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#### INDUSTRY RECOGNIZES MARK COHEN AS #1 LOAN ORIGINATOR FOR THE 6TH YEAR IN A ROW!



I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your continued business and for keeping Cohen Financial Group the Top Originator Nationwide. We would like to share with you the special recognition article from Steven Wyble, online content editor of Scotsman Guide Media, WE DID IT AGAIN!

Top Originator By Steven Wyble, online content editor, Scotsman Guide Media

Every day, Mark Cohen of Cohen Financial Group resets the clock. No matter how many loans he's closed that year, that month or that week, every morning he goes back to square one.

That mindset apparently works wonders. For the sixth year in a row, Cohen has topped Scotsman Guide's Top Dollar Volume list. Cohen's 2017 mortgage-origination volume totaled \$579.6 million. He closed 541 loans — 67 percent of them purchases, and 33 percent refinances,

Although Cohen says resetting the clock each day motivates him to close more loans, he also benefits from his wealth of experience. He's been originating mortgages for more than 30 years, after getting into the game in 1986. He also receives a ton of support from his staff, he says.

"I've got a good staff, and I know a lot of people," he says. "I know the business and have a large clientele and following. It's just pieces that fall into place most of the time. Not to say that there aren't things that pop up ... [but] if you lose a deal, you've just got to move forward."

Cohen acknowledges that recent changes to the tax code could present challenges in the near future, particularly in the expensive Beverly Hills area where he works. Congress' move to lower the cap on the mortgage interest deduction from \$1 million of debt to \$750,000 is worrying, but he doesn't see it having a terribly large impact. What's more troublesome is the \$10,000 cap on deducting state and local income and property taxes, he says.

"That is a big issue," he says, noting that the property taxes on a \$3 million house can come to tens of thousands of dollars per year. "It's a big thing. It hurts," he adds. Even so, it's difficult to gauge the actual impact of the tax changes this soon after their passage, Cohen says.

"You have strong demand, a low inventory and a strong economy," he adds. "You can't really tell right now [what the impact is] until the tide has turned and the economy slows down, and people say, 'I can't buy a house because of the property taxes.' Because everyone's making more money now ... so it's all good until it's not good."

Cohen says it seems inevitable that mortgage rates will continue to rise, but he doesn't think a quarter- to a half-point rise will break the market. "But it is making it more difficult to qualify for people, especially with these rigid ratios," he says. "That's going to be an issue." But the bottom line is that there's room in the market for anyone who's willing to adapt to the constant changes, Cohen says.

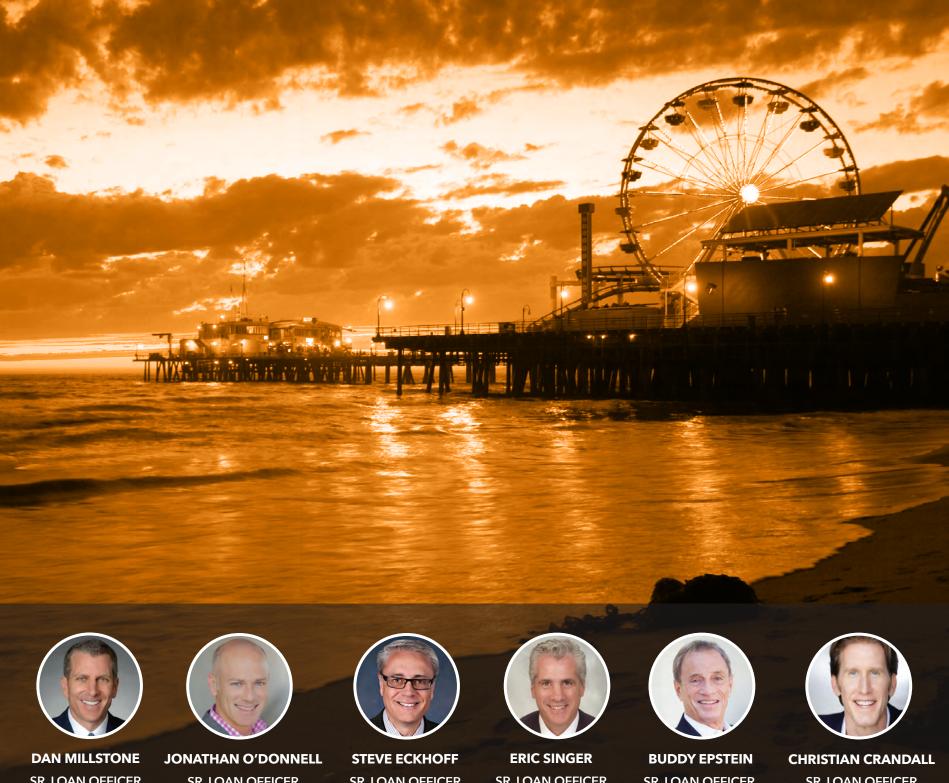
"It's challenging," he says, "but people who want to find out what their niche is and (have the) determination to do the right things in business, [they] can still compete in this very competitive market."



For the ninth year in a row, we compiled the industry's most comprehensive list of the nation's top mortgage originators. The rankings include not only the originators who are closing the most dollar volume and the most loans, but also the leaders in niche areas, like Federal Housing Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Agriculture loans as well as home equity lines of credit. View Scotsman Guide's Top Originators 2017 at ScotsmanGuide.com/Top2017

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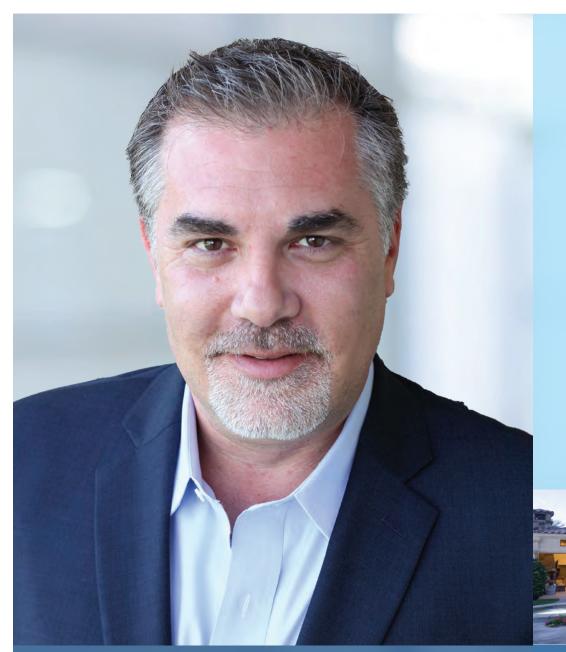
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A London native educated in Scotland, Jonathan London's first forays into real estate were decidedly European, including buying and selling his own properties in England while his family owned a business restoring and constructing homes and villas in the south of France.

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### Welcome FRAN CHAVEZ



Fran Chavez, a 32-year veteran, comes from Berkshire Hathaway and will be joining Rodeo Realty's Sherman Oaks team. He has more than \$750 million in sales volume and two years of experience in the mortgage banking industry. Fran has established a successful business, built on honesty and integrity in this challenging field.

Fran specializes in representing both buyers and sellers of residential real estate properties throughout the San Fernando Valley and Westside areas. He is a proactive, results-oriented agent with proven success and his clients appreciate his hands-on communication and problem-solving skills, as well as his negotiation skills. As a result, Fran enjoys a great deal of repeat clients and referrals.

Rodeo Realty is extremely proud to welcome Fran to our Sherman Oaks office.

Fran Chavez, Estate Director 818.517.1411 FranChavezRE@gmail.com www.FranChavez.com CalDRE Lic#: 01013357



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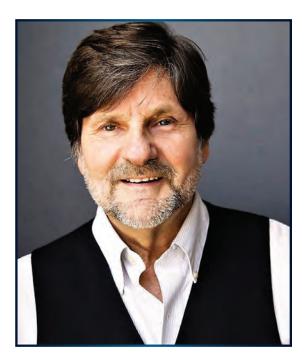
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Jeff Schermer 818.439.9100 veggijeff@aol.com.com jeffsre4u.com CalDRE Lic#: 00672080



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