

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,  
Appellant,  
vs.  
SUZANNAH R. NOONAN,  
Respondent.

No. 68473

FILED

DEC 14 2017

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
BY *Elizabeth Brown*  
DEPUTY CLERK

*ORDER OF AFFIRMANCE*

This is an appeal from a summary judgment in a quiet title action. Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County; Michelle Leavitt, Judge. We review the summary judgment de novo, *Wood v. Safeway, Inc.*, 121 Nev. 724, 729, 121 P.3d 1026, 1029 (2005), and affirm.

Appellant Wells Fargo Bank challenges the relevant provisions in NRS Chapter 116, arguing that federal mortgage insurance programs preempt the statutory scheme and that the statutory scheme violates its due process rights and authorizes an unconstitutional governmental taking of private property. This court's decisions in *Renfro v. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC*, 133 Nev., Adv. Op. 50, 398 P.3d 904 (2017) (rejecting preemption argument), and *Saticoy Bay LLC Series 350 Durango 104 v. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage*, 133 Nev., Adv. Op. 5, 388 P.3d 970 (2017) (rejecting due process and takings challenges), foreclose those challenges.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>We need not address Wells Fargo's argument that NRS 116.3116 uses an "opt-in" notice scheme because it would not change the holding in *Saticoy Bay* that due process is not implicated, which was based on the absence of state action. See 133 Nev., Adv. Op. 5, 388 P.3d at 974. Nevertheless, we note that this court has observed that NRS 116.31168

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Wells Fargo also asserts that there are genuine issues of material fact that preclude summary judgment, namely that the foreclosure sale was commercially unreasonable based on the inadequacy of the purchase price. This court has long held that inadequacy of price alone is not sufficient to set aside a foreclosure sale. *Nationstar Mortg. v. Saticoy Bay LLC Series 2227 Shadow Canyon*, 133 Nev., Adv. Op. 91 at 12-17, \_\_\_ P.3d \_\_\_ (2017) (discussing cases and reaffirming that inadequate price alone is insufficient to set aside a foreclosure sale). Instead, the party seeking to set aside a foreclosure sale must demonstrate some element of fraud, unfairness, or oppression. *Id.* at 10-11. Although a grossly inadequate price may require only slight evidence of fraud, unfairness, or oppression to set aside a foreclosure sale, *id.* at 15-16, Wells Fargo does not point to any evidence other than the inadequacy of the purchase price.

Finally, Wells Fargo argues that the district court erred in treating the recitals in the trustee's deed as conclusive proof that the foreclosure sale complied with the statutory requirements for a valid foreclosure sale. We conclude that the district court did not err.

NRS 116.31166 affords conclusive effect to certain recitals included in a trustee's deed.<sup>2</sup> Despite NRS 116.31166, we have indicated

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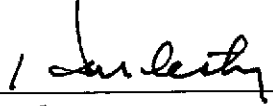
(2013) incorporated NRS 107.090 (2013), which required that notices be sent to a deed of trust beneficiary. *SFR Inv. Pool 1 v. U.S. Bank*, 130 Nev., Adv. Op. 75, 334 P.3d 408, 418 (2014); *id.* at 422 (Gibbons, C.J., dissenting); see also *Bourne Valley Court Tr. v. Wells Fargo Bank, NA*, 832 F.3d 1154, 1163-64 (9th Cir. 2016) (Wallace, J., dissenting).

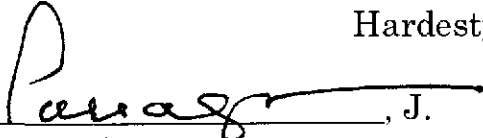
<sup>2</sup>Because the foreclosure sale occurred before October 1, 2015, the 2015 amendments to NRS 116.31166 do not apply. 2015 Nev. Stat., ch. 266, § 9(4), at 1349. All references to the statute are to the version in effect before those amendments.

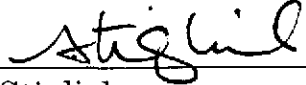
that courts have the power “to grant equitable relief from a defective foreclosure sale when appropriate.” *Shadow Wood Homeowners Ass’n v. N.Y. Cmty. Bancorp, Inc.*, 132 Nev., Adv. Op. 5, 366 P.3d 1105, 1110-11 (2016). Thus, where the trustee’s deed includes the recitals made conclusive by operation of NRS 116.31166, the burden falls on the party challenging the foreclosure sale to demonstrate sufficient facts to justify setting it aside. *See id.* at 1112. The district court’s order indicates that it considered the equities but found against Wells Fargo because it offered no evidence to justify setting aside the foreclosure sale on equitable grounds. On appeal, Wells Fargo has not identified any such evidence in the record aside from the purchase price, which as indicated above is not sufficient standing alone. Under the circumstances, the district court correctly determined that respondent was entitled to summary judgment. *See SFR Inv. Pool 1 v. U.S. Bank*, 130 Nev., Adv. Op. 75, 334 P.3d 408, 419 (2014) (holding that proper foreclosure of the superpriority piece of a homeowners’ association’s lien extinguishes a first deed of trust); *see also Wood*, 121 Nev. at 731, 121 P.3d at 1031 (“The substantive law controls which factual disputes are material and will preclude summary judgment; other factual disputes are irrelevant.”); *id.* at 732, 121 P.3d at 1031 (explaining that while pleadings and evidence “must be construed in a light most favorable to the nonmoving party,” the nonmoving party cannot rely on speculation or conjecture to avoid summary judgment being entered against it but instead “must, by affidavit or otherwise, set forth specific facts demonstrating the existence of

a genuine issue for trial” (quoting *Bulbman, Inc. v. Nev. Bell*, 108 Nev. 105, 110, 825 P.2d 588, 591 (1992))).<sup>3</sup> We therefore

ORDER the judgment of the district court AFFIRMED.

  
\_\_\_\_\_, J.  
Hardesty

  
\_\_\_\_\_, J.  
Parraguirre

  
\_\_\_\_\_, J.  
Stiglich

cc: Hon. Michelle Leavitt, District Judge  
John Walter Boyer, Settlement Judge  
Snell & Wilmer, LLP/Tucson  
Snell & Wilmer, LLP/Las Vegas  
The Law Office of Mike Beede, PLLC  
Eighth District Court Clerk

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<sup>3</sup>We decline Wells Fargo’s invitation to revisit *SFR Investments* on the ground that it conflicts with public policy that favors providing homeowners with options to avoid foreclosure.