- 1							
1	GREGORY GLYNN, Cal. Bar No. 39999						
2	Email: glynng@sec.gov KELLY BOWERS, Cal. Bar No. 164007 Email: bowersk@sec.gov VICTORIA LEVIN, Cal. Bar No. 166616 Email: levinv@sec.gov LYNN M. DEAN, Cal. Bar No. 205562						
3							
4							
5	Email: deanl@sec.gov						
6	Attorneys for Plaintiff						
7	Securities and Exchange Commission Rosalind Tyson, Acting Regional Director Andrew Petillon, Associate Regional Director 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, 11th Floor Los Angeles, California 90036-3648 Telephone: (323) 965-3998 Facsimile: (323) 965-3908						
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10	Facsimile: (323) 965-3908						
11	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT						
12	CIVILED STATES DISTRICT COURT						
	DISTRICT OF NEVADA						
13							
14	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Case No.						
15	COMMISSION,						
16	Plaintiff, COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS						
17	vs.						
18	JOSEPH MILANOWSKI, an individual,						
19	Defendant.						
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21	Digintiff Committies and Eurobanas Commission ("Commission") -11						
	Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") alleges as						
22	follows						

es as follows:

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 20(b), 1. 20(d)(1), and 22(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b), 77t(d)(1), & 77v(a), and Sections 21(d)(1), 21(d)(3)(A), 21(e), and 27 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d)(1), 78u(d)(3)(A), 78u(e), & 78aa. Defendants have, directly or indirectly, made use of

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the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange in connection with the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business alleged in this complaint.

2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because certain of the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business constituting violations of the federal securities laws occurred within this district.

SUMMARY

- 3. This matter involves an offering fraud perpetrated by Joseph Milanowski, the former President of USA Commercial Mortgage Company, dba USA Capital ("USA Capital"), a mortgage broker based in Las Vegas, Nevada. USA Capital raised over \$960 million from approximately 6,800 investors through various investments in real estate loans. Milanowski's fraud related to one of USA Capital's investment vehicles, the USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund (the "Fund"), which from May 2000 to September 2005 raised \$150 million from 1,900 investors.
- 4. Contrary to the representations to the Fund investors, Milanowski used the vast majority of the Fund's offering proceeds to make unsecured loans to entities affiliated with him, which entities eventually defaulted on the loans. As a result of Milanowski's misuse of the Fund's money and the large number of defaulted loans, USA Capital, certain of its affiliates, and the Fund filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April 2006 and Fund investors lost over half of their investments.

THE DEFENDANT

Joseph Milanowski, age 46, is a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada. He 5. was the President and COO of USA Capital from 1998 to April 2006 and a director from 1998 to March 2007. He was affiliated with a registered broker-dealer, USA Securities, LLC, from September 2001 to December 2005 and held Series 22, 39,

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and 63 NASD licenses. He has no disciplinary history. He was an owner and the sole manager of USA Investment Partners, LLC ("USAIP") from November 1, 1999 until May 1, 2001 and from August 2005 to March 28, 2007, when it was forced into involuntary bankruptcy. Because USAIP was the manager of USA Capital Realty Advisors, LLC, which (in addition to managing the unregistered Fund) also managed a registered fund offered by USA Capital, Milanowski was the sole manager, or functional equivalent of an officer, of the registered and publicly reporting fund.

RELATED ENTITIES

- 6. <u>USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund</u> (the "Fund") is a Nevada limited liability company headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Fund was not a registered investment company. The Fund has been under new management since April 13, 2006, when it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Currently, the Fund has no operations other than winding down under bankruptcy court supervision.
- 7. <u>USA Commercial Mortgage Company, dba USA Capital</u> was a Nevada limited liability company, headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada. USA Capital was a mortgage broker licensed by the state of Nevada, and it originated and serviced the loans made by the Fund. USA Capital has been under new management since it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on April 13, 2006. Currently, USA Capital has no operations other than winding down under bankruptcy court jurisdiction.
- 8. <u>USA Securities, LLC</u> is a Nevada limited liability company and was registered as a broker-dealer from May 2002 to February 2006. From March 1999 to April 13, 2006, USA Securities was managed by Milanowski. USA Securities solicited investors in the registered fund only. USA Securities has been under new management since it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on April 13, 2006. Currently, USA Securities has no operations other than winding down under bankruptcy court supervision.

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9. USA Investment Partners, LLC ("USAIP") is a Nevada limited liability company, headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was owned and managed, directly or indirectly, by Milanowski and his partner from 1999 to March 28, 2007, when it was placed into involuntary bankruptcy by one of its business partners. USAIP was the manager of USA Capital Realty Advisors, LLC, the manager of the Fund from its inception until April 13, 2006. USA Capital owned a 100% interest in USAIP from May 2001 to August 2005 and was the manager of USAIP from November 1999 to June 2004. The USAIP bankruptcy proceeding is pending in the District of Nevada, and control of the company is currently vested with a court-appointed trustee.

THE DEFENDANT'S FRAUDULENT CONDUCT

A. **Defendant Offered and Sold Securities**

1. **USA Capital's Business**

USA Capital made loans to developers to finance the construction of 10. real estate projects. USA Capital and its broker-dealer, USA Capital Securities, funded these loans by raising money from investors. As of April 13, 2006, USA Capital had raised \$962 million, net of redemptions, from 6,800 investors. In addition to the Fund, USA Capital raised \$66.7 million from 1,300 investors through a registered securities offering, and \$745 million from 3,600 investors who invested directly in various USA Capital loans. USA Capital was to service the loans by collecting the monthly payments from the borrowers and, after deducting servicing fees, remitting the interest and principal payments to the investors in the loan.

2. The Fund's Offering

11. From approximately May 2000 to September 27, 2005, the Fund raised \$150 million, net of redemptions, from 1,900 investors. Although the Fund stopped sales to new investors in the fourth quarter of 2004, the Fund allowed

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members to reinvest their distributions in the Fund until September 27, 2005, when USA Capital announced that it was liquidating the Fund.

Through a series of prospectuses dated from May 2000 to December 12. 2004, the Fund made a continuous offering of membership units ranging in price from \$5,000 - \$25,000 per unit. The maximum number of units increased over the course of the offering from approximately 3,000 to 27,000 units. Milanowski actively participated in the preparation of the Fund's prospectuses and was the principal point of contact for the Fund's lawyers who prepared those documents. USA Capital solicited investors for the Fund through brochures and a website, www.safertrustdeeds.com. Milanowski was responsible for all of the content on the website. The Fund's former CFO, marketing manager, and outside counsel all testified as to Milanowski's role in the creation of the prospectuses and marketing materials.

3. The Fund's Offering was Unregistered

- 13. The membership units in the Fund that were offered and sold by the Defendant are securities in the form of investment contracts.
- 14. No registration statement has been filed with the Commission or is in effect with respect to the Defendant's offer or sale of securities in the form of investment contract.
- 15. The Fund claimed it was conducting an intrastate offering to Nevada residents that was exempt from registration with the Commission pursuant to Section 3(a)(11) of the Securities Act. However, the Fund was not "doing business within" the state of Nevada as required by Section 3(a)(11) of the Securities Act. Almost none of the Fund's purported operating revenues were derived from a business or real property located inside the state of Nevada. The Fund's purported operating revenues were interest payments on real estate loans. The Fund (the lender) was domiciled in Nevada, but most of the purported borrowers and the underlying real estate collateral were located in California, Utah, and Connecticut.

B. The Fund's Misrepresentations to Investors

- 16. USA Capital made representations to potential and existing investors about the Fund in its prospectuses, various sales materials, and monthly account statements. The Fund's prospectuses represented that an estimated 99.5% of the offering proceeds would be used to make mortgage loans and the remaining .5% would be used for the Fund's reserves and working capital. The prospectuses further represented that the Fund would invest only in loans that met the following criteria:
 - a. The loans had to be secured by first deeds of trust on real property;
 - No loans would be to the Fund's manager, USA Capital Realty Advisors LLC, or its affiliates; and
 - c. Once the Fund had \$100 million invested, which occurred in early 2003, the Fund would:
 - i. not make any loan in excess of \$20 million;
 - ii. not make any loan that would exceed 15% of its total then outstanding loans; or
 - iii. have no more than 25% of its outstanding loans made to a single borrower or affiliates of that borrower.
- 17. In the Fund's sales materials, USA Capital touted the high return and safety of an investment in the Fund. In brochures and on its website, USA Capital variously represented to investors that:
 - Investments in the Fund would be secured by "First Deeds of Trust;"
 - b. The Fund historically paid a 12% to 13% rate of return on investment and had a "Projected Yield of 10% to 12%;"
 - c. "The Fund concentrat[ed] on providing double-digit returns while focusing on protection of principal;"
 - d. "Since 1989, USA Capital has placed over \$1 billion in trust deeds on behalf of clients without ever losing a dime of investor's principal;"

- e. The Fund was "commit[ted] to the safety and preservation of capital;"
- f. The Fund reduced the risk of investing in trust deeds by diversifying i.e., investing in "many loans, covering many different properties in various markets, with multiple borrowers, much like a mutual fund holds a basket of stocks. If a particular loan defaults, the impact to an investor is minimized."
- 18. USA Capital sent account statements sent to each Fund investor, including those reinvesting their monthly distributions. The account statements stated the "dividend" paid to the investor for the month and the annualized rate of return for that month, which was between 8.98% and 12.37%. Milanowski was responsible for supervising the accounting function at USA Capital, and the account statements were prepared by the accounting department under his supervision.
- 19. The account statements also included an attachment that contained information about the loans in which the Fund had invested. The attachment listed each of the Fund's loans, specified that the loan was secured by a first deed of trust, and identified the property that secured the loan. The attachment did not indicate whether the loans were performing (i.e., being repaid in accordance with their terms) nor did it list the outstanding loan balances. By not providing this information in the account statements, USA Capital created the impression that the loans were performing and the distributions to investors were interest payments, thus inducing them to continue to invest, either in the form of new money or reinvestment of distributions from the Fund. As discussed in detail below, this impression was false, because the loans were not performing, and the distributions were not payments of interest. These loan portfolio updates were prepared at Milanowski's direction.

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C. Defendant's Misappropriation and Misuse of the Fund's Offering **Proceeds**

- 20. Contrary to USA Capital's representations to Fund investors, Milanowski misappropriated and misused most of the Fund's offering proceeds to make unsecured loans to entities affiliated with him. As of November 30, 2006, the Fund had 23 loans originated and serviced by USA Capital with outstanding balances, excluding unpaid interest, totaling \$92,306,536. Of that amount, \$86.9 million, or 94% of the Fund's outstanding portfolio balance, was in loans that were not secured by first trust deeds, loans that were made to USA Capital affiliates, and/or loans that did not meet the Fund's loan diversification criteria. These loans are charted and discussed in detail below. As also discussed below, Milanowski was principally responsible for USA Capital's making these improper loans.
- Moreover, as also shown on the chart below and undisclosed to 21. investors, these improper loans became non-performing or defaulted during the Fund's offering. As a result, the Fund sustained substantial losses and declared bankruptcy on April 13, 2006, and according to the bankruptcy court's December 19, 2006 approved plan of reorganization, the Fund investors will receive only \$.25 to \$.46 cents for every dollar they invested. Thus, USA Capital falsely represented in its brochures and on its website that investors would likely have double-digit returns, that it was committed to the protection of investor principal, and that the investments were diversified and therefore less risky.

Loan	Date of Loan	Amount of Loan (principal only)	Secured by Trust Deed	Improperly Made to Affiliate	Diverse	Date Became Non- Performing or Defaulted
10-90, Inc.	4/02- 11/04	\$55.9mm	No	Yes	No	04/05
Sheraton	9/17/99	\$3.7mm	No (as of 10/14/05)	Maybe	Yes	1/20/03
Epic	6/26/00	\$13mm	No (as of	Maybe	Yes	9/8/2003

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Loan Improperly Made to Date of Amount of **Diverse** Secured Date by Trust Loan Became Loan Deed **Affiliate** Non-(principal Performing only) Defaulted 9/15/03) Colt #1 7/10/03 \$1.5mm No Yes No 7/10/04 (per unsigned loan agmt) Colt #2 Not \$3.1mm No Yes No No loan known – documents No loan document 9/26/06 (per 9/26/03 \$3.7mm Colt No Yes No unsigned CREC loan agmt) Fiesta 1/10/05 \$6mm No Maybe Yes 1/10/06 **Total** \$86.9mm \$86.9mm \$64.2mm \$64.2mm \$86.9mm

Ninety-Four Percent of the Fund's Loan Portfolio 1. Was Not Secured By First Trust Deeds

- 22. As set forth in the chart above, contrary to the representations in the Fund's prospectuses, sales materials, and account statements, up to \$86.9 million, or 94%, of the Fund's \$92.3 million outstanding loan portfolio was not secured by a trust deed. Two of the loans, the 10-90 and Fiesta loans, were never secured by any real property and were instead evidenced by promissory notes. The three Colt loans were also never secured by real property and were merely documented by a schedule attached to a memorandum of agreement between USA Capital and a partner of the borrower that listed the loans, and, for the Colt #1 and the Colt CREC loans, unsigned promissory notes.
- 23. The Sheraton and Epic loans were originally secured by real property, but both loans became unsecured during the Fund's offering. The Sheraton and Epic loans went into default, and USA Capital foreclosed on properties that secured the loans. As a result of the foreclosures, there was no real property securing the Sheraton \$3.7 million and Epic \$13 million outstanding loan balances.

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2. Over Half of the Fund's Loan Portfolio Was to USA Capital Affiliates and Violated the Fund's Loan **Diversification Standards**

- 24. As also set forth in the chart above, contrary to the representations in the Fund's prospectuses, at least \$64.2 million, or nearly 70%, of the Fund's \$92.3 million loan portfolio were loans made to affiliates of USA Capital and/or Milanowski. These loans also violated the Fund's stated loan diversification standards.
- The Fund's largest loan, \$55.9 million in principal, was made to 10-25. 90. Although the 10-90 loan was nominally a loan to a third party, it actually was a loan to an affiliate because 10-90 was controlled by Milanowski and the Fund's monies went to USAIP. The incorporator and the titular principal of 10-90 testified that he incorporated 10-90 at Milanowski's behest and that Milanowski told him that the purpose of 10-90 was to "borrow money" from the Fund for USAIP. Milanowski also asked 10-90's principal to set up an entity named Mountain Vista to route the money from 10-90 to USAIP, further obscuring the money trail from the Fund to USAIP. Thus, Milanowski had 10-90 created in an effort to hide the fact that he was loaning Fund money to the affiliated entity, USAIP. Milanowski then signed a January 1, 2005 document on behalf of the Fund relieving 10-90 of any obligation to repay the funds transferred to it.
- Moreover, of the total \$55.9 million in transfers attributed to the 10-26. 90 loan, only \$23.3 million was received by 10-90. 10-90's bank records show that its principal then immediately transferred this same \$23.3 million back to USAIP. The remaining loan principal from the \$55.9 million 10-90 loan was paid directly to other persons or entities, the majority of which were in some way affiliated with USAIP and/or Milanowski. Approximately \$7.8 million went directly to USAIP or to entities in which USAIP had an ownership interest. Another almost \$9.3 million went to a developer that was a partner with USAIP in

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27 28 other real estate projects that were borrowers of USA Capital. Another \$11.4 million was used to pay investors who invested directly in other USA Capital loans. The ultimate recipients of the remaining \$4.01 million could not be determined. Milanowski directed the transfer of investor funds from the Fund to 10-90 and USAIP.

- 27. The 10-90 loan also violated the Fund's diversification standards. The \$55.9 million principal amount of the loan far exceeded the disclosed maximum loan amount of \$20 million. Moreover, the loan constituted more than 50% of the Fund's loan portfolio, which was more than three times the disclosed 15% cap for any one loan and which was more than the 25% cap on loans made to any single borrower or affiliates of that borrower.
- The Fund also made loans totaling \$8.3 million in principal to another 28. affiliate, Colt Gateway LLC. USAIP owned 50% of that entity, but there was no evidence that it contributed any money for that equity position. Moreover, because the borrowers on the Colt and 10-90 loans were both affiliated through Milanowski and USAIP, the combined Colt and 10-90 loans violated the Fund's disclosed 25% cap on loans made to any single borrower or affiliates of that borrower.

3. Ninety-Four Percent of the Fund's Portfolio Was Non-**Performing**

- 29. Although the account statements sent to investors listed the loans in the Fund's portfolio, the account statements failed to disclose that, as shown on the above chart, 94% of Fund's portfolio was non-performing.
- 10-90 never made a single payment on \$55.9 million loan from the 30. Fund. By USA Capital's bankruptcy on April 13, 2006, the unpaid interest on the 10-90 loan was \$21 million, for a total loan amount of \$76.9 million. In an agreement effective as of January 1, 2005, the Fund, acting through Milanowski, agreed to accept 10-90's assignment of the balance due on its loan to USAIP as full satisfaction of the loan from Fund.

no payments had ever been received on the loan.

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- In 2003, USA Capital foreclosed on the non-performing Sheraton loan 31. and, in 2005, sold the property to a third party for \$6.2 million. At the time of the sale, the outstanding principal balance on the loan was \$9.96 million. USA Capital remitted the sales proceeds to the Fund and reduced the loan balance by that amount. USA Capital, however, continued to carry the \$3.7 million shortfall in the Fund's portfolio as a loan, even though the loan had been foreclosed on, the collateral had been sold, and there was no possibility of future payments from the borrower. Milanowski was the point of contact for USA Capital on the original Sheraton Loan Agreement, and he signed the Sixth Amended Loan Agreement, which extended the term of the loan and advanced additional monies, even though
- Similarly, in January 2004, USA Capital foreclosed on the non-32. performing \$13 million Epic loan and vested management and control of the property with a USAIP affiliate named Tree Moss Partners, LLC. USA Capital continued to carry the Epic loan in the Fund's loan portfolio, even though Tree Moss never made any payments on the loan. Moreover, on February 23, 2006, two months before the USA Capital bankruptcy filing, USA Capital recorded a quitclaim deed purportedly dated September 15, 2003, transferring all of the Fund's interest in the property to Tree Moss. There was no evidence that the Fund received any compensation for the transfer of the property. Milanowski signed the Epic loan documents, was a principal of Tree Moss (USAIP was the sole owner and manger of Tree Moss), and, as managing partner of the Fund, signed the September 15, 2003 assignment of the Epic property from the Fund to Tree Moss.
- 33. Colt Gateway never made any payments on its loans. As a result, by November 30, 2006, the unpaid interest on the Colt loans was over \$4.8 million and the total outstanding balance of the loans was \$13.1 million. Milanowski was a principal of the borrower, was the principal point of contact for USA Capital on

the unsigned Colt promissory notes, and he signed the memorandum of agreement that referenced all of the Colt loans.

- 34. Another of the non-performing loans in the Fund portfolio was the \$6 million unsecured Fiesta McNaughton loan. Pursuant to the terms of the loan documents, no interest was due on the loan until maturity, at which point all principal and interest became due. As of the date of the bankruptcy filing, the loan was past due and non-performing, with a total amount due, including principal and interest, of \$6,976,444. Milanowski was the recipient of the wire transfer instructions for the Fiesta loan fundings.
- 35. In addition to being responsible for making the non-conforming Fund loans, Milanowski knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that the loans were non-performing. He supervised the accounting function at USA Capital and the calculation of distributions due to investors. In addition, USA Capital's former CFO testified that the loan performance for each Fund loan was communicated directly to Milanowski.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

UNREGISTERED OFFER AND SALE OF SECURITIES

Violations of Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act

- 36. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 35, above.
- 37. Defendant Milanowski, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, made use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or of the mails, to offer to sell or to sell securities, or to carry or cause such securities to be carried through the mails or in interstate commerce for the purpose of sale or for delivery after sale.
- 38. No registration statement has been filed with the Commission or has been in effect with respect to the offering alleged herein.
 - 39. By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant violated, and

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unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a) and 77e(c).

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES

Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act

- 40. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 35, above.
- 41. Defendant Milanowski, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails:
 - with scienter, employed devices, schemes or artifices to a. defraud;
 - obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of b. material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
 - engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which C. operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser.
- By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant violated, and 42. unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77q(a).

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THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE

PURCHASE OR SALE OF SECURITIES

Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder

- 43. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 35, above.
- 44. Defendant Milanowski, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:
 - employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; a.
 - made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a b. material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
 - engaged in acts, practices or courses of business which operated c. or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant violated, and 45. unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

I.

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendant committed the alleged violations.

II.

Issue a judgment, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d),

permanently enjoining defendant, and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with him, who receive actual notice of the judgment by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from violating Sections 5(a), 15 U.S.C. § 77e(a), 5(c), 15 U.S.C. § 77e(c), and Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a), 77e(c) and 77q(a), and Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.

III.

Order defendant to disgorge all ill-gotten gains from his illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon.

IV.

Order defendant to pay civil penalties under Section 20(d) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77t(d), and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3).

V.

Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.

VI.

Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and necessary.

DATED: April 23, 2008

Attorney for Plaintiff

Securities and Exchange Commission

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