# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

In the Matter of

**Fidelity National Financial, Inc.,** a corporation.

Docket No. C-3929

## COMPLAINT

The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission"), having reason to believe that Respondent, Fidelity National Financial, Inc. ("FNF"), a corporation subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, has agreed to acquire the common stock of Chicago Title Corporation ("CT"), a corporation subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, in violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and it appearing to the Commission that a proceeding in respect thereof would be in the public interest, hereby issues its Complaint, stating its charges as follows:

#### I. DEFINITIONS

1. "Title plant" means a privately owned collection of records and/or indices regarding the ownership of and interests in real property. The term includes such collections that are regularly maintained and updated by obtaining information or documents from the public records, as well as such collections of information that are not regularly updated.

2. "Title information services" means providing selected information contained in a title plant to a customer or user or permitting a customer or user to have access to information contained in a title plant.

3. "Acquisition Agreement" means the agreement between FNF and CT for FNF's proposed acquisition of the common stock of CT pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger dated August 1, 1999.

4. "Respondent" means FNF.

#### **II. RESPONDENT**

5. Respondent FNF is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its executive offices located at 17911 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California 92614-6253. Respondent, among other things, is engaged in the sale of title insurance and the provision of title information services.

6. Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, Respondent will purchase the common stock of CT.

7. Respondent is, and at all times relevant herein has been, engaged in commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 1 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 12, and is a corporation whose business is in, or affects, commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 44.

# **III. THE ACQUIRED COMPANY**

8. CT is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its executive offices located at 171 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601. CT is engaged, among other things, in the sale of title insurance and the provision of title information services.

## **IV. THE ACQUISITION**

9. On August 1, 1999, FNF and CT entered into an Acquisition Agreement under which FNF is to acquire the common stock of CT for an amount valued, at the time of entering into the Acquisition Agreement, at approximately \$1.2 billion ("Acquisition").

## V. THE RELEVANT MARKETS

10. For the purposes of this Complaint, the relevant line of commerce in which to analyze the effects of the Acquisition is the provision of title information services.

11. For the purposes of this Complaint, the relevant geographic areas in which to analyze the effects of the Acquisition in the relevant line of commerce are the following counties or other local jurisdictions in the United States: San Luis Obispo County, California; Tehama County, California; Napa County, California; Merced County, California; Yolo County, California; and San Benito County, California.

#### VI. THE STRUCTURE OF THE MARKETS

12. The markets for title information services in the geographic areas listed under Paragraph 11 are highly concentrated.

## VII. BARRIERS TO ENTRY

13. Entry into the market for providing title information services is unlikely and would not occur in a timely manner to deter or counteract the adverse competitive effects described in Paragraph 14, because of, among other things, the time and expense necessary to develop effective data collection technology and the time necessary to develop historical data, and the importance of an established reputation for accuracy.

### VIII. EFFECTS OF THE ACQUISITION

14. The effects of the Acquisition, if consummated, may be substantially to lessen competition and to tend to create a monopoly in the relevant markets in violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the FTC act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, in the following ways, among others:

a. by eliminating actual, direct and substantial competition between Respondent and CT in the relevant markets;

b. by increasing the likelihood of collusion or coordinated interaction in the relevant markets.

#### **IX. VIOLATIONS CHARGED**

15. The Acquisition Agreement described in Paragraph 9 constitutes a violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

16. The Acquisition described in Paragraph 9, if consummated, would constitute a violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

WHEREFORE, THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Federal Trade Commission on this seventeenth day of February, 2000, issues its Complaint against said Respondent.

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark Secretary

SEAL: