

ARMANDO MONTELONGO COMPLAINTS

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▼ Summarized Group Report for Armando Montelongo

24 Complaints **2** Comments **\$314,557** Total Reported Damages

This Scambook Group Page started on May 22nd, 2012, with initial reports beginning on July 20th, 2011

▼ Sample Complaints Filed Against Armando Montelongo

Complaint Title: Armondo Montelongo Real Estate Seminars Queja 19137 for \$2,500.00

Submitted by
Anonymous
on 09/07/2013
Complaint #19137

I went to a FREE Real estate seminar and ended up spending \$2500 dollars for nothing, I went to this other (3) day seminar for the \$2500 and Then to give you all the info on how to buy homes with no money...They wanted another \$25,000 to go on a bus with Armondo, at this time we were already to be introduced and taught by him, but you only get to see him if you pay the \$25,000 that day only or your now just out your \$2500!!! I have tried to talk to them and get my money back but they just say come to a refresher course and pay more to see Armondo.....

Complaint Title: Armond Montalong Queja 219742 for \$0.00

Submitted by
Rachel
on 03/14/2013
Complaint #219742

I stupidly signed up for this course and would have been scammed out of 1500 thanks to all your complaints. I canceled my order the very next day (your only given 3 days to cancel), I mailed all the forms to cancel back to Armando. And called my back to put in a claim against the charges, I explained what happened that after doing my research I found out it was a scam. The bank informed me they would give them time to credit the charges, if not they would with draw the charges from their account. To my surprise they did refund my money. The bank explained to me how you only have 90 to submit a claim against a charge and that would explain why they tell you they will give you a refund after 6 months hope this helps some one

Complaint Title: Armando Montelongo Seminars Queja 98627 for \$30,000.00

Submitted by
Sherri
on 04/05/2014
Complaint #98627

WOW, it appears there are way too many people who have been taken advantage of by the Armando Montelongo seminars!! I have read the complaints on scambook and what is most prevalent is, different amounts of money are charged to different people depending on their financial background. This alone is wrong! How can you guarantee success when so many people don't even get the full package.

I accompanied my step dad to a FREE seminar, in Scottsdale on December of 2011 (the initial teaser). This paved the way for the guest speakers and millionaires who teach the class to mention a 3 day seminar and paying \$1,500 to change your life. For the \$1,500 you get CD's and a book for step by step guidance. At the 3 day seminar, they then hit you up for the \$30,000 it will cost you to 'really grasp the program' and 'work one on one with them' to ensure your success. Our package included a 3 day seminar/bus tour of CA, a 3-day 'Boots

on the Ground' class in AZ and a trip to Vegas to have attorneys set Corporations and LLC's for you. Prior to the \$30,000 bomb being dropped on your head, your homework on Friday night is to call your credit cards and raise your limit as much as they would allow. The next evening they hit you up for the \$30,000 only you have to decide NOW, no time to think about it and IF you acted NOW you would be refunded the \$1,500 already invested. Additionally, Armando only wants to invest in people who will invest in him, we were told. You also get a copy of some software lead program for trustee sales. However, in order to use the software you must pay a yearly fee of \$195. When my step dad decided to go forward paying the \$30,000, I thought I would be sick and felt the color drain from my face. We signed up for the 3 day seminar in Cerritos, CA with me feeling like I had just been royally scammed the entire time. I could barely look at these people who were taking our application and money because I was so angry at how this was presented. My blood was boiling yet, my step dad seemed excited to see what he purchased. What they did NOT disclose up front is, you are only getting a portion of the product and it will cost a total amount of \$55,000 to complete training. Instead they choose this 'hit you up for more money bit by bit' crap.

We were also given a 1 year mentorship with a mentor assigned to us to help write offers and answer questions. Unfortunately it takes 2-3 days for him to return your call, so if you really needed advice in a timely manner, you can forget relying on your mentor. My husband wanted to go on the bus tour since he is a contractor and I am a Realtor but since the package was in my step dad's and my name they said it would be \$6,000 more for my husband to go on the bus! No substitutions.

We met many Armando affiliates that weekend who told us we were doing the right thing and our lives would be changed. I had to close down 2 businesses to make this trip to CA. My disappointment in this whole fiasco and the CA seminar that was supposed to change my life, can never be fully expressed.

We checked in late Thursday evening. Friday we had to get to the 'holding room' early to secure a seat. There was nothing short of a mob waiting to get in the room. The music was so loud, I still have ringing in my ears and perhaps even permanent hearing damage. Once inside people were spray painting themselves and screaming standing on chairs, beating buckets, absolutely acting like animals. We trashed the conference room too, by the way. When Armando did speak (in between all the guest speakers), he only repeated what was on the CD's, no new information was gained for our \$30,000.

You are then separated into groups depending on what color bus you are on, for the bus tour.

The classes went until the wee hours of the morning to 'break you down and retrain your thought process' according to Armando. Who could think over the blaring music and people screaming at the top of their lungs. The bus tour was helpful, we learned not to be afraid of dilapidated properties. However, on the bus, donations were taken to raise money to get Armando's attention by hiring a stripper. Many passengers expressed their confusion and disappointment as to what was going on. I was not about to pay for a stripper! Somehow enough money was raised by our bus to hire Polynesian dancers and a fire eater for 15 minutes that night. What in Sam Hill you ask does this have to do with an investment real estate seminar you ask? I don't freaking know!!! Funny thing is.....that was the only thing I can remember actually enjoying in the seminar. Apparently, there wasn't enough of our \$30K left to hire these entertainers. I found out at the end of the seminar that it is a competition between bus colors to see who wins.....since no one said we were competing against each other, what in the heck are you supposed to win???? Well our bus WON and the winners were supposed to receive a prize worth \$2,500!!!! WOW you say, I had to hunt down my prize for weeks after returning home only to find out it was several Armando short videos showing us how to make money. Are you kidding me???? The last thing I wanted was to see HIS FACE!

I decided on the 3rd day of the seminar I had enough absurdity for one weekend and told my step dad I was leaving. I could NOT believe we paid \$30,000 for this buffoonery. Then I mentioned to him that the bonus class being held all day Monday was probably just to hit us

up for MORE MONEY, as a joke. He left around noon on Monday and received a call from one of our acquaintances we met in class, saying they did ask for \$25,000 more in the bonus class, so you could be taken under Armando's wing and guaranteed success. More shocking was the amount of people who just shelled out the money. I can't decide if Armando is making his money flipping houses or off of gullible people.

A strategist is assigned to you early on and he evaluates your financial position to see if you are someone they should ask for more money. When they ask for more money, they say they want to schedule a conference call to discuss your progress and then they ask you for \$25K more to go to the next level (how many flipping levels are there?) However, you can never speak of this to anyone, especially if you pay and join the 'inner circle' or you will be severed from any and all contact and your money refunded (kind of hard to believe the last 2 words).

I have spoken to folks who have completed the extra class and there are no guarantees. Additionally, once you pay the extra money, Armando Seminars want you to come back and ride around on the bus tours talking up the seminar, speaking on stage about how great the seminars are and how they changed your life. My step dad is on social security and gave every bit of savings to Armando and got nothing we were lead to believe. Yep, it changed his life alright... We were told we would be taken under Armando's wing with the \$30,000 investment. This has to be one of the biggest scams of all times. There was value in the seminar, but nothing like we were told; this entire production is very well orchestrated. They repeatedly tell you to stop thinking like a poor person because you are, in fact, a millionaire. Well, not yet, we aren't and now we are even poorer!

We were told we would meet several hard money lenders and private investors at this seminar to help us with our transactions. BUT GUESS WHAT? They prefer to only lend money to the people who pay the extra \$25,000, so that is not honest, accurate information. You are guaranteed to get your money back on your first 1-2 sales, but nothing is in writing. What is apparent is that it is a huge circle of people making money from students. The students pay Armando, who then has guest speakers at the seminar who you pay to set up financial portfolios, who then tell you to do the bus tour where you meet hard money lenders and the hard money lenders tell you to pay the extra money and then they will lend to you and because they are Armando affiliates they get HALF your profit. No wonder the bus tour is pushed so hard.

Additionally, they recommend you use lenders, realtors, contacts all from Armando seminars because they will understand what you need, when you need it and of course, have been through the program. Our first experience with an Armando realtor was on the 'Boots on the Ground' seminar. We got to do a surprise bus tour, no one knew a bus tour was included in that package. The realtor used poor comps for the subject properties we were supposed to be bidding on, so our re-sale value was nowhere near what we projected. I mentioned the inaccuracy of the comps while still in one of the homes and when we returned to the bus was made to feel poorly for 'over analyzing' things that don't matter in the long run. Guess what? It did matter and I don't even practice real estate in that area. It ended up we bid on that very house and GOT IT. However, 2) things caused us to back out. Using google earth to view the comps I was told I was over analyzing and a price reduction of \$20,000 on the home we were bidding on, done 5 days prior to us being the high bidder and NO ONE NOTIFIED US of the price drop. I found out myself! How in the world is this looking out for our best interest or helping your students succeed? My step dad and I were very upset as we were now overpaying a minimum of \$23,000 for this property with bad comps. Where is our guidance and our mentor and all the guarantees?!!! Luckily, we have backgrounds in real estate and financing so while we were made to believe we can only be successful with Armando's teachings, I believe we can be successful without giving him any more of our hard earned money and falling prey to some ponzi scheme. Someone needs to look into this incredibly well done scam, seriously!!!

Sherri, Realtor in AZ

Complaint Title: Armando Montelongo - AKA; Real Estate Training International, LLC Queja 194302 for \$36,000.00

Submitted by
CA
on 12/27/2014
Complaint #194302

In March of 2012 I attended an Armando Montelongo seminar for 1500.00 & then was convinced by many seasoned sales professionals (Who immediately dismissed your relevant questions) to purchase a \$30,000.00 package that included a software package for estimating deals (that is of extremely minimal use and is very general - I have put together a better simple excel sht for estimating repair values) and they never told me that I would have to pay my own way to one of their bus tours to his market dominated areas where supposedly they show you intensive training and take you to property's that you will be able to buy for 45 - 65 cents on the dollar / ARV - which according to the videos I have watched are nothing more than brainwashing through extremely long durations that sleep deprive you & music that is so loud- in another attempt to allow you to invest more money foolishly in properties with their set up lenders & then tell you that you can no longer purchase deals without having "gap funding" from their invited lenders - because you can no longer purchase deals for 45% - 65% of the after repaired values. You have to borrow more money or use your own. Those days / years are gone; I believe it was possible before the bank / financial institution bailouts took-place; However they are still teaching those methods and stating that they can be done. REO properties (other than teardowns) can no longer be purchased in that manner and according to research have not been possible - for at least 2 years. I have applied submitted at least 12 deals (according to their direction & a "sometimes available mentor - my other 2 only called me two times - and offered no insight) and spent countless hours educating myself with my own found factual information, real estate agents, (somewhat investor savvy) devoted hundreds of miles to appointments / driving around and locating homes that are abandoned or in visibly distressed condition researching those and only to discover that they sold for an average of 90% of there after repaired values. They are still selling those same strategies - based on 2007 techniques / applications. I have to recover my \$30k investment through some type of legal action. I can not be the only one in this situation.

Respectfully,
Christopher A DeVuyst

Complaint Title: Armando Montelongo Queja 207256 for \$2,294.00

Submitted by
murray84
on 02/04/2013
Complaint #207256

I attended a Seminar on Jan,13-15 2011. hoping to learn how to flip houses with no money and credit.well after the seminar nothing happened different people have been contacting me that represent AMS but everytime they call its always about spending more and more money. so I Have been trying to contact them about my purchase agreement, and Tax Lein Certificate agreement, that was paid for in full and no answer.

Complaint Title: Armando Montelongo Seminars Queja 5757 for \$6,500.00

Submitted by
Michelle
on 07/20/2013
Complaint #5757

I attended Armando Montelongo's free seminar in Santa Rosa, CA and found it interesting and wanted to get more information. They told me that if I signed up for the next seminar that I would leave with everything I needed to begin flipping houses. I paid the \$1500 and signed up for the next seminar only to find that you really must sign up for a bus tour costing \$40,000+ to get complete information. I was pumped up from the seminar and thought that I could get the \$40K together but was not sure. I was told to put a \$5000 deposit on my card, and that if I could not get the rest of the money, it would be no problem to get that money refunded. I ended up charging half to my card and a friend (Marta Campbell-Salk) decided to partner with me and paid the other \$2500. I was not able to get the money together and have been trying for MONTHS to get a refund. There has been absolutely NO contact from AMS to me regarding this. I even tried to get the charged reversed through my credit card and provided a copy of all my attempted contacts. The credit card company told me there was

nothing they could do. How can I get my refund? And for that matter, since they falsely advertised the second seminar, I would very much like to get that \$1500 back as well... I thought I would be safe with names like A&E and US Today associated with these seminars. Boy was I wrong...

Complaint Title: Armando Montelongo Queja 230553 for \$2,300.00

Submitted by
Jesse
on 04/15/2013
Complaint #230553

I guess like everyone else, I saw the infomercial on TV about the free seminar on flipping houses and making money. I signed up and attended. After 2-3 hours I ended up buying the 3 day workshop for \$1500 and the \$797 tax lien investment online course. This past weekend, on 4/12/13 I attended the 3 day workshop and was surprised that they wanted an additional 41000(Diamond pkg) to go on the upcoming bus tour. I of course didn't have that kind of money so I ended up writing a check for \$5000 and I would try to come up with the rest. Luckily my fiancée sent me an email and attached a link to this website after the last day and after reading some of these complaints, I am glad that I put a stop payment on that check first thing in the morning. I was surprised and very disappointed in all this. All they preached was not to be greedy, pay it forward by helping others and being truthful and honest. I know Armando is very rich, but how much richer does he need to be. Like one of his speakers said "Karma is a bitch..." It's gonna bite him in the ass I'm just hoping to being able to see it when it does happen. The one good thing that came out of this weekend was that I met other people feeling like my fiancée and I did and exchanged numbers (right in front of the speakers which I know they didn't like). It also opened my eyes up to the possibilities of investing in real estate and achieving my goals. I just hope that other people read all of these complaints and not give him any money.

Complaint Title: Armando Montelongo Queja 214322 for \$1,497.00

Submitted by
rorestord
on 02/25/2013
Complaint #214322

Complete scam.....On the first day, they said Armando Montelongo was upstairs in the hotel and would be down later....That never happened the whole 3 days we were there.....All they kept harping on was "What our financial situation was, to see if we could afford the \$35k Bus tour" and kept trying to convince us to but that tour.....We were never told before we paid the \$1,497.00 that they would use that seminar to sell us the \$35k program, and they told us numerous times "you will not be successful unless you purchase the \$35k bus tour"...I hope this guy rots in Hell!!!!

Complaint Title: Armondo Montelongo Seminars Queja 76420 for \$40,000.00

Submitted by
Anonymous
on 02/20/2014
Complaint #76420

When I went to the free seminar it was encouraging and led by a motivational speaker. He explained that for more teaching it was going to cost more and that they had a 3 day seminar for a little over a grand. I thought ok if I can learn what I need to know it would be worth it. The speaker at the 3 day seminar was very good and taught us many things. If I would have stopped there it would have been ok but he then offered very thorough training split up into 3 trips that only the very successful go to. I wanted to be very successful and signed up for all 3 trips. After getting home I felt sticker shock and wondered what have I done. I am a middle aged man and I just put 40 grand on charge cards at high interest. I talked to my wife about it but we waited too late. I soon found out that my credit was ruined I had no money and banks were not going to help me. In the course they preached repeatedly about using hard money lenders who charge 4,5,6,7 points and 12% interest but will fund your deal and in a short period of time I'll be making lots of money. Problem is the hard money lender only comes up with 65% of your money, leaving you "broke" short and having to borrow money from someone else. By the time you pay all the fees that come with buying and selling and rehabbing and holding expenses there is no money left for you. I am a 52 year old desperate

male like so many others, that are feeling the physical deterioration of their body and are just now getting to the empty nest phase in life desperate to find a path to retirement before they collapse. This is feb 2012, I haven't given up and I have learned a lot I know people have done this and I know I can but it would have been a lot easier If I had not taken the armondo montelongo class. Armondos' speaker was correct this has been a life changer of a class. It has taken a desperate man and made him more desperate. My generation is already screwed, people like Armondo need to be locked up and whatever money,property etc needs to be given back to the students he screwed.

Complaint Title: Armando Montelongo Queja 206030 for \$18,000.00

Submitted by
Terri
on 01/30/2013
Complaint #206030

Armondao Montelargo 3 day bus tours are way over priced! I paid 18,000! I know some people paid \$30,000. He had about 8 buses and we all viewed the same 6 houses. After we completed lots of party time and some information time, he brought in 2 realtors. There must of been 300 to 400 people there. So we all left with some good information but not enough to know how to find homes at wholesale prices, how to find hard money lenders, how to find the contractors, etc. I really think Armando is ripping the american people. Why there hasn't been a class action law suit put in place is beyond me!

He is making millions of dollars off of us and we are now in debt struggling to stay above water. He is a heavy investor in Las Vegas. Why not share in his ability to buy wholesale properties through the banks and sell them to us, but instead he keeps it all!!!

▼ Sample Comments from the Group Members

From Report: Armando Montelongo Seminars Queja 98627 for \$30,000.00

Submitted by
Extremely-Disappoint
ed
on 08/04/2014
Comment #32632

I feel your pain! Been there too. It is a shame this continues without any consequences. Anybody know a lawyer to work on consignment with LARGE group of people that would be happy to get any portion of their money back? At least shut this machine down.

From Report: Armando Montelongo - AKA; Real Estate Training International, LLC Queja 194302 for \$36,000.00

There are 10 pages of complaints here: (Content Removed)

Submitted by
David
on 01/19/2013
Comment #46011

From Report: Armondo Montelongo Seminars Queja 76420 for \$40,000.00

Submitted by
ChrisJohnson
on 06/12/2014
Comment #27626

I currently went to the seminar and they said Armando's hard money lenders come up with 90% and we put down 10%. Did you use Armando's hard money lenders?

From Report: Armando Montelongo Seminars Queja 98627 for \$30,000.00

Submitted by
ChrisJohnson
on 06/12/2014
Comment #27625

So Sherri they want another \$25,000 after the \$30,000 for bus tour to use Armando's 90% ltv hard money lenders? And they want to split the deal? Did you do all of that to buy the house you overpaid for?

From Report: Armando Montelongo Queja 292926 for \$1,500.00

Submitted by
S
on 12/12/2013
Comment #60767

Excuse me, I meant... The veteran is a veteran according to what he said. That was a typo above.

From Report: Armando Montelongo Seminars Queja 98627 for \$30,000.00

Submitted by
Terri
on 01/30/2013
Comment #46740

I wish we could get a class action law suit going against him. Him and his buddy here in Las Vegas buy many homes directly from the bank and of course rehabs them and makes even more money and resales them as HEARTLAND COALITION. Las Vegas even named a day after him!! Figures, Las Vegas. Can you believe it!! He is ripping so many people off and Las Vegas is naming a day after him!! Yea he has connectionsw to buy homes directly from the bank at pennys on the dollar. If he cared about any body except himself he would help his "wolf pack" and wholesale them back!! During my 3 day bus tour in Riverside CA, his buddy was there from Las Vegas selling over priced older homes with a 2 year warranty, etc. I'm in real estate and I looked up those homes which were extremely over priced. They also added a \$5,000 processing fee to the price. His buddy sold about 15 homes that weekend!

From Report: Armando Montelongo Queja 110873 for \$2,294.00

Submitted by
Cynthia_K
on 10/28/2014
Comment #40241

Did you contact the other students after their bus tour to follow up?

From Report: Armando Montelongo - AKA; Real Estate Training International, LLC Queja 194302 for \$36,000.00

Submitted by
Terri
on 01/30/2013
Comment #46742

I think people must be embarrassed to say they invested so much money into his seminar or Maybe people don't think anything can be done. I don't know but I will contact an attorney and see what they say about a class action lawsuit. I think many people will come out of the wood work!! At my bus tour there must of been 300 people there. I did collect most business cards from people on my bus. I need to see how they are doing!!

From Report: Armando Montelongo Queja 110873 for \$2,294.00

Submitted by
Extremely-Disappoint
ed
on 08/04/2014
Comment #32631

I am happy you got out! I was taken! Still have a friend who continues to be screwed-"Master Mentor"program. She still has no success.She is still drinking the Kool-aid!! I agree with you 100% DO NOT DO IT!!! Join local real estate investors club. Much cheaper and people who really care about you and your success!!

From Report: Armando Montelongo Queja 110873 for \$2,294.00

Submitted by
Rick
on 03/17/2014
Comment #62883

You were LUCKY! You got out! Rest of us paid the \$55,000 and it was a rip off! What was missing? Financing. The financing you need when you have not much money like they state isn't important. All RE Gurus are the same. they're missing the same thing. I flip because I find partners with capital and that's not easy to find.