

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

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS RULINGS  
Release No. 2975/July 27, 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING  
File No. 3-16594

---

In the Matter of

EQUITY TRUST COMPANY

---

:  
:

PREHEARING ORDER

The Securities and Exchange Commission instituted this proceeding with an Order Instituting Proceedings (OIP) on June 16, 2015, pursuant to Section 8A of the Securities Act of 1933. A prehearing conference, at which both parties appeared, was held today.

The hearing, expected to take up to ten hearing days, will commence during the week of November 30, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

The OIP alleges that Ephren Taylor (Taylor) was a key participant in the alleged conduct at issue in this proceeding. The parties' request to take his testimony by deposition, pursuant to 17 C.F.R. § 201.233, was granted. Taylor will be unable to attend the hearing because of imprisonment. *See* 17 C.F.R. § 201.233(b). The parties will conduct the deposition at the place where Taylor is imprisoned. They will offer the deposition, in the form of a video recording and written transcript, as an exhibit at the hearing, and it will be admitted into evidence pursuant to 17 C.F.R. § 201.235(a)(3), (5).

The parties will propose, by August 14, 2015, a prehearing schedule to include dates for exchange of exhibit and witness lists, reports of any expert witnesses,<sup>1</sup> and prehearing briefs.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/S/ Carol Fox Foelak \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Fox Foelak  
Administrative Law Judge

---

<sup>1</sup> Direct testimony of any expert witnesses will be by means of expert report, with the witness made available for cross-examination.