1 TERRY R. MILLER (CO Bar No. 39007) Email: MillerTe@sec.gov 2 Attorney for Plaintiff 3 Securities and Exchange Commission 4 Denver Regional Office 5 1961 Stout Street, Suite 1700 Denver, Colorado 80294 6 Telephone: (303) 844-1000 7 8 9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 10 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 12 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE AGS Case No.: [Case No.]'17CV1536 L COMMISSION, 13 **COMPLAINT** Plaintiff. 14 v. 15 CASH CAPITAL, LLC, 16 AMERICA'S STRATEGIC ORE PROPERTIES, LLC, and 17 ROBERT W. WILSON, 18 Defendants. 19 20 Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") alleges: 21 I. **SUMMARY** 22 This matter involves material misrepresentations and omissions in the offer 1. 23 and sale of securities, as well as a scheme to defraud investors by two purported mining 24 ventures — Cash Capital, LLC ("Cash Capital") and America's Strategic Ore Properties, 25 LLC ("ASOP") — and the sole manager, member, and principal of both entities, Robert 26 W. Wilson ("Wilson") (collectively, "Defendants"). 27 2. From January 2015 and continuing through at least August 2016, Wilson, 28 through Cash Capital, ASOP, and personally, engaged in a scheme whereby he publicly

- offered and sold more than \$1.8 million in unregistered securities, including "gold purchase contracts," "guaranteed purchase contracts," and promissory notes to approximately seventy mostly non-accredited investors located primarily in Arizona and California.
- 3. Wilson told investors that Cash Capital, ASOP or he would use their money to "upgrad[e]" a mining project in Yuma, Arizona for the purpose of preparing it for sale to, or to partner with, a yet-to-be-identified large investor. Typically, Cash Capital, ASOP, and Wilson guaranteed a 20 percent return on investment in 18 months. Cash Capital and ASOP additionally promised to provide investors with an option to later convert the investment and guaranteed returns into equity interests in a to-be-formed special-purpose entity that would profit from sale or development of the mining claims. Wilson represented to investors that Cash Capital, and later, ASOP, had assets of \$18 billion (and later \$30 billion), which he based largely on his unsupported speculation as to the amount of graphite and "graphene" deposits he believed were located on the mine property and recoverable. Wilson also represented to numerous investors that their investment would be secured through a UCC-1 filling providing a lien on those assets.
- 4. In truth, however, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP: (1) had no significant assets other than an option to purchase unpatented mining claims on federal lands; (2) had not completed an adequate analysis to estimate the value or amount of recoverable deposits on the mine property; (3) did not have the resources other than investor funds to ensure payment of option payments as they came due; and (4) had no intent to secure any investments through a UCC-1 filing.
- 5. Wilson was at least reckless in telling his investors that the graphitic and other mineral deposits in the mine were worth anywhere close to \$18 billion. For example, he estimated the size of the ore deposit in part by taking readings from his vehicle's odometer as he drove around the federal land that was the subject of the unpatented mining claims. Wilson also knew, or was at least reckless in not knowing, but failed to disclose to investors, that there is currently no known method to mine

industrially significant quantities of graphene in usable form from *in situ* mineral deposits. In fact, the Yuma King project manager had asked a University of Arizona researcher to begin research to develop a method. Additionally, Wilson knew, but did not disclose, that he had withdrawn the only UCC-1 filing he ever made relating to the mine, and that the filing never covered any of his investors or secured any assets.

- 6. Wilson also defrauded investors by using at least \$100,000 of investor funds for personal expenses, including the rent for his residence (as well as for a separate office), a membership to a massage spa, medical and dental expenses, frequent restaurant expenses, and payments to investors in Wilson's previous failed enterprises. Wilson also took out more than \$700,000 of investor funds in cash withdrawals and cashier's checks made out to Wilson or his wife and for which Wilson has no receipts to demonstrate that the funds were spent on the Yuma King project.
- 7. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP also offered and sold securities without a registration statement for the respective offerings or any applicable exemption from registration.
- 8. As more fully outlined below, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP directly or indirectly engaged in transactions, acts, or courses of business that constitute violations of Sections 5(a) and (c) and 17(a)(1)–(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a), 77e(c) & 77q(a)] and Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and Rules 10b-5(a)–(c) thereunder [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b) and 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5]. Wilson is also liable for Cash Capital's and ASOP's violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and Rules 10b-5(a)–(c) thereunder [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b) and 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5] as a control person under Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78t(a)].

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 20(b), 20(d), and 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b), 77t(d), and 77v(a)] and Sections 21(d), 21(e), and 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d), 78u(e), and 78aa].

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- 10. Defendants, directly or indirectly, made use of the means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce, the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, or of the mails, in connection with the acts, practices, and courses of business set forth in this Complaint.
- 11. Venue lies in this Court pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act and Section 27(a) of the Exchange Act. Defendant Wilson resides in this District and many of the acts, practices, transactions, and courses of business alleged in this Complaint occurred within the District.

III. DEFENDANTS

- 12. **Robert W. Wilson** ("Wilson") is the sole owner, member, and manager of Cash Capital and ASOP. Wilson offered and sold unregistered securities in the form of promissory notes, as well as in the form investment contracts through Cash Capital and ASOP. He personally made or authorized all of the misrepresentations and omissions alleged below. Wilson is subject to a desist-and-refrain order issued by the California Corporations Commission on May 3, 2011, for violations of sections 25110 and 25401 of the California Corporations Code, barring him from, among other things, offering or selling unqualified, non-exempt securities in the State of California, and from offering or selling securities by means of any written or oral communication that includes an untrue statement of material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading.
- 13. Cash Capital, LLC ("Cash Capital"), is a Wyoming limited liability company. Wilson is and always has been Cash Capital's sole member, manager, and owner, and wholly controls its operations. Cash Capital does not have significant business operations other than Wilson's fundraising efforts (frequently in California) and its option to purchase certain mining claims near Yuma, Arizona. Neither Cash Capital nor its securities has ever been registered with the Commission in any capacity. Cash Capital is an alter ego of Wilson.

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America's Strategic Ore Properties, LLC ("ASOP") is a Wyoming 14. limited liability company. Wilson is and always has been ASOP's sole member, manager, and owner, and wholly controls its operations. ASOP does not appear to have significant business operations other than Wilson's fundraising efforts (frequently in California). Neither ASOP nor its securities has ever been registered with the Commission in any capacity. ASOP is an alter ego of Wilson.

IV. **FACTS**

A. WILSON OFFERED AND SOLD UNREGISTERED SECURITIES.

- From approximately January 2015 through at least August 2016, Wilson 15. publicly offered and sold unregistered securities to finance the "valuation enhancement" of a mining property outside of Yuma, Arizona (the "Yuma King" project).
- 16. Wilson raised more than \$1.8 million from roughly 70 investors through "gold purchase contracts" issued by Cash Capital, "guaranteed purchase contracts" issued by ASOP, and promissory notes he issued in his own name, all purportedly to finance the Yuma King project.
- Most, if not all, of these investments offered the same basic promise: a 20 17. percent return on investment after 18 months.
- 18. The Cash Capital and ASOP investments also promised that: (1) within the 18 month investment period, Wilson would form a special-purpose entity that would develop or sell the property, and investors would be given the option to convert their investment and return into equity in that entity; and (2) Wilson would file a UCC-1 financing statement backed by the supposedly substantial assets of the relevant company that would name the investor as a secured party.

Cash Capital sold at least seven investment contracts, raising at least \$117,000.

- 19. Between approximately July 28, 2015, and February 10, 2016, Cash Capital raised at least \$117,000 from at least seven sets of investors.
- 20. Wilson's investment solicitation on behalf of Cash Capital began in approximately January 2015. By April 2015, Wilson developed a website for Cash

Capital, which was hosted under the domain 'www.cashcapitalllc.com.' The website initially touted the mine as a gold mine, advertised "guaranteed profits" of up to 20% after 18 months, and included such statements as: "We have over 18 billion USD in assets. Your purchase contract is secured by a lien on a security interest in these assets." Wilson also solicited investments in Cash Capital gold purchase contracts by issuing at least one press release via the website PRWeb.

- 21. The standard Cash Capital gold purchase contract included numerous representations about the value of the assets Cash Capital possessed, and the security of any investment in those assets. The standard Cash Capital contract claimed the following:
 - That mining properties Cash Capital controlled had "billions of tons of ore to produce" numerous minerals and graphite.
 - That "[the] 1.3 billion ton deposit represents the largest graphite deposit in North America"
 - To "finance the valuation enhancement of the graphite deposits," Cash Capital sought to raise "a first round \$8,000,000 to fund the mapping, drilling, and assaying of the mineral deposits to prepare the property for sale or development."
 - The buyer [investor] had "a guaranteed and secured 20% profit for 18 months."
 - At the end of the 18 months, the buyer could choose to receive the promised return in either cash or refined gold, or, alternatively, "[a]t the buyer's sole option, the purchase price—plus the 20% profit—can be converted into equity in the special purpose LLC that will have the charter to sell or JV-develop the properties. At the time of conversion, the buyer's cash equity will be valued at 1½ times the purchase price plus the 20% profit."
 - That, in consideration of the investment amount, Cash Capital "shall provide a
 UCC1 Financing Statement. This provides the Buyer with an interim lien on a
 portion of 20% ownership of Cash Capital LLC which has assets exceeding 18
 billion USD" (emphasis in original, which was also highlighted in yellow).

- Upon default by Cash Capital, the buyer "shall automatically be entitled to exercise any and all remedies provided to a secured party under the Wyoming Uniform Commercial Code, pursuant to the UCC1"
- 22. The Cash Capital contract also provided wire instructions to send investment funds to a bank account Wilson controlled and held in the name of SW Management Company, Inc. ("SW Management"). SW Management was a Nevada corporation until its status was permanently revoked some time before May 2011. Wilson was SW Management's sole owner, director, and officer, and had wholly controlled its operations.
- 23. Wilson and SW Management were previously involved in a securities offering in or around 2008 relating to purported contracts between suppliers and buyers of low quality fuel oil. SW Management had no business operations in 2015 or thereafter.
- 24. Most of the funds raised by Cash Capital were deposited into the SW Management account. Wilson opened bank accounts in the name of Cash Capital, but never used them for business operations.

ASOP sold at least 59 investment contracts, raising at least \$700,000.

- 25. As early as October 2015, Wilson began offering and selling investments in the same Yuma King mining project through a new entity: ASOP. From approximately October 2015 through May 2016, ASOP raised at least \$700,245 through at least 59 guaranteed purchase contracts executed with at least 44 sets of investors.
- 26. More than \$300,000 raised through ASOP was deposited initially into the SW Management bank account; most or all of the remaining funds were deposited into a bank account Wilson controlled and held in ASOP's name.
- 27. Some of Wilson's promotional materials stated that ASOP was "doing business through" Cash Capital.
- 28. Advertisements and handouts made available on a second website developed at Wilson's direction (and hosted under the domain name 'www.o4reg.com') stated that Wilson, through ASOP, sought to raise \$8 million in a "first round" through the sale of

gold purchase contracts, which he later called "guaranteed purchase contracts." These promotional materials also represented that "[w]hen you purchase your guaranteed purchase contract, you become one of the secured parties to a lien on the assets of the mining property."

- 29. The standard ASOP contract offered the same terms as the Cash Capital contract, including a promise that investors' interests would be secured by a UCC-1 statement.
- 30. Wilson made representations as to the value of the ore and/or the venture to many, if not all, of the ASOP investors. For example, Wilson sent the following emails to prospective ASOP investors:
 - An October 2015 email claiming that the graphite "deposit may be upwards of 4 billion tons!" and quoting a current sale price of "about \$2500 per ton" (emphasis in original, which was also highlighted in yellow).
 - A November 2015 email stating that his venture might be worth more than \$375 billion, and suggesting that it might cost only about \$100 million to "get" a billion tons of ore out of the ground.
 - A January 2016 email stating, "as our engineers and geologists tell us, our graphite ores now exceed 3 billion tons." Wilson claimed that graphite ore "goes for about \$2500 a ton for the kind of high-quality graphite we have."
- 31. Wilson also held several live presentations in Arizona and California at which he discussed his offering with investors and prospective investors. During at least some of these presentations, Wilson presented information about his plan to develop the Yuma King mining property. Slides that Wilson used during his presentations represented the following:
 - That ASOP would "conduct a drilling and assay program to enhance the properties' estimated value of \$30 billion"
 - That the various mining properties contained over 1.5 billion metric tons of minerals, and that each contract would be secured by a "government recorded lien

on a security interest in the over \$18 billion assets of the company—assets of mineral rights, leases, claims and equipment."

• That Wilson planned to make a "standard SEC-approved" private-placement offering or other similar offering within 18 months, through which his investors could obtain equity in an unspecified entity.

Wilson sold at least 21 promissory notes related to the Yuma King mining project, raising at least \$610,000.

- 32. From June through August 2016, Wilson appears to have raised at least \$610,000 through the sale of promissory notes. While the notes purported to be personal notes, and contained no explicit reference to or representations about the Yuma King mining project, Wilson told at least some of his investors that he would use the money to pay expenses related to the mine, and those investors understood that Wilson's ability to pay back the notes rested on the success of the mining project.
- 33. Wilson did not have the financial resources to repay the promissory notes at any time since he first accepted investor funds for the Yuma King project. Wilson's only source of income, other than investor funds relating to the Yuma King project, is from Social Security.
- 34. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP never registered any securities offering with the Commission.
- B. THE CASH CAPITAL GOLD PURCHASE CONTRACTS, ASOP GUARANTEED PURCHASE CONTRACTS, AND PROMISSORY NOTES ARE ALL SECURITIES.
- 35. Investors all invested money in a common enterprise the Yuma King project and were led to expect profits solely from the efforts of Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP or their agents and contractors. Investor returns are linked to Wilson, Cash Capital, and/or ASOP's fortunes. The promised returns could only be paid if the Yuma King project were ultimately successful and Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP were able to earn tangible returns on their investments in the project. Moreover, Wilson pooled investor monies into common bank accounts and used these monies to fund the mining

operation. As a result, it is impossible to attribute profits or losses to each investor's particular investment.

36. Wilson alone had authority to direct the operations of Cash Capital and ASOP, and he alone had authority to direct the operations of the Yuma King project.

37. Investors had no authority or power to direct the operations of Cash Capital, ASOP, or the Yuma King mining operation. Investors had no voting power or management authority in any relevant entity. Investors were not partners or joint venturers with Wilson, Cash Capital, or ASOP. Most investors had no mining experience or expertise.

38. The only potential source for the promised returns on investors' investments was the Yuma King project. Investors were dependent solely on the success of the Yuma King project for their profits.

39. Investors were therefore completely dependent on the efforts of Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP to realize the promised returns on their investment.

40. Cash Capital contracts and ASOP contracts also had terms of maturity longer than 9 months, evinced a promise to pay a determinate amount after a specified amount of time, and were not contingent on any event or condition. Further, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP sold the notes and contracts to finance investments in the Yuma King mining project, which constituted the general operations of their business

King mining project, which constituted the general operations enterprises.

41. Most, if not all, of the investors in the Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and Wilson's promissory notes were motivated to invest primarily by the promised return on investment. Most, if not all, of the investors considered their notes or contracts to be investments.

42. The notes and contracts are not protected by any other significant regulatory scheme that would justify exempting them from the securities laws.

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C. WILSON, CASH CAPITAL, AND ASOP MISREPRESENTED OR OMITTED SEVERAL MATERIAL ASPECTS OF THE OFFERINGS.

Many of Wilson's representations about the Yuma King mining project were 43. false. Wilson also omitted material facts that were either necessary to make several of his statements, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or that contradict what a reasonable investor would have taken from Wilson's statements.

Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP misrepresented the values of the mining property, and failed to disclose important risks and other material facts.

- 44. As discussed above, Wilson made various representations concerning the values of the mining property, including:
 - That mining properties Cash Capital controlled had "billions of tons of ore to produce" numerous minerals and graphite.
 - That "[the] 1.3 billion ton deposit represents the largest graphite deposit in North America "
 - That ASOP would "conduct a drilling and assay program to enhance the properties' estimated value of \$30 billion "
 - That the various mining properties contained over 1.5 billion metric tons of minerals, and that each contract would be secured by a "government recorded lien on a security interest in the over \$18 billion assets of the company—assets of mineral rights, leases, claims and equipment."
 - An October 2015 email claiming that the graphite "deposit may be upwards of 4 billion tons!" and quoting a current sale price of "about \$2500 per ton" (emphasis in original, which was also highlighted in yellow).
 - A November 2015 email stating that his venture might be worth more than \$375 billion, and suggesting that it might cost only about \$100 million to "get" a billion tons of ore out of the ground.

- A January 2016 email stating, "as our engineers and geologists tell us, our graphite ores now exceed 3 billion tons." Wilson claimed that graphite ore "goes for about \$2500 a ton for the kind of high-quality graphite we have."
- 45. Wilson's statements about the values of the Yuma King ores were false when made, and Wilson knew, or was at least reckless in not knowing, and was negligent in not knowing, that his statements concerning the valuation of the mining property were false and misleading. Wilson omitted to state material facts that were necessary to render his statements about the mine's value not misleading. And Wilson omitted to state material facts about his inquiry into or knowledge concerning the statements, and those facts conflict with what a reasonable investor would take from Wilson's statements themselves.
- 46. Wilson, who has no education or training in mine valuation techniques, developed his valuations through back-of-the-envelope calculations that did not follow any accepted valuation methodology. Wilson took rough guesses as to the amount of ores that *might* be located on the property and then multiplied these amounts by his estimate of spot market prices for ores. His guesses about the amount of ores present were typically based on heavily qualified estimates from geologists and his own measurements taken with a vehicle odometer and by walking around the property. And following his speculation as to the amount of ores and the spot prices it would yield if recoverable, Wilson did not account for *any* operational costs, including mining, extraction, refinement, or transportation of the ores.
- 47. Wilson's methods for developing his valuations are not generally recognized in the mining industry as reliable.
- 48. Wilson did not obtain an independent, third-party valuation of the mining property, and instead relied on prior, heavily qualified opinions and estimates. The most

recent NI 43-101¹ report relating to the Yuma King property explicitly disclaimed the existence of any reliable valuation of the property and stated that its historical production figures "should not be relied upon as they have not been verified or classified according to CIM or SME resource/reserve categories by a Qualified Person." Wilson omitted this statement from his statements about the value of the mining property.

- 49. According to a geologist who Wilson hired to prepare an updated NI 43-101 report, the available estimates of mineral content at the mine were far too preliminary to make any unqualified assertion of what ores might be present. Wilson omitted this statement from his statements about the value of the mining property.
- 50. A report prepared by other geologists, on which Wilson relied for some estimates of the amount of ores present, stated that, due to "limited data (5 samples), [the] graphene-graphite grade is largely unknown." Wilson omitted this statement from his statements about the value of the mining property.
- 51. Further, Wilson expected that it would cost roughly half the value of the minerals to extract them from the ground, but he did not discount his valuation by his expected mining and associated costs, nor did he disclose these costs to investors.
- 52. Even this cost estimate was misleading. Wilson based some of his valuation claims on the purported presence of substantial amounts of graphene a special two-dimensional form of graphite that consists of single-atom-thick flat sheets of carbon. According to a professor at the University of Arizona, there is currently no known method for obtaining industrial-grade graphene from *in situ* graphitic mineral deposits (other than exfoliation of small quantities or using the ore as raw materials to synthesize graphene in a lab). In fact, as Wilson knew, Wilson's project manager had contacted the

¹ An NI 43-101 report is a technical mining report prepared under disclosure standards published by the Canadian Securities Administrators for use in securities offerings relating to mineral projects.

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professor about the possibility of developing a method for mining graphene.

Accordingly, Wilson had no reasonable basis to believe with any confidence that the mine contained any particular amount or any particular quality of graphite or other ores. Wilson omitted this statement from his statements about the value of the mining property.

- 53. Wilson failed to disclose to investors any of the information above that supposedly formed the basis for his statements concerning the value of the properties. Without such disclosures and given the full context of Wilson's statements about the value of the mining property, a reasonable investor would have understood Wilson's concrete statements about the value of the Yuma King ores to suggest the following: the valuations had been developed through methods generally recognized in the mining industry as reliable; that Wilson had obtained an independent, third-party valuation of the mining property; that it is possible and economically feasible to obtain usable graphene from in situ graphitic mineral deposits and that Wilson knew or had determined that it is possible and economically feasible to do so; and that the valuations accounted for significant costs, such as the costs of mining and extraction.
- Wilson's representations about the value of the Yuma King ores were 54. material because a reasonable investor would have considered the value of the mining assets to be important in making his or her investment decisions.
- 55. Wilson knew, or was at least reckless in not knowing, and was negligent in not knowing, that his valuation of the Yuma King ores was false and misleading.
- Wilson knew, or was at least reckless in not knowing, and was negligent in 56. not knowing, that his statements valuing the Yuma King ores omitted to state facts necessary to make his statements of valuation not misleading.
- Wilson knew, or was at least reckless in not knowing, and was negligent in 57. not knowing, that his statements valuing the Yuma King ores omitted to state facts about his knowledge or inquiry that a reasonable investor would have taken from his statements.

Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP misrepresented the values of the companies, and failed to disclose important risks and other material facts.

- 58. Wilson's statements concerning the value of the assets Cash Capital, and later ASOP (*i.e.*, assets worth \$18 billion or more) were false when made, and Wilson knew, or was at least reckless in not knowing, and was negligent in not knowing, that his statements concerning these asset values were false and misleading. Wilson omitted to state material facts that were necessary to render his statements about the values of his entities' assets not misleading. And Wilson omitted to state material facts about his inquiry into or knowledge concerning the statements, and those facts conflict with what a reasonable investor would take from Wilson's statements themselves.
- 59. First, as discussed above, Wilson had no reasonable bases for his valuations of the Yuma King ores, and therefore also lacked a reasonable basis for asserting that Cash Capital, and later ASOP, had assets worth \$18 billion or more.
- 60. Second, Cash Capital and ASOP never had any assets at all except for the investor funds and Cash Capital's option to purchase certain unpatented mining claims covering the Yuma King property. The value of the option to purchase the mining claims was Wilson's sole basis for asserting any values for the companies' assets.
- 61. The Cash Capital purchase contracts, which Wilson authored, or at least authorized the contents of, implicitly valued the option agreement at only \$40 to \$50 million (as opposed to \$18 billion or more) because the contracts included a calculation that assumed the \$8 million in investor funds he sought to raise would be secured by a 20% equity stake in the company. Moreover, Wilson executed the option agreement on behalf of Cash Capital; ASOP never had any interest in the option, and therefore never had any assets.
- 62. The option agreement required Cash Capital to make quarterly payments of \$32,500, with a total exercise price of \$2.8 million within two years. Wilson omitted to state to Cash Capital and ASOP investors and to promissory note purchasers that he, Cash Capital, and ASOP lacked the resources to ensure that Cash Capital could remain

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current on the option payments, much less come up with the full exercise price within the specified timeframe.

- 63. The first two quarterly option payments were paid by third parties due to Wilson's lack of funds, and at least one of the payments was late.
- 64. The option agreement required payment on the first day of each quarter, starting July 1, 2015. The first quarterly payment was made by the first investor in Cash Capital, who wired the payment directly to the option seller on or around July 29, 2015, almost a month late. For several months before Wilson received that first investment, Wilson never had more than a few hundred dollars in any of his bank accounts, and frequently had negative balances.
- 65. Wilson was also unable to pay the October 1, 2015 payment, as he had less than \$6,000 in his accounts until October 14, 2015, when he received a \$45,000 investor check. Wilson borrowed the funds for the October 2015 payment from a friend, which he paid back from investor funds in late October and mid-November.
- 66. Wilson's, Cash Capital's, and ASOP's cash flow derived almost exclusively from new investor funds, making it necessary for Wilson to raise additional capital to simply keep the option payment current.
- 67. Wilson's omission of the risk of failing to remain current on the option payments rendered his statements about the values of Cash Capital and ASOP's assets misleading because those statements of value rested on an implicit assumption that Cash Capital would be able to retain its option to purchase the mining claims through the duration of the Yuma King project or would be able to purchase the claims outright.
- On information and belief, Wilson never disclosed to investors the risks 68. known to Wilsons that it might not be possible to mine graphene or that Cash Capital might be unable to remain current on the option payments, and he did not factor them into his calculations of the project's value.
- 69. A reasonable investor would have taken from Wilson's statements of the value of Cash Capital's and ASOP's assets that: Wilson or others had developed

valuations through methods generally recognized in the mining industry as reliable; Cash Capital had assets sufficient to ensure that it could stay current on its option payments and, if necessary, to exercise the option; and that ASOP had assets other than investor funds.

- 70. Wilson's representations about the value of Cash Capital's and ASOP's assets were material because a reasonable investor would have considered the value of the companies' assets, which purportedly provided security for the investments, to be important in making his or her investment decisions.
- 71. Wilson's omission of the difficulty of mining graphene was material because the value of the purported graphene ore at the mining property was a significant factor in Wilson's estimates of the value of the property and therefore of the companies' assets, all of which a reasonable investor would have considered important in making his or her investment decisions.
- 72. Wilson's omission of the risk of failing to remain current on the option payments was material because a reasonable investor would have considered the risk of Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP losing all rights to the mining property to be important in making his or her investment decisions.
- 73. Moreover, Wilson provided sworn testimony that he believed the \$8 million he sought to raise "wouldn't begin to cover" the cost of the Yuma King project. Wilson never disclosed to investors that the money he sought to raise would not be enough to cover the cost of the project.
- 74. Wilson's omission of the insufficiency of his fundraising efforts rendered his statements about the values of Cash Capital and ASOP's assets misleading because those statements of value rested on an implicit assumption that the Yuma King project could be, and would be, completed.
- 75. Wilson's omission of the insufficiency of his fundraising efforts was material because a reasonable investor would have considered Wilson's expectation that

the project would require more capital than he planned to raise to be important in making his or her investment decision.

Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP misrepresented the security of the investments.

76. Wilson's statements that investors would have security through a UCC-1 statement were false when made, and Wilson knew, or was at least reckless in not knowing, and was negligent in not knowing, that his statements concerning the security of investors' investments were false and misleading. Wilson omitted to state material facts that were necessary to render his statements about the security of the investments not misleading. And Wilson omitted to state material facts about his inquiry into or knowledge concerning the statements, and those facts conflict with what a reasonable

77. Despite his representations in the standard Cash Capital and ASOP contracts, Wilson never filed an effective UCC-1 financing statement that provided any security to investors.

investor would take from Wilson's statements themselves.

- 78. At all relevant times, Wilson knew that he had never filed an effective UCC-1 financing statement that provided any security to investors.
- 79. In December 2015, Wilson caused a UCC-1 to be filed in Arizona (but not in Wyoming, as promised). The UCC-1 listed ASOP as the debtor and "The ASOP Buying Group" as the secured party.
 - 80. Because ASOP never had any assets, the UCC-1 was ineffective as security.
- 81. Wilson intended the "The ASOP Buying Group" to refer to a yet-to-beformed entity in which he would later offer his investors equity interests. In other words, the UCC-1 statement that Wilson filed identified as the secured party an entity that did not, and still does not, exist.
- 82. Because "The ASOP Buying Group" never existed, the UCC-1 was ineffective as security.

- 83. Investors had no recourse through the UCC-1 filing. Wilson knew that investors would have to sue Cash Capital, ASOP, or him personally to recover their investments.
- 84. Wilson terminated his UCC-1 filing in May 2016, despite promises in the Cash Capital contracts that the "lien ownership interest shall expire when the 100% of the Capital has been returned to the Buyer." As of May 2016, substantially less than 100% of investor capital had been returned to Cash Capital investors.
- 85. Wilson's representations about the promised security of the investments were material because a reasonable investor would have considered it important in making his or her investment decision to have recourse to meaningful assets as security for the investment.

Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP may each be held liable for their statements and omissions.

- 86. All of the misrepresentations and omissions detailed above were made in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of the Cash Capital contracts, the ASOP contracts, or Wilson's promissory notes.
- 87. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP all obtained money by means of the misrepresentations and omissions detailed above.
- 88. Cash Capital and ASOP both received investments in the form of investment contracts that contained material misrepresentations and that omitted material facts.
- 89. Wilson obtained money both through the sale of promissory notes and by misappropriating funds invested in Cash Capital and ASOP.
- 90. Wilson made material misrepresentations and omissions during live presentations to groups of prospective investors, following which several investors made investments in Cash Capital and ASOP.
- 91. Many investors, including purchasers of Cash Capital investment contracts, ASOP investment contracts, and Wilson's promissory notes, understood Wilson's "guarantee" of a 20% return on investment after 18 months to be meaningful and reliable.

investments.

92. Wilson made each misrepresentation and omission detailed above.

Wilson's failure to disclose material risks relating to these investments facilitated the

- 93. Wilson, and Wilson alone, determined the content of and had ultimate authority over the gold purchase contracts issued by Cash Capital, the guaranteed purchase contracts issued by ASOP, and the promissory notes, as well as marketing materials, internet websites, press releases, other documents, and emails used to solicit prospective investors. Wilson had sole control of both Cash Capital and ASOP, and he personally made all of the oral representations discussed above.
- 94. Similarly, Cash Capital and ASOP each made the representations Wilson made relating to each entity, respectively. Wilson had authority to make representations on behalf of Cash Capital and ASOP, and did in fact make representations on behalf of Cash Capital and ASOP.
- 95. At all times, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP acted with the requisite scienter.
- D. WILSON, CASH CAPITAL, AND ASOP ENGAGED IN A SCHEME TO DEFRAUD INVESTORS.
- 96. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP engaged in deceptive acts and a course of business that operated as a fraud or deceit. In addition to the conduct detailed above, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP engaged in the following acts in furtherance of the fraudulent scheme:

Wilson misappropriated and misused investor funds.

97. Despite the representations in the Cash Capital contracts that Wilson was seeking investor funds to "finance the valuation enhancement of the graphite deposits" and to "fund the mapping, drilling, and assaying of the mineral deposits to prepare the property for sale or development," Wilson spent significant portions of investor funds on personal expenses, including the rent for his residence (as well as for a separate office), a membership to a massage spa, medical and dental expenses, frequent restaurant expenses,

and payments to participants of previous investment offerings. None of these expenses related to the intended use of proceeds that Wilson had disclosed to Cash Capital investors.

- 98. Wilson paid at least \$75,000 (\$5000 per month) of Cash Capital and ASOP investor funds to a woman whom had lent him money for a separate transaction unconnected to Cash Capital and ASOP. Similarly, Wilson paid an investor in a previous scheme at least \$6000 out of Cash Capital and ASOP investor funds. And Wilson paid an associate from the previous scheme, who had no involvement in Cash Capital, ASOP, or the Yuma King mining project, at least \$2,800 of investor funds.
- 99. Wilson spent at least \$100,000 of investor funds on expenses unrelated to the Yuma King project. Wilson also took out more than \$700,000 of investor funds in cash withdrawals and cashier's checks made out to Wilson or his wife. Upon information and belief, Wilson used at least some of these funds for personal expenses that were unrelated to the intended uses of proceeds disclosed to Cash Capital, ASOP and promissory notes investors.
- 100. None of the contracts or promissory notes that Wilson executed disclosed that any funds would be used to compensate Wilson, or discussed Wilson's compensation in any way.
- 101. Wilson never disclosed to any of his investors or prospective investors that money he received from the sale of purchase contracts would be used for anything other than expenses toward the Yuma King project.
- 102. Wilson also omitted that he would use investor funds for personal expenses or for anything other than expenses related to the Yuma King project.
- 103. Wilson's failure to tell investors anything regarding his personal appropriation and use of investor assets was material because a reasonable investor would have considered it important in making his or her investment decisions to know whether and to what extent the investment would actually be used to further the mining project.

Wilson opened a personal bank account and switched to selling promissory notes to deceive investors and evade detection.

- 104. Commission staff initially contacted Wilson in April 2016, and Wilson soon thereafter retained counsel. A May 4, 2016 email told investors that Wilson had been advised to "[s]top all funding presentations and referrals," "[s]top all funds from being sent in as of today," and "[d]o not allow any current Purchase Contract holders to increase their amounts as of today." The email explained that the advice meant ASOP was "sold out for lack of a better term!" and requested that investors not send any further funds and not share the investment opportunity with any other prospective investors. Wilson cancelled two presentations scheduled later in May.
- 105. By late May, however, after Commission staff had requested documents relating to Cash Capital and ASOP, Wilson had once again begun raising funds from investors. On May 27, 2016, Wilson opened a personal bank account in his own name and began soliciting investors through the sale of promissory notes pursuant to what an associate of Wilson called the "Promissory Note plan."
- 106. Wilson sold these promissory notes for the purpose of financing the Yuma King project. Despite the fact that Wilson opened a separate bank account that he used to receive the promissory note funds, he occasionally transferred funds between his personal bank account and the accounts he used for Cash Capital and ASOP. Wilson comingled funds received from the sale of promissory notes with funds received from the sale of purchase contracts by Cash Capital or ASOP.
- 107. On information and belief, the purpose of Wilson's "Promissory Note plan" was to conceal Wilson's continued fundraising from the Commission and to permit Wilson to raise at least an additional \$610,000 from investors.
- 108. Wilson also switched to selling promissory notes to fund the Yuma King project to deceive investors about the nature of their investments. Wilson claimed to at least one investor that his promissory notes were not securities and therefore not subject to securities laws or Commission oversight.

- 109. Virtually all of the investor funds that Wilson received from the Cash Capital, ASOP and promissory notes offering have been spent.
- 110. On information and belief, Cash Capital has failed to repay investors as their gold purchase contracts have matured.

E. CASH CAPITAL, ASOP, AND WILSON ENGAGED IN THE OFFER AND SALE OF UNREGISTERED SECURITIES.

- 111. Cash Capital, ASOP, and Wilson offered and sold securities in the form of notes or investment contracts from at least January 2015 through at least August 2016 through the use of the internet, email, telephone calls, and live meetings with investors from several states.
- 112. No registration statement was ever filed for the Cash Capital investment contracts, the ASOP investments contracts, or promissory notes.

The Cash Capital investment contracts, ASOP investment contracts, and promissory notes may all be considered a single, integrated securities offering.

- 113. The Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and promissory notes were all effectively issued by the same issuer.
- 114. Wilson alone held the key to success or failure of the Yuma King project in which the investors were invested, and Wilson had sole control of both Cash Capital and ASOP.
- 115. Wilson disregarded the corporate form of both Cash Capital and ASOP. Wilson regularly comingled funds between the two entities, and used Cash Capital and ASOP funds for personal expenses. In fact, Wilson had no personal bank account in his name until May 2016. Instead, he used accounts held in the names of his various entities for his personal banking. Neither Cash Capital nor ASOP maintained any corporate books or records, had balance sheets or profit and loss statements prepared, or ever filed any tax returns.
- 116. Cash Capital and ASOP were engaged in the same type of business and did not have distinct business operations. Each entity purported to be developing the Yuma

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27 28 the Yuma King project. ASOP raised funds for the Yuma King project, even though Cash Capital holds the option on the relevant unpatented mining claim. Some of ASOP's marketing materials even represented that ASOP was "doing business through" Cash Capital. Wilson, too, purported to be developing the Yuma King project himself, and he sold promissory notes for the purpose of funding the Yuma King project. Wilson had no formal contracts with Cash Capital or ASOP, and neither entity had executed any contracts with the other.

- 117. The Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and Wilson's promissory notes may all be considered as a single securities offering.
- 118. The Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and Wilson's promissory notes were all part of a single plan of financing for the Yuma King project and were made for the same general purpose.
- 119. Wilson represented to investors that he sought to raise \$8 million in his "first round" of financing, and raised less than \$8 million combined through the sale of purchase contracts through Cash Capital and ASOP and promissory notes.
- 120. The Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and Wilson's promissory notes all effectively sold the same class of security, as all three promised to pay fixed returns over a fixed time horizon. All of Wilson's investors received essentially the same consideration: a promise by Wilson to pay 20% interest over 18 months. Effectively, each security is a note or bond. None conveyed any voting rights to investors and none formally takes precedence over the others in priority for creditor claims upon default.
- 121. The offerings overlapped in time and together constituted a continuous effort by Wilson to raise funds for the Yuma King project.
 - The Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and promissory notes are not exempt from registration.
- The Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and Wilson's promissory notes are not exempt from registration.

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- 123. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP offered and sold securities in multiple states, including at least California and Arizona.
 - 124. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP sought and raised more than \$1 million.
- 125. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP sold investments to more than 35 investors, many of them non-accredited, and did not, within a reasonable time before sale, furnish to each non-accredited investor the information specified in Securities Act Rule 502(b)(2) [17 C.F.R. § 230.502(b)(2)], including at least an audited balance sheet.
- 126. At least some of the investors were non-accredited and did not have such knowledge and experience in financial and business matters that they were capable of evaluating the merits and risks of the prospective investment. Nor did Wilson, Cash Capital, or ASOP have reason to believe, immediately prior to the sale of the investments, that each investor had such knowledge and experience in financial and business matters that they were capable of evaluating the merits and risks of the prospective investment.
- 127. To the extent that Wilson, Cash Capital or ASOP might otherwise qualify for an exemption from registration, that qualification likely results from a plan or scheme to evade the registration provisions. Cash Capital and ASOP specifically promised to form an entity in which they would later offer equity interests, but delayed the "offering" of equity under Wilson's belief that doing so would keep his contracts and notes from qualifying as securities that must be registered.
- 128. The Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and Wilson's promissory notes were public offerings. The Cash Capital contracts, ASOP contracts, and Wilson's promissory notes were not "private placements" subject to exemption.
- 129. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP collectively received more than \$1.8 million from more than 70 investors located in at least three states through offerings that were intended to raise \$8 million or more.
- 130. The offerings were conducted, at least in part, through general public solicitations at live presentations and over the internet.

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131. Wilson did not know many of his investors prior to their attendance at one of his investment pitches. On information and belief, Wilson placed no meaningful restrictions on who could participate in the offerings.

F. WILSON WAS PREVIOUSLY SANCTIONED FOR SECURITIES VIOLATIONS.

- 132. Wilson is subject to a desist-and-refrain order issued by the California Corporations Commission on May 3, 2011. The California order found that Wilson had violated sections 25110 and 25401 of the California Corporations Code, California's state analogues of Sections 5 and 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act — that is, that Wilson had sold non-exempt securities without "qualification" (which is akin to registration) and that Wilson offered and sold securities by means of written or oral communications that included untrue statements or omissions of material facts.
- 133. The California Corporations Commission found that, beginning on or before January 2008, Wilson, an associate, and several entities controlled by Wilson offered and sold securities in the form of notes, investment contracts, and interests in a limited liability company. The securities were offered and sold to the public in California through general solicitations and cold-calling without a permit or other form of qualification. The order further found that, in connection with the offer and sale of securities, Wilson's associate misrepresented that there were signed contracts and letters of credit from buyers and sellers already in place, and that Wilson "omitted to disclose that the signed contracts and letters of credit did not yet exist and that there was an investment risk."
- 134. The California order bars Wilson from, among other things, offering or selling unqualified, non-exempt securities in the State of California, and from offering or selling securities by means of any written or oral communication that includes an untrue statement of material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading. SW Management was also subject to the same desistand-refrain order. As alleged herein, Wilson offered and sold unregistered securities in California and numerous other states.

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CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Fraud (Scheme): Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5(a) and (c)
[15 U.S.C. § 78j(b) and 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5(a) and (c)]
(All Defendants)

- 135. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 134, as though fully set forth herein.
- 136. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, acting with scienter, by use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of a facility of a national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security: employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; or engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon another person.
- 137. By virtue of the foregoing, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, each violated, and, unless restrained and enjoined, will again violate Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5(a) and (c) thereunder.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Fraud (Scheme): Control Person Liability Under Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78t(a)] for Cash Capital and ASOP's Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5(a) and (c)

[15 U.S.C. § 78j(b) and 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5(a) and (c)] (Wilson, alternatively)

- 138. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 134, as though fully set forth herein.
- 139. Cash Capital and ASOP, directly or indirectly, acting with scienter, by use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of a facility of a national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to

make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

- 140. Wilson exercised control over the management, general operations, and policies of Cash Capital and ASOP, as well as the specific activities upon which Cash Capital's and ASOP's violations are based.
- 141. By virtue of the foregoing, Wilson is liable as a control person under Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act for Cash Capital's and ASOP's violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5(b) thereunder.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Fraud (Scheme): Section 17(a)(1) and (3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)(1) and (3)] (All Defendants)

- 142. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 134, as though fully set forth herein.
- 143. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities, by use of the means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, acting with the requisite state of mind, employed a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud and engaged in transactions, practices, or a course of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon purchasers.
- 144. By virtue of the foregoing, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, violated and, unless restrained and enjoined, will again violate Section 17(a)(1) and (3) of the Securities Act.

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FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Fraud (Misstatements and Omissions): Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5(b) [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b) and 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5(b)] (All Defendants)

- 145. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 134, as though fully set forth herein.
- 146. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, acting with scienter, by use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of a facility of a national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.
- 147. By virtue of the foregoing, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, violated and, unless restrained and enjoined, will again violate Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5(b) thereunder.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- Fraud (Misstatements and Omissions): Control Person Liability Under Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78t(a)] for Cash Capital and ASOP's Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5(b) [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b) and 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5(b)] (Wilson, alternatively)
- 148. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 134, as though fully set forth herein.
- 149. Cash Capital and ASOP, directly or indirectly, acting with scienter, by use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of a facility of a national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to

make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

- 150. Wilson exercised control over the management, general operations, and policies of Cash Capital and ASOP, as well as the specific activities upon which Cash Capital's and ASOP's violations are based.
- 151. By virtue of the foregoing, Wilson is liable as a control person under Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act for Cash Capital's and ASOP's violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5(b) thereunder.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Fraud (Misstatements and Omissions): Section 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)(2)]

(All Defendants)

- 152. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 134, as though fully set forth herein.
- 153. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities, by use of the means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, acting with the requisite state of mind, obtained money or property by means of an untrue statement of material fact or omission to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.
- 154. By virtue of the foregoing, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, violated and, unless restrained and enjoined, will again violate Section 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act.

SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Sale of Unregistered Securities: Sections 5(a) and (c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77e(a) and (c)]

(All Defendants)

- 155. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 134, as though fully set forth herein.
- 156. Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, by use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, or of the mails, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, offered and sold securities or carried or caused such securities to be carried through the mails or in interstate commerce, for the purpose of sale or delivery after sale, when no registration statement had been filed or was in effect as to such securities.
- 157. By virtue of the foregoing, Wilson, Cash Capital, and ASOP, directly or indirectly, violated and, unless restrained and enjoined, will again violate Sections 5(a) and (c) of the Securities Act.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff United States Securities and Exchange Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

I.

Find that each of the Defendants committed the violations alleged in this Complaint;

II.

Enter an injunction, in a form consistent with Rule 65(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, permanently restraining and enjoining each of the Defendants from violating, directly or indirectly, the laws and rules alleged in this Complaint to have been violated;

III. Order that each of the Defendants disgorge any and all ill-gotten gains, together with pre- and post-judgment interest, derived from the improper conduct set forth in this Complaint; IV. Order that each of the Defendants pay civil money 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)] in amounts to be determined by the Court, plus post-judgment interest; and V. Order such other relief as this Court may deem just or appropriate. **JURY DEMAND** The Commission demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable. Dated: July 28, 2017 /s/ Terry R. Miller Terry R. Miller Attorney for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission