioner has jurisdiction over this matter under Tex. Ins. Code §§ 82.051–82.055, 84.021–84.044, 2651.001-2651.154; and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 9.1, which adopts by reference the *Basic Manual of Rules, Rates, and Forms for the Writing of Title Insurance in the State of Texas*.
- 2. The commissioner has the authority to informally dispose of this matter as set forth in Tex. Gov't Code § 2001.056; Tex. Ins. Code §§ 36.104 and 82.055; and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 1.47.
- 3. North Star Title has knowingly and voluntarily waived all procedural rights to which it may have been entitled regarding the entry of this order, including, but not limited to, issuance and service of notice of intention to institute disciplinary action, notice of hearing, a public hearing, a proposal for decision, rehearing by the commissioner, and judicial review.
- 4. North Star Title violated Administrative Rule S.1 of the Basic Manual by failing to timely file the Title Agent's Unencumbered Assets Certification.
- 5. North Star Title Administrative Rule S.5 of the Basic Manual by failing to timely file the Title Agent Certification of Agent's Quarterly Tax Reports.

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Order

It is ordered that North Star Title Company, LLC pay an administrative penalty of \$12,000 within 30 days from the date of this order. The administrative penalty must be paid as instructed in the invoice, which the department will send after entry of this order.



Cassie Brown
Commissioner of Insurance

Recommended and reviewed by:

Leah Gillum, Deputy Commissioner

Enforcement Division

L. Merida

Latoya Merida, Staff Attorney

Enforcement Division

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Affidavit

| STATE OF Texas s S COUNTY OF Harris s |
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| Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared H- Alan Holly, who being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows: |
| "My name is Alaw Holly |
| I hold the office of <u>President</u> and am the authorized representative of North Star Title Company, LLC. I am duly authorized by said organization to execute this statement. |
| North Star Title Company, LLC has knowingly and voluntarily entered into the foregoing consent order and agrees with and consents to the issuance and service of the same by the commissioner of insurance of the state of Texas." |
| Affiant |
| SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on $March 31$, 2022. |
| (NOTARY SEAL) |

CLAUDIA M LANDA
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
MY COMM. EXP. 12/08/24
NOTARY ID 12654939-6

Signature of Notary Public

Printed Name of Notary Public