

# RESCINDED

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Advisory Letter

Subject: SEC Action Against Robert L. Bentley, Entrust Group, and Bentley Financial Services, Inc.

Date: October 30, 2001

TO: Chief Executive Officers of National Banks, Federal Branches and Agencies, Department and Division Heads, and Examining Personnel

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and the National Credit Union Administration have issued the attached, "Joint Agency Release on SEC Action Against Robert L. Bentley, Entrust Group, and Bentley Financial Services, Inc." This joint release notifies all financial institutions that the Securities and Exchange Commission has filed suit against the above-named defendants for suspected securities fraud and has obtained a Temporary Restraining Order to freeze the defendants' assets and appoint a receiver to take control over the defendants' assets until further order of the court.

All OCC-supervised institutions that hold any funds or other assets in the name of or for the benefit of the above-named defendants should immediately take action to ensure compliance with the attached Temporary Restraining Order. Further, any OCC-supervised institutions that have invested funds through Bentley Financial Services, Robert L. Bentley, or Entrust Group should confer with counsel on the appropriate course of action to follow. The court-appointed receiver is named in the attached joint release. The receiver's telephone number has been updated. Please be advised that the receiver now may be reached at Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, 123 South Broad St., Philadelphia PA 19101, and by telephone at (215) 772-7434.

Questions about the proper accounting and risk-rating treatment of outstanding investments or placement of funds made through Bentley Financial Services, Robert L. Bentley, or Entrust Group may be directed to your institution's assistant deputy comptroller.

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Leann G. Britton  
Senior Deputy Comptroller  
Mid-Size and Community Banks

Attachment

Any attachments to this document are rescinded only as they relate to national banks and federal savings associations.

For Immediate Release: October 30, 2001

## **Joint Agency Release on SEC Action Against Robert L. Bentley, Entrust Group and Bentley Financial Services, Inc.**

On October 23, 2001, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed suit against Robert L. Bentley, Entrust Group, and Bentley Financial Services, Inc., all of Paoli, Pennsylvania, for suspected securities fraud. The suit, filed in the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, alleges that the defendants are committing fraud in the sales of securities to financial institutions, including banks, thrifts and credit unions, and to individual investors. Specifically, the Commission alleges that defendants are representing to investors that they are selling federally-insured certificates of deposit ("CDs") when, in fact, they are selling uninsured securities issued by the defendants. The Commission also alleges that in many cases investors must rely on the defendants' ability to attract new investors in order for previous investors to receive repayment of their principal.

On October 24, 2001, the U.S. District Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order against defendants. A copy of that order is attached. The order freezes defendants' accounts and appoints a receiver to exercise control over defendants' assets. The order appoints David H. Marion, Esq. with the firm of McCracken, Walker & Rhoades LLP as the Receiver. In addition, the Temporary Restraining Order states:

"B) Any bank, financial or brokerage institution or other person or entity holding any funds, securities or other assets in the name of, for the benefit of, or under the direct or indirect control of defendants Robert L. Bentley, Bentley Financial Services, Inc, Entrust Group, or their officers, directors, or those persons in active concert or participation with them, and each of them, shall hold and retain within their control and prohibit the withdrawal, removal, transfer or other disposal of any such funds or other assets of defendants;...."

All institutions supervised by the agencies issuing this joint advisory that hold any funds, securities or other assets in the name of or for the benefit of defendants should take steps necessary to comply with the terms of the Temporary Restraining Order. Further, all financial institutions that have invested funds through Bentley Financial Services, Entrust Group or Robert L. Bentley, are advised to confer with counsel about your institution's appropriate course of action, including contacting the court-appointed Receiver about your institution's investments. The Receiver may be reached at 215-772-7257.

Attachments

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, :

Plaintiff, :

v. :

Civil Action No.  
01-CV-5366

ROBERT L. BENTLEY,  
BENTLEY FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.,  
ENTRUST GROUP,

Defendants.

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, ORDER APPOINTING RECEIVER, FREEZING  
ASSETS AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER RELIEF

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), having commenced this action on or about October 23, 2001, by filing a Complaint For Permanent Injunction and Other Relief and a Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Other Relief; defendants having waived service of the summons and complaint, and a consent having been filed by all defendants in which they waived have their right to the entry of findings of fact and conclusions of law under Rule 52 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and, without admitting or denying the allegations made in the Commission's pleadings, except as to jurisdiction which is admitted, and having consented to entry without further notice of this Order, and it appearing that this Court has jurisdiction over the parties and over the subject matter of this action, and the Court being fully advised in the premises:

THE COURT FINDS:

1) This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over defendants.

Now, therefore,

I.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pending the determination of the Commission's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction or hearing on the merits: Defendants, and their officers, directors, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, attorneys-in-fact, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this order by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, are enjoined and restrained from, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of any security by the use of any means or instruments of transportation, or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails: (1) employing any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud; or (2) obtaining money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or; (3) engaging in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser in violation of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)].

II.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pending the determination of the Commission's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction or hearing on the merits: Defendants, and their officers, directors, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, attorneys-in-fact, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this order by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, are enjoined and restrained from directly or indirectly, by the use of any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or of the mails or of any facility of any

national securities exchange in connection with the purchase or sale of any security: (1) employing any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud; (2) making any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and (3) engaging in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in violation of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. 240.10b-5].

III.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pending the determination of the Commission's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction or hearing on the merits: Defendants Bentley Financial Services, Inc., and Bentley, and their officers, directors, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, attorneys-in-fact, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this order by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, are enjoined and restrained from, directly or indirectly, while engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for the account of others or for their own accounts, have made use of the mails or the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce to effect transactions in, or to induce the purchase of, securities, without being registered as brokers or dealers with the Commission in violation of Section 15(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. 78c(a)]

IV.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT pending the determination of the Commission's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction or hearing on the merits:

A) All the assets of each of the defendants are frozen. Defendants and their officers, directors, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this order by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, hold and retain within

their control, and otherwise prevent any disposition, transfer, pledge, encumbrance, assignment, dissipation, concealment, or other disposal whatsoever of any of ~~their~~ funds or other assets or things of value presently held by them, under their direct or indirect control over which they exercise actual or apparent investment or other authority, or which are held directly or indirectly for their benefit, in whatever form such assets may presently exist and where they are located.

*defendants*

B) Any bank, financial or brokerage institution or other person or entity holding any funds, securities or other assets in the name of, for the benefit of, or under the direct or indirect control of defendants Robert L. Bentley, Bentley Financial Services, Inc., Envest Group, or their officers, directors, or those persons in active concert or participation with them, and each of them, shall hold and retain within their control and prohibit the withdrawal, removal, transfer or other disposal of any such funds or other assets; and

*of defendants*

C) The defendants and their officers, directors, successor corporations, subsidiaries and affiliates, agents, servants, employees, attorneys-in-fact, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this order by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, shall refrain from soliciting investors to invest in securities, accepting, taking control of, or depositing in any financial institution additional funds from actual or potential investors in securities issued or sold by them.

D) Defendants may request that the court modify the asset freeze against Robert Bentley to provide for reasonable living expenses and attorney fees. The SEC may oppose any such request for modification of the asset freeze.

V.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, the defendants are prohibited from destroying or altering records. Pending determination of the Commission's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction or hearing on the merits, defendants, and their officers, directors, successor

corporations, subsidiaries and affiliates, agents, servants, employees, attorney-in-fact, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this order by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, are hereby restrained from destroying, mutilating, concealing, altering, or disposing of any document referring or relating in any manner to any transactions described in the Commission's complaint in this action, or to any communications between or among any of the Defendants. As used in this order, "document" means the original and all non-identical copies (whether non-identical because of handwritten notation or otherwise) of all written or graphic matter, however produced, and any other tangible record, or electronic data compilation capable of reproduction in tangible form including, without limitation, computer data, e-mail messages, correspondence, memoranda, minutes, telephone records, reports, studies, telexes, diaries, calendar entries, contracts, letters of agreement, and including any and all existing drafts of all documents.

#### VI.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission's application for expedited discovery, is granted and that, commencing with the time and date of this Order, in lieu of the time periods, notice provisions, and other requirements of Rules 26, 30, 33, 34, 36 and 45 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rules 26.1.A and 30.1A of the Local Rules of this Court, discovery shall proceed as follows:

A) Pursuant to Rule 30(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Commission may take depositions upon oral examination on two days notice of any such deposition. Depositions may be taken Monday through Saturday and may be taken telephonically. As to Defendants, and their officers, directors, subsidiaries and affiliates, agents, servants, employees, owners, brokers, associates, trustees, and underwriters, the Commission may depose such witnesses after serving a deposition notice by facsimile, hand or overnight courier upon such defendant or their counsel,

and without serving a subpoena on such witness. Depositions which have not been signed by the witness may be used for purposes of the hearing on plaintiff Commission's application for a preliminary injunction;

B) Pursuant to Rule 33(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the defendants, and each of them, shall answer the Commission's interrogatories within three days of service of such interrogatories upon defendants;

C) Pursuant to Rule 34(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the defendants, and each of them, shall produce all documents requested by the Commission within three days of service of such request, with production of the documents made to Plaintiff's counsel, or such other person or place as counsel for the Commission may direct in writing;

D) Pursuant to Rule 36(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the defendants shall respond to the Commission's requests for admissions within three days of such requests; and

E) All written responses to the Commission's requests for discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall be delivered by hand or overnight courier to Plaintiff's counsel, or such other place and person as counsel for the Commission may direct in writing.

X.

A) IT IS ORDERED that the Court appoints: David H. Marion, Esq. of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads LLP as a Receiver pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 754. No bond is required in connection with the appointment of the Receiver.

B) The Receiver shall have complete jurisdiction over, and control of all the property, real, personal or mixed, including any assets or funds, wherever located of all defendants.

C) The Receiver shall take control immediately of premises occupied or owned by defendants except for defendant Bentley's primary personal residence and all accounts of the



defendants at any bank, brokerage firm or financial institution which has possession custody or control of any assets of the defendants wherever located.

D) The Receiver is authorized to incur reasonable expenses and to engage or employ persons necessary to assist in carrying out his duties and responsibilities. The Receiver shall make an application to the Court for costs, fees and expenses for services describing in reasonable detail the nature of the services performed and shall be paid out of defendants' funds.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that service of this Order, the Summons and Complaint may be made by facsimile, mail, delivery by commercial courier, or personally by any employee of the Securities and Exchange Commission who is not counsel of record in this matter, or special process server, or any other person, or in any other manner authorized by Rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and may be made on any registered agent, officer, or director of defendants, or by publication or on counsel for defendants. Discovery requests may be communicated by facsimile, mail, or delivery by commercial courier.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the agreement of the parties that the defendants, and each of them, appear before this Court at 2 p.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2001, in Courtroom 9B, of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, or as soon thereafter as they can be heard, to show cause, if any there be, why this Court should not enter a Preliminary Injunction and order preliminary relief against the defendants pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and extending the temporary relief granted in this Order until final adjudication on the merits may be had.

IX.

It is further ordered that the Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for all purposes.

SO ORDERED, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2001, at 5:35 o'clock Pm.



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United States District Judge  
Jay C. Waldman