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## Public Interest Firms Sue Mortgage Modification Lawyer

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Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe and two public interest law firms have filed a class action on behalf of California homeowners, charging a Beverly Hills attorney and his cohorts with scamming troubled homeowners.

In [the complaint](#), filed today in Santa Clara County Superior Court, plaintiffs allege that Ken Nathanson, his law firm Sherman & Nathanson, and his successor law firm Nathanson Law Center, as well as a corporation called RewireMyLoan.com operated by Adeel Amin, worked together to lure homeowners into paying thousands of dollars for loan modification services that were never provided.

Orrick is teaming up with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley.

The homeowners, many of whom were facing foreclosure, paid as much as \$4,995.00 for promised loan modification and loan audit services, backed by a "100% money back guarantee," according to the complaint. Nathanson allegedly built up his credibility by stressing his years of experience as a commercial litigation and real estate attorney, but did not perform the promised services.

Nathanson did not immediately respond to a voice mail left at his office Thursday afternoon.

Plaintiffs are asking for their money back and unspecified damages, as well as an injunction, among other things.

Orrick IP partner Elizabeth Howard and associates Sid Venkatesan, Alan Chen and Jake Heath are taking the case pro bono.

California has been the state hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis, the Lawyers' Committee said in a press release. Statistics compiled by RealtyTrac as of April 2011 show that one in every 240 California housing units was in foreclosure, about 2.5 times greater than the national average, the public law firm said. California also leads the nation in homeowner complaints about loan modification scams, as alleged scammers are attracted to the state due to its high foreclosure rates and mortgage delinquency.

Orrick has handled other types of cases for individuals, including predatory lending-related suits, in the past, as part of its pro bono effort, said Howard, who works in the firm's Menlo Park office.

"It's an area we're familiar with and it's an area we care a great deal about," she said. "We've seen the effects of these kind of practices on the community."

Nathanson didn't respond to a request for comment late this afternoon.

The Law Foundation's Kyra Kyzantzis, James Zahradka II, Annette Kirkham and Kim Pederson, and the Lawyers' Committee's Linda Mullenbach and Alejandro Reyes are also listed on the complaint.

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