

EXHIBIT 1

JAMS ARBITRATION
BEFORE
ALEXANDER L. BRAINERD, ESQ. (ARBITRATOR)

OTO ANALYTICS, INC., d/b/a)
WOMPLY,) Case No.:
) 1210038203
)
Claimant/Counter-Respondent,)
)
v.)
)
BENWORTH CAPITAL PARTNERS LLC,)
)
)
Respondent/Counter-Claimant.)
-----)

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
(Volume VIII, Pages 1626 - 1764)
THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023
9:37 a.m.
Full Session

REPORTED BY:
Vickie Blair
CSR No. 8940, RPR-CRR
JOB NO. 5991546

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Arbitration taken on Thursday, June 29, 2023, 9:37 a.m.,
before VICKIE BLAIR, CSR No. 8940, RPR-CRR.

APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL VIA ZOOM:

THE ARBITRATOR:

JAMS

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22
23
24
25

1 form.

2 And then Benworth is correct that you can't
3 rewrite the parties' agreement, that is the allocations
4 that the parties agreed to, they determined that was the
5 value, that was the price to pay for those services.

6 Benworth also argued that Womply is an LSP
7 because it generated a lot of loans. I take that to
8 mean because it collected a lot of loan applications, or
9 information for loan applications, and referred that to
10 the lender, to Benworth.

11 Well, that was done under the referral
12 agreement, so if that is what makes Womply, in
13 Benworth's view, a lender service provider, then perhaps
14 maybe it was the referral agreement that needed to
15 approved by the SBA, but that's not what was being done
16 under the separate order form.

17 But, in any event, our point is, under the
18 law, because this transaction is complete, and the only
19 obligation to be performed under the contract is
20 payment, payment will still be enforced under California
21 law, otherwise, you're rewarding Benworth for not
22 complying with the SBA rules to submit LSP agreements to
23 the SBA.

24 ARBITRATOR BRAINERD: Let me stop you,
25 Mr. Cheney. Just tell me in -- I mean, I know it's in

1 your brief, but just tell me today sort of, if you can,
2 in summary fashion why you believe that Womply is not a
3 lender service provider under the SBA regulations.

4 MR. CHENEY: Because if you look at the
5 actual definition of a lender service provider, and I
6 think I have the language here, all right, give me one
7 minute, it is a lender who carries out lender functions
8 in originating, disbursing, servicing, or liquidating a
9 specific SBA business loan or loan portfolio.

10 So the difficult thing, admittedly, about
11 SBA regulations, but the first part, originating, that
12 term is not defined, but it can't simply be referring
13 loan applications because referral agent is separately
14 defined as a separate type of entity.

15 Disbursing, Womply was not involved in
16 disbursing loans; that was Benworth.

17 Womply did not service the loans, as
18 Benworth concedes; Benworth is servicing the loans.

19 And Womply has not liquidated any of the
20 loans.

21 So, focusing on the definition of a lender
22 service provider, Womply was not performing any of those
23 services, and apparently Benworth agreed because that's
24 what it told the SBA, and that's what it said in
25 Womply's contracts.

1 ARBITRATOR BRAINERD: Can you make a
2 distinction for me between referring and originating?
3 Is there some meaningful distinction, in your mind,
4 between those two activities?

5 MR. CHENEY: So there are other -- in the
6 SOPs it refers to technology service providers that
7 provide technology to lenders that don't involve
8 underwriting are not agents.

9 If an agent is performing underwriting,
10 then they are a lender service provider.

11 So I would interpret, using that guidance,
12 that the term "originating" really means underwriting.

13 ARBITRATOR BRAINERD: Let me ask you next,
14 the following question there, it's your position that
15 Womply was not engaging in underwriting services;
16 correct?

17 MR. CHENEY: That's correct.

18 ARBITRATOR BRAINERD: So let's take the
19 verification activities that you think are supported by
20 the technology fees.

21 I mean, you know, isn't verification part
22 of the underwriting process?

23 MR. CHENEY: So that is something that a
24 lender can use in order to conduct its underwriting
25 activities.

1 We like to think of it this way: That if
2 Womply had not compiled all of these verification
3 services into the platform, Benworth may have had to go
4 out and contract with each one of these service
5 providers individually.

6 For example, Mr. Navarro testified that, in
7 2020, Benworth was using LexisNexis to verify
8 information; that doesn't make LexisNexis a lender
9 service provider.

10 All Womply was doing was compiling these
11 services together in one place, and then, in the
12 contracts with Benworth, they said they were not, you
13 know, saying that these contracts or these applications
14 should be submitted to the SBA or comply with the regs.

15 They applied the technology, they provided
16 the results to the lender, and then it was the lender's
17 decision on whether or not to ask for more information
18 or to submit that information to the SBA.

19 So, ultimately, it was the lender who was
20 doing the underwriting based on the results of
21 technology that was applied by Womply.

22 Simply applying technology and giving the
23 results to the lender does not make that technology
24 service provider a lender service provider --

25 ARBITRATOR BRAINERD: Well, I remember --

1 MR. CHENEY: -- or an underwriter.

2 ARBITRATOR BRAINERD: I remember that in
3 the -- and, again, I may have this not quite right, but
4 I remember in the hearing that all of the Benworth folks
5 agreed that Benworth had the obligation to do a, quote,
6 unquote, "good faith review," and I gather you would
7 contend that's where the actual underwriting took place;
8 right?

9 MR. CHENEY: Yes, that's correct, and they
10 had to actually indicate which loans would be submitted
11 to the SBA for approval; Womply was not involved in that
12 process.

13 ARBITRATOR BRAINERD: Okay. I'm sorry, go
14 ahead, is there anything further you want to make -- any
15 other points you want to make?

16 MR. CHENEY: No, that was all.

17 Thank you, Mr. Brainerd.

18 ARBITRATOR BRAINERD: Mr. Robinson,
19 briefly, anything else?

20 MR. ROBINSON: I do.

21 So the definition of LSP, if you would
22 review it, Mr. Brainerd, it says, "an entity that
23 carries out the functions of originating."

24 Not just originating, but the functions.

25 And can any of us really conclude, after