GLOSSARY OF TERMS

THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST OF TERMS, PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE TERMS IN YOUR MATERIAL AND IN THE REAL ESTATE MANUAL.

Abstract of title A summary or condensation of the essential parts of all recorded instruments which affect a particular piece of real estate, arranged in the order in which they were recorded.

Acceleration clause A clause in your mortgage which allows the lender to demand payment of the outstanding loan balance for various reasons. The most common reasons for accelerating a loan are if the borrower defaults on the loan or transfers title to another individual without informing the lender.

Acceptance An indication by an offeree of willingness to be bound by the terms of the offer.

Adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) A mortgage in which the interest changes periodically, according to corresponding fluctuations in an index. All ARMs are tied to indexes.

Adjustment date The date the interest rate changes on an adjustable-rate mortgage.

Acknowledgment A declaration made by a person to a notary public, or other public official authorized to take acknowledgments, that the instrument was executed by the person and that it is a free and voluntary act.

Acre foot A term used in measuring the volume of water, equal to the quantity of water required to cover one acre one foot deep, or 43,560 cu. ft.

Administrator A person appointed by the court to administer the estate of a deceased person who died intestate (without leaving a will).

Ad valorem Latin meaning “according to value”; normally used to describe a tax based on the assessed value of real property.
**Adverse possession**  The right of an occupant of land to acquire a superior title to the real estate against the record owner, where such possession has been actual, notorious, hostile, visible and continuous for the required statutory period (18 years in Colorado). Adverse possession promotes the productive use of land by giving title to the one putting the land to use.

**Affidavit**  A written statement or declaration, sworn to or affirmed before some officer who has authority to administer an oath or affirmation.

**Agency**  A legal relationship resulting from an agreement or contract, either expressed or implied, written or oral, whereby one person, the agent, is employed by another, called the principal, to do certain acts in dealing with a third party.

**Agent**  Any person, partnership, association, or corporation authorized or employed by another, called the principal, to act for, on behalf of, and subject to the control of the principal.

**Alienation**  Transfer of real property by one person to another.

**Amenities**  In real estate, amenities are features such as location, outlook, or access to a park, lake, highway, view or the like which enhance the desirability of real estate and which contribute to the pleasure and enjoyment of the occupants.

**Amortization**  The loan payment consists of a portion which will be applied to pay the accruing interest on a loan, with the remainder being applied to the principal. Over time, the interest portion decreases as the loan balance decreases, and the amount applied to principal increases so that the loan is paid off (amortized) in the specified time.

**Amortization schedule**  A table which shows how much of each payment will be applied toward principal and how much toward interest over the life of the loan. It also shows the gradual decrease of the loan balance until it reaches zero.
**Annual percentage rate (APR)**  This is not the note rate on your loan. It is a value created according to a government formula intended to reflect the true annual cost of borrowing, expressed as a percentage. It works sort of like this, but not exactly, so only use this as a guideline: deduct the closing costs from your loan amount, then using your actual loan payment, calculate what the interest rate would be on this amount instead of your actual loan amount. You will come up with a number close to the APR. Because you are using the same payment on a smaller amount, the APR is always higher than the actual note rate on your loan.

**Application**  The form used to apply for a mortgage loan, containing information about a borrower's income, savings, assets, debts, and more.

**Appraisal**  A written justification of the price paid for a property, primarily based on an analysis of comparable sales of similar homes nearby.

**Appraised value**  An opinion of a property's fair market value, based on an appraiser's knowledge, experience, and analysis of the property. Since an appraisal is based primarily on comparable sales, and the most recent sale is the one on the property in question, the appraisal usually comes out at the purchase price.

**Appraiser**  An individual qualified by education, training, and experience to estimate the value of real property and personal property. Although some appraisers work directly for mortgage lenders, most are independent.

**Appreciation**  The increase in the value of a property due to changes in market conditions, inflation, or other causes.

** Appropriation**  The act(s) involved in the taking and reducing to personal possession of water occurring in a stream or other body of water, and of applying such water to beneficial use.

**Appropriator**  One who diverts and puts to beneficial use the water of a stream or other body of water, under a water right obtained through appropriation.
Appurtenance That which belongs to something else; something adapted to the use of the real property to which it is connected or belongs intended to be a permanent addition to the land. Appurtenances pass with the title to the land, e.g. a house, barn, garage, right-of-way, etc.

As Is Condition Disclaiming any warranties or representations regarding the condition of a property.

Assessed value The valuation placed on property by a public tax assessor for purposes of taxation.

Assessment The placing of a value on property for the purpose of taxation.

Assessor A public official who establishes the value of a property for taxation purposes.

Asset Items of value owned by an individual. Assets that can be quickly converted into cash are considered "liquid assets." These include bank accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and so on. Other assets include real estate, personal property, and debts owed to an individual by others.

Assignee The party to whom a legal right has been assigned or transferred.

Assignment When ownership of your mortgage is transferred from one company or individual to another, it is called an assignment.

Assignor The party who assigns or transfers a legal right.

Associate Broker A real estate license classification used in some states to describe a person who has qualified as a real estate broker but still works for and is supervised by another broker, also called a broker-salesperson, broker associate or affiliate broker.

Assumable mortgage A mortgage that can be assumed by the buyer when a home is sold. Usually, the borrower must "qualify" in order to assume the loan.
**Assumption**  The term applied when a buyer assumes the seller's mortgage.

**Attachment**  A type of encumbrance, permitted only under special circumstances, which is placed against the real estate of a defendant in a pending law suit for money damages

**Attorney's opinion**  In real estate, the written opinion of an attorney-at-law regarding the marketability of title to real property based upon an examination of the abstract of title or the records in the county clerk and recorder's office.

**Balance sheet**  A statement showing a company's financial position at the end of an accounting period by listing assets, liabilities and owner's equity

**Balloon mortgage**  A mortgage loan that requires the remaining principal balance be paid at a specific point in time. For example, a loan may be amortized as if it would be paid over a thirty year period, but requires that at the end of the tenth year the entire remaining balance must be paid.

**Balloon payment**  The final lump sum payment that is due at the termination of a balloon mortgage.

**Bargain and sale deed**  Any deed that recites consideration and purports to convey the real estate. A bargain and sale deed with a covenant against the grantor's acts warrants only that he or she has done nothing to harm or cloud the title.

**Bankruptcy**  By filing in federal bankruptcy court, an individual or individuals can restructure or relieve themselves of debts and liabilities. Bankruptcies are of various types, but the most common for an individual seem to be a "Chapter 7 No Asset" bankruptcy which relieves the borrower of most types of debts. A borrower cannot usually qualify for an "A" paper loan for a period of two years after the bankruptcy has been discharged and requires the re-establishment of an ability to repay debt.

**Beneficiary**  The person who benefits from certain acts, e.g. a will; one receiving benefits, profits or advantage; one for whose benefit a trust is created.
Bill of sale  A written document that transfers title to personal property. For example, when selling an automobile to acquire funds which will be used as a source of down payment or for closing costs, the lender will usually require the bill of sale (in addition to other items) to help document this source of funds.

Biweekly mortgage  A mortgage in which you make payments every two weeks instead of once a month. The basic result is that instead of making twelve monthly payments during the year, you make thirteen. The extra payment reduces the principal, substantially reducing the time it takes to pay off a thirty year mortgage. Note: there are independent companies that encourage you to set up bi-weekly payment schedules with them on your thirty year mortgage. They charge a set-up fee and a transfer fee for every payment. Your funds are deposited into a trust account from which your monthly payment is then made, and the excess funds then remain in the trust account until enough has accrued to make the additional payment which will then be paid to reduce your principle. You could save money by doing the same thing yourself, plus you have to have faith that once you transfer money to them that they will actually transfer your funds to your lender.

Blanket mortgage  A mortgage that covers more than one piece of property.

Bond market  Usually refers to the daily buying and selling of thirty year treasury bonds. Lenders follow this market intensely because as the yields of bonds go up and down, fixed rate mortgages do approximately the same thing. The same factors that affect the Treasury Bond market also affect mortgage rates at the same time. That is why rates change daily, and in a volatile market can and do change during the day as well.

Bridge loan  Not used much anymore, bridge loans are obtained by those who have not yet sold their previous property, but must close on a purchase property. The bridge loan becomes the source of their funds for the down payment. One reason for their fall from favor is that there are more and more second mortgage lenders now that will lend at a high loan to value. In addition, sellers often prefer to accept offers from buyers who have already sold their property.
**Broker**  Broker has several meanings in different situations. Most Realtors are "agents" who work under a "broker." Some agents are brokers as well, either working for themselves or under another broker. In the mortgage industry, broker usually refers to a company or individual that does not lend the money for the loans themselves, but broker loans to larger lenders or investors. (See the Home Loan Library that discusses the different types of lenders). As a normal definition, a broker is anyone who acts as an agent, bringing two parties together for any type of transaction and earns a fee for doing so.

**Broker Associate**  See Associate broker

**Building code**  Local government regulations specifying structural requirements of buildings.

**Buydown**  Usually refers to a fixed rate mortgage where the interest rate is "bought down" for a temporary period, usually one to three years. After that time and for the remainder of the term, the borrower's payment is calculated at the note rate. In order to buy down the initial rate for the temporary payment, a lump sum is paid and held in an account used to supplement the borrower's monthly payment. These funds usually come from the seller (or some other source) as a financial incentive to induce someone to buy their property. A "lender funded buydown" is when the lender pays the initial lump sum. They can accomplish this because the note rate on the loan (after the buydown adjustments) will be higher than the current market rate. One reason for doing this is because the borrower may get to "qualify" at the start rate and can qualify for a higher loan amount. Another reason is that a borrower may expect his earnings to go up substantially in the near future, but wants a lower payment right now.

**Buyer agent**  A broker engaged by and representing the buyer in a real estate transaction and agency must be in writing.

**Cap**  Adjustable Rate Mortgages have fluctuating interest rates, but those fluctuations are usually limited to a certain amount. Those limitations may apply to how much the loan may adjust over a six month period, an annual period, and over the life of the loan, and are referred to as "caps." Some ARMs, although they may have a life cap, allow the interest rate to fluctuate freely, but require a certain minimum payment which can change once a
year. There is a limit on how much that payment can change each year, and that limit is also referred to as a cap.

**Capitalization rate**  A percentage rate of change applied in the income approach to value.

**Cash basis accounting**  Recognizing revenue and expense when cash is received or disbursed rather than when earned or incurred. A service business not dealing in inventory has the option of using the cash or accrual basis of accounting. Individual taxpayers must use the accrual basis.

**Cash flow**  Cash receipts minus cash disbursements from an operation or asset. An annual cash flow statement shows total return after taxes.

**Cash-out refinance**  When a borrower refines his mortgage at a higher amount than the current loan balance with the intention of pulling out money for personal use, it is referred to as a "cash out refinance."

**Caveat emptor**  Latin phrase meaning “let the buyer beware.”, formerly imposing a duty on the buyer to examine the products or property accepting them “as is”.

**Certificate of deposit**  A time deposit held in a bank which pays a certain amount of interest to the depositor.

**Certificate of deposit index**  One of the indexes used for determining interest rate changes on some adjustable rate mortgages. It is an average of what banks are paying on certificates of deposit.

**Certificate of Eligibility**  A document issued by the Veterans Administration that certifies a veteran’s eligibility for a VA loan.

**Certificate of Reasonable Value (CRV)**  Once the appraisal has been performed on a property being bought with a VA loan, the Veterans Administration issues a CRV.
**Certificate of taxes**  A written guaranty of the condition of the taxes on a certain property made by the county treasurer wherein the property is located. Any loss resulting from an error in a tax certificate shall be paid by the county that such treasurer represents.

**Chain of title**  An analysis of the transfers of title to a piece of property over the years.

**Chapter 7**  Provision of the 1978 Bankruptcy Reform Act that covers liquidations under a court appointed trustee.

**Chattel**  Property other than real estate, i.e. personal property; an item of movable property.

**Check**  Synonym for quadrangle, a 24 mile square tract of land in the Governmental Survey System.

**Clear title**  A title that is free of liens or legal questions as to ownership of the property.

**Closing**  This has different meanings in different states. In some states a real estate transaction is not consider "closed" until the documents record at the local recorders office. In others, the "closing" is a meeting where all of the documents are signed and money changes hands.

**Closing costs**  Closing costs are separated into what are called "non-recurring closing costs" and "pre-paid items." Non-recurring closing costs are any items which are paid just once as a result of buying the property or obtaining a loan. "Pre-paids" are items which recur over time, such as property taxes and homeowners insurance. A lender makes an attempt to estimate the amount of non-recurring closing costs and prepaid items on the Good Faith Estimate which they must issue to the borrower within three days of receiving a home loan application.

**Closing Disclosure**  Replaces the HUD-1 and the final TIL disclosure, and the TIL forms that summarized both TIL disclosures. The Closing Disclosure must be received by the consumer three days before closing, and the lender must have proof of receipt.
**Closing statement**  See Settlement Statement.

**Cloud on title**  Any conditions revealed by a title search that adversely affect the title to real estate. Usually clouds on title cannot be removed except by deed, release, or court action.

**Co-borrower**  An additional individual who is both obligated on the loan and is on title to the property.

**Collateral**  In a home loan, the property is the collateral. The borrower risks losing the property if the loan is not repaid according to the terms of the mortgage or deed of trust.

**Collection**  When a borrower falls behind, the lender contacts them in an effort to bring the loan current. The loan goes to "collection." As part of the collection effort, the lender must mail and record certain documents in case they are eventually required to foreclose on the property.

**Commission**  Most salespeople earn commissions for the work that they do and there are many sales professionals involved in each transaction, including Realtors, loan officers, title representatives, attorneys, escrow representative, and representatives for pest companies, home warranty companies, home inspection companies, insurance agents, and more. The commissions are paid out of the charges paid by the seller or buyer in the purchase transaction. Realtors generally earn the largest commissions, followed by lenders, then the others.

**Colorado Association of REALTORS®** – (C.A.R). the state organization of real estate licensees whose goal is the professional advancement of the real estate industry and whose membership is comprised of local real estate associations or boards.

**Colorado Coordinate System**  A method of land description based on measurements from the intersection of statutorily defined north-south and east-west axes; applied only in Delta and Ute Counties.

**Commingling**  Mixing money belonging to others with personal or business funds. Illegal commingling is using the money of one beneficiary for the benefit of another or failing to maintain such money in identified escrow accounts.
**Common area assessments**  In some areas they are called Homeowners Association Fees. They are charges paid to the Homeowners Association by the owners of the individual units in a condominium or planned unit development (PUD) and are generally used to maintain the property and common areas.

**Common areas**  Those portions of a building, land, and amenities owned (or managed) by a planned unit development (PUD) or condominium project's homeowners' association (or a cooperative project's cooperative corporation) that are used by all of the unit owners, who share in the common expenses of their operation and maintenance. Common areas include swimming pools, tennis courts, and other recreational facilities, as well as common corridors of buildings, parking areas, means of ingress and egress, etc.

**Common law**  An unwritten body of law based on general custom in England and used to an extent in some states.

**Community property**  In some states, especially the southwest, property acquired by a married couple during their marriage is considered to be owned jointly, except under special circumstances. This is an outgrowth of the Spanish and Mexican heritage of the area.

**Comparable sales**  Recent sales of similar properties in nearby areas and used to help determine the market value of a property. Also referred to as "comps."

**Condominium**  A type of ownership in real property where all of the owners own the property, common areas and buildings together, with the exception of the interior of the unit to which they have title. Often mistakenly referred to as a type of construction or development, it actually refers to the type of ownership.

**Condominium conversion**  Changing the ownership of an existing building (usually a rental project) to the condominium form of ownership.

**Condominium hotel**  A condominium project that has rental or registration desks, short-term occupancy, food and telephone services, and daily cleaning services and that is operated as a commercial hotel even though
the units are individually owned. These are often found in resort areas like Hawaii.

**Consideration**  A promise or an act of legal value bargained for and received in return for a promise; one of the essential elements of a contract.

**Construction loan**  A short-term, interim loan for financing the cost of construction. The lender makes payments to the builder at periodic intervals as the work progresses.

**Constructive (or legal) notice**  The conclusive presumption that all persons have knowledge of the contents of a recorded instrument.

**Contingency**  A condition that must be met before a contract is legally binding. For example, home purchasers often include a contingency that specifies that the contract is not binding until the purchaser obtains a satisfactory home inspection report from a qualified home inspector.

**Contract**  An oral or written agreement to do or not to do a certain thing.

**Conventional mortgage**  Refers to home loans other than government loans (VA and FHA).

**Conversion**  Unauthorized appropriation of ownership rights over goods or property belonging to another; also altering one form of property to another such as changing a leasehold apartment building to freehold condominium ownership.

**Convertible ARM**  An adjustable-rate mortgage that allows the borrower to change the ARM to a fixed-rate mortgage within a specific time.

**Conveyance**  An instrument in writing by which a person transfers some estate, interest, or title in real estate to another, such as a deed or lease.

**Covenant**  A promise or agreement, usually in writing, to do or not do certain acts; also stipulations in a real estate conveyance document governing use of the property.
Cooperative (co-op)  A type of multiple ownership in which the residents of a multiunit housing complex own shares in the cooperative corporation that owns the property, giving each resident the right to occupy a specific apartment or unit.

Cost of funds index (COFI)  One of the indexes that is used to determine interest rate changes for certain adjustable-rate mortgages. It represents the weighted-average cost of savings, borrowings, and advances of the financial institutions such as banks and savings & loans, in the 11th District of the Federal Home Loan Bank.

Credit  An agreement in which a borrower receives something of value in exchange for a promise to repay the lender at a later date.

Credit history  A record of an individual’s repayment of debt. Credit histories are reviewed by mortgage lenders as one of the underwriting criteria in determining credit risk.

Creditor  A person to whom money is owed.

Credit report  A report of an individual’s credit history prepared by a credit bureau and used by a lender in determining a loan applicant's creditworthiness.

Credit repository  An organization that gathers, records, updates, and stores financial and public records information about the payment records of individuals who are being considered for credit.

Cubage  The product of multiplying width x height x depth (or length) of an object.

Cubic foot per second  A unit of discharge for measurement of flowing liquid, equal to a flow of one cubic foot per second past a given section. Also called “second-foot”.

Cul-de-sac  A street which dead-ends in a semi-circle.

Curtesy  A common-law life-estate in all of a wife’s real property given to the husband upon her death, provided a child was born from their marriage; abolished in Colorado.
**Customer**  A party to a real estate transaction with whom the broker has no brokerage relationship because such party has not engaged or employed a broker.

**Debt**  An amount owed to another.

**Declaration**  A recorded instrument that defines boundaries and common elements of a condominium and provides for the creation of an owners’ association including a board of directors with authority to collect common expenses and otherwise act for the benefit of all owners.

**Dedication**  Transfer of land from private to public use, as streets in a platted subdivision.

**Deed**  The legal document conveying title to a property.

**Deed-in-lieu**  Short for "deed in lieu of foreclosure," this conveys title to the lender when the borrower is in default and wants to avoid foreclosure. The lender may or may not cease foreclosure activities if a borrower asks to provide a deed-in-lieu. Regardless of whether the lender accepts the deed-in-lieu, the avoidance and non-repayment of debt will most likely show on a credit history. What a deed-in-lieu may prevent is having the documents preparatory to a foreclosure being recorded and become a matter of public record.

**Deed restriction**  A provision in a deed controlling or limiting the use of the land.

**Deed of trust**  Some states, like California, do not record mortgages. Instead, they record a deed of trust which is essentially the same thing.

**Default**  Failure to make the mortgage payment within a specified period of time. For first mortgages or first trust deeds, if a payment has still not been made within 30 days of the due date, the loan is considered to be in default.

**Defeasible**  fee  (base- or qualified fee)  A fee interest in land that is capable of being defeated or terminated upon the happening of a specified event.
Deficiency judgment  A lien against borrower's remaining assets in an amount equal to the shortage between a foreclosure sale price less than the indebtedness owed.

Delinquency  Failure to make mortgage payments when mortgage payments are due. For most mortgages, payments are due on the first day of the month. Even though they may not charge a "late fee" for a number of days, the payment is still considered to be late and the loan delinquent. When a loan payment is more than 30 days late, most lenders report the late payment to one or more credit bureaus.

Deposit  A sum of money given in advance of a larger amount being expected in the future. Often called in real estate as an "earnest money deposit."

Depreciation  A decline in the value of property; the opposite of appreciation. Depreciation is also an accounting term which shows the declining monetary value of an asset and is used as an expense to reduce taxable income. Since this is not a true expense where money is actually paid, lenders will add back depreciation expense for self-employed borrowers and count it as income.

Designated broker  An employing or employed broker designated in writing by an employing broker to serve as a single agent or transaction-broker for a seller, landlord, buyer or tenant in a real estate transaction; does not include a real estate brokerage firm that consists of only one licensed natural person

Devise  A gift of real property by the last will and testament of a donor

Discount points  In the mortgage industry, this term is usually used in only in reference to government loans, meaning FHA and VA loans. Discount points refer to any "points" paid in addition to the one percent loan origination fee. A "point" is one percent of the loan amount.

Diversion  Illegal or unauthorized use of entrusted funds.
**Documentary fee**  A statutory Colorado tax of one cent per one hundred dollars (sale price x .0001) of consideration paid by a person recording an instrument of conveyance with a county clerk and recorder.

**Donee**  Receiver of a gift

**Donor**  Giver of a gift.

**Dower**  A common-law estate consisting of a one-third interest in a husband’s real property given to his wife upon his death. Abolished in Colorado

**Down payment**  The part of the purchase price of a property that the buyer pays in cash and does not finance with a mortgage.

**Dual Agent**  – An agent who represents both the seller and the buyer in a real estate transaction.

**Due Diligence**  – The act of best effort of ensuring that all statements about the real property are true.

**Due-on-sale clause**  A provision in a mortgage that allows the lender to demand repayment in full if the borrower sells the property that serves as security for the mortgage.

**Duress**  Forcing action or inaction against a person’s will

**Earnest money deposit**  A deposit made by the potential home buyer to show that he or she is serious about buying the house.

**Easement**  A legal document on certain property giving persons other than the owner the right of way, access and limited use or enjoyment of the land involved. (Example, power companies sometimes need a right of way for power lines.) Closing documents and/or land surveys will describe and show such easements. These easements must be acceptable to the mortgage company before the buyer can consummate a binding closing

**Easement appurtenant**  An easement that runs with the land

**Easement by necessity**  An easement created by a court of law
**Easement by prescription** A right acquired by an adverse user to use the land of another

**Easement in gross** The limited right of one person to use another’s land (servient estate) when such right is not created for the benefit of any land owned by the owner of the easement. The easement attaches personally to the owner, not to the land

**Economic life** The period of time over which improved property may be profitably used.

Economic obsolescence A specific kind of external obsolescence in which a reduction in value is caused by a situation that adversely affects the economics of an area, such as the relocation of a major industry. A loss of value (typically incurable)

**Effective age** An appraiser’s estimate of the physical condition of a building. The actual age of a building may be shorter or longer than its effective age.

**Eminent domain** The right of a government to take private property for public use upon payment of its fair market value. Eminent domain is the basis for condemnation proceedings.

**Employing broker** A license level qualifying a broker to employ other licensees, requiring two years of active licensed experience, a 24-hour “brokerage administration” course if licensed after December 31, 1996 and passage of the Colorado part of the broker licensing exam if upgrade to broker associate from salesperson was by means of the broker transition course.

**Encroachment** An improvement that intrudes illegally on another's property.

**Encumbrance** Anything that affects or limits the fee simple title to a property, such as mortgages, leases, easements, or restrictions.
**Endorsement**  Signing one’s name on a negotiable instrument with intent to transfer ownership; also an addition altering or clarifying coverage of an (title) insurance policy.

**Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA)**  A federal law that requires lenders and other creditors to make credit equally available without discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, or receipt of income from public assistance programs.

**Equity**  A homeowner's financial interest in a property. Equity is the difference between the fair market value of the property and the amount still owed on its mortgage and other liens.

**Escheat**  Reversion of property to the state when an owner dies without leaving a will or legal heirs to whom the property may pass by lawful descent.

**Escrow**  An item of value, money, or documents deposited with a third party to be delivered upon the fulfillment of a condition. For example, the earnest money deposit is put into escrow until delivered to the seller when the transaction is closed.

**Escrow account**  Once you close your purchase transaction, you may have an escrow account or impound account with your lender. This means the amount you pay each month includes an amount above what would be required if you were only paying your principal and interest. The extra money is held in your impound account (escrow account) for the payment of items like property taxes and homeowner's insurance when they come due. The lender pays them with your money instead of you paying them yourself.

**Escrow agreement**  A written agreement whereby a grantor, promissor or obligor delivers certain instruments or property to an escrow agent, to be held until the happening of a contingency or performance of a condition, and then to be delivered to the grantee, promisee or obligee.

**Escrow analysis**  Once each year your lender will perform an "escrow analysis" to make sure they are collecting the correct amount of money for the anticipated expenditures.
**Escrow disbursements**  The use of escrow funds to pay real estate taxes, hazard insurance, mortgage insurance, and other property expenses as they become due.

**Estate**  The ownership interest of an individual in real property. The sum total of all the real property and personal property owned by an individual at time of death.

**Estate (tenancy) at sufferance**  An estate in land arising when the tenant wrongfully holds over after the expiration of the tenant’s term; the landlord has the choice of evicting the tenant as a trespasser or accepting such tenant for a similar term and under the conditions of the tenant’s previous holding.

**Estate (tenancy) at will**  An interest in land terminable at the will of either the tenant or landlord.

**Estate (tenancy) for years**  An interest in land for a fixed period of time, e.g. one day or 99 years.

**Estate from period-to-period (periodic tenancy)**  An interest in land with no contract date of termination. The rental period (week, month or year, etc.) renews by payment of the contract rent.

**et al.**  Latin abbreviation for “et allus”, meaning “and others”.

**et ux.**  Latin abbreviation for “et uxor”, meaning “and wife”.

**Eviction**  The lawful expulsion of an occupant from real property.

**Examination of title**  The report on the title of a property from the public records or an abstract of the title.

**Exclusive right-to-sell listing**  A listing whereby the owner engages one real estate brokerage as sole broker for a specified period of time, entitling the broker to a commission regardless of who sells the property, including the owner.

**Execution**  A writ issued by a court to the sheriff directing seizure and sale of a property to satisfy a debt; the act of signing a contract; completion of the terms of a contract.
**Executor** A person named in a will to administer an estate. The court will appoint an administrator if no executor is named. "Executrix" is the feminine form.

**Fair Credit Reporting Act** A consumer protection law that regulates the disclosure of consumer credit reports by consumer/credit reporting agencies and establishes procedures for correcting mistakes on one's credit record.

**Fair market value** The highest price that a buyer, willing but not compelled to buy, would pay, and the lowest a seller, willing but not compelled to sell, would accept.

**Fannie Mae (FNMA)** The Federal National Mortgage Association, which is a congressionally chartered, shareholder-owned company that is the nation's largest supplier of home mortgage funds. For a discussion of the roles of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac (FHLMC), and Ginnie Mae (GNMA), see the Library.

**Fannie Mae's Community Home Buyer's Program** An income-based community lending model, under which mortgage insurers and Fannie Mae offer flexible underwriting guidelines to increase a low- or moderate-income family's buying power and to decrease the total amount of cash needed to purchase a home. Borrowers who participate in this model are required to attend pre-purchase home-buyer education sessions.

**Federal Housing Administration (FHA)** An agency of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Its main activity is the insuring of residential mortgage loans made by private lenders. The FHA sets standards for construction and underwriting but does not lend money or plan or construct housing.

**Fee simple** The greatest possible interest a person can have in real estate.

**Fee simple estate** An unconditional, unlimited estate of inheritance that represents the greatest estate and most extensive interest in land that can
be enjoyed. It is of perpetual duration. When the real estate is in a condominium project, the unit owner is the exclusive owner only of the air space within his or her portion of the building (the unit) and is an owner in common with respect to the land and other common portions of the property.

**Fee tail** An estate in land which cannot be conveyed but which must descend to the heirs of the holder; abolished in Colorado.

**FHA mortgage** A mortgage that is insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Along with VA loans, an FHA loan will often be referred to as a government loan.

**Fiduciary** A person in a position of trust relative to another party; confidential, as in a fiduciary relationship between an agent and the principal.

**Firm commitment** A lender's agreement to make a loan to a specific borrower on a specific property.

**First mortgage** The mortgage that is in first place among any loans recorded against a property. Usually refers to the date in which loans are recorded, but there are exceptions.

**First Right Of Refusal** - A legal right by an individual giving that person the first opportunity to purchase or lease real property.

**Fixed-rate mortgage** A mortgage in which the interest rate does not change during the entire term of the loan.

**Fixture** Personal property that becomes real property when attached in a permanent manner to real estate.

**Flood insurance** Insurance that compensates for physical property damage resulting from flooding. It is required for properties located in federally designated flood areas.

**Foreclosure** The legal process by which a borrower in default under a mortgage is deprived of his or her interest in the mortgaged property. This
usually involves a forced sale of the property at public auction with the proceeds of the sale being applied to the mortgage debt.

**Functional obsolescence**  A loss in value of an improvement due to functional inadequacies caused by age or poor design.

**Government loan (mortgage)**  Mortgage that is insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or the Rural Housing Service (RHS). Mortgages that are not government loans are classified as conventional loans.

**Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae)**  A government-owned corporation within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Created by Congress on September 1, 1968, GNMA performs the same role as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in providing funds to lenders for making home loans. The difference is that Ginnie Mae provides funds for government loans (FHA and VA).

**Grantee**  The person to whom an interest in real property is conveyed.

**Grantor**  The person conveying an interest in real property.

**Gross income multiplier**. A number used in the income approach to value used to compare potential desirability of income properties, and calculated by dividing sales price by gross annual income.

**Ground water**. A pervious formation with sides and bottom of relatively impervious material, in which ground water is held or retained; also called subsurface water basin.

**Hazard insurance**  Insurance coverage that in the event of physical damage to a property from fire, wind, vandalism, or other hazards.

**Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM)**  Usually referred to as a reverse annuity mortgage, what makes this type of mortgage unique is that instead of making payments to a lender, the lender makes payments to you. It enables older home owners to convert the equity they have in their homes into cash, usually in the form of monthly payments. Unlike traditional home equity loans, a borrower does not qualify on the basis of income but
on the value of his or her home. In addition, the loan does not have to be repaid until the borrower no longer occupies the property.

**Holdover tenant** One who fails to vacate leased property after the lease has expired.

**Home equity line of credit** A mortgage loan, usually in second position, that allows the borrower to obtain cash drawn against the equity of his home, up to a predetermined amount.

**Home inspection** A thorough inspection by a professional that evaluates the structural and mechanical condition of a property. A satisfactory home inspection is often included as a contingency by the purchaser.

**Homeowners' association** A nonprofit association that manages the common areas of a planned unit development (PUD) or condominium project. In a condominium project, it has no ownership interest in the common elements. In a PUD project, it holds title to the common elements.

**Homestead exemption. a/k/a “homestead” or “homestead right”** A fixed, statutory sum exempt from execution by creditors, and intended to protect a family home from foreclosure or sale for debts.

**Homeowner's insurance** An insurance policy that combines personal liability insurance and hazard insurance coverage for a dwelling and its contents.

**Homeowner's warranty** A type of insurance often purchased by homebuyers that will cover repairs to certain items, such as heating or air conditioning, should they break down within the coverage period. The buyer often requests the seller to pay for this coverage as a condition of the sale, but either party can pay.

**HUD median income** Median family income for a particular county or metropolitan statistical area (MSA), as estimated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**HUD-1 settlement statement see Closing Disclosure** A document that provides an itemized listing of the funds that were paid at closing. Items
that appear on the statement include real estate commissions, loan fees, points, and initial escrow (impound) amounts. Each type of expense goes on a specific numbered line on the sheet. The totals at the bottom of the HUD-1 statement define the seller's net proceeds and the buyer's net payment at closing. It is called a HUD1 because the form is printed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The HUD1 statement is also known as the "closing statement" or "settlement sheet."

**Indemnify**  To insure; to secure against loss.

**Independent broker**  A license level qualifying a broker to work without the supervision of an employing broker, requiring two years of active licensed experience, and if upgrade to broker associate was by means of the broker transition course, passage of the Colorado part of the broker licensing exam.

**Installment land contract (ILC), also land contract, or installment contract;**  An agreement for the purchase of real estate on an installment basis, whereby the deed is withheld until all or a specified portion of the purchase price is paid.

**Inter alia.**  Latin meaning “among other things”.

**Intestate.**  Dying without leaving a valid will

**Interest**  What a lender charges to borrow money. The part of the borrower’s monthly payment that goes to the lender after the principal has been applied against the loan balance.

**Joint tenancy**  A form of ownership or taking title to property which means each party owns the whole property and that ownership is not separate. In the event of the death of one party, the survivor owns the property in its entirety.

**Judgment**  A decision made by a court of law. In judgments that require the repayment of a debt, the court may place a lien against the debtor's real property as collateral for the judgment's creditor. Alternative spelling is "judgement."
**Judicial foreclosure**  A type of foreclosure proceeding used in some states that is handled as a civil lawsuit and conducted entirely under the auspices of a court. Other states use non-judicial foreclosure.

**Jumbo loan**  A loan that exceeds Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's loan limits, currently at $227,150. Also called a nonconforming loan. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae loans are referred to as conforming loans.

**Land**  Real property; all below the surface, the surface and the airspace above it, and that which is affixed to it permanently; synonymous with “real property”, “realty”, and “real estate”; often used to mean only the unimproved surface of the earth.

**Land economics**  The production, distribution and consumption of wealth deriving from land classification and use.

**Landlord**  An owner who has leased an estate-in-land to a tenant.

**Landlord agent**  A broker engaged by and representing a landlord as an agent in a leasing transaction.

**Late Charge** - As established in the original agreement, the penalty that is due when the borrower fails to pay by a certain number of days after the payment due date. There is usually a 15 day grace period on traditional mortgages before late charges are incurred. Rent payments often have a 3 – 5 day grace period.

**Lead Based Paint**  Prior to 1978 paint that was used in construction often had concentrations of lead. These materials have since been taken off the market as they can be harmful. When selling or leasing a property that was built prior to 1978, the owner should take care to provide the buyer or tenant with a lead based paint disclosure.

**Lease**  A written agreement between the property owner and a tenant that stipulates the payment and conditions under which the tenant may possess the real estate for a specified period of time.

**Leasehold estate**  A way of holding title to a property wherein the mortgagor does not actually own the property but rather has a recorded long-term lease on it.
**Lease option**  An alternative financing option that allows home buyers to lease a home with an option to buy. Each month's rent payment may consist of not only the rent, but an additional amount which can be applied toward the down payment on an already specified price.

**Legal description**  A property description, recognized by law, that is sufficient to locate and identify the property without oral testimony.

**Lender**  A term which can refer to the institution making the loan or to the individual representing the firm. For example, loan officers are often referred to as "lenders."

**Lessee**  Party who possesses an estate in realty under a lease; commonly referred to as tenant.

**Lessor**  Party who conveys a right or estate in realty to a lessee under a lease; commonly referred to as landlord.

**Liabilities**  A person's financial obligations. Liabilities include long-term and short-term debt, as well as any other amounts that are owed to others.

**Liability insurance**  Insurance coverage that offers protection against claims alleging that a property owner's negligence or inappropriate action resulted in bodily injury or property damage to another party. It is usually part of a homeowner's insurance policy.

**Lien**  A legal claim against a property that must be paid off when the property is sold. A mortgage or first trust deed is considered a lien.

**Life cap**  For an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM), a limit on the amount that the Interest rate can increase or decrease over the life of the mortgage.

**Limited agent**  An agent whose duties and obligations to a principal are only those set forth in C.R.S. 12-61-804 or 12-61-805, with any additional duties and obligations agreed to pursuant to section 12-61-803 (5).

**Line of credit**  An agreement by a commercial bank or other financial institution to extend credit up to a certain amount for a certain time to a specified borrower.
**Liquid asset**  A cash asset or an asset that is easily converted into cash.

**Lis pendens**  A filing against specific property, giving public notice that an action at law is pending that may affect the title to the land.

**Listing Contract (also called Listing Agreement)**- A real estate broker (or agent, acting on behalf of the broker) and a seller sign this agreement in order to give the broker the rights to advertise the property and represent the seller. The seller's real estate is then listed for sale, most often in a multiple listing service. In most cases the payment of a commission to the brokerage is contingent upon the agent procuring a satisfactory buyer for the property within the time frame of the Listing Contract. The commission is then paid to the broker from the seller's proceeds at closing. Flat fee listing contracts have become popular, whereby a seller may pay a specified amount upfront for the services received. All details are typically determined by the listing contract.

**Listing/ Listing Agreement** - A written agreement between a property owner and a broker authorizing the broker to advertise the property and find a buyer or a tenant for a specific property

**Littoral land**  Land bordering on the shore of a sea or ocean and affected by the tide currents.

**Loan**  A sum of borrowed money (principal) that is generally repaid with interest.

**Loan Estimate (LE)**  Replaces the Good Faith Estimate (GFE) and the initial TIL disclosure. It provides somewhat more and clearer information to consumers to make comparison shopping easier and to ensure that consumers understand loan and closing costs. The Loan Estimate must be provided to the consumer within three days of the submission of a loan application, and the consumer must acknowledge receiving it.

**Loan officer**  Also referred to by a variety of other terms, such as lender, loan representative, loan "rep," account executive, and others. The loan officer serves several functions and has various responsibilities: they solicit loans, they are the representative of the lending institution, and they represent the borrower to the lending institution.
Loan origination  How a lender refers to the process of obtaining new loans

Loan servicing  After you obtain a loan, the company you make the payments to is "servicing" your loan. They process payments, send statements, manage the escrow/impound account, provide collection efforts on delinquent loans, ensure that insurance and property taxes are made on the property, handle pay-offs and assumptions, and provide a variety of other services.

Loan-to-value (LTV)  The percentage relationship between the amount of the loan and the appraised value or sales price (whichever is lower).

Lock-in  An agreement in which the lender guarantees a specified interest rate for a certain amount of time at a certain cost.

Lock-in period  The time period during which the lender has guaranteed an interest rate to a borrower.

Margin  The difference between the interest rate and the index on an adjustable rate mortgage. The margin remains stable over the life of the loan. It is the index which moves up and down.

Marketable (merchantable) title  A title free from reasonable doubt of defect; which can be readily sold or mortgaged to a reasonably prudent person; a title free from material defects or grave doubts and reasonably free from potential litigation.

Market value  The price which a ready and able buyer, not forced to buy, would pay and which a ready and willing seller, not forced to sell, would accept, assuming that both parties are fully informed, act reasonably, and have sufficient time to consider the transaction with due care.

Maturity  The date on which the principal balance of a loan, bond, or other financial instrument becomes due and payable.

Mechanics’ lien  A lien created by statute which exists against real property in favor of persons who have performed work or furnished materials for the improvement of the real estate.
**Merged credit report**  A credit report which reports the raw data pulled from two or more of the major credit repositories. Contrast with a Residential Mortgage Credit Report (RMCR) or a standard factual credit report.

**Metes and bounds**  A method of describing or locating real property; metes are measures of length and bounds are boundaries. This method starts from a well-marked point of beginning and follows the boundaries of the land until it returns once more to the point of beginning.

**Mill.** one-tenth of a cent; a tax rate of one mill on the dollar or one-tenth of one percent of the assessed value of a property. (assessed value x .001)

**Modification**  Occasionally, a lender will agree to modify the terms of your mortgage without requiring you to refinance. If any changes are made, it is called a modification.

**Mortgage**  A legal document that pledges a property to the lender as security for payment of a debt. Instead of mortgages, some states use First Trust Deeds.

**Mortgage banker**  For a more complete discussion of mortgage banker, see "Types of Lenders." A mortgage banker is generally assumed to originate and fund their own loans, which are then sold on the secondary market, usually to Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or Ginnie Mae. However, firms rather loosely apply this term to themselves, whether they are true mortgage bankers or simply mortgage brokers or correspondents.

**Mortgage broker**  Mortgage company that originates loans, then places those loans with a variety of other lending institutions with whom they usually have pre-established relationships.

**Mortgagee**  The lender in a mortgage agreement.

**Mortgage insurance (MI)**  Insurance that covers the lender against some of the losses incurred as a result of a default on a home loan. Often mistakenly referred to as PMI, which is actually the name of one of the larger mortgage insurers. Mortgage insurance is usually required in one form or another on all loans that have a loan-to-value higher than eighty
percent. Mortgages above 80% LTV that call themselves "No MI" are usually made at a higher interest rate. Instead of the borrower paying the mortgage insurance premiums directly, they pay a higher interest rate to the lender, which then pays the mortgage insurance themselves. Also, FHA loans and certain first-time homebuyer programs require mortgage insurance regardless of the loan-to-value.

**Mortgage insurance premium (MIP)** The amount paid by a mortgagor for mortgage insurance, either to a government agency such as the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or to a private mortgage insurance (MI) company.

**Mortgage life and disability insurance** A type of term life insurance often bought by borrowers. The amount of coverage decreases as the principal balance declines. Some policies also cover the borrower in the event of disability. In the event that the borrower dies while the policy is in force, the debt is automatically satisfied by insurance proceeds. In the case of disability insurance, the insurance will make the mortgage payment for a specified amount of time during the disability. Be careful to read the terms of coverage, however, because often the coverage does not start immediately upon the disability, but after a specified period, sometime forty-five days.

**Mortgagor** The borrower in a mortgage agreement.

**Multi dwelling units** Properties that provide separate housing units for more than one family, although they secure only a single mortgage.

**Multiple listing service (MLS)** A marketing arrangement among real estate brokers whereby a seller authorizes the listing broker to share information and a pre-determined portion of a commission to any broker cooperating in the sale of the property.

**Mutual assent** (meeting of the minds) Agreement of the parties to the contract, mutually consenting to be bound by its exact terms; an essential contract element.

**National Association of REALTORS©, (N.A.R.)** A national association of real estate personnel whose goal is the professional advancement of the
real estate industry and whose membership is comprised of state and local real estate associations or boards.

**Negative amortization**  Some adjustable rate mortgages allow the interest rate to fluctuate independently of a required minimum payment. If a borrower makes the minimum payment it may not cover all of the interest that would normally be due at the current interest rate. In essence, the borrower is deferring the interest payment, which is why this is called "deferred interest." The deferred interest is added to the balance of the loan and the loan balance grows larger instead of smaller, which is called negative amortization.

**Negotiable instrument**  A written instrument containing a promise of payment, which can be endorsed from one person to another.

**Net listing**  A listing contract whereby the owner is to receive a certain net price, with the broker receiving any excess over and above the net price as commission.

**No cash-out refinance**  A refinance transaction which is not intended to put cash in the hand of the borrower. Instead, the new balance is calculated to cover the balance due on the current loan and any costs associated with obtaining the new mortgage. Often referred to as a "rate and term refinance."

**No-cost loan**  Many lenders offer loans that you can obtain at "no cost." You should inquire whether this means there are no "lender" costs associated with the loan, or if it also covers the other costs you would normally have in a purchase or refinance transactions, such as title insurance, escrow fees, settlement fees, appraisal, recording fees, notary fees, and others. These are fees and costs which may be associated with buying a home or obtaining a loan, but not charged directly by the lender. Keep in mind that, like a "no-point" loan, the interest rate will be higher than if you obtain a loan that has costs associated with it.

**Note**  A legal document that obligates a borrower to repay a mortgage loan at a stated interest rate during a specified period of time.

**Note rate**  The interest rate stated on a mortgage note.
No-points loan  Almost all lenders offer loans at "no points." You will find the interest rate on a "no points" loan is approximately a quarter percent higher than on a loan where you pay one point.

Notice of default  A formal written notice to a borrower that a default has occurred and that legal action may be taken.

Obsolescence impairment  Of desirability and usefulness of the property resulting from economic, functional, physical, fashion, or other changes

Offer  To present for sale; or a proposal presented for acceptance or rejection which, if accepted, will form a binding contract.

Offeree  One to whom an offer is made

Offeror  One who makes an offer.

Open listing  A non-exclusive employment agreement in which an owner retains the right to list the property with other brokers.

Option  A temporary right for a specified time, and for which a consideration is paid, during which an optionee may purchase or lease property at a set price.

Optionee  One who requests, receives or stands to benefit from an option.

Optionor  One who grants an option to another, usually the land owner.

Original principal balance  The total amount of principal owed on a mortgage before any payments are made.

Origination fee  On a government loan the loan origination fee is one percent of the loan amount, but additional points may be charged which are called "discount points." One point equals one percent of the loan amount. On a conventional loan, the loan origination fee refers to the total number of points a borrower pays.

Owner financing  A property purchase transaction in which the property seller provides all or part of the financing.

Partial payment  A payment that is not sufficient to cover the scheduled monthly payment on a mortgage loan. Normally, a lender will not accept a
partial payment, but in times of hardship you can make this request of the loan servicing collection department.

**Party wall.** A wall erected on a line between adjoining properties for the use of both properties.

**Patent** An instrument of conveyance of government-owned land to an individual.

**Payment change date** The date when a new monthly payment amount takes effect on an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) or a graduated-payment mortgage (GPM). Generally, the payment change date occurs in the month immediately after the interest rate adjustment date.

**Percentage lease.** A commercial lease of property in which the rent is based upon a percentage of the sales volume derived from the leased premises.

**Percolation (perc) test** Determines if soil will take sufficient water seepage for use of a septic tank.

**Periodic payment cap** For an adjustable-rate mortgage where the interest rate and the minimum payment amount fluctuate independently of one another, this is a limit on the amount that payments can increase or decrease during any one adjustment period.

**Periodic rate cap** For an adjustable-rate mortgage, a limit on the amount that the interest rate can increase or decrease during any one adjustment period, regardless of how high or low the index might be.

**Personal property** Any property that is not real property.

**Personalty** Synonym for personal property

**PITI** This stands for principal, interest, taxes and insurance. If you have an "impounded" loan, then your monthly payment to the lender includes all of these and probably includes mortgage insurance as well. If you do not have an impounded account, then the lender still calculates this amount and uses it as part of determining your debt-to-income ratio.
PITI reserves  A cash amount that a borrower must have on hand after making a down payment and paying all closing costs for the purchase of a home. The principal, interest, taxes, and insurance (PITI) reserves must equal the amount that the borrower would have to pay for PITI for a predefined number of months.

Planned unit development (PUD)  A type of ownership where individuals actually own the building or unit they live in, but common areas are owned jointly with the other members of the development or association. Contrast with condominium, where an individual actually owns the airspace of his unit, but the buildings and common areas are owned jointly with the others in the development or association.

Plat  A parcel or plot of land; also a method of land description referring to a recorded map (plat) of a subdivision or town which lays out boundaries, streets, easements etc

Point  A point is 1 percent of the amount of the mortgage.

Police power  Governmental right to enact legislation deemed necessary to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the public. (License law is supported by this legal theory.)

Power of attorney  A legal document that authorizes another person to act on one’s behalf. A power of attorney can grant complete authority or can be limited to certain acts and/or certain periods of time.

Pre-approval  A loosely used term which is generally taken to mean that a borrower has completed a loan application and provided debt, income, and savings documentation which an underwriter has reviewed and approved. A pre-approval is usually done at a certain loan amount and making assumptions about what the interest rate will actually be at the time the loan is actually made, as well as estimates for the amount that will be paid for property taxes, insurance and others. A pre-approval applies only to the borrower. Once a property is chosen, it must also meet the underwriting guidelines of the lender. Contrast with pre-qualification.

Prepayment  Any amount paid to reduce the principal balance of a loan before the due date. Payment in full on a mortgage that may result from a
sale of the property, the owner's decision to pay off the loan in full, or a foreclosure. In each case, prepayment means payment occurs before the loan has been fully amortized.

**Prepayment penalty**  A fee that may be charged to a borrower who pays off a loan before it is due.

**Pre-qualification**  This usually refers to the loan officer's written opinion of the ability of a borrower to qualify for a home loan, after the loan officer has made inquiries about debt, income, and savings. The information provided to the loan officer may have been presented verbally or in the form of documentation, and the loan officer may or may not have reviewed a credit report on the borrower.

**Prime rate**  The interest rate that banks charge to their preferred customers. Changes in the prime rate are widely publicized in the news media and are used as the indexes in some adjustable rate mortgages, especially home equity lines of credit. Changes in the prime rate do not directly affect other types of mortgages, but the same factors that influence the prime rate also affect the interest rates of mortgage loans.

**Principal**  1. One of the main parties to a transaction.
2. Fiduciary relationship the person who hires a real estate broker to represent them.
3. The amount borrowed or remaining unpaid. The part of the monthly payment that reduces the remaining balance of a mortgage.

**Principal balance**  The outstanding balance of principal on a mortgage. The principal balance does not include interest or any other charges. See remaining balance.

**Principal, interest, taxes, and insurance (PITI)**  The four components of a monthly mortgage payment on impounded loans. Principal refers to the part of the monthly payment that reduces the remaining balance of the mortgage. Interest is the fee charged for borrowing money. Taxes and insurance refer to the amounts that are paid into an escrow account each month for property taxes and mortgage and hazard insurance.

**Principal note**  A promissory note secured by the mortgage or trust deed
Private mortgage insurance (MI)  Mortgage insurance that is provided by a private mortgage insurance company to protect lenders against loss if a borrower defaults. Most lenders generally require MI for a loan with a loan-to-value (LTV) percentage in excess of 80 percent.

Promissory note  A written promise to repay a specified amount over a specified period of time.

Property  Anything which may be owned and its bundle of ownership rights; the right to use, possess, enjoy, and dispose of a thing in every legal way and to exclude everyone else from interfering with these rights; generally classified into two groups; personal and real.

Public auction  A meeting in an announced public location to sell property to repay a mortgage that is in default.

Public trustee  A county official to whom borrowers convey title to real property by trust deed for the benefit of the beneficiary (lender).

Purchase agreement  A written contract signed by the buyer and seller stating the terms and conditions under which a property will be sold.

Purchase money mortgage  A mortgage given by the purchaser to secure a loan for part or all of the purchase price. Such a mortgage becomes a lien on the property simultaneously with the passing of title, and if immediately recorded becomes prior to any lien against the purchaser.

Purchase money transaction  The acquisition of property through the payment of money or its equivalent.

Quadrangle, (check)  A square tract of land in the U.S. Governmental Survey System measuring 24 miles on each side.

Qualifying ratios  Calculations that are used in determining whether a borrower can qualify for a mortgage. There are two ratios. The "top" or "front" ratio is a calculation of the borrower's monthly housing costs (principle, taxes, insurance, mortgage insurance, homeowner’s association fees) as a percentage of monthly income. The "back" or "bottom" ratio includes housing costs as well as all other monthly debt.
**Quiet-title suit** An action in court to remove a defect, cloud or suspicion regarding the owner’s legal rights to a parcel of real estate.

**Quitclaim deed** A deed that transfers without warranty whatever interest or title a grantor may have at the time the conveyance is made.

**Range** A six-mile wide strip of land that runs in a north-south direction. Ranges are determined by government survey and are numbered in numerical order east or west of a principal meridian.

**Rate lock** A commitment issued by a lender to a borrower or other mortgage originator guaranteeing a specified interest rate for a specified period of time at a specific cost.

**Real estate** Real property, realty, land.

**Real estate agent** A person licensed to negotiate and transact the sale of real estate.

**Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)** - A business trust or corporation that pools the money of High Yield Investors for the benefit of investing in real estate. The REIT Company offers common shares to the public. In this way, a REIT stock is similar to any other stock that represents ownership in an operating business. However, a REIT has two unique features: its primary business is managing groups of income-producing properties and it must distribute most of its profits as dividends. Corporations and trusts that qualify for REIT status with the IRS generally do not pay corporate income taxes. Instead, they pay out all of their taxable income in the form of dividends.

**Real Estate Owned (REO)** - Real estate that is owned by a bank or financial group. Usually a result of their borrowers defaulting on the loan and the subsequent foreclosure of the property from that buyer.

**Real property** Land; the surface of the earth and whatever is erected, growing upon, or affixed to the land; including that which is below it and the airspace above it. synonymous with “land”, “realty”, and “real estate”.
Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA)  A consumer protection law that requires lenders to give borrowers advance notice of closing costs.

Realtor®  A real estate agent, broker or an associate who holds active membership in a local real estate board that is affiliated with the National Association of Realtors.

Realty  Real property, land, real estate

Receiver  A court-appointed custodian who holds property pending final disposition of the matter before the court.

Recorder  The public official who keeps records of transactions that affect real property in the area. Sometimes known as a "Registrar of Deeds" or "County Clerk."

Recording  The noting in the registrar's office of the details of a properly executed legal document, such as a deed, a mortgage note, a satisfaction of mortgage, or an extension of mortgage, thereby making it a part of the public record.

Rectangular Survey System  A system established in 1785 by the federal government, providing for surveying and describing land by reference to principal meridians and base lines. Aka Government Survey System.

Redemption  The right of an owner to redeem or reclaim real estate by paying the debt or charge (such as mortgage or tax lien) after default, together with interest and costs. Specifically, equity of redemption is the right to redeem the property after default but before foreclosure. Statutory right-of-redemption refers to the right to redeem the property after foreclosure, or other enforcement action, within a certain time specified by statute.

Refinance transaction  The process of paying off one loan with the proceeds from a new loan using the same property as security.

Release  The relinquishment or surrender of a right, claim, or interest
**Remaining balance**  The amount of principal that has not yet been repaid. See principal balance.

**Remaining term**  The original amortization term minus the number of payments that have been applied.

**Rent loss insurance**  Insurance that protects a landlord against loss of rent or rental value due to fire or other casualty that renders the leased premises unavailable for use and as a result of which the tenant is excused from paying rent.

**Repayment plan**  An arrangement made to repay delinquent installments or advances.

**Replacement reserve fund**  A fund set aside for replacement of common property in a condominium, PUD, or cooperative project -- particularly that which has a short life expectancy, such as carpeting, furniture, etc.

**Restrictive covenant**  A clause in a deed limiting the use of a property.

**Revolving debt**  A credit arrangement, such as a credit card, that allows a customer to borrow against a preapproved line of credit when purchasing goods and services. The borrower is billed for the amount that is actually borrowed plus any interest due.

**Right of first refusal**  A provision in an agreement that requires the owner of a property to give another party the first opportunity to purchase or lease the property before he or she offers it for sale or lease to others.

**Right of ingress or egress**  The right to enter or leave designated premises.

**Right of survivorship**  In joint tenancy, the right of survivors to acquire the interest of a deceased joint tenant.

**Right-of-way**  An easement or right to pass over another’s land; also the strip of land used as roadbed by a railroad or used for a public purpose by other public utilities.
**Riparian rights**  Ownership of land adjacent to or abutting on water courses such as streams and lakes. It is a right held in common with other riparian owners.

**Sale-leaseback**  A technique in which a seller deeds property to a buyer for a consideration, and the buyer simultaneously leases the property back to the seller.

**Salesperson**  An inactive license status in Colorado; in other jurisdictions, a license level authorized to perform real estate activity on behalf of a licensed real estate broker.

**Second mortgage**  A mortgage that has a lien position subordinate to the first mortgage.

**Secondary market**  The buying and selling of existing mortgages, usually as part of a "pool" of mortgages.

**Secured loan**  A loan that is backed by collateral.

**Security**  The property that will be pledged as collateral for a loan.

**Seisin**  Actual possession of real estate by a freehold estate owner; a typical warranty deed covenant.

**Seller agent**  A broker engaged by and representing the seller in a real estate transaction.

**Seller carry-back**  An agreement in which the owner of a property provides financing, often in combination with an assumable mortgage.

**Selling Agent**  A real estate agent who represents the seller in a transaction.

**Servicer**  An organization that collects principal and interest payments from borrowers and manages borrowers' escrow accounts. The servicer often services mortgages that have been purchased by an investor in the secondary mortgage market.
**Servicing**  The collection of mortgage payments from borrowers and related responsibilities of a loan servicer.

**Settlement statement**  A detailed cash accounting of a real estate transaction prepared by the broker, escrow officer, attorney or other person designated to process the mechanics of the sale, showing all cash received, all charges and credits made and all cash paid out in the transaction.

**Single agent**  A broker engaged by and representing only one party, i.e. buyer, seller, tenant or landlord in a real estate transaction.

**Special assessment**  A tax against real property made by a unit of government to cover the proportionate cost of an improvement, such as a street or sewer.

**Special warranty deed**  A deed in which the grantor warrants title only against defects arising during the grantor's ownership.

**Specific performance**  A remedy compelling a party to perform or carry out the terms of a valid, existing contract.

**State lease**  An agreement between the state of Colorado and other parties for the use of lands under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Land Commissioners for grazing, agriculture and other lawful purposes.

**Statutory right of redemption**  See redemption.

**Subdivision**  A housing development that is created by dividing a tract of land into individual lots for sale or lease.

**Subordination clause**  A clause in a mortgage or lease stating that the rights of the holder shall be secondary to a subsequent encumbrance or right of another person.

**Subordinate financing**  Any mortgage or other lien that has a priority that is lower than that of the first mortgage.

**Surrender**  In leases, the cancellation of a lease by mutual consent of lessor and lessee.
Survey  A drawing or map showing the precise legal boundaries of a property, the location of improvements, easements, rights of way, encroachments, and other physical features.

Sweat equity  Contribution to the construction or rehabilitation of a property in the form of labor or services rather than cash.

Tax Deed  - A deed that is used to convey title when the real estate is purchased from the county, having been auctioned off to pay for back taxes that went unpaid by the original property owner.

Tax Lien  - A lien against a property for unpaid taxes.

Tenancy at sufferance  See estate at sufferance.

Tenancy at will  See estate at will.

Tenancy in common  As opposed to joint tenancy, when there are two or more individuals on title to a piece of property, this type of ownership does not pass ownership to the others in the event of death.

Tenant agent  A broker engaged by and representing the tenant in a leasing transaction.

Testate  A condition of death characterized by the decedent having left a valid will.

Third-party origination  A process by which a lender uses another party to completely or partially originate, process, underwrite, close, fund, or package the mortgages it plans to deliver to the secondary mortgage market.

TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosures  and refers to new forms that will replace the current HUD-1 form, the Good Faith Estimate and the existing Truth-in-Lending (TIL) disclosures. These forms integrate the existing disclosures with new provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act intended to make the mortgage process clearer to consumers. As a result of this new rule, two new forms will be used for essentially all real estate transactions involving a new closed-end consumer mortgage application. These new
forms are called the Loan Estimate (LE) and the Closing Disclosure (CD).

**Time-share** An interval interest in real estate which limits ownership or occupancy rights to specified time periods. Ownership may be either fee simple (deeded) or “right-to-use” (contractual or membership). In Colorado, time-share sales are subject to license law.

**Title** Legal document evidencing a person’s right to or ownership of a property.

**Title company** A company that specializes in examining and insuring titles to real estate.

**Title insurance** Insurance that protects the lender (lender’s policy) or the buyer (owner’s policy) against loss arising from disputes over ownership of a property.

**Title search** A check of the title records to ensure that the seller is the legal owner of the property and that there are no liens or other claims outstanding.

**Torrens system** A system by which the registrar of Torrens (i.e. clerk and recorder) keeps and maintains title records pertaining to real property located in the county.

**Tort** A negligent or intentional wrong done to another for which the law will grant money damages in a civil action.

**Transaction-broker** A broker who assists one or more parties throughout a contemplated real estate transaction with communication, interposition, advisement, negotiation, contract terms, and the closing without being an agent or advocate for the interests of any party.

**Transfer of ownership** Any means by which the ownership of a property changes hands. Lenders consider all of the following situations to be a transfer of ownership: the purchase of a property "subject to" the mortgage, the assumption of the mortgage debt by the property purchaser, and any exchange of possession of the property under a land sales contract or any other land trust device.
Transfer tax  State or local tax payable when title passes from one owner to another.

Treasurer  A county official responsible for property tax administration; a chief executive in a firm responsible for (1) obtaining operating capital, (2) investor relations, (3) short-term financing, (4) banking policies, (5) asset custody, (6) credit and collections, (7) investment analysis, and (8) risk management.

Treasurer's deed  A deed for property sold at public sale by the county for non-payment of taxes by the owner.

Treasury index  An index that is used to determine interest rate changes for certain adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) plans. It is based on the results of auctions that the U.S. Treasury holds for its Treasury bills and securities or is derived from the U.S. Treasury's daily yield curve, which is based on the closing market bid yields on actively traded Treasury securities in the over-the-counter market.

Trust deed  A loan security instrument by which a borrower conveys title to a (usually public) trustee, to be held for the protection of a lender as security for the repayment of the debt. Upon payment of the debt a trust deed must be specifically released by the trustee.

Trustee  A fiduciary who holds or controls property for the benefit of another

Truth-in-Lending  A federal law that requires lenders to fully disclose, in writing, the terms and conditions of a mortgage, including the annual percentage rate (APR) and other charges.

Two-step mortgage  An adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) that has one interest rate for the first five or seven years of its mortgage term and a different interest rate for the remainder of the amortization term.

Two-to-four-family property  A property that consists of a structure that provides living space (dwelling units) for two to four families, although ownership of the structure is evidenced by a single deed.
United States Government (or Rectangular) Survey System (GSS) A land description method based on reference to governmental surveys.

Use tax A tax imposed on the purchase or importer of tangible, personal property for resale, use or consumption

Usury Charging more than the legal rate of interest for the use of money.

V.A.-guaranteed mortgage A mortgage backed by a Veterans Administration guarantee to the lender for a percentage of the loan amount.

VA mortgage A mortgage that is guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Vendee Buyer

Vendor Seller

Vested Having the right to use a portion of a fund such as an individual retirement fund. For example, individuals who are 100 percent vested can withdraw all of the funds that are set aside for them in a retirement fund. However, taxes may be due on any funds that are actually withdrawn.

Veterans Administration (VA) An agency of the federal government that guarantees residential mortgages made to eligible veterans of the military services. The guarantee protects the lender against loss and thus encourages lenders to make mortgages to veterans

Vicarious liability A principal’s liability for an agent’s acts performed within the scope of the agency; specifically excluded by Colorado statute from a principal’s liability unless the act or omission was approved, directed or ratified.

Waiver Abandonment of some claim or right.

Warranty - A binding promise that certain statements are true.

Warranty Deed - A deed warranting that the grantor has clear title and promises he has the right to convey the property to the buyer.
Wrap-Around Mortgage - A mortgage to the new buyer which includes the seller’s existing first mortgage payment, plus an additional amount that will be proceeds to the seller.

Writ of execution  A court order directing an officer of the court, usually the sheriff, to carry out the judgment or decree of the court

Yield - The profit from an investment, normally stated as a percentage of the amount invested.

Zero Lot Lines - When a building is positioned so that it rests either directly on the lot’s boundary line, or so close to the boundary line that there is minimal yard or space between the structure and adjacent structure.

Zoning - Local requirements for the use of real estate in a particular area.