

pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud and wire fraud in United States v. Montani, No. 05-CR-87 (D.N.J.). The criminal indictment to which he pleaded guilty alleged that Montani, using various instrumentalities of interstate commerce, while employed at Valley Forge, defrauded investors by conspiring to manipulate the stocks of Eagletech Communications, Inc., and Nations Media & Entertainment, Inc. This conduct violated the antifraud provisions of the Exchange Act – Section 10(b) and Rule 10b-5.

III. SANCTION

Montani will be barred from association with any broker or dealer. This sanction will serve the public interest and the protection of investors, pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Exchange Act. It accords with Commission precedent and the sanction considerations set forth in Steadman v. SEC, 603 F.2d 1126, 1140 (5th Cir. 1979), aff'd on other grounds, 450 U.S. 91 (1981). The public interest requires a severe sanction when a respondent's past misconduct involves fraud because opportunities for dishonesty recur constantly in the securities business. Richard C. Spangler, Inc., 46 S.E.C. 238, 252 (1976). There are no mitigating circumstances.

IV. ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, ROBERT MONTANI, JR., IS BARRED from association with any broker or dealer.

Carol Fox Foelak
Administrative Law Judge