## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

## SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 Release No. 58010 / June 24, 2008

## INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940 Release No. 2746 / June 24, 2008

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-12923

In the Matter of )
K.W. Brown & Company, )
21<sup>st</sup> Century Advisors, Inc., )
K.W. Brown Investments, Inc., )
Kenneth Brown, Wendy Brown, )
and Michael Cimilluca, Jr., )
Respondents. )

ORDER MAKING FINDINGS AND IMPOSING REMEDIAL SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(b) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AND SECTION 203(e) OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940 AS TO K.W. BROWN & COMPANY, 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ADVISORS, INC., AND K.W. BROWN INVESTMENTS, INC.

I.

K.W. Brown & Company ("Brown & Company"), 21<sup>st</sup> Century Advisors, Inc. (21<sup>st</sup> Century"), and K.W. Brown Investments, Inc. ("Brown Investments") (collectively, the "Settling Respondents"), pursuant to Rule 240(a) of the Rules of Practice for the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") [17 C.F.R. § 201.240(a)] submitted an Offer of Settlement ("Offer") in the above-captioned proceeding, which was instituted against them on January 4, 2008 by the Commission, pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and Section 203(e) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act").

#### II.

Solely for the purpose of these proceedings and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Commission or in which the Commission is a party prior to a hearing pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.100 <u>et seq.</u>, and without admitting or denying the findings contained herein, except as to the Commission's jurisdiction over them and the subject matter of these proceedings, and the findings contained in Section III.1-3 and III.6 below, which are admitted, the Settling Respondents consent to the entry of an Order Making Findings and Imposing Remedial Sanctions Pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 203(e) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 as to K.W. Brown & Company, 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Advisors, Inc., and K.W. Brown Investments, Inc. ("Order") by the Commission containing the following findings and remedial sanctions set forth below.

# III.

On the basis of this Order and the Settling Respondents' Offer, the Commission finds that:

1. Brown & Company, a Florida corporation headquartered in Delray Beach, Florida, is registered with the Commission as an investment adviser and broker-dealer. Brown & Company is owned by the Brown Family Trust, a trust owned and controlled by Kenneth Brown ("Ken Brown") and Wendy Brown.

2. 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a Florida corporation, headquartered in Delray Beach, Florida, has been registered with the Commission as an investment adviser since 1985. Ken and Wendy Brown control 21st Century and own 100% of its stock.

3. Brown Investments, a Florida corporation with its principal place of business in Delray Beach, Florida, has been registered with the Commission as a broker-dealer since 1985. Ken and Wendy Brown own and control Brown Investments. From September 2002 through at least June 2006, Brown Investments operated as the broker-dealer executing trades for Brown & Company and 21<sup>st</sup> Century's advisory clients.

4. On April 27, 2005, the Commission filed a civil injunctive action against the Respondents Brown & Company, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Brown Investments, Ken Brown, Wendy Brown and Michael Cimilluca, Jr. ("Cimilluca") (collectively, the "Respondents") in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, alleging the Respondents violated the anti-fraud and books and records provisions of the federal securities laws. <u>See Securities and Exchange Commission v. K.W. Brown, et al.</u>, Case No. 0:05-CV-80367.

5. More specifically, the Commission's complaint alleged that beginning in September 2002, the Respondents profited, at the expense of clients who, through Ken Brown, held advisory accounts with 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Brown & Company, by allocating favorable trades to the proprietary account Cimilluca traded. Additionally, the complaint alleged the Respondents failed to implement policies and procedures to prevent this improper trading activity even though the Commission's examination staff identified lax internal controls and numerous other violations, including breach of fiduciary duty and undisclosed conflicts of interest, as well as multiple books and records deficiencies.

6. On December 19, 2007, following a nine-day bench trial, the District Court entered a permanent injunction and final judgment against all Respondents, permanently enjoining them from future violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Sections 206(1), 206(2), 207, 204 and Rules 204-1(a)(2) and 204-2(a)(8) of the Advisers Act. The Court also held the Respondents jointly and severally liable for disgorgement of \$4,796,147 plus prejudgment interest. Additionally, the Court imposed a third-tier civil penalty of \$4.5 million, collectively, on Brown & Company,  $21^{st}$  Century

and Brown Investments; \$250,000 on Ken Brown; \$250,000 on Cimilluca; and \$100,000 on Wendy Brown.

7. The 71-page final judgment contained 136 paragraphs of factual findings and 26 pages of legal conclusions showing the Respondents violated the federal securities laws that served as the basis of the permanent injunction. The Court specifically found that from September 2002 through at least June 2006 the Respondents, knowingly or recklessly, engaged in a fraud upon the advisory clients of Brown & Company and 21<sup>st</sup> Century by using the discretionary authority Ken Brown exercised over the client accounts to allocate profitable trades to the proprietary trading account maintained by the advisers' affiliated broker-dealer, Brown Investments, while allocating unprofitable trades to the advisers' clients. This "cherry-picking" scheme netted the Respondents \$4.5 million dollars in ill-gotten gains while passing more than \$9 million of losses onto the unsuspecting advisory clients who had placed their trust and confidence in Ken Brown, Brown & Company and 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## IV.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanctions specified in Settling Respondents' Offer.

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

Pursuant to Section 15(b)(4) of the Exchange Act and Section 203(e) of the Advisers Act, the Settling Respondents' registrations are hereby revoked.

For the Commission, by its Secretary, pursuant to delegated authority.

Florence E. Harmon Acting Secretary