

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**FREDERICK L. SHARP, ZHIYING
YVONNE GASARCH, COURTNEY
KELLY, MIKE K. VELDHUIS, PAUL
SEXTON, JACKSON T. FRIESEN,
WILLIAM T. KAITZ, AVTAR S.
DHILLON, and GRAHAM R. TAYLOR,**

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 21-CV-11276 (WGY)

FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANT AVTAR S. DHILLON

The Securities and Exchange Commission having filed a Complaint and Defendant Avtar S. Dhillon (“Dhillon” or “Defendant”) having entered a general appearance; consented to the Court’s jurisdiction over Defendant and the subject matter of this action; consented to entry of this Final Judgment; waived findings of fact and conclusions of law; and waived any right to appeal from this Final Judgment:

I.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5], by using any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of any facility of any national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security:

(a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;

- (b) to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

II.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)] in the offer or sale of any security by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, directly or indirectly:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
- (b) to obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

III.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Section 5 of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77e] by, directly or indirectly, in the absence of any applicable exemption:

- (a) Unless a registration statement is in effect as to a security, making use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or of the mails to sell such security through the use or medium of any prospectus or otherwise;
- (b) Unless a registration statement is in effect as to a security, carrying or causing to be carried through the mails or in interstate commerce, by any means or instruments of transportation, any such security for the purpose of sale or for delivery after sale; or
- (c) Making use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or of the mails to offer to sell or offer to buy through the use or medium of any prospectus or otherwise any security, unless a registration statement has been filed with the Commission as to such security, or while the registration statement is the subject of a refusal order or stop order or (prior to the effective date of the registration statement) any public proceeding or examination

under Section 8 of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77h].

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

IV.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78m(d)] and Rule 13d-2 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. §240.13d-2] by, directly or indirectly, failing to file statements with the Commission containing the information required by Schedule 13D [17 C.F.R. §240.13d-101], within 10 days after acquiring directly or indirectly the beneficial ownership of more than five percent of any equity security of a class of securities which is specified in Exchange Act Rule 13d-1(i) [17 C.F.R. § 240.13d-1(i)].

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

V.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C.

§78p(a)] and Rule 16a-3 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. §240.16a-3] by, directly or indirectly, failing to file forms or statements with the Commission containing the information required by Rule 16a-3, while being a director, officer, or beneficial owner of more than ten percent of any class of equity security (other than an exempted security) registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78l].

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

VI.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently barred from participating in an offering of penny stock, including engaging in activities with a broker, dealer, or issuer for purposes of issuing, trading, or inducing or attempting to induce the purchase or sale of any penny stock. A penny stock is any equity security that has a price of less than five dollars, except as provided in Rule 3a51-1 under the Exchange Act [17 C.F.R. 240.3a51-1].

VII.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is liable for disgorgement of \$9,143,548, representing net profits gained as a result of the conduct alleged in the Complaint, together with prejudgment interest thereon in the amount of \$1,303,236, for a total of \$10,446,784. This sum shall be offset by \$1,493,500 that Defendant

has agreed to pay to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts in *U.S. v. Dhillon*, No. 22-cr-10265 (D. Mass.), but if that agreement is vacated or rescinded, this sum shall be paid to the Commission. Defendant shall satisfy this obligation by paying \$8,953,284 to the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the terms of the payment schedule set forth in paragraph VIII below after entry of this Final Judgment.

Defendant may transmit payment electronically to the Commission, which will provide detailed ACH transfer/Fedwire instructions upon request. Payment may also be made directly from a bank account via Pay.gov through the SEC website at <http://www.sec.gov/about/offices/ofm.htm>. Defendant may also pay by certified check, bank cashier's check, or United States postal money order payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which shall be delivered or mailed to

Enterprise Services Center
Accounts Receivable Branch
6500 South MacArthur Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73169

and shall be accompanied by a letter identifying the case title, civil action number, and name of this Court; Dhillon as a defendant in this action; and specifying that payment is made pursuant to this Final Judgment.

Defendant shall simultaneously transmit photocopies of evidence of payment and case identifying information to the Commission's counsel in this action. By making this payment, Defendant relinquishes all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in such funds and no part of the funds shall be returned to Defendant.

The Commission shall hold the funds (collectively, the "Fund") until further order of this Court. The SEC may propose a plan to distribute the Fund subject to the Court's approval, and the Court shall retain jurisdiction over the administration of any distribution of the Fund.

The Commission may enforce the Court's judgment for disgorgement and prejudgment interest by using all collection procedures authorized by law, including, but not limited to, moving for civil contempt at any time after 30 days following entry of this Final Judgment. Defendant shall pay post judgment interest on any amounts due after 30 days of entry of this Final Judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1961.

VIII.

Provided the offset set forth in paragraph VII for the related criminal action is not vacated or rescinded, Dhillon shall pay the total of disgorgement, and prejudgment interest due of \$8,953,284 to the Commission according to the following schedule: (1) \$100,000 within 90 days of entry of this Final Judgment; and (2) the remaining balance within 730 days of the entry of this Final Judgment. Defendant shall pay the remaining balance, in whole or in part, by effecting the sale of certain real estate located in California that he owns through various entities, or by otherwise paying the amount due. Promptly after the entry of this Final Judgment, Defendant will make reasonably diligent efforts to sell these properties, including by marketing them for sale on commercially reasonable timing and terms through a registered real estate broker. Prior to the closing of the sale of any of the properties, Dhillon will provide the Commission with all requested information pertaining to the sale, including all of its relevant terms. The Commission shall secure its interests in the real properties by the filing and recording of liens on the properties which it will release provided the sale(s) of the properties are commercially reasonable.

Payments shall be deemed made on the date they are received by the Commission and shall be applied first to post judgment interest, which accrues pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1961 on any unpaid amounts due after 30 days of the entry of Final Judgment. Prior to making the final

payment set forth herein, Dhillon shall contact the staff of the Commission for the amount due for the final payment.

If Dhillon fails to make any payment when due as set forth herein, all outstanding payments under this Final Judgment, including post-judgment interest, minus any payments made, shall become due and payable immediately at the discretion of the staff of the Commission without further application to the Court.

IX.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that based on Defendant's cooperation in a Commission investigation and/or related enforcement action, the Court is not ordering Defendant to pay a civil penalty. If at any time following the entry of the Final Judgment the Commission obtains information indicating that Defendant knowingly provided materially false or misleading information or materials to the Commission or in a related proceeding, the Commission may, at its sole discretion and without prior notice to the Defendant, petition the Court for an order requiring Defendant to pay a civil penalty. In connection with any such petition and at any hearing held on such a motion: (a) Defendant will be precluded from arguing that he did not violate the federal securities laws as alleged in the Complaint; (b) Defendant may not challenge the validity of the Judgment, this Consent, or any related Undertakings; (c) the allegations of the Complaint, solely for the purposes of such motion, shall be accepted as and deemed true by the Court; and (d) the Court may determine the issues raised in the motion on the basis of affidavits, declarations, excerpts of sworn deposition or investigative testimony, and documentary evidence without regard to the standards for summary judgment contained in Rule 56(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Under these circumstances, the parties may take discovery, including discovery from appropriate non-parties.

X.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the Consent is incorporated herein with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein, and that Defendant shall comply with all of the undertakings and agreements set forth therein.

XI.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §523, the allegations in the complaint are true and admitted by Defendant, and further, any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or other amounts due by Defendant under this Final Judgment or any other judgment, order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Defendant of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §523(a)(19).

XII.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for the purposes of enforcing the terms of this Final Judgment.

XIII.

There being no just reason for delay, pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Clerk is ordered to enter this Final Judgment forthwith and without further notice.

Dated: October 10, 2023

William B. Young
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE