

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Office of Administrative Law Judges  
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**Issue Date: 17 December 2008**

CASE NO.: 2008-SOX-00054

*In the Matter of:*

**LAURA SHATKOWSKI,**  
**Complainant,**

vs.

**MORGAGEIT,**  
**Respondent.**

Appearances: Laura Shatkowski, *in pro per*

Steven J. Pearlman, Esquire  
For the Respondent

Before: Steven B. Berlin  
Administrative Law Judge

**DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT**

This matter arises under the employee protection provisions of Title VIII of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 (SOX), § 806 of the Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. § 1514A, and the implementing regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 1980. On December 15, 2008, the parties filed a Settlement and General Release Agreement. The regulations permit voluntary settlements if the administrative law judge approves; in such cases, the approved settlement constitutes the final order of the Secretary and may be enforced as such. 29 C.F.R. §§ 1980.111(d)(2), 1930.113.

I have carefully reviewed the terms of the Agreement and find the Agreement is fair, adequate, and voluntary as it relates to the SOX case. The Agreement, however, includes terms addressing matters arising under state law and other federal statutes. My authority extends only to matters properly before this Office, which here is the SOX case alone. Additionally, the Agreement provides that the parties shall keep the terms of the settlement confidential, with certain specified exceptions. The parties are advised that their submissions, including the agreement, become part of the record and are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. *See* 5 U.S.C.A. § 552; *see also*,

29 C.F.R. Part 70. Although the parties can and will have to comply with the confidentiality provision, that provision is not binding on the Secretary.

**ORDER**

The Settlement Agreement is **APPROVED**, the parties will comply with its provisions forthwith, and the Complaint is **DISMISSED** with prejudice.

**A**

STEVEN B. BERLIN  
Administrative Law Judge