

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
CONTACT: Frank Mateljan - PIO  
(213) 978-8340 (office)  
(213) 479-5675 (mobile)

**From the Office of the City Attorney  
Carmen A. Trutanich**



Suite 800, City Hall East  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213-978-8340 Fax: 213-978-2093  
<http://www.atty.lacity.org>

## **\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

June 10, 2013

### **PERPETRATOR OF LOAN MODIFICATION SCAM ORDERED TO PAY \$118,656 IN RESTITUTION TO VICTIMS**

**LOS ANGELES** – A Los Angeles woman who orchestrated a foreclosure rescue and loan modification scam, targeting Spanish-speaking homeowners, was ordered to pay \$118,656 in restitution to victims. Evelyn Rodriguez, aka Eblin Balver, 46, entered a plea of no contest to four counts of grand theft and one count of practicing law without a license and was also placed on 60 months probation and ordered to complete 90 days of community service in addition to making full restitution.

“Predatory businesses trying to make a quick buck by deceiving homeowners will be aggressively prosecuted,” City Attorney Carmen Trutanich said. “This office will seek full restitution and justice for those who have been victimized by such unscrupulous business practices.”

Rodriguez was ordered to pay \$118,656 in restitution to 10 sets of victims of her loan modification scheme. A good faith payment of \$20,000 was made by Rodriguez and another \$10,000 payment is scheduled to be made at a restitution hearing on Aug. 12, 2013. The balance of restitution will be paid in monthly instalments over the next five years.

Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs’ investigators discovered that between 2008 and 2011, Balver, using the name of Evelyn Rodriguez, enticed homeowners facing foreclosure to pay her large advance fees and monthly fees ranging from \$5,000 to \$16,000 in order to save their homes from foreclosure. The victims targeted in the scam are from across the region including the City of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Montebello, and Riverside County. Rodriguez instructed the homeowners to cease all communication with their lenders and to stop making their credit card and mortgage payments.

Other victims were led to believe that Rodriguez worked with lawyers who could use the legal system to help obtain principal reductions and reinstate mortgages on homes lost to foreclosure. Rodriguez even led some consumers to believe that she was an attorney. Rodriguez never provided contracts or proof that she performed any work on behalf of homeowners.

Deputy City Attorney Onica Cole of the City Attorney’s Consumer Protection Section successfully prosecuted the case.