

September 23, 2010

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A while ago I invested much of my savings into a trust deed company in Las Vegas called Vestin Mortgage. Although I could not at that time reason why a company which only loaned out 70% of appraised value, and kept the first trust deed along with the borrower's personal guarantee could be termed 'high risk' I found out its worse than playing blackjack blindfolded.

Five years ago, at the height of the real estate boom, I asked for my investment back, and was told I would have it in 2008. No problem.

I was beginning to be severely affected by Post-Polio Syndrome and figured by then I could hire someone to help me around the house, pay extra health bills, hire a screenwriter for my book, etc. Never would I consider disability; polio kids were always taught to be independent.

A single man, I had a stipulation in my will that certain funds should help handicapped kids for a number of years.

Shortly before the check was written, however, CEO Mike Shustek convinced the majority to convert the company into an REIT. So VRTB was born, shares have declined more than 90% and obviously my hopes of hiring that extra help and paying bills and any largesse have vanished.

I contacted every regulator, confident of their outrage.

The Department of Justice, the SEC, the California and Nevada Attorney General, Senators Feinstein's and Boxer's have either shuffled me off to another department or said they can't help.

Yet this wording as part of Vestin's disclosure should send chills up any investors back and down any government agency's:

"Our ability to achieve our investment objectives and to make distributions to you depends upon our manager's performance in obtaining, processing, making and brokering loans for us to invest in and determining the financing arrangements for borrowers. You will have no opportunity to evaluate the financial information or creditworthiness of borrowers, the terms of mortgages, the real property that is our collateral or other economic or financial data concerning our loans. We pay our manager an annual management fee of up to 0.25% based on total capital contributions made to us. This fee is payable regardless of the performance of our loan portfolio. Our manager has no fiduciary obligations to our stockholders, is not required to devote its employees full time to our business and may devote time to business interests competitive to our business."

Never to be known as a quitter, I came across this article by **Joseph Picard** of July 21, 2010

The financial reform package, known as the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer

Protection Act, became law today, as President Obama signed the measure.

Perfect timing I thought. Backed by Nevada's Governor Harry Reid, this would fit perfectly into his agenda.

I phoned Washington and was put on hold. Do I mean the Department of Justice? "No," I said, "The new Act which just went into effect." Another long pause. "That office might be set up some time next year" was the reply.

My bulletin board is crowded with clips from the LA Times showing that office should have been set up five years ago:

Financial advisor admits to Ponzi scam
Victims of fraud scheme tell of lost life savings
3 accused of \$200M Ponzi scheme
Man gets prison for \$14M Ponzi scheme

These are losses that make the news perpetrated by illegal acts and amount to hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. How many don't make the news?

A few investors sued Vestin last week and received an undisclosed settlement I wasn't among them.

Shustek personally visited me last year, said he would make sure that the suit would go on to "2013 or beyond", and he had enough money the plaintiffs would go broke. He said if I dropped out he would refund the money I had given the attorney. I was impressed by his honesty and acquiesced.

He settled before the jury was even chosen. I was out of the settlement.

For the past two years my only income has been \$612 a month Social Security.

My complaint must be only one of thousands, but it this is my life. My complaint. I will not become yet another poor and disabled man.

Politicians grandstand while businesses prey with questionable ethics and nonchalant regulators.

Can America work out of its business-caused corruption and recession? Will any change in government really change anything?

Guess my thoughts.

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