

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
RELEASE NO. 51819 / June 10, 2005

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING  
FILE NO. 3-11948

SEC INSTITUTES PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST JOSEPH  
FERRAGAMO

On June 10, 2005, the Commission entered an Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 against Joseph Ferragamo (Ferragamo). The Division of Enforcement (Division) alleges, among other things, that from July 2000 to July 2001, Ferragamo was a registered representative associated with a broker-dealer registered with the Commission. On May 19, 2005, Ferragamo pled guilty to two counts of securities fraud and one count of wire fraud. United States v. Ferragamo, 05 Cr. 399 (D.N.J.). The count of the criminal information relating to wire fraud to which Ferragamo pled guilty alleged, among other things, that Ferragamo defrauded investors while working at a registered broker-dealer by offering and paying undisclosed excessive cash commissions to brokers for selling stock and misleading customers concerning the suitability and value of the stock.

A hearing will be scheduled before an administrative law judge to determine whether the allegations contained in the Order are true, to provide Ferragamo an opportunity to dispute these allegations and to determine what remedial sanctions, if any, are appropriate and in the public interest.

The Order requires the Administrative Law Judge to issue an initial decision no later than 210 days from the date of service of the Order, pursuant to Rule 360(a)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice.