

Sacramento Book Review



Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

Chain of Blame

By Paul Muolo; Mathew Padilla

Wiley, \$27.95, 352 pages

Interested in who to blame for the mortgage and real estate meltdown? Sure you are, in a “drive slow past the traffic accident that’s kept you in stop and go traffic for the last hour” sort of way. Veteran journalists Muolo and Padilla take you behind the scenes of the sub-prime mortgage business and introduce you to the many players in the business, all of whom carry some blame for the crisis. Most of the action is around former Countrywide CEO Angelo Mozilo and how he pioneered the use of loan brokers whose only interest was in funding loans for quick commissions and not in servicing the products and had no financial incentives for loan failure. Many of

the other players in the mortgage end of the business were financial Icaruses, rising high and falling so very quickly. Wall Street’s willingness to take risky loans, package them into asset-backed securities (ABS) for quick turn-around and fast profit also added to the house of cards. If you’re already upset over the crisis, and the lack of accountability over the players, *Chain of Blame* will only kick your blood pressure up ten points. If you aren’t familiar with just

how loose people were playing, and the lack of regulatory oversight that allowed an “anything goes” business system, then this book will bring you up to speed.

