UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

	Defendant.	JUN 0 1 2001
HENRY T. PIETRASZEK,) MAGISTRATE JUDGE ROSEMO) DOOLL
v.	Plaintiff,	Case No.
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,		JUDGE JOAN H. LEFKO

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") alleges the following:

- 1. Defendant Henry T. Pietraszek ("Pietraszek") avoided losses of \$563,875.20 by selling 61,400 shares of Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. ("Ventana") common stock from June 23 to June 28, 2000 after learning as a Ventana board member that Ventana was going to announce lower than expected earnings and take a write off for the second quarter of 2000.
- 2. Pietraszek directly and indirectly, has engaged and, unless enjoined, will continue to engage in transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business which constitute and will constitute violations of Sections 17(a)(1), 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(1), §77q(a)(2), and §77q(a)(3)] and violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5] promulgated thereunder.
- 3. The Commission brings this action to enjoin such transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business, and for other equitable relief, pursuant to Section 20(b) of the Securities Act

[15 U.S.C. §77t(b) and Sections 21(d), 21(e) and 21A of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§78u(d), 77u(e) and 78u-1(a)].

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. The Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77v(a)] and Section 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78aa].
- 5. Pietraszek, directly and indirectly, has made use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce and of the mails in connection with the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business alleged herein within the jurisdiction of the Northern District of Illinois and elsewhere.
- 6. Pietraszek will, directly and indirectly, unless enjoined, have the opportunity to engage in the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business set forth in this Complaint and in transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business of similar purport and object.

THE DEFENDANT

7. Pietraszek, age 54, resides in Chicago, Illinois and in Naples, Florida. Pietraszek was President and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of Ventana from March 1997 through November 1999. From November 1999 through July 2000, Pietraszek was a member of Ventana's board of directors ("board"). Currently, Pietraszek is President of his own company where he works as a consultant to diagnostic and pharmaceutical companies.

ENTITY INVOLVED

8. At all relevant times, Ventana was an Arizona corporation with its principal offices located in Tucson, Arizona. Ventana develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of laboratory instruments and systems. Ventana is a publicly held company, whose common stock

is registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78l(g)]. Ventana's stock is listed on the NASDAQ National Market.

FACTS

- 9. At all relevant times, Ventana had a policy which prohibited all directors, officers or any employees having material, non-public information relating to Ventana from trading Ventana stock.
- 10. In early June 2000, Ventana management recognized a problem with the dispensers it used to store and dispense reagents on most of its immunohistochemistry staining instruments.
- 11. On June 21, 2000, Ventana's Chairman and Vice Chairman met with Ventana's senior management to review the dispenser problem. During this review, Ventana management discussed the negative impact of the faulty dispensers on second quarter earnings and the need for a write off to account for the faulty products.
- 12. On June 22, 2000, Ventana senior management decided to schedule a special meeting of the Ventana board for the following week, during which the board would discuss Ventana's lower than expected earnings and management's recommendation that Ventana take a write off in the second quarter.
- 13. On or before June 23, 2000, Ventana's Vice Chairman contacted Pietraszek and told him that a special board meeting would be held on June 27, 2000 to discuss Ventana's lower than expected second quarter earnings and Ventana management's recommendation for a significant write off in the second quarter.
- 14. Pietraszek participated in the June 27, 2000 board meeting via telephone. At that meeting, the Ventana board discussed the lower than expected second quarter earnings and

Ventana management recommended that Ventana take a write off totaling almost \$12 million in the second quarter due to faulty products. Pietraszek was still present at the board meeting via telephone when the board approved management's recommendation for the write off.

- 15. On June 23, 26, 27 and 28, Pietraszek sold 600, 10,800, 15,000 and 35,000 shares of Ventana stock, respectively.
- 16. Pietraszek sold Ventana stock on June 23 through June 28, 2000 while in possession of material nonpublic information regarding Ventana's lower than expected earnings and write off in the second quarter.
- 17. At the time he sold Ventana stock on June 23 through June 28, 2000, Pietraszek knew that it was improper for him, as a Ventana board member, to sell Ventana securities while in possession of material, nonpublic information regarding Ventana's second quarter earnings shortfall and write off.
- 18. When he sold Ventana stock on June 23 through June 28, 2000, Pietraszek was aware that Ventana had an Insider Trading Policy prohibiting trading in Ventana stock while in possession of material, nonpublic information. Pietraszek knew that violating this policy could result in significant civil and criminal liability.
- operating loss between \$16 and \$20 million on revenue of approximately \$18 million due to an earnings shortfall and write off in the second quarter. At the close of the market on June 28, 2000, the last trading day preceding the announcement, Ventana common stock traded at \$28.50 per share. The day following the announcement, the Ventana stock price closed at \$23.50 per share.

20. As a result of his trading activities on June 23, 26, 27 and 28, 2000, Pietraszek avoided losses of approximately \$563,875.20 on the sale of 61,400 shares of Ventana common stock.

COUNT I

Violations of Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(1)]

- 21. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are realleged and incorporated by reference herein.
- 22. In June 2000, Pietraszek, in the offer or sale of securities, namely the sale of Ventana common stock, by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly, employed devices, schemes or artifices to defraud.
- 23. As part of the conduct described in Paragraph 21 and 22 above, Pietraszek, in breach of his fiduciary and similar duty to Ventana and its shareholders arising from his position of trust and confidence, sold Ventana stock while he was in possession of material, nonpublic information regarding the impending public announcement of Ventana's lower than expected second quarter earnings and write off.
- 24. Pietraszek knew or was reckless in not knowing the facts and circumstances described in Paragraphs 21 through 23 above.
- 25. By reasons of the activities described in Paragraphs 21 through 24 above, Pietraszek violated Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(1)].

COUNT II

Violations of Section 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(2)]

- 26. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are realleged and incorporated by reference herein.
- 27. In June 2000, Pietraszek, in the offer or sale of securities, namely the sale of Ventana common stock, by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly, obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of material facts and omissions 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.
- 28. As part of the conduct described in Paragraph 26 and 27 above, Pietraszek, in breach of his fiduciary and similar duty to Ventana and its shareholders arising from his position of trust and confidence, sold Ventana stock while he was in possession of material, nonpublic information regarding the impending public announcement of Ventana's lower than expected second quarter earnings and write off.
- 29. By reasons of the activities described in Paragraphs 26 through 28 above, Pietraszek violated Sections 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(2)].

COUNT III

Violations of Section 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(3)]

- 30. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are realleged and incorporated by reference herein.
- 31. In June 2000, Pietraszek, in the offer or sale of securities, namely the sale of Ventana common stock, by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly, engaged

in transactions, practices or courses of business which would and did operate as a fraud or deceit upon purchasers and prospective purchasers of such securities.

- 32. As part of the conduct described in Paragraph 30 and 31 above, Pietraszek, in breach of his fiduciary and similar duty to Ventana and its shareholders arising from his position of trust and confidence, sold Ventana stock while he was in possession of material, nonpublic information regarding the impending public announcement of Ventana's lower than expected second quarter earnings and write off.
- 33. By reasons of the activities described in Paragraphs 30 through 32 above, Pietraszek violated Sections 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(3)].

COUNT IV

Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5] promulgated thereunder

- 34. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are realleged and incorporated by reference herein.
- 35. In June 2000, Pietraszek, in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, namely the sale of Ventana common stock, by the use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce and by the use of the mails, directly and indirectly: employed devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud; made untrue statements of material facts and 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; and engaged in acts, practices and courses of business which would and did operate as a fraud and deceit upon the purchasers and sellers of such securities.
- 36. As part of the conduct described in Paragraph 34 and 35 above, Pietraszek, in breach of his fiduciary and similar duty to Ventana and its shareholders arising from his position

of trust and confidence, sold Ventana stock while he was in possession of material, nonpublic information regarding the impending public announcement of Ventana's lower than expected second quarter earnings and write off.

- 37. Pietraszek knew or was reckless in not knowing the facts and circumstances described in Paragraphs 34 through 36 above.
- 38. By reason of the activities described in Paragraphs 34 through 37 above, Pietraszek violated Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5] promulgated thereunder.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

THEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court:

I.

Find that Pietraszek violated Sections 17(a)(1), 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(1), §77q(a)(2), and §77q(a)(3)].

II.

Find that Pietraszek violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)], and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5] promulgated thereunder.

III.

Grant a Final Judgment and Order of Permanent Injunction, Civil Penalties, and Other Equitable Relief ("Final Judgment"), in a form consistent with Rule 65(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, permanently restraining and enjoining Pietraszek, his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with him who receive actual notice of the Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from directly or indirectly, by use of the means and instruments of transportation or communication in

interstate commerce or by the use of the mails, engaging in the unlawful transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business described above, or any conduct of similar purport or object, in violation of Sections17(a)(1), 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(1), §77q(a)(2), and §77q(a)(3)] and Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)], and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5] promulgated thereunder.

IV.

Grant an Order requiring Pietraszek to pay to the registry of this Court disgorgement of his ill-gotten gains plus prejudgment interest.

V.

Grant an Order requiring Pietraszek to pay to the Commission a civil penalty pursuant to Section 21A of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78u-1].

VI.

Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of all orders and decrees that may be entered or to entertain any suitable application or motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.

VII.

Grant an Order for such further relief as the Court may deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pravin B. Rao

Helen A. Contos

Attorneys for Plaintiff

United States Securities and Exchange Commission

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500 W. Madison Street

Chicago, Illinois 60661

Telephone: (312) 353-7390

Dated: May 31, , 2001

JS 44 (Rev. 12/96)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

JUDGE JOAN H. LEFKOW

In the Matter of

MAGISTRATE JUDGE ROSEMOND

U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Henry T. Pietraszek

Case Number: 010

APPEARANCES ARE HEREBY FILED BY THE UNDERSIGNED AS ATTORNEY(S) FOR:

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DESIGNATED AS LOCAL COUNSEL? YES NO	DESIGNATED AS LOCAL COUNSEL?	YES	NO 🔲		

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE.