

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
March 6, 2007

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

The Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) issued its Order Instituting Proceedings (OIP) on January 31, 2007. Respondents Dogan Baruh (Baruh), Robert Okin (Okin), and R. Scott Abry (Abry) have filed Answers. The Commission has not yet served the OIP on Respondent Michael Sassano (Sassano). I held a telephonic prehearing conference today with counsel for the Division of Enforcement (Division) and Respondents Baruh, Okin, and Abry. I granted the request of all participating counsel to hold the hearing in New York, N.Y.

Under my interpretation, the 300-day deadline for issuing an Initial Decision in this matter will commence on the earliest of the following dates:

- (a) the date the Commission eventually serves Sassano with the OIP; or
- (b) the date the Commission grants a motion to sever Sassano from the other Respondents, see Rule 201(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice; or
- (c) the date the Chief Administrative Law Judge grants the Division's motion to discontinue the proceeding as to Sassano, see 17 C.F.R. § 200.30-10(a)(8); or
- (d) the date the presiding Administrative Law Judge dismisses the proceeding without prejudice as to Sassano, over the Division's objection; see Richard Cannistraro, 53 S.E.C. 388 (1998).

Any party disagreeing with this interpretation of the 300-day deadline requirement must make its position known by March 13, 2007.

Another telephonic prehearing conference will be held on April 10, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. E.D.T. The Division shall make the arrangements for the call and obtain a court reporter. In the interim, the Division will make diligent efforts to serve Sassano and Respondents will continue to inspect and copy the Division's substantial investigative file. At the request of Respondents Baruh, Okin, and Abry, and with the consent of the Division, the hearing scheduled for March 19, 2007, is postponed to a date to be determined at the April 10 prehearing conference.



James T. Kelly
Administrative Law Judge