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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

JAN - 8 2003

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA EASTERN DIVISION BY DEPUTY

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

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v.

YAD ABRAHAM, also known as TIM THORN and TIMOTHY THORN, individually and doing business as SHARPTHORN INTERNET SOLUTIONS; and INTERNEX, LLC,

Defendants.

EDCV No. 03- 0030 VAP SGI

(Proposed)
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER WITH ASSET FREEZE,
EXPEDITED DISCOVERY, AND
OTHER RELIEF, AND AN
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY
A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION
SHOULD NOT ISSUE

AS TO DEPT INTERNEY LLC

Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission"), pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), has filed a Complaint for Injunctive and Other Equitable Relief, including consumer redress, and an Ex-Parte Application for Temporary Restraining Order with Asset Freeze, Order Requiring Immediate Production of Documents, Order Permitting Limited Expedited

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1 Discovery, and Order to Show Cause Why a Preliminary Injunction Should Not Issue.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Court has considered the Complaint, Ex Parte Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Memorandum of Points and Authorities with supporting Exhibits, and all other papers filed It appears to the satisfaction of the Court that: herein.

- This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of Α. the case, and there is good cause to believe it will have jurisdiction over all parties.
 - Venue lies properly with this Court.
- There is good cause to believe that defendants Yad M. C. Abraham aka Timothy Thorn dba Sharpthorn Internet Solutions, and Internex, LLC 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), and that the Commission is likely to prevail on the merits of this action.
- There is good cause to believe that immediate and irreparable harm will result from defendants' ongoing violations of Section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. §45(a), absent entry of this TRO ("Order").
- There is good cause to believe that immediate and Ε. irreparable damage to the Court's ability to grant effective final relief in the form of consumer redress and disgorgement will occur from the sale, transfer, assignment, or other disposition or concealment by defendants of their assets or

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records unless they are immediately restrained and enjoined by Order of this Court.

- F. There is thus good cause for issuing this Order without prior notice to the defendants, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(b) and Local Rule 7-19.2.
- G. Weighing the equities and considering the Commission's likelihood of success in its causes of action, this Order is in the public interest.

ORDER

<u>Definitions</u>

- 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, mail or other deliveries, inventory, checks, notes, accounts, credits, receivables, funds, monies, and all cash, wherever located, and shall include both existing assets and assets acquired after the date of entry of this Order.
- B. "Consumer" means an actual or potential purchaser, customer, licensee or natural person.
- C. "Defendants" mean Yad M. Abraham aka Timothy Thorn dba Sharpthorn Internet Solutions dba DRIVELEGAL.COM, and Internex, LLC, dba DRIVELEGAL.COM and each of them, by whatever names each might be known.
- D. "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,

- E. "Financial institution" means any bank, savings and loan institution, credit union, or any financial depository of any kind, including but not limited to any brokerage house, trustee, broker-dealer, escrow agent, title company, commodity trading company, or precious metal dealer.
- F. "Purported Driver's License" means a document that claims to memorialize the authorization of a State or jurisdiction to operate a motor vehicle in that State or jurisdiction.

I. ORDER PROHIBITING CERTAIN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that defendants, as well as their successors, assigns, officers, agents, directors, servants, employees, salespersons, independent contractors, attorneys, corporations, subsidiaries, affiliates, all other persons or entities directly or indirectly under their control or under common control with them, and all other persons or entities in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division or other device, in connection with the advertising, promotion, offering for sale or sale of any purported driver's license, identification documents, are other product or service, are hereby

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- A. Misrepresenting that their purported driver's license enables consumers to legally drive a vehicle in the United States or elsewhere.
- B. Misrepresenting that use of their purported driver's license will prevent traffic violation points or other sanctions from being recorded on and attributed to consumers' driving records.
- C. Misrepresenting that their purported driver's license enables consumers to legally drive even when their government issued driver's licenses have been suspended or revoked.
- D. Misrepresenting that their purported driver's license can legally be used as, or in the same manner as, a government-issued identification document.
- E. Misrepresenting that use of their purported driver's license will enable consumers to establish new or unblemished driving histories.
- F. Misrepresenting that the products or services sold by defendants comply with the laws or regulations that pertain to those products or services.
- G. Misrepresenting that use of their purported driver's license may enable consumers to buy insurance at a lower cost.
- H. Misrepresenting any fact material to a consumer's decision to purchase any product or service.

II. ASSET FREEZE

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendants, as well as their successors, assigns, officers, agents, directors, servants,

employees, salespersons, independent contractors, attorneys, corporations, subsidiaries, affiliates, all other persons or entities directly or indirectly under their control or under common control with them, and all other persons or entities in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division or other device, are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

- A. Selling, liquidating, assigning, transferring, converting, loaning, encumbering, pledging, concealing, dissipating, spending, withdrawing, or otherwise disposing of any funds, real or personal property, or other assets or any interest therein, wherever located, including any assets outside the territorial United States, which are:
 - in the actual or constructive possession of any defendant; or
 - 2. owned or controlled by, or held, in whole or in part for the benefit of, or subject to access by, or belong to, any defendant; or
 - 3. in the actual or constructive possession of, or owned or controlled by, or subject to access by, or belong to, any corporation, partnership, trust or other entity directly or indirectly under the control of defendant.
- 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 on any credit card issued in the name, singly or jointly, of any defendant.
- D. Transferring any funds or other assets subject to this Order for attorneys' fees or living expenses, except from accounts or other assets identified by prior written notice to the FTC and prior approval by the Court; provided that no attorneys' fees or living expenses, other than those set forth in Subparagraph E of this Paragraph, and only in accordance with the procedures set forth in Subparagraph E of this Paragraph shall be paid from funds or other assets subject to this Order until the financial statements required by Paragraph TI are provided to counsel for the FTC.
- E. Notwithstanding the above, any defendant may pay from his personal funds reasonable, usual, ordinary, and necessary living expenses and attorney's fees, not to exceed \$1,000, prior to the submission of the financial statements required by Paragraph VII. No such expenses, however, shall be paid from funds subject to this Order except from cash on the person of any defendant, or from an account designated by a defendant by prior written notice to counsel for the FTC.
- F. The funds, property and assets affected by this
 Paragraph shall include both existing assets and assets acquired
 after the effective date of this Order, including without
 limitation, those acquired by loan or gift. Defendants shall
 hold all assets, including without limitation, payments, loans,
 and gifts, received after service of this Order.

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. Defendants Abraham and Internex, LLC, shall each, within 48 hours after entry of this Order, prepare and deliver to counsel for the Commission a completed financial statement on the forms captioned "Financial Statement of Individual Defendant," and "Financial Statement of Business Defendant," as appropriate, which plaintiff filed concurrently with the Ex Parte Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Etc. The financial statements shall be accurate as of the date of entry of this Order. In addition to financial statements for each defendant, Abraham shall deliver, within 48 hours after entry of this Order, completed financial statements for each entity owned, controlled or managed by any defendant.
- B. The defendants shall each, within 48 hours after entry of this Order, provide the Commission access to records and documents pertaining to defendants that are held by financial institutions outside the territory of the United States by signing the "Consent to Release of Financial Records," which is attached to this Order as Attachment A.
- C. In addition, defendants shall submit a completed statement, verified under oath, of all payments, transfers, or assignment of funds, assets, or property worth \$1,000 or more since January 1, 1997. Such statement shall include (a) the amount transferred or assigned; (b) the name of each transferee or assignee; (c) the date of the assignment or transfer; (d) the type and amount of consideration paid the defendant. Each statement shall specify the name and address of each financial institution and brokerage firm at which the defendant has

accounts or safe deposit boxes. Said statements shall include assets held in foreign as well as domestic accounts.

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IV. PRESERVATION OF RECORDS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendants, as well as their successors, assigns, officers, agents, directors, servants, employees, salespersons, independent contractors, attorneys, corporations, subsidiaries, affiliates, all other persons or entities directly or indirectly under their control or under common control with them, and all other persons or entities in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division or other device, 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 defendants, or to the business practices or finances of entities directly or indirectly under the control, in whole or in part, of defendants.

V. RECORD KEEPING/BUSINESS OPERATIONS

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, beginning as of the time of effective service of this Order.
- B. Failing to make and keep books, records, accounts, bank statements, current accountants' reports, general ledgers, general journals, cash receipt ledgers, cash disbursement ledgers

and source documents, documents indicating title to real or personal property, and any other data which, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of defendants.

- C. Destroying, mutilating, concealing, altering, transferring, or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, any books, records, tapes, discs, accounting data, checks (fronts and backs), correspondence, forms, advertisements, brochures, manuals, electronically stored data, banking records, customer lists, customer files, invoices, telephone records, ledgers, payroll records, or other documents of any kind, including information stored in computer-maintained form, in their possession, custody or control.
- D. Creating, operating or exercising any control over any business entity, including any partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship or corporation, without first providing the Commission with a written statement disclosing:

 (1) the name of the business entity; (2) the address and telephone number of the business 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.

VI. REQUIRED DISTRIBUTION OF ORDER BY DEFENDANTS

provide a copy of this Order to each affiliate, partner, division, sales entity, successor, assign, employee, independent contractor, agent, attorney, and representative, of defendants and shall, within ten days from the date of entry of this Order, serve upon counsel for the Commission a sworn statement that they

have complied with this provision of the Order. The statement shall include the names and addresses of each such person or entity who received a copy of the Order.

VII. SERVICE OF ORDER

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that copies of this Order may be served by any means, including facsimile transmission, upon any financial institution, or other entity or person that may have possession, custody, control or knowledge of any documents or assets of any defendant, or any other entity or person that may otherwise be subject to any provision of this Order, by delivering a copy of the Order by any means, including facsimile transmission, to any office, branch, or location.

VIII. CONSUMER CREDIT REPORT

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Section 604(a)(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(a)(1), any consumer reporting agency served with this Order shall promptly furnish consumer reports concerning defendant Yad M. Abraham to counsel for the Commission.

IX. RETENTION OF ASSETS AND RECORDS BY THIRD PARTIES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, effective immediately upon notification of this Order, and pending determination of plaintiff's request for a preliminary injunction, any bank, savings and loan institution, credit union or any depository of any kind, including but not limited to, any brokerage house, trustee, broker-dealer, escrow agent, money market or mutual fund, title company, commodity trading company, common carrier, storage company, commercial mail receiving agency, mail holding or forwarding company, or any other person, partnership, corporation, legal or business entity, or person that holds,

controls or maintains custody of any account or asset belonging to, or titled in the name of, any defendant or belonging to, or titled in the name of, any corporation, partnership or other entity directly or indirectly owned, managed or controlled by, in whole or in part, any defendant, or to which they are a signatory, or which is held on behalf of, or for the benefit of, any defendant, individually or jointly, or that has held, controlled or maintained custody of any such account or asset at any time since January 1, 1997, shall:

- A. Prohibit defendants and their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons or entities directly or indirectly under their control, or in common control with them, from withdrawing, removing, assigning, transferring, pledging, encumbering, disbursing, dissipating, converting, selling, or otherwise disposing of any such account or asset except:
 - 1. As directed by further order of the Court; or
 - 2. By written agreement of the Commission and the parties claiming an interest in such account or asset.
- B. Maintain the status quo of any such account or asset and shall not withdraw, remove, assign, transfer, pledge, encumber, disburse, dissipate, convert, sell, or otherwise dispose of any such account or asset except:
 - 1. As directed by further order of the Court; or
 - 2. By written agreement of the Commission and the parties claiming an interest in such account or asset.
- C. Deny defendants and their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons or entities directly or indirectly under their control or in common control with them, unless

accompanied by counsel for the Federal Trade Commission, access to any safe deposit box that is:

- 1. titled in the name of any defendant or their affiliates or subsidiaries, either individually or jointly; or
- 2. otherwise subject to access by any defendant or their affiliates or subsidiaries.
- D. Provide counsel for the Commission, within five and Ylllift of a business days of receiving a copy of this Order, a sworn statement setting forth:
 - the identification number of each such account or asset belonging to or titled in the name of any defendant or to which any defendant is a signatory, or which is 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 value of such asset as of the time this Order is served, and, if any asset has been removed or transferred within the last 90 days, the date removed or transferred, the total funds removed or transferred, 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 titled in the name, individually or jointly, of any defendant or is otherwise subject to access by any defendant.
- E. Upon the Commission's request, promptly provide the Commission with copies of all records or other documentation pertaining to such account or asset including, without limitation, originals or copies of account applications, account statements, signature cards, checks, drafts, deposit tickets,

transfers to and from the accounts, all other debit and credit instruments or slips, currency transaction reports, 1099 forms, and safe deposit box logs.

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F. The accounts subject to this provision include existing assets and assets deposited after the effective date of this Order. This Paragraph shall not prohibit transfers in accordance with any provision of this Order, or any further order of the court.

X. EXPEDITED DISCOVERY AS TO THE EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ASSETS AND DOCUMENTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rules 30(a), 31(a), 34, and 45, plaintiff is granted leave, at any time after service of this Order, to:

- eight hours' written notice, of any person, whether or not a party, for the purpose of discovering the nature, location, status, and extent of assets of defendants or of their affiliates or subsidiaries; the nature and location of documents reflecting the business transactions of defendants; the whereabouts of defendants; and the applicability of any evidentiary privileges to this action. The limitations and conditions set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(a)(2)(B) and 31(a)(2)(B) regarding subsequent depositions of an individual shall not apply to depositions taken pursuant to this Section. Any such depositions taken pursuant to this Section shall not be counted toward the ten-deposition limit set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(a)(2)(A) and 31(a)(2)(A).
- B. Demand the production of documents, on five days' notice, from any person, whether or not a party, relating to the nature, status or extent of assets of defendants or of their

1 affiliates or subsidiaries; the location of documents reflecting the business transactions of defendants; the whereabouts of defendants; and the applicability of any evidentiary privileges to this action; provided that 24 hours' notice shall be deemed sufficient for the production of any such documents that are maintained or stored as electronic data.

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Service of discovery upon a party, taken pursuant to this Section, shall be sufficient if made by facsimile or by overnight delivery.

IMMEDIATE DISCOVERY OF DEFENDANT ABRAHAM'S RECORDS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant Abraham shall deliver to plaintiff, immediately upon service of this Order, all books, records, and materials, including but not //mited, to those held in computers, pertaining to: Abraham's personal and business assets; his business ventures; and any records pertaining to Sharpthorn Internet Solutions, DRIVELEGAL.COM, and Internex, LLC, or other entity involved in marketing purported driver's licenses or identification documents, that are stored or housed at 22814 Fairburn Drive, Grand Terrace, California 92313 or any other residential location associated with Abraham. Plaintiff may retain such books, records, and materials, for up to five business days in order to inspect and copy them.

REPATRIATION OF FOREIGN ASSETS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within five business days following service of this Order, defendants shall:

Repatriate to the United States all funds, documents or assets in foreign countries held: (1) by them; (2) for their

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- B. The same business day as any repatriation under Section XI.A. above: (1) notify counsel for the Commission of the name and location of the financial institution or other entity that is the recipient of such funds, documents or assets; and (2) serve this Order on any such financial institution or other entity.
- C. Provide plaintiff with a full accounting of all funds, documents, and assets outside of the territory of the United States held: (1) by them; (2) for their benefit; or (3) under their direct or indirect control, jointly or singly.
- D. Hold and retain all repatriated funds, documents, and assets and prevent any transfer, disposition or dissipation whatsoever of any such assets or funds.

XIII. WITHHOLDING OF MAIL SENT TO COMMERCIAL MAIL RECEIVING AGENCIES

Agencies ("CMRA") where defendants maintain accounts, including Sharpthorn Internet Solutions, 12056 Mount Vernon Avenue #232, Grand Terrace, California 92313-5116, shall, for the duration of this Order, retain and forward to the plaintiff, at the address designated in paragraph XVI below, all mail received at the CMRA that is addressed to any defendant or any other name under which the defendants are doing business, including Sharpthorn Internet Solutions, WWW.DRIVELEGAL.COM, and Internex,LLC.

XIV. DURATION OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 6, this Order shall expire on the tenth business day after issuance,

order, for good cause shown, is extended for an additional period not to exceed ten business days, or unless it is further extended with the consent of the parties.

XV. ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Local Rule 65-1, that defendants shall appear before this Court, in Courtroom 2, United States District Court, Central District of California, Eastern Division, 3470 Twelfth Street, Riverside, California 92501, on the 23 day of 4,00 o'clock 2.m. (PDT), 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 FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), continuing the freeze of their assets, and imposing such additional relief as may be appropriate.

XVI. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS AND EVIDENCE

Court's Order to Show Cause, shall serve all memoranda, affidavits, and other evidence on which they intend to rely not later than 4:00 p.m. (PDT) of the firth hay prior to the preliminary injunction hearing set in this matter. Service on the Commission shall be performed by personal delivery, or confirmed facsimile delivery, to Raymond E. McKown, Federal Trade Commission, 10877 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 700, Los Angeles, California 90024, (310) 824-4380 (fax number). The Commission may serve and file a supplemental memorandum of points and authorities based on evidence discovered subsequent to the

filing of its Complaint by no later than 4.00 1 the preliminary injunction hearing, and may 2 serve and file a reply to defendants' opposition by no later than 3 4 on a injune ion hearing. 5 NO DIRECT EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES 6 direct examination of 7 allowed at the preliminary injunction hearing 8 in this matter. If any party wishes to cross-examine declarants, 9 the party must shall serve and file a list of the declarants they 10 will cross-examine by 4:00 p.m. (PDT) on the second day prior to 11 the preliminary injunction hearing. 12 RETENTION OF JURISDICTION XVIII. 13 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court shall retain 14 jurisdiction of this matter for all purposes. 15 No security is required of any agency of the United States 16 for the issuance of a restraining order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c). 17 18 IT IS SO ORDERED. 19 20 21 22 23 Presented by: 24

RAYMOND E. McKOWN

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VICTOR DEFRANCIS

Attorneys for Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission

CONSENT TO RELEASE OF FINANCIAL RECORDS

I.	, of the State o	f	in the United States of
America, do hereby direct any bank or trust company at which I have a bank account of any kind or			
at which a corpo	ration has a bank account of any k	ind upon which I am a	authorized to draw, and its
officers, employ	ees and agents, to disclose all info	rmation and deliver co	pies of all documents of
every nature in your possession or control, which relate to the said bank accounts, to any attorney of			
the Federal Trade Commission, and to give evidence relevant thereto, in the matter of the Federal			
Trade Commission v. Yad Abraham, et al., now pending in the United States District Court for the			
Central District of California, and this shall be irrevocable authority for so doing. This direction			
has been executed pursuant to that certain order of the United States District Court for the Central			
District of California in connection with the aforementioned matter. This direction is intended to			
apply to the laws of countries other than the United States which restrict or prohibit the disclosure			
of bank information without the consent of the holder of the account, and shall be construed as			
consent with respect thereto, and the same shall apply to any of the bank accounts for which I may			
be a relevant principal.			
Dated:	, 2003		
		Signature	
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Attachment A