

# California “goons” bullied Florida attorney accused of cheating homeowners, report says

- [Kimberly Miller](#)

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A Florida lawyer facing a lawsuit that alleges his firm duped homeowners nationwide into signing up for ineffective lawsuits against their banks said he was bullied by “goons in California” to continue the operation.

Ian Berger, a Tampa-area attorney, was sued in July by Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and the Connecticut Department of Legal Affairs in a complaint that says his firm charged \$6,000 up front fees and \$500 per month to homeowners seeking foreclosure help.

The lawsuit names multiple entities, including the Berger Law Group, The Resolution Law Group and the Resolution Law Center. Also named are Tampa attorney Ian Berger, Connecticut attorney Robert Geoffrey Broderick, California resident Gary DiGirolamo and Tampa resident David Friedman.

The case is strikingly similar to the Florida attorney general's lawsuit against the North Palm Beach -based Hoffman Law Group, which was shut down in July after years of selling mass-joinder lawsuits to homeowners as a way to save their homes. Consumer groups have long warned about the lawsuits, which have mostly been thrown out in federal court.

Attorney Mark Bernet, of Akerman LLP, was appointed receiver in both cases. He issued his report on the Hoffman Law Group in September. His initial report on the case against the Berger Law Group was filed with the court Oct. 24.

The Berger report says the lawyer had little role in the actual practice of law at his firm. Instead, Bernet said the operation was run by DiGirolamo and a man named Christopher "Kit" Wright, who is also a defendant in the suit.

"Berger referred to DiGirolamo and Kit Wright as 'the goons in California'," Bernet wrote. "Berger said that he also felt threatened. There was not one occasion, rather these threat were continuously made."

Berger told the receiver; "DiGirolamo would harass me by calling me non-stop and especially in the middle of the night. He is a bully and was relentless unless he got his way."

*More at <http://realtime.blog.palmbeachpost.com/2014/11/03/california-goons-bullied-florida-attorney-accused-of-cheating-homeowners-report-says/>*