



# SIGTARP

Office of the Special Inspector General  
for the Troubled Asset Relief Program

## **California Men Sentenced In Nationwide \$2.5 Million Fraud Scheme that Victimized More than 500 Homeowners Related to HAMP Program**

In late 2019 and early 2020, multiple defendants were sentenced for their roles in a massive, nationwide scheme to defraud homeowners. Alan Jessie Chance was sentenced to twelve months in prison and three years supervised release. Chad Caldaronello was sentenced to three years and five months in prison. Michael P. Paquette was sentenced to one year and three months in prison. Dennis Lake was sentenced to three years of probation and six months home confinement.

The scheme, which took place in 2014 and 2015, started with sending mailers that appeared to be coming from an entity affiliated with the government to homeowners facing foreclosure urging them to call to obtain a loan modification. Chance and his co-conspirators operated under aliases and told homeowners they worked for HOPE Services, later changed to HAMP Services, which sounded similar to TARP's Home Affordable Modification Program. They falsely told victims they were part of a non-profit, government-affiliated agency, and that the homeowners were eligible for a loan modification without contacting any government agency or their lender. They told homeowners they were approved for a loan modification, and had to pay three trial payments that would be held in a trust account or escrow, but not to inform their lender about the trial payments. They obtained at least \$2.5 million in trial payments from more than 500 victims nationwide spanning from their base of operation in California to points as far as Egg Harbor City, New Jersey and Mt. Airy, Maryland.

SIGTARP was joined in the investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California is prosecuting the case.