

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 89354 / July 21, 2020

WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD PROCEEDING
File No. 2020-25

In the Matter of the Claim for an Award

in connection with

Redacted

Notice of Covered Action Redacted

ORDER DETERMINING WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD CLAIM

The Claims Review Staff (“CRS”) issued a Preliminary Determination recommending that Redacted (“Claimant”) receive a whistleblower award in the amount of twenty percent (20%) of the monetary sanctions collected, or to be collected, in the above-referenced Covered Action (the “Covered Action”). Claimant’s estate provided written notice that it will not contest the Preliminary Determination.¹

The recommendation of the CRS is adopted. The record demonstrates that Claimant voluntarily provided original information to the Commission that led to the successful enforcement of the Covered Action.²

Applying the award criteria in Rule 21F-6 of the Exchange Act to the specific facts and circumstances here, we find the proposed award amount to be appropriate.³ In reaching that

¹ The CRS also preliminarily denied an award in connection with Redacted
Redacted (“Other Authority”) because none of Claimant’s information led to the successful enforcement of those actions. *See* Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) Rule 21F-3(b)(2), 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-3(b)(2). Claimant’s estate did not contest that determination, and as such, the CRS’s preliminary determination as to the Other Authority’s actions became the final determination of the Commission. *See* Exchange Act Rule 21 F-11(f), 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-11(f).

² *See* Exchange Act Section 21F(b)(1), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-6(b)(1); Exchange Act Rule 21F-3(a), 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-3(a).

³ In assessing the appropriate award amount, Exchange Act Rule 21F-6 provides that the Commission consider: (1) the significance of information provided to the Commission; (2) the assistance provided in the Commission action;

determination, we considered that (i) Claimant expeditiously submitted a tip with previously unknown details concerning an ongoing fraud; (ii) Claimant's tip was specific and detailed and included significant corroborating documents, which prompted Enforcement staff to open the investigation; (iii) Claimant's tip helped the Commission stop an ongoing fraud and resulted in the return of money to harmed investors; (iv) there are low collections in this matter; and (v) Claimant was not in a position to continue providing on-going, helpful information to the Enforcement staff during the investigation.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that Claimant shall receive an award of twenty percent (20%) of the monetary sanctions collected, or to be collected, in the Covered Action.

By the Commission.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary

(3) law enforcement interest in deterring violations by granting awards; (4) participation in internal compliance systems; (5) culpability; (6) unreasonable reporting delay; and (7) interference with internal compliance and reporting systems. 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-6.