DAVID B. BAYLESS 1 | HELANE L. MORRISON 2 KOJI E. FELTON ORIGINAL FILED Attorneys for Plaintiff 3 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION JAN 2 0 1998 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100 4 San Francisco, California 5 Telephone: (415) 705-2500 RICHARD W. WIEKING CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION 98-0197 10 11 12 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, Civil Action No. 13 Plaintiff, COMPLAINT FOR 14 PERMANENT INJUNCTION 15 AND LEGAL AND OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF RUSSELL C. FAUST, 16 Defendant. 17 18 Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the 19 "Commission") alleges: 20 SUMMARY OF THE ACTION 21 Defendant Russell C. Faust ("Faust") violated the 22 federal securities laws by substantially assisting Media Vision 23 Technology, Inc. ("Media Vision" or the "Company") in the 24 fraudulent overstatement of its financial results for the quarter 25 ended September 30, 1993 and the fiscal year ended December 31, 26 Faust was the Chief Operating Officer and a member of the 1993.

Board of Directors of Media Vision, a multimedia computing

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products company located in Fremont, California. Media Vision filed a Chapter 11 proceeding and was reorganized pursuant to a plan confirmed in December 1994. Media Vision changed its name to Aureal Semiconductor in May 1996.

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- Faust participated in the fraud by directing subordinates to falsify documents so that it would falsely appear that large amounts of product had been shipped before the end of the third and fourth quarters. In fact, the product was not shipped until the following quarter.
- Faust also sold Media Vision stock while in the possession of material non-public (or "inside") information and misrepresented facts to auditors about returned product.
- Faust's conduct violated the antifraud and internal 4. accounting controls provisions of the federal securities laws.

# JURISDICTION, VENUE AND INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

- The Commission brings this action pursuant to Section 20(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77t(b)] and Section 21(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)].
- 6. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77v(a)] and Sections 21(e) and 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(e) and 78aa]. Faust, directly or indirectly, has made use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce or of the mails in connection with the acts, practices and courses of business alleged in this Complaint.
- Venue in this District is proper pursuant to Section 27 28 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78aa]. Defendant resides and

2 COMPLAINT 8. Assignment to the San Francisco Division is appropriate pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2(c) because a substantial part of the events and omissions which give rise to the claims occurred in Alameda County, California.

### THE DEFENDANT

9. Faust is a resident of Pleasanton, California. Faust served as Media Vision's President from the Company's formation in May 1990 until August 1990. Thereafter, Faust was the Chief Operating Officer until May 1994, and he also served as Chief Financial Officer until May 1992. Throughout his employment at Media Vision, Faust was a member of the Board of Directors of Media Vision.

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

# Media Vision Fraudulently Overstated 1993 Third Quarter Results.

- 10. Media Vision, formerly a publicly traded Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Fremont, California, designed and manufactured multimedia products for personal computers.
- 11. Executives at Media Vision, including Faust, began engaging in financial fraud by the third quarter ended September 30, 1993. The fraudulent conduct included recognizing revenue on product that had not been shipped and not timely recognizing product returns.
- 12. On October 19, 1993, Media Vision released its financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 1993

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(the "third quarter"). The release reported revenue of approximately \$64.3 million and net income of approximately \$5.3 million.

- The October 19 release was materially false and 13. misleading, overstating Media Vision's revenue by at least \$9.4 million (17.1 percent). Senior officers at Media Vision caused the overstatement in part in order to report strong financial results in anticipation of a scheduled convertible debt offering by the Company.
- 14. On October 20, 1993, Media Vision's registration statement for a \$100 million dollar convertible debt offering (plus an additional \$15 million overallotment) went effective and the debt was sold to the public.

Faust Aided and Abetted Media Vision's Overstatement of Third Quarter 1993 Results.

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- In late September 1993, Faust became aware that Media 15. Vision would not have sufficient component parts to fill an order for multimedia upgrade kits for a large retailer.
- 16. Faust, after discussions with senior management at Media Vision, directed subordinates in his manufacturing group to prepare records that would indicate the kits were completed and shipped to the retailer by September 30, 1993, the last day of the third quarter. In reality, the kits were not yet ready for shipment. Instead, they were sent to a manufacturing subcontractor for final assembly and shipping to the retailer at a later date. The kits were shipped during the fourth quarter ended December 31, 1993 (the "fourth quarter").

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17. As a result the conduct of Faust and other senior officers, Media Vision falsely recognized \$7.1 million in revenue for the third quarter and included that revenue in the financial results released to the public October 19, 1993.

# Faust Traded on Inside Information

18. On October 22, 1993, Faust sold 25,000 shares of Media Vision common stock at an average sale price of \$33.00 for gross proceeds of \$825,000. At the time, Faust knew that Media Vision had falsely included \$7.1 million in revenue for the third quarter.

### Media Vision Fraudulently Overstated 1993 Fourth Quarter and Year End Results.

- 19. The fraudulent conduct intensified in the fourth quarter, particularly in the last several weeks of the year.
- 20. On February 17, 1994, Media Vision released financial statements for the 1993 fiscal year ended December 31, 1993 ("fiscal year 1993") and further explained the results in a conference call with securities analysts that same day. The February 17 release reported revenue for fiscal year 1993 of \$241.1 million and income of \$19.9 million.
- 21. Media Vision's financial statements for the fourth quarter and fiscal year 1993 were materially false and misleading. They materially overstated revenue and income.
- 22. In August 1994, the Company restated its results for fiscal year 1993, reporting revenue of \$149.7 million and declaring a loss of \$99.2 million. The restatement showed that the previously reported financial results for fiscal year 1993

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had overstated revenue by \$91.4 million (61 percent) and income by \$119.2 million.

# Faust Aided and Abetted Media Vision's Overstatement of 1993 Fourth Quarter and Year End Results.

- Faust, after discussions with other senior officers, participated in at least three transactions in the fourth quarter involving the falsification of paperwork. In each transaction, Media Vision improperly recognized revenue in fiscal year 1993 on product that did not ship until 1994. Together these three transactions resulted in the improper recognition of \$9.8 million in revenue in the fourth quarter.
- First, Faust directed the falsification of documents to enable the improper recognition of \$4.8 million in multimedia upgrade kits containing a particular type of speaker.
- 25. In late December 1993, Faust realized that Media Vision would not obtain delivery of a sufficient number of the specific speakers to fulfill orders it planned to ship by the end of the year. Faust, after discussions with other senior management, directed the creation of false documentation showing receipt of the speakers on December 30, 1993. The unfinished kits were then shipped to an outside assembler to await receipt of the speakers. The kits were actually shipped to customers in late January and early February 1994.
- Second, Faust directed the falsification of paperwork to facilitate the improper recognition of \$2.9 million in sales of soundboards in 1993 that did not ship until January 1994.
- Media Vision had contracted with a foreign manufacturer to build Media Vision brand soundboards. Media Vision recognized

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revenue when the foreign company shipped the product to Media Vision's European distributors.

- By late December, Faust realized that the majority of those soundboards that Media Vision had planned to have shipped during 1993 would not be ready. Faust called the foreign manufacturer and requested that it send false confirmations of shipments.
- The foreign manufacturer sent two sets of documents. The first set falsely confirmed the shipment of 43,950 soundboards to Europe in the last week of December; the second truthful set showed that 36,300 of the soundboards did not ship until the first half of January 1994.
- Third, Faust directed the false receipt and shipment of 30. \$2.1 million of a particular model of multimedia kit.
- On or about December 31, 1993, Faust directed the 31. creation of false documentation showing the receipt of 1800 kits. The kits were then "shipped" on paper, triggering the recognition of revenue on the sale in the fourth quarter. In fact, the goods were not shipped until February 1994.

# Faust Made a Misrepresentation to Auditors in Connection with the 1993 Audit.

- From at least late January 1994, Faust was aware that 32. Media Vision had failed to recognize in the fourth quarter approximately \$11 million in returns from Media Vision's distributors previously authorized by the Company.
- In May 1994, during extended audit procedures in connection with the audit for fiscal year 1993, Media Vision's auditors asked Faust whether he was aware of any unrecognized or

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unusual returns. Faust misrepresented to the auditors that he was not aware of any such returns.

# Media Vision's Fraud Caused its Stock to be Overvalued

- 34. Media Vision's overstated financial statements led the market to overvalue Media Vision's stock. Media Vision stock rose to a high of 46 1/2 in January 1994, before the fraud was disclosed (representing a market capitalization of approximately \$630 million). The stock fell during the spring of 1994, reaching 5 1/4 on May 3, 1994.
- 35. In July 1994, Media Vision sought Chapter 11 protection.
- 36. In December 1994, the stockholders' equity interests were rendered worthless by the bankruptcy court, when it confirmed a plan of reorganization.

#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# Violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder

- 37. Paragraphs 1 through 36 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 38. Media Vision directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of securities, by the use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, or of the mails, with scienter: (a) employed devices, schemes or artifices to defraud; (b) made untrue statements of material facts or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or (c) engaged in acts, practices or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit

8 COMPLAINT

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upon other persons, in violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange
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    Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. §
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    240.10b-5].
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         39. Faust knowingly and substantially assisted Media
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    Vision's violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule
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    10b-5 thereunder.
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              Faust violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will
    continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule
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    10b-5 thereunder.
                         SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
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           Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Section 10(b)
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              of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder
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              Paragraphs 1 through 36 above are realleged and
         41.
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    incorporated herein by reference.
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              On October 22, 1993, Faust sold 25,000 shares of Media
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    Vision common stock while in possession of material, non-public
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    information, in violation of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act
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    [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)], Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15
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    U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R.
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    § 240.10b-5].
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              By reason of the foregoing, Faust violated, and unless
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    enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the
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    Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)], Section 10(b) of the Exchange
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   Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. §
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    240.10b-5].
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# Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act

incorporated herein by reference.

#### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

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Faust knowingly circumvented or knowingly failed to implement a system of internal accounting controls in violation

of Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(5)].

Paragraphs 1 through 36 above are realleged and

Faust violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C.  $\S78m(b)(5)$ ].

#### FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

### Rule 13b2-2 under the Exchange Act

- Paragraphs 1 through 36 above are realleged and 47. incorporated herein by reference.
- Faust (a) made or caused to be made a materially false or misleading statement, and/or (b) omitted to state or caused another person to omit to state, material facts necessary in order to make statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading to an accountant in connection with (i) the audit or examination of the financial statements of Media Vision and/or (ii) the preparation or filing of reports required to be filed by Media Vision with the Commission.
- Faust violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Rule 13b2-2 [17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2].

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court:

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Permanently enjoin Faust, and his agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the final judgment of permanent injunction by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from directly or indirectly violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)] and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78m(b)(5)] and Rules 10b-5 and 13b2-2 thereunder [17 C.F.R. §§ 240.10b-5 and 240.13b2-2].

II.

Order Faust to pay civil penalties pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)] and Section 21(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)].

III.

Order Faust to disgorge an amount equal to his losses illegally avoided, with interest thereon calculated.

IV.

Order Faust to pay civil monetary penalties pursuant to Section 21A of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u-1].

V.

Prohibit Faust, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2)], from acting as an officer or director of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 781] or that is required to file reports pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 781].