WILLIAM E. KOVACIC 1 General Counsel FILED CLERK, US DISTRICT COURT Michael J. Davis Colleen B. Robbins 3 Attorneys for Plaintiff 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW H-238 Washington, DC 20580 MAY - 7 2003 4 (202) 326-2458, (202) 326-2548 (202) 326-3395 facsimile CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA DEPUTY 6 Kenneth H. Abbe, Cal. Bar No. 172416 Federal Trade Commission **、** つ 7 10877 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 700 Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310) 824-4343 8 (310) 824-4380 facsimile Attorneys for Plaintiff 10 1 ,. UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 11 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 12 -03-3202 A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, 13 Plaintiff, 14 TPROPOSED+ 15 V. EX PARTE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER WITH PATRICK CELLA, an individual, ASSET FREEZE AND OTHER d/b/a QUIK CASH, U-MAIL, EOUITABLE RELIEF INNOVATIVE SERVICES, CENTRAL SOLUTIONS, PARALLAX BUSINESS SERVICES, 17 and ACE DISTRIBUTING CENTER, 19 IRENE HERRERA, an individual, d/b/a QUIK CASH, INNOVATIVE SERVICES, CENTRAL SOLUTIONS 20 and EXECUTIVE WORLDWIDE, 21 JAMES ZEZULA, an individual, d/b/a 22 EASY MONEY, COAST DISTRIBUTING and CREDIT 23 SOLUTIONS, and 24 VINCENT ZEZULA, an individual, d/b/a COAST DISTRIBUTING and 25 EXECUTIVE WORLDWIDE, 26 Defendants. 27

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Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission ("Commission" or "FTC"), pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), filed a complaint for injunctive and other equitable relief, including consumer redress, and applied ex parte for a temporary restraining order ("TRO") and other equitable relief, and for an order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not be granted pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Court has considered the pleadings, declarations, exhibits, and memoranda filed in support of the Commission's application and finds that:

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case, and there is good cause to believe it will have jurisdiction over all the parties.
- 2. There is good cause to believe that Defendants have engaged in and are likely to engage in acts and practices that violate Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C.§ 45(a).
- the Court's ability to grant effective final relief in the form of monetary restitution will occur from the sale, transfer, or other disposition or concealment by Defendants of their assets or business records, unless Defendants are immediately restrained and enjoined by Order of this Court. The evidence set forth in the Plaintiff's Ex Parte Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction, and Other Equitable Relief, and in the accompanying declarations and exhibits, shows that Defendants have engaged in a concerted course of illegal activity in connection with the advertising, promotion, offering or sale of a Work-At-Home Opportunity offered through unsolicited commercial email ("spam"), in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45. Defendants' marketing practices include operating under fictitious names, implying a nonexistent affiliation with reputable businesses, making false assurances about their business, and avoiding consumers' complaints. Thus, there is good cause to believe that the Defendants will attempt to conceal the scope of

their deliberate illegal actions to avoid returning their ill-gotten gains to consumers injured by their unlawful practices if not restrained from doing so by Order of this Court.

- 4. The Commission has not provided notice to the Defendants due to the likelihood that advanced notice of this action will lead to the very irreparable harm, including the dissipation of assets and destruction of evidence, that the Commission seeks to prevent through its application for an <u>ex parte</u> temporary restraining order. The Commission's request for this emergency <u>ex parte</u> relief is not the result of any lack of diligence on the part of the Commission, but is instead based on the nature of the Defendants' unlawful conduct. There is thus good cause for relieving the Commission of the duty to provide Defendants with prior notice of the Commission's application.
- Defendants. Defendants have likely retained ill-gotten gains derived from their deceptive practices, including: misrepresenting to consumers that they are likely to earn a substantial amount of money after purchasing Defendants' Work-At-Home Opportunity; falsely claiming that they will provide pamphlets for mailing with pre-addressed, pre-stamped envelopes, and that they will pay consumers \$1 for each stuffed envelope; falsely promising that they will provide refunds to consumers; providing consumers with the means and instrumentalities to commit deceptive acts and practices by furnishing them with false and misleading materials, including an instruction booklet, a sales pamphlet, and a credit repair manual; and misrepresenting their identity by suggesting they have an affiliation with well-known email service providers. An asset freeze is reasonably necessary in order to preserve the possibility of complete and meaningful relief at the conclusion of this litigation.
- 6. Weighing the equities and considering the Commission's likelihood of success, this Order is in the public interest.

7. No security is required of any agency of the United States for issuance of a restraining order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c).

<u>ORDER</u>

Definitions

- A. "Assets" means any legal or equitable interest in, right to, or claim to, any real and personal property, including but not limited to chattel, goods, instruments, equipment, fixtures, general intangibles, effects, leaseholds, premises, contracts, mail or other deliveries, shares of stock, lists of consumer names, inventory, checks, notes, accounts, credits, receivables, funds, and all cash, wherever located.
- B. "Defendants" means Patrick Cella, individually and d/b/a Quik Cash, Uz Mail, Innovative Services, Central Solutions, Parallax Business Services, and Ace Distributing Center; Irene Herrera, individually and d/b/a Quik Cash, Innovative Services, Central Solutions, and Executive Worldwide; James Zezula, individually and d/b/a Easy Money, Coast Distributing, and Credit Solutions; Vincent Zezula, individually and d/b/a Coast Distributing and Executive Worldwide; any other d/b/a names associated with these four individuals; each of them individually, collectively, or in any combination; and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and all persons or entities in active concert or participation with them who receive notice of this order by personal service or otherwise.
- C. "Document" is synonymous in meaning and equal in scope to the usage of the term in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a), and includes writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, audio and video recordings, computer records, and other data compilations from which information can be obtained and translated, if necessary, into reasonably usable form through detection devices. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of the term.
- D. "Material" means likely to affect a person's choice of, or conduct regarding, goods or services.

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- G. Representing any material term, condition, or limitation of the transaction or about the use of any offered good or service; and
- H. Representing that Defendants or any other person can improve any consumers' credit record, credit history, or credit rating by removing or obtaining removal of negative information that is accurate and not obsolete from such credit record, credit history, or credit rating.

II. INJUNCTION AGAINST PROVIDING OTHERS WITH THE MEANS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES TO VIOLATE SECTION 5 OF THE FTC ACT

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in connection with the offering for sale or sale of credit repair manuals and credit repair sales brochures, Defendants are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from providing to others the means and instrumentalities with which to make, expressly or by implication, orally or in writing, any false or misleading statement or representation of material fact, including, but not limited to:

- A. Any fact material to a consumer's decision to purchase the Defendants' services or products;
- B. Any statement that anyone can substantially improve consumers' credit reports or profiles by effectuating permanent lawful removal of bankruptcies, foreclosures, slow payments, court judgments, liens, or other negative information from consumers' credit reports where such information is accurate and not obsolete; and
- C. Any statement that consumers' credit reports or profiles can be substantially improved by effectuating permanent lawful removal of bankruptcies, foreclosures, slow payments, court judgments, liens, or other negative information from consumers' credit reports where such information is accurate and not obsolete.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service, facsimile or otherwise, are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from:

- Transferring, liquidating, converting, encumbering, pledging, loaning, selling, concealing, dissipating, disbursing, assigning, spending, withdrawing, perfecting a security interest in, or otherwise disposing of any assets, wherever located, inside or outside the United States of America, that are: (1) held on behalf, for the benefit of, or owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by any Defendant in whole or in part, including but not limited to property, bank accounts, or other assets where the title is taken in his or her name, as joint tenancy or common ownership with a non-party, co-owned with a spouse, or held in trust; (2) in the actual or constructive possession of any Defendant; or (3) owned, controlled by, or in the actual or constructive possession of any corporation, partnership, or other entity directly or indirectly owned, managed, or controlled by, or under common control of any Defendant, including but not limited to any assets held for by, or under the name of, any Defendant or subject to access by any Defendant at any bank or savings and loan institution or with any broker, dealer, escrow agent, title company, commodity trading company, precious metal dealer, or other financial institution or depository of any kind;
- B. Opening or causing to be opened any safe deposit boxes titled in the name of any Defendant, or subject to access by any Defendant;
- C. Incurring charges or cash advances on any credit card, debit card or checking card issued in the name of any Defendant, singly or jointly;
- D. Obtaining a personal or secured loan in the name of any Defendant, singly or jointly; and
- E. Incurring liens or other encumbrances on real property, personal property or other assets in the name, singly or jointly, of any Defendant.

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Provided, however, that the assets affected by this Paragraph shall include: (1) all of the assets of any Defendant existing as of the date this Order was entered; and (2) for assets obtained after the date this Order was entered, only those assets of any Defendant that are derived from or otherwise related to the sale of Work-At-Home Opportunities.

IV. RETENTION OF ASSETS AND RECORDS BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER THIRD PARTIES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any financial or brokerage institution, escrow agent, title company, commodity trading company, business entity, or person served with a copy of this Order that holds, controls or maintains custody of any accounts or assets of any Defendant, or has held, controlled or maintained any accounts or assets of any Defendant at any time since November 1, 1999 shall:

A. Hold and retain within its control and prohibit any Defendant from withdrawing, removing, assigning, transferring, pledging, encumbering, disbursing, dissipating, converting, selling, or otherwise disposing of any account, funds, property or other asset:

- 1. Maintained in the name of, or subject to withdrawal or access by ny Defendant;
 - 2. Held on behalf or for the benefit of any Defendant; or
 - Subject to access or use by any Defendant.

Provided however, that this Order shall not:

- (i) prohibit transfers as directed by further order of the Court;
- (ii) prohibit transfers for specific transfers authorized in writing by counsel for the Commission.
 - B. Deny any Defendant access to any safe deposit box that is:
 - 1. Titled in the name of any Defendant, either individually or jointly;

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2. Otherwise subject to access by any Defendant, either individually or jointly.

C. Provide counsel for the Commission, within five (5) business days of receiving a copy of this Order, a sworn statement setting forth:

- 1. The identification number of each such account or asset titled in the name, individually or jointly, of any Defendant, or held on behalf of, or for the benefit of any Defendant;
- 2. The balance of each such account, or a description of the nature and appraisal of the value of such asset as of (a) the close of business on the day on which this Order is served, and (b) the close of business on the day prior to which this Order is served, and, if the account or other asset has been closed or removed, the date closed or removed, the total funds removed in order to close the account, and the name of the person or entity to whom such account or other asset was remitted; and
- 3. The identification of any safe deposit box that is either titled in the name, individually or jointly, of any Defendant, or otherwise subject to access by any Defendant.

The Commission is granted leave, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 45, and notwithstanding Fed. R. Civ. P. 26, to subpoen documents immediately from any such financial institution, account custodian, or other aforementioned entity concerning the nature, location, status, and extent of Defendants' assets, and compliance with this Order. Subpoenas may be served by agents or attorneys of the Commission and by agents of any process server retained by the Commission.

V. REPATRIATION OF ASSETS AND DOCUMENTS LOCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Defendant, whether acting through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, shall:

A. Within three (3) business days following service of this Order, take such steps as are necessary to transfer to the territory of the United States of America all

documents and assets that are located outside of such territory and are held by or for each Defendant or are under each Defendants' direct or indirect control, jointly, severally, or individually. In the case of any liquid assets held in foreign countries, each Defendant shall transfer such assets to one domestic account in California, titled in that Defendant's name and designated prior to any transfer by written notice to the Commission, such written notice to state the amount of the transfer and identify the domestic account by financial institution, title holder and account number;

- B. Within three (3) business days following service of this Order, provide the Plaintiff with a full accounting of all documents and assets that are located outside of the territory of the United States of America and are held by or for each Defendant or are under Defendants' direct or indirect control, jointly, severally, or individually,
- C. Hold and retain all transferred documents and assets and prevent any transfer, disposition, or dissipation whatsoever of any such assets or funds; and
- D. Provide the Plaintiff access to each Defendants' records and documents held by financial institutions outside the territorial United States, by signing the Consent to Release of Financial Records attached hereto as Attachment A.

VI. INTERFÉRENCE WITH REPATRIATION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from taking any action, directly or indirectly, which may result in the encumbrance or dissipation of foreign assets, or in the hindrance of the repatriation required by the preceding Paragraph of this Order, including but not limited to:

A. Sending any statement, letter, fax, e-mail or wire transmission, telephoning or engaging in any other act, directly or indirectly, that results in a determination by a foreign trustee or other entity that a "duress" event has occurred under the terms of a foreign trust agreement until such time that all assets have been fully repatriated pursuant to the preceding Paragraph of this Order; and

B. Notifying any trustee, protector or other agent of any foreign trust or other related entities of either the existence of this Order, or of the fact that repatriation is required pursuant to a Court Order, until such time that all assets have been fully repatriated pursuant to the preceding Paragraph of this Order.

VII. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Defendant, not less than three (3) days prior to the scheduled date and time for a hearing on a preliminary injunction in this matter, but in no event later than ten (10) days after entry of this Order, shall:

- A. Prepare and deliver to counsel for Plaintiff, as provided in Paragraph XXI of this Order, completed financial statements on the forms attached to this Order as Attachments B and C, for themselves individually, and for each business entity under which each Defendant conducts business, or of which each Defendant is an officer, and for each trust of which each Defendant is a trustee. The financial statements shall be accurate as of the date of entry of this Order; and
- B. Such financial statements shall include a full accounting of all assets and documents that are located inside or outside of the territory of the United States of America and are held by or for each Defendant or are under each Defendants' direct or indirect control, jointly, severally, or individually.

VIII. CONSUMER CREDIT REPORTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Section 604(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(1), any consumer reporting agency may furnish a consumer report concerning any Defendant to Plaintiff.

IX. PLAINTIFF'S ACCESS TO BUSINESS RECORDS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants shall allow Plaintiff's representatives, agents, and assistants access to all of Defendants' business records to inspect and copy documents so that the Commission may prepare for the preliminary injunction hearing and identify and locate assets. Accordingly, Defendants shall, within twenty-four (24) hours of service of this Order:

Produce to Plaintiff for inspection, inventory and/or copying, at the A. FTC's Western Regional Office located at 10877 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90024, or at another location designated by Plaintiff, all materials related or referring, directly or indirectly, to Defendants' offer, sale, or provision of their Work-At-Home Opportunity and/or any materials, information, products or data related thereto, including, but not limited to, consumer identification or financial information obtained through or as a result of email solicitations, computers, computerized files, storage media (including, but not limited to, floppy disks, hard drives, cd-roms, zip disks, punch cards, magnetic tape, backup tapes and computer chips) on which information has been saved, any and all equipment needed to read any such material, contracts, accounting data, correspondence (including, but not limited to, electronic correspondence), advertisements (including, but not limited to, advertisements placed on the World Wide Web), USENET Newsgroup postings, World Wide Web pages, books, written or printed records, handwritten notes, receipt books, ledgers, personal and business canceled checks and check registers, bank statements, appointment books, copies of federal, state or local business or personal income or property tax returns, 1099 forms, and other documents or records of any kind that relate to Defendants' business practices; and

B. Produce to Plaintiff for inspection, inventory and/or copying, at the FTC's Western Regional Office located at 10877 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90024, or at another location designated by Plaintiff, all computers and data in whatever form, used by Defendants, in whole or in part, relating to Defendants' business practices.

The Commission shall return materials produced by Defendants pursuant to this Paragraph within five (5) business days of completing said inventory and copying.

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X. PRESERVATION OF RECORDS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from destroying, erasing, mutilating, concealing, altering, transferring or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, directly or indirectly, any documents that relate to the business practices or business or personal finances of any Defendant, including, but not limited to, consumer identification or financial information obtained through or as a result of email solicitations, computers, computerized files, storage media (including but not limited to floppy disks, hard drives, cd-roms, zip disks, punch cards, magnetic tape, backup tapes and computer chips) on which information has been saved, any and all equipment needed to read any such material, contracts, accounting data, correspondence (including, but not limited to, electronic correspondence), advertisements (including, but not limited to, advertisements placed on the World Wide Web), USENET Newsgroup postings, World Wide Web pages, books, written or printed records, handwritten notes, receipt books, ledgers, personal and business canceled checks and check registers, bank statements, appointment books, copies of federal, state or local business or personal income or property tax returns, 1099 forms, and other documents or records of any kind that relate to Defendants' business practices.

XI. MAINTENANCE OF CURRENT BUSINESS RECORDS IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from:

- A. Failing to create and maintain documents that, in reasonable detail, accurately, fairly, and completely reflect their incomes, disbursements, transactions, and use of money; and
- B. Creating, operating, or exercising any control over any business entity, including any partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship or corporation, without first providing Plaintiff with a written statement disclosing: (1) the name of the business entity; (2) the address and telephone number of the business

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entity; (3) the names of the business entity's officers, directors, principals, managers and employees; and (4) a detailed description of the business entity's intended activities.

XII. NON-DISCLOSURE OF CONSUMER LISTS

enjoined from selling, renting, leasing, transferring, or otherwise disclosing the name, date of birth, address, telephone number, credit card number, bank account number, email address, or other identifying information of any person who submitted such information to Defendants at any time prior to entry of this Order, in connection with the advertising, promotion, telemarketing, offering for sale, or sale of any product or service in or affecting commerce, provided, however, that Defendants may disclose such identifying information to a law enforcement agency, or as required by any law, regulation or court order.

XIII. EXPEDITED DISCOVERY

time after service of this Order to demand the production of documents from any person or entity relating to the nature, status, extent, location or other relevant information relating to Defendants' business practices, assets, income, personal or susiness financial records, or the location of a Defendant. Forty eight (48) hours notice shall be deemed sufficient for any such production of documents from Defendants and from any other person or entity, including but not limited to financial institutions, accountants, stock brokers and financial planners. The production of documents submitted pursuant to this Paragraph shall not in any way waive Plaintiff's rights to seek the production of additional documents. Subpoenas may be served by agents or attorneys of the Commission and by agents of any process server retained by any of the parties. Nothing in this Paragraph shall affect the Court's ability to further modify the discovery rules as they apply in this matter.

XIV. WITHHOLDING OF MAIL SENT TO COMMERCIAL MAIL RECEIVING AGENCIES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all commercial mail receiving agencies ("CMRAs") where Defendants maintain accounts and who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, shall, for the duration of this Order, retain and forward by overnight delivery to Plaintiff, at the address designated in Paragraph XXI below, all mail received at the CMRA that is addressed to Defendants.

XV. DISTRIBUTION OF ORDER BY DEFENDANTS

copy of this Order to each affiliate, subsidiary, division, sales entity, successor, assign, officer, director, employee, independent contractor, agent, attorney, spouse and representative of Defendants, and shall, within ten (10) days from the date of entry of this Order, provide the Commission with a sworn statement that Defendants have complied with this Paragraph of the Order, which statement shall include the names and addresses of each such person or entity who received a copy of the Order.

XVI. SERVICE OF ORDER

means, including facsimile transmission, upon any financial institution or other entity or person that may have possession, custody, or control of any documents or assets of any Defendant, or that may otherwise be subject to any Paragraph of this Order. Service upon any branch or office of any financial institution shall effect service upon the entire financial institution. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(c)(2), this Order and the initial papers filed in this matter may be served by agents or attorneys of the Commission and by agents of any process server retained by the Commission.

XVII. SERVICE OF PLEADINGS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants shall serve all memoranda, affidavits and other evidence on which they intend to rely at the preliminary injunction hearing set in this matter not later than 3:00 p.m. P.S.T. of the fifth (5th)

business day prior to the hearing date. The Commission shall be permitted a supplemental filing or reply which shall be served on Defendants not later than 3:00 p.m. P.S.T. of the second (2nd) business day prior to the hearing date.

XVIII. WITNESS IDENTIFICATION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if any party to this action intends to present the testimony of any witness at the hearing on a preliminary injunction in this matter, that party shall, at least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled date and time of hearing, file with this Court and serve on all other parties a statement disclosing the name, address, and telephone number of any such witness, and either a summary of the witness' expected testimony, or the witness' affidavit revealing the substance of such witness' expected testimony.

XIX. DURATION OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

XX. ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE REGARDING PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

1T IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(b), that Defendants shall appear before this Court on the 65 day of 2003, at 9.30 o'clock A.m., to show cause, if there is any, why this Court should not enter a preliminary injunction, pending final ruling on the Complaint against Defendants, enjoining them from further violations of Section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), continuing the freeze of their assets, and imposing such additional relief as may be appropriate.

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XXI. SERVICE UPON PLAINTIFF

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, with regard to any correspondence or pleadings related to this Order, service on the Commission shall be performed by overnight delivery to the attention of Michael Davis, Division of Marketing Practices, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room H-238, Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326-2458, or by facsimile transmission to (202) 326-3395.

XXII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for all purposes.

SO ORDERED, this pday of may 2003, at 12:30 p.m.

GARY ALLEN FEESS

United States District Judge