00 ase 3:06-cv-01583 U.S. DISTRICT CO: N'ENGENTERNILLASTRECT OF CENAS Document 1 Filed 08/30/2006 **MG** 3 0 2006 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CLERK, U.S. DIST COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CIVIL ACTION NO. **COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING** COMMISSION, 3-06CV1583-M Plaintiff,

COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

CARL W. KING,

and

CARL W. KING INVESTMENTS, LLP,

Defendants.

Defendants.

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF AND FOR CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT

I.

SUMMARY

- 1. This is a civil action brought by Plaintiff Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission"), an independent regulatory agency of the United States, to enforce claims brought under the Commodity Exchange Act ("Act"), 7 U.S.C. § 1 et seq. (2002), and the Commission's Regulations ("Regulations"), 17 C.F.R. § 1 et seq. (2005).
- 2. Since at least 1995 and continuing through February 2003, (the "relevant time"), Carl W. King ("King"), individually and as the agent of Carl W. King Investments, LLP ("King Investments") (collectively "Defendants"), engaged in a scheme to defraud customers.

- 3. King told potential customers that King Investments actively managed money for individual customers by trading commodity futures contracts on their behalf, and historically achieved approximately 20% annual profit returns.
- 4. The Defendants accepted money from individual customers and placed the money in an account in the name of King Investments ("the Corporate Account").
- 5. After receiving money from individual customers, the Defendants did not invest the money in commodity futures trading, but left the money in the Corporate Account. Although the money left in the Corporate Account generated little or no profit, the Defendants fraudulently represented to customers that their money was actively invested and that the investments yielded approximately 20% annual profits. The Defendants issued false statements to customers with representations of earnings of approximately 20% per annum in order to conceal the fact that customer funds were not actually being traded in commodity futures contracts as represented.
- 6. For those customers who requested periodic profit payments, the Defendants used other customers' funds to pay purported profits. For those customers who requested that their profit payments be reinvested, the Defendants fraudulently represented that their profit was being reinvested.
- 7. Throughout the relevant time, King withdrew and used customers' funds for personal expenses and for operating expenses of King Investments.
- 8. Thus, King engaged in, is engaging in, or is about to engage in acts and practices that violate the anti-fraud provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act ("Act"), 7 U.S.C. §§ 1 et seq. (2002). Specifically, King violated Sections 4b(a)(i), (ii) & (iii) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6b (2002), by making material misrepresentations and omissions, by misrepresenting account

balances, by creating false statements for customers in connection with commodity futures transactions, and by misappropriating customer funds. King Investments is liable for King's violations pursuant to Section 2(a)(1)(B) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 2(a)(1).

9. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 6c of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1 (2002), the Commission brings this action to enjoin the unlawful acts and practices of Defendants King and King Investments and to compel their compliance with the provisions of the Act and Regulations thereunder. In addition, the Commission seeks civil penalties, disgorgement, restitution to customers, an accounting and such other equitable relief as the Court may deem necessary or appropriate.

II.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 10. The Act prohibits fraud in connection with the trading of commodity futures contracts and establishes a comprehensive system for regulating the purchase and sale of such contracts. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 6c of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1 (2002), which authorizes the Commission to seek injunctive relief against any person whenever it shall appear that such person has engaged, is engaging, or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision of the Act or any rule, regulation or order thereunder.
- 11. Venue properly lies with this Court pursuant to Section 6c(e) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1(e) (2002), in that Defendants are found in, inhabit, or transact business in this district, and the acts and practices in violation of the Act have occurred, are occurring, or are about to occur within this district, among other places.

12. Unless enjoined by this Court, the Defendants are likely to continue to engage in the acts and practices alleged in this Complaint and similar acts and practices, as more fully described below.

III.

THE PARTIES

- 13. **Plaintiff Commodity Futures Trading Commission** is an independent federal regulatory agency that is charged with responsibility for administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 1 *et seq.* (2002), and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, 17 C.F.R. §§ 1 *et seq.* (2004).
- 14. **Defendant Carl W. King** is currently serving an 87 month prison term in the Federal Bureau of Prisons and is housed at FCI Seagoville, 2113 North Highway 175, Seagoville, Texas 75159. At all relevant times, King was President, Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and day-to-day decision-maker of Defendant King Investments. King has no current registration status with the National Futures Association ("NFA"). However, from 1983-1984 he was registered as an Associated Person ("AP") of Bateman, Eichler, Hill, Richards, Inc. before withdrawing his registration in 1984. From 1984-1985, King was registered as an AP of McCormick Futures Inc.; he withdrew his registration in 1985. Finally, King was registered with the NFA from 1985-1990 as a Principal of Introducing Broker ("IB") Carl W. King d/b/a Carl W. King Investments until that registration was withdrawn in 1990. Subsequently, King established Defendant King Investment that is a separate entity from the defunct IB.
- 15. **Defendant Carl W. King Investments, LLP** is a Texas limited liability partnership located at 5956 Sherry Lane, Suite 1000, Dallas, Texas 75225. King was the

President and CEO of King Investments. King Investments has never been registered with the Commission in any capacity.

IV.

FACTS

- 16. From 1995 and continuing through February 2003, King, through King Investments, accepted funds from customers to trade commodity futures contracts on their behalf. King claimed to produce approximately 20% annual profits for customers.
- 17. During the relevant time, the Defendants received at least \$9 million from at least 60 customers located within and outside of this district for the purported purpose of investing in commodity futures contracts.
- 18. During the course of the scheme, King was President and Chief Executive Officer of King Investments. King made material misrepresentations by telling customers that he managed over \$15 million in assets and that he achieved positive returns, some years yielding profits in excess of 20%.
- 19. King, knowingly or with reckless disregard for the truth of the matter, also omitted material information such as failing to advise customers that none of the funds were used to purchase commodity futures contracts, and that the customers' funds were spent on King's salary, office rent, home mortgage, and health care expenses for relatives, among other things.
- 20. As part of the scheme, King returned some of the customers' funds in the form of purported profit payments and return of principal. To lend credibility to the scheme, King sent out false statements to customers showing a profit on the principal, filed false tax forms and created a false set of books showing his "profitability."

- 21. Many customers, who thought the Defendants were investing their money and generating profits, instructed King to reinvest their profit payments, only to lose all of their investments.
- 22. During the course of the scheme, King and King Investments took in approximately \$9 million and returned approximately \$4.5 million in the form of purported profit payments and return of the principal.
- 23. King signed a plea agreement in *U.S. v. Carl W. King*, Eastern District of Texas, case number 4:03-CR-166, under oath, in which he admitted that he never invested the customers' funds as promised and instead spent the customers' funds on, among other things, salary, office rent, home mortgage, and health care expenses for relatives. King also admitted to generating false account statements and mailing them to customers.
- 24. On July 27, 2004, King was sentenced to 87 months in prison and ordered to pay \$4,499,146.51 in restitution.

V.

VIOLATIONS OF THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT

COUNT I

<u>Violations of Sections 4b(a)(2)(i) and (iii) of the Act</u> Fraud by Misrepresentation and Misappropriation

- 25. Plaintiff re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 24 above and incorporates those allegations herein by reference.
- 26. Section 4b(a)(2) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6b(a)(2) (2002) makes it unlawful for any person to cheat, defraud or deceive or attempt to cheat, defraud or deceive such other persons in connection with any order to make, or the making of, any contract of sale of any commodity for

future delivery made, or to be made, for or on behalf of any other person where such contract for future delivery was or may have been used for (a) hedging any transaction in interstate commerce in such commodity, or the products or byproducts thereof, or (b) determining the price basis of any transaction in interstate commerce in such commodity, or (c) delivering any such commodity sold, shipped or received in interstate commerce for the fulfillment thereof.

- 27. During the relevant time, King violated Sections 4b(a)(2)(i) and (iii) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 6b(a)(2)(i) and (iii) (2002), in that he cheated or defrauded or attempted to cheat or defraud customers, and willfully deceived or attempted to deceive customers by, among other things: misrepresenting to customers that their funds were being used to trade commodity futures when they were not; misrepresenting to customers the profits and value of their accounts; and misappropriating customer funds for his personal use.
- 28. King engaged in such conduct as an agent of King Investments, therefore King Investments as principal is liable for his violations of Sections 4b(a)(2)(i) and (iii) of the Act, pursuant to Section 2(a)(1)(B) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 2(a)(1)(B) (2002).
- 29. Each material misrepresentation or omission, and each willful deception made during the relevant time period, including but not limited to those specifically alleged herein, is alleged as a separate and distinct violation of Sections 4b(a)(2)(i) and (iii) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 6b(a)(2)(i) and (iii) (2002).

COUNT II

Violations of Section 4b(a)(2)(ii) of the Act Fraud by Making False Records

- 30. Plaintiff re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 29 above and incorporates those allegations herein by reference.
- 31. Section 4b(a)(2)(ii) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6b(a)(2)(ii) (2002) makes it unlawful for any person to willfully make or cause to be made to other persons false reports or statements, or willfully to enter or cause to be entered for other persons false records in or in connection with orders to make, or the making of, contracts of sale of commodities for future delivery, made, or to be made, for or on behalf of such other persons where such contracts for future delivery were or may have been used for (a) hedging any transaction in interstate commerce in such commodity, or the products or byproducts thereof, or (b) determining the price basis of any transaction in interstate commerce in such commodity, or (c) delivering any such commodity sold, shipped or received in interstate commerce for the fulfillment thereof.
- 32. During the relevant time, King violated Section 4b(a)(2)(ii) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6b(a)(2)(ii) (2002), in that King, or persons working under his direction, willfully made or caused to be made false reports or statements thereof by preparing and delivering to customers false trading account statements that purported to show profits made on their commodity futures accounts when in fact very little of the customer funds was ever invested.
- 33. King engaged in such conduct as an agent of King Investments, therefore King Investments as principal is liable for his violations of Section 4b(a)(2)(ii) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6b(a)(2)(ii) (2002), pursuant to Section 2(a)(1)(B) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. §2(a)(1)(B) (2002).

34. Each false report or statement made during the relevant time period, including but not limited to those specifically alleged herein, is alleged as a separate and distinct violation of Section 4b(a)(2)(ii) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6b(a)(2)(ii) (2002).

VI.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court, as authorized by Section 6c of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1 (2002), and pursuant to its own equitable powers:

- A. Find the Defendants liable for violating Section 4b of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6b (2002);
 - B. Enter a permanent injunction prohibiting the Defendants and any other person or entity associated with them, or any successor thereof, from engaging in conduct violative of the provisions of the Act as alleged in this Complaint, and from engaging in any activity relating to commodity interest trading, including but not limited to, soliciting, accepting or receiving funds, revenue or other property from any person, giving advice for compensation, or soliciting prospective clients, participants or customers, related to the purchase and sale of any commodity futures or options on commodity futures contracts;
 - C. Enter an order directing the Defendants and any successors thereof, to disgorge, pursuant to such procedure as the Court may order, all benefits received from the acts or practices which constituted violations of the Act, as described herein, and interest thereon from the date of such violations;
 - D. Enter an order directing the Defendants to make full restitution to every client, participant or customer whose funds were received by them as a result of acts and

- practices which constituted violations of the Act, as described herein, and interest thereon from the date of such violations;
- E. Enter an order directing the Defendants to pay a civil monetary penalty in the amount of not more than the higher of (i) triple the monetary gain to Defendants for each violation of the Act or (ii) \$120,000 for each violation of the Act prior to October 23, 2004;
- F. Enter an order requiring Defendants to pay costs and fees as permitted by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920 and 2412(a)(2); and,
- G. Enter an order providing such other and further remedial ancillary relief as the
 Court may deem appropriate.

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Date: July

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING

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SS 44 (Rev 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained Helein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM)

U.S. Commodity	US DISTRICT COURT FOR DISTRICT OF TEXAS Futures Trading Commission	DEFENDANTS Carl W. King and C	Carl W. King Investments, I.	LP
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		NOTE. IN LAN	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE. IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)		
	y, Chief Trial Attorney, 1155 21st Street Nw, 581 (202) 418-5306	7th Fl 3 - 0	6 CV 15	83 - M
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff				
☑ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U S Government Not a Party)		TF DEF 1 Incorporated or Pri of Business In This	-
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 Incorporated and P of Business In A	=
W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 G 3 Foreign Nation	1 6 1 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY A 1948	OTHER STATUTES
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 360 Other Personal Injury 360 Other Personal Injury 360 Other Personal Injury 385 Property Damage Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability 385 Property Damage Product Liability 385 Property Damage Product Liability 385 Property Damage Softence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare 445 Amer. w/Disabilities Employment 446 Amer w/Disabilities Other 440 Other Civil Rights	620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl Ret. Inc. Security Act	422 Appeal 28 USC 158	400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange 12 USC 3410 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
V. ORIGIN Original Proceeding Proceeding Proceeding Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): Transferred from another district (specify) Transferred from Magistrate (specify) Transfe				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause. Faud in connection with commodity futures				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER FR.C P 23	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions). JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER				
Chunt 29,2006 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD / MINUTED 19 2006				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE M.G. JUDGE				