

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
March 28, 2007

In the Matter of	:	
	:	
MICHAEL SASSANO,	:	ORDER STRIKING ANSWER
DOGAN BARUH,	:	WITH LEAVE TO AMEND
ROBERT OKIN, and	:	
R. SCOTT ABRY	:	


The Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) issued its Order Instituting Proceedings (OIP) on January 31, 2007. On March 27, 2007, this Office received by facsimile a letter from James A. Sherer (Sherer), Esq., enclosing what purports to be the Answer of Respondent Michael A. Sassano III (Sassano). Sherer did not identify the nature of his relationship with Sassano, and he specifically did not state that he was entering an appearance on behalf of Sassano. See Rule 102(d)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice. In light of the difficulties encountered to date by the Division of Enforcement (Division) and the Office of the Secretary in effecting service of the OIP on Sassano, this does not appear to be an innocent oversight on Sherer's part.

If Sherer, or any other attorney, elects to enter an appearance on behalf of Sassano, then that attorney must file and keep current not only the attorney's own address and telephone number, but also Sassano's address and telephone number. See Rule 102(d)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice. In entering an appearance on behalf of Sassano, the attorney must agree to notify this Office and the Division of any change in Sassano's address or telephone number within seven calendar days after the change occurs. See Rule 111(d) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (authorizing an Administrative Law Judge to regulate the conduct of the parties and their counsel).

Sassano's purported Answer is also problematic by itself. In the Answer, Sassano identified himself as a "Pro Se Respondent." However, Sassano failed to provide a current address and a current telephone number where he may be reached during business hours. See Rules 102(d)(1) and 153(a) of the Commission's Rules of Practice. Although Sassano's Answer arrived by facsimile, Sassano did not agree to accept service of pleadings and orders by facsimile, nor did he provide his own facsimile number. See Rule 150(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice. All of these defects must be corrected promptly.

IT IS ORDERED THAT the purported Answer of pro se Respondent Sassano is stricken from the record for failure to comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice. Sassano will have seven calendar days from the date of this Order to correct the defects in his Answer and to file and serve an amended Answer that fully complies with the Rules of Practice; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT, within seven calendar days from the date of this Order, pro se Respondent Sassano shall state whether he intends to participate in the telephonic prehearing conference scheduled for April 10, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. E.D.T.



James T. Kelly
Administrative Law Judge