

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
FILE NO. 3-12554

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
April 3, 2007

In the Matter of :
 :
MICHAEL SASSANO, : ORDER
DOGAN BARUH, :
ROBERT OKIN, and :
R. SCOTT ABRY :

By letter dated March 30, 2007, pro se Respondent Michael Sassano (Sassano) has informed this Office that he intends to participate in the telephonic prehearing conference scheduled for April 10, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. E.D.T. However, Sassano's letter fails to provide a telephone number at which he can be reached at the time of the conference. He must do so promptly. Inasmuch as Sassano is not represented by counsel of record, he must personally participate in the telephonic prehearing conference. Failure to participate personally may be deemed an act of default. See Rule 155(a)(1) of the Rules of Practice of the Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission).

Sassano further requests that he be relieved of the obligation to provide and keep current his address of record and a telephone number where he may be reached during business hours. He explains: "because of my extensive travels, between Monaco and various other locations around the world, it is not possible for me to give a consistent phone or fax number, or an address at which I can be contacted regularly." Sassano then requests that he be allowed to send and receive correspondence, filings, and associated documents in care of an attorney in New York City.

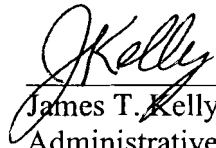
The attorney in question would not bear any responsibility for keeping current Sassano's address or telephone number. Based on correspondence in the record between that attorney and the Division of Enforcement (Division), it is unlikely that communication between the Commission and Sassano through the attorney in question would work smoothly or efficiently. Sassano's request might appear more sincere if he had offered an explanation as to why he "forcefully closed the door" on a process server engaged by the Division (March 14, 2007, Declaration of Farid Belkholli). His explanation could then be evaluated in comparison with the attorney's February 27, 2007, assertion that "Sassano is not evading service." Moreover, it is unclear why Sassano believes that the current proceeding should be less important than his "extensive travels." Sassano's request for relief from the Rules of Practice is denied.

If Sassano wishes to negotiate the terms of his participation in the proceeding, he should approach the Division and not attempt to haggle with the Court. Perhaps the Division might take a more flexible position in such negotiations if Sassano placed any potentially disgorgeable funds in escrow. See Rule 600(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice. However, until such

time as I hear from the Division that the Division has no objection to Sassano's proposal, Sassano must comply strictly with all applicable Rules of Practice.

As provided in my Order dated March 28, 2007, Sassano must file and serve an amended Answer that fully complies with the Commission's Rules of Practice. The amended Answer is due forthwith. Failure to file a timely amended Answer may be considered an act of default. See Rules 155(a)(2)-(3) of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

SO ORDERED.



James T. Kelly
Administrative Law Judge