UNITED STATES OF AMERICA before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 Release No. 55133 / January 19, 2007

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING ENFORCEMENT

Release No. 2543 / January 19, 2007

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-12542

ORDER INSTITUTING ADMINISTRATIVE In the Matter of

PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO RULE **DOUGLAS WACHTEL** 102(e) OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES OF PRACTICE, MAKING FINDINGS, AND (CPA),

IMPOSING REMEDIAL SANCTIONS

Respondent.

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") deems it appropriate and in the public interest that public administrative proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted against Douglas Wachtel ("Respondent" or "Wachtel") pursuant to Rule 102(e)(3)(i) of the Commission's Rules of Practice.1

II.

The Commission, with due regard to the public interest and without preliminary hearing, may, by order, . . . suspend from appearing or practicing before it any . . . accountant . . . who has been by name . . . permanently enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction, by reason of his or her misconduct in an action brought by the Commission, from violating or aiding and abetting the violation of any provision of the Federal securities laws or of the rules and regulations thereunder.

¹ Rule 102(e)(3)(i) provides, in relevant part, that:

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, Respondent has submitted an Offer of Settlement (the "Offer") which the Commission has determined to accept. Solely for the purpose of these proceedings and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Commission, or to which the Commission is a party, and without admitting or denying the findings herein, except as to the Commission's jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of these proceedings, and the findings contained in Section III.B.3. below, which are admitted, Respondent consents to the entry of this Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions ("Order"), as set forth below.

III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondent's Offer, the Commission finds that:

- 1. Wachtel, age 42, was at all relevant times prior to February 2004 a certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State of California. He served as Controller of NextCard, Inc. ("NextCard" or the "Company") from 1998 to 2003.
- 2. NextCard was, at all relevant times, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in San Francisco, California. NextCard was engaged in the business of issuing credit cards over the Internet. At all relevant times, NextCard's common stock was registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), and traded on the NASDAQ National Market. NextCard declared bankruptcy in November 2002.
- 3. On September 28, 2004, the Commission filed a complaint against Wachtel and others entitled SEC v. Lent, et al., (Civil Action No. 04-4088 (N.D. Cal.). On October 27, 2006, the court entered an order permanently enjoining Wachtel, by consent, from future violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"), Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, and aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a) and 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20, 13a-1 and 13a-13 thereunder. Wachtel was also ordered to pay disgorgement, prejudgment interest and civil money penalties totaling \$93,223.
- 4. The Commission's Complaint alleged, among other things, that Wachtel and the other defendants, all former officers of NextCard, engaged in a fraudulent scheme which resulted in NextCard filing materially false and misleading financial statements in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, and in the company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the first two quarters of fiscal year 2001. The Complaint alleged that Wachtel and the other defendants failed to disclose several changes in NextCard's accounting policies, including: (1) the reclassification of certain credit losses as fraud losses; and (2) changes in NextCard's policy for calculating its loan loss reserve. According to the Complaint, as a result of these undisclosed accounting policy changes, investors were misled and denied material information concerning the rising levels of losses on NextCard's credit card portfolio.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanction agreed to in Respondent Wachtel's Offer.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED, effective immediately, that:

- A. Wachtel is suspended from appearing or practicing before the Commission as an accountant.
- B. After 5 years from the date of this order, Respondent may request that the Commission consider his reinstatement by submitting an application (attention: Office of the Chief Accountant) to resume appearing or practicing before the Commission as:
- 1. a preparer or reviewer, or a person responsible for the preparation or review, of any public company's financial statements that are filed with the Commission. Such an application must satisfy the Commission that Respondent's work in his practice before the Commission will be reviewed either by the independent audit committee of the public company for which he/she works or in some other acceptable manner, as long as he practices before the Commission in this capacity; and/or
- 2. an independent accountant. Such an application must satisfy the Commission that:
- (a) Respondent, or the public accounting firm with which he is associated, is registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("Board") in accordance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and such registration continues to be effective;
- (b) Respondent, or the registered public accounting firm with which he is associated, has been inspected by the Board and that inspection did not identify any criticisms of or potential defects in the Respondent's or the firm's quality control system that would indicate that the Respondent will not receive appropriate supervision;
- (c) Respondent has resolved all disciplinary issues with the Board, and has complied with all terms and conditions of any sanctions imposed by the Board (other than reinstatement by the Commission); and
- (d) Respondent acknowledges his responsibility, as long as Respondent appears or practices before the Commission as an independent accountant, to comply with all requirements of the Commission and the Board, including, but not limited to, all requirements relating to registration, inspections, concurring partner reviews and quality control standards.
- C. The Commission will consider an application by Respondent to resume appearing or practicing before the Commission provided that his state CPA license is current and he has resolved all other disciplinary issues with the applicable state boards

of accountancy. However, if state licensure is dependent on reinstatement by the Commission, the Commission will consider an application on its other merits. The Commission's review may include consideration of, in addition to the matters referenced above, any other matters relating to Respondent's character, integrity, professional conduct, or qualifications to appear or practice before the Commission.

By the Commission.

Nancy M. Morris Secretary