

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Before the  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS RULINGS  
Release No. 3952/June 28, 2016

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING  
File No. 3-17251

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In the Matter of

JOHN STEVEN BLOUNT

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ORDER

The Securities and Exchange Commission instituted this proceeding with an Order Instituting Proceedings (OIP) on May 12, 2016, pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 203(f) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. The proceeding is a follow-on proceeding based on *United States v. Blount*, No. 15-cr-143 (W.D. La.) in which Respondent John Steven Blount was convicted, on his plea of guilty, of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. A prehearing conference was held today. Andrew Schiff appeared on behalf of the Division of Enforcement, and Respondent Blount appeared *pro se*.

The parties expect to resolve this proceeding by settlement. The Division will file a status report concerning the settlement by July 26, 2016.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ Carol Fox Foelak  
Carol Fox Foelak  
Administrative Law Judge