The North Carolina State Bar

AUTHORIZED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

C. Colon Willoughby, Jr.
Chair

FEB - 3 2004

LETTER OF CAUTION
To Cease and Desist

The Closing Place, Inc.
c/o Richard E. Steinbronn
P.O. Box 940
Murphy, NC 28906

Re: Alleged unauthorized practice of law
Our file number: 02AP0051

Dear Mr. Steinbronn:

On January 14, 2004, the Authorized Practice Committee met and considered the results of its investigation made into your activities in the above referenced matter. As you will recall, you were informed of the allegations before the Committee and given an opportunity to respond. You responded and the Committee carefully considered both the information received by it and your response.

Based upon all of the evidence available, the Committee made the following findings and conclusions. The Closing Place, Inc. is a business corporation registered in North Carolina. It is not qualified or registered as a law firm. The Closing Place holds itself out through advertising and/or fee quotations as able to provide legal services related to real estate closings, including title examination and document preparation. The Closing Place prepares legal documents, including general warranty deeds and title opinions. The Closing Place contracts directly with the client to provide these services. The arrangement making The Closing Place a "closing contractor" for attorney Richard E. Steinbronn, whereby Mr. Steinbronn reviews the legal documents and title abstracting done by the non-attorney employees of The Closing Place, does not cure the unauthorized practice of law concerns previously raised in this Committee's May 10, 2001 letter of caution. There is probable cause to believe that The Closing Place is providing, or offering to provide, legal services as a business corporation.

It is the unauthorized practice of law for a corporation that is not qualified and registered as a law firm to hold out itself as able to provide legal services, or to provide legal services. N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 84-2.1, and 5. The Committee concluded that your conduct constituted the unauthorized practice of law in violation of these statutes. Accordingly, it voted to issue this

208 Fayetteville Street Mall Post Office Box 25908 Raleigh, NC 27611 (919) 828-4620 Fax (919) 834-8156

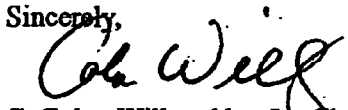
Letter of Caution to notify you of its decision and to demand that you stop engaging in your activities now.

To avoid any further action in this matter, the Committee will require that The Closing Place indicate its specific agreement to refrain from any future unauthorized practice of law in North Carolina, including (1) advertising in any medium, such as on the internet, in telephone directories, through fee quotations, or in any other way under its own name or any alternate name, in a manner by which it holds itself out as able to provide legal services or advice, including but not limited to the drafting of legal documents, such as warranty deeds and title opinions or abstracts, and (2) preparing, drawing, or drafting any legal documents, including but not limited to general warranty deeds and title opinions or abstracts. Although the Committee has made certain findings and conclusions with regard to The Closing Place's past conduct as set forth above, your agreement is not an admission or consent to these findings and conclusions.

In exchange for your agreement, the Committee will refrain from pursuing a civil injunction against your company unless the Committee receives evidence that The Closing Place engages in these activities after receiving this letter of caution. To signify acceptance of this condition for dismissal, please have an authorized agent of The Closing Place sign this letter, have the signature notarized, and return the letter to me within 15 days of your receipt. Following your return of the executed letter, the matter will be closed and no further action taken unless the Committee receives evidence and information of future activities by The Closing Place constituting the unauthorized practice of law.

If you elect not to enter into the agreement, the Committee will pursue immediate relief through the filing of a complaint seeking to perpetually restrain your unlawful conduct, as the Bar is authorized to do pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-37 and its implementing regulations (copies enclosed). Please feel free to contact the Committee's counsel, Jennifer A. Porter, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



C. Colon Willoughby, Jr., Chair
Authorized Practice Committee

CCW/paa

cc: Complainant

Enclosures

Re: Alleged unauthorized practice of law by The Closing Place, Inc.
North Carolina State Bar file number 02AP0051

I, SHERIDAN E. SNYDER, hereby certify that I am an authorized representative of The Closing Place, Inc.

On behalf of The Closing Place, Inc., I hereby state that The Closing Place, Inc. agrees to refrain from engaging in any actions that constitute the unauthorized practice of law in North Carolina, including (1) advertising on the internet, in telephone directories, or in any other way under its own name or any alternate name, in a manner that holds itself out as able to provide legal services or advice, including but not limited to the drafting of legal documents, and (2) preparing, drawing, or drafting any legal documents.

The Closing Place, Inc. acknowledges that although the Committee has made certain findings and conclusions with regard to The Closing Place's past conduct as set forth in this Letter of Caution to Cease and Desist, the agreement of The Closing Place, Inc. to comply with the above terms is not an admission or consent to these findings and conclusions.

Sheridan E. Snyder
Authorized representative of The Closing Place, Inc.

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this the 21st day of April, 2004.

Diane C. Leisch
Notary Public

My commission expires: 4/3/2008

"OFFICIAL SEAL"
Notary Public, North Carolina
County of Cherokee
Diane C. Leisch
My Commission Expires 4/03/2008