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Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 21(d)(1), 21(d)(3)(A), 21(e) and 27 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d)(1), 78u(d)(3)(A), 78u(e), and 78aa and Sections 209(d), 209(e)(1) and 214 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-9(d), 80b-9(e)(1) & 80b-14. Defendants have, directly or indirectly, made use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, in connection with the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business alleged in this Complaint.
- Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange 2. Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, and Section 214 of the Investment Advisers Act, 15 U.S.C. § 80b-14, because certain of the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws occurred within this district and Defendants reside in this district.

SUMMARY

- This matter involves fraud and breach of fiduciary duty by Life 3. Wealth Management, Inc. ("Life Wealth"), an investment adviser, and its owner and principal, Jeffery S. Preston ("Preston"), for placing clients in unsuitable investments and misrepresenting and failing to disclose the serious risks of these investments.
- From October 2005 to October 2007, Preston recommended that more 4. than 30 Life Wealth clients invest \$6.9 million in unsecured promissory notes (the "Notes") issued by Atherton-Newport Investments, LLC ("Atherton-Newport"), a "scratch-and-dent" real estate company. In July 2005, Life Wealth's attorney cautioned Preston about recommending the Notes to his clients due to their

- "enormous risk." Nevertheless, not only did Preston recommend the Notes to his clients, but he represented the Notes to be a "solid" and lucrative investment and falsely reassured clients that their principal would be safe while minimizing, and in many instances failing to disclose, the significant risks inherent in an unsecured loan. Additionally, by recommending the Notes, Preston failed to invest Life Wealth client assets in a manner suitable to the clients' risk tolerance, including their age, financial condition, and concerns about preserving assets. Atherton-Newport defaulted on all of the outstanding Notes in September 2007, causing almost \$6.7 million of losses for Life Wealth clients, and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on January 16, 2008.
- 5. By engaging in the conduct described in this complaint, Life Wealth and Preston, directly and indirectly, engaged in acts, practices, and courses of business in violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5, and Sections 206(1) and 206(2) of the Investment Advisers Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-6(1) & 80b-6(2).
- 6. The Commission brings this action for a judgment permanently restraining and enjoining Life Wealth and Preston against future violations of the federal securities laws, ordering disgorgement of unlawful profits and prejudgment interest thereon, and imposing civil penalties against each defendant.

THE DEFENDANTS

7. Life Wealth Management, Inc. is a California limited liability company and investment adviser based in Valencia, California. Life Wealth registered with the Commission as an investment adviser on June 18, 2007. As of March 31, 2008, Life Wealth had 250 clients and \$36.9 million in assets under management, of which about 18% was invested in the Notes. On September 29, 2009, Life Wealth withdrew its registration with the Commission. Life Wealth has been registered as an investment adviser with the state of California since September 21, 2009.

8. Jeffery S. Preston, age 41, resides in Valencia, California. Preston is the owner, president, and chief compliance officer of Life Wealth. Preston co-owned Life Wealth with another individual from January 2004 to June 2008, and has been providing investment advice to clients since January 2004. Preston had discretionary authority over Life Wealth clients' accounts.

RELATED NON-PARTY

9. Atherton-Newport Investments, LLC was a California limited liability company headquartered in Irvine, California that primarily purchased, renovated, and resold residential properties. Atherton-Newport sold equity investments in these properties, and in late 2004 began issuing the Notes. It filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on January 16, 2008.

THE FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. ATHERTON-NEWPORT AND THE NOTES

- 10. Atherton-Newport was formed in 2001. Based in Irvine, California, Atherton-Newport's primary business was to purchase, renovate, and re-sell apartment complexes. Atherton-Newport managed approximately seventeen complexes over the life of the company, each of which was purchased by an individual limited liability company, or Atherton-Newport Fund, that held only that single property. The purpose of each Atherton-Newport Fund was to provide financing for the acquisition of a "fee interest" in a property, complete capital improvements, maximize net cash flow during the one-to-three year holding period, and sell the property for a profit.
- 11. Atherton-Newport began selling investments in the Notes sometime in December 2004 and ultimately sold a total of \$40 million in the Notes to approximately 250 investors. Atherton-Newport represented that the Notes made monthly interest payments at rates ranging from 9.5% to 18.0% annually, had short-term maturities that were typically 90 days, and were backed by the personal guarantees of Atherton-Newport's two principals. Atherton-Newport further

represented that the Notes were earmarked for real estate investments related to the Atherton-Newport Funds, and that the loan proceeds would be used to purchase equity interests in, or loan money to, the Atherton-Newport Funds. However, the Notes do not contain language restricting Atherton-Newport's use of the loan proceeds to the referenced properties but instead state that the proceeds "may" be used either in connection with the referenced properties, or for "general corporate purposes."

12. On September 30, 2007, all of the outstanding Notes went into default when Atherton-Newport failed to make its interest payments.

B. <u>LIFE WEALTH AND PRESTON'S INVOLVEMENT IN ATHERTON-NEWPORT</u>

- 13. Preston invested \$6.9 million of Life Wealth clients' assets in the Notes, which amounted to approximately 18% of Life Wealth's total assets under management. Thirty-seven Life Wealth clients held outstanding Notes totaling almost \$6.7 million when Atherton-Newport defaulted on them. Several of those clients had invested between 25% and 100% of their portfolios and/or life's savings in the Notes.
- 14. Preston, who selects all of the investments Life Wealth recommends to its clients, first learned about Atherton-Newport in December 2004. At that time, Atherton-Newport was only selling interests in the Atherton-Newport Funds. Preston began recommending the Atherton-Newport Funds to Life Wealth clients in May 2005, and \$1.5 million of Life Wealth clients' assets were ultimately invested.
- 15. Sometime in May or early June 2005, Atherton-Newport's CFO pitched the Notes to Preston as another potential investment for Life Wealth clients. Life Wealth retained counsel shortly thereafter to review Atherton-Newport's written promissory note and provide advice about potential investments in the Notes. On July 11, 2005, Life Wealth's counsel wrote a letter to the firm stating: "I would strongly suggest that any lender consider the enormous risk in

making an unsecured loan," and "I would be very wary of advising clients to loan

any substantial sums under these conditions." Preston read the letter. Despite

counsel's advice and without disclosing it to Life Wealth clients, Preston began

Life Wealth, which charged a management fee ranging from 1.25% to

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questions and concerns about the Notes.

1.50% of its clients' assets, earned a total of \$119,491.82 in management fees in connection with the Notes.
17. Preston recommended the Notes to Life Wealth clients in a variety of ways, including email and one-on-one discussions about the Notes during routine client reviews. Preston was the primary source of information about the Notes for

recommending the Notes to Life Wealth clients in October 2005.

18. Over half of the Life Wealth clients who invested in the Notes informed Preston in their initial client interviews and in ongoing investor questionnaires that protecting principal was their primary investment objective.

Life Wealth clients, and as such he fielded the majority of Life Wealth clients'

19. Because Life Wealth clients previously authorized Life Wealth to wire funds from their custodial account to companies such as Atherton-Newport, they did not sign the actual Note or even receive a copy of it until after they invested.

C. Preston Misrepresented and Failed to Disclose the Notes' Substantial Risks

20. In communications with Life Wealth clients, Preston highlighted the Notes' substantial returns, while downplaying their significant risks. When Preston presented the Notes to Life Wealth clients as a potential investment, he did not disclose that he had only conducted a cursory review of the co-guarantors' key documents, including their personal financial statements, and that it was unclear how Atherton-Newport would use the investment proceeds. In addition, Preston did not disclose to at least one Life Wealth client that the Notes were unsecured.

To the contrary, Preston told them the Notes were a "solid investment" and/or a "strong investment" that achieved high returns due to the booming real estate market. Preston also assured Life Wealth clients that their principal would be safe and informed one client that "we have no concerns as to the risk of our principal."

- 21. None of the written materials Life Wealth and Preston provided to clients discussed the significant risks associated with the Notes. In fact, the only written materials Preston provided to Life Wealth clients before they invested in the Notes were copies of a sample promissory note and the private placement memorandum for the Atherton-Newport Fund that was referenced in the particular Note, if applicable. None of the private placement memoranda for the Atherton-Newport Funds discussed the Notes, much less disclosed any of their risks.
- 22. Preston rolled the majority of Life Wealth clients' initial investments into successive ninety-day Notes and continued to do so until Atherton-Newport defaulted on them in September 2007. Preston kept his clients invested in the Notes even though several repeatedly questioned the Notes' safety.
- 23. Preston persisted in using client assets to purchase the Notes even despite his own growing concerns about Atherton-Newport. Although Preston began to doubt the viability of Atherton-Newport in April 2007, when Atherton-Newport's CFO left the company, he did not so inform Life Wealth clients or reduce their investments in the Notes, or make any additional inquiries into whether Atherton-Newport's principals would be able to honor their guarantees.
- 24. In August 2007, Atherton-Newport extended the maturity dates on all of the outstanding Notes to September 30, 2007. This extension concerned Preston, but he did not communicate his misgivings to any Life Wealth clients.
- 25. Also in August 2007, Atherton-Newport approved Preston's request to change the payment schedule on Notes held by most Life Wealth clients from monthly to quarterly, if the client consented, to reduce the time Life Wealth spent verifying that interest payments had been timely made. Preston personally had an

outstanding \$100,000 Note at the time, but he did not agree to change the payment schedule on his Note. Preston then redeemed his personal Note on August 15, 2007.

- 26. On September 5, 2007, Atherton-Newport made final interest payments to investors who held Notes that still required monthly interest payments, which excluded those Life Wealth clients who had agreed on Preston's recommendation to switch to quarterly interest payments. All of the outstanding Notes went into default on September 30, 2007.
- 27. Even after Atherton-Newport defaulted on the Notes, Preston persuaded three Life Wealth clients to invest an additional \$235,000 in unsecured promissory notes issued by Atherton-Newport.

D. <u>Preston Invested Life Wealth Clients in the Notes Regardless</u> <u>of Their Risk Tolerances, Ages, and Financial Condition</u>

- 28. In addition to making misrepresentations and omissions regarding the significant risks of investing in the Notes, Preston recommended the Notes to Life Wealth clients even though the investment was highly unsuitable for them. For example, Preston recommended that one Life Wealth client purchase a \$50,000 Note, which represented 33.5% of that client's net worth. The client had an annual income of \$36,000 and five dependents when he invested in the Note in June 2006.
- 29. Preston recommended that another Life Wealth client invest \$100,000 in the Notes, which represented 86.2% of her total net worth. That client's investor questionnaire reflected that her primary investment objective was to assure the safety of her principal.
- 30. Preston also put substantial portions of elderly Life Wealth clients' total assets under management into the Notes despite their advanced age and low risk tolerance.
- 31. Preston similarly failed to follow Life Wealth clients' clear instructions to invest their assets under management in cash. For example, a Life

Wealth client asked Preston to invest \$100,000 of his Life Wealth portfolio in cash for purposes of funding his daughter's college education. This client, who had already invested \$180,000 in the Notes, discovered only after Atherton-Newport defaulted on them that Preston had disobeyed his directive by investing the \$100,000 earmarked for his daughter's tuition in another Note.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Fraud in Connection with the Purchase or Sale of Securities Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder (Against All Defendants)

- 32. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 31 above.
- 33. Defendants Life Wealth and Preston, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:
 - a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
 - b. made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted 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; or
 - c. engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- 34. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants Life Wealth and Preston violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.

	 								
1	SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF								
2	Fraud by an Investment Adviser								
3	Violations of Sections 206(1) and 206(2) of the								
4	Investment Advisers Act								
5	(Against All Defendants)								
6	35. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1								
7	through 31 above.								
8	36. Defendants Life Wealth and Preston, and each of them, by engaging								
9	in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, by use of the mails or other								
10	means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce:								
11	a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to								
12	defraud clients or prospective clients; or								
13	b. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which								
14	operated as a fraud or deceit upon clients or prospective clients								
15	37. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants Life Wealth								
16	and Preston violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate,								
17	Sections 206(1) and 206(2) of the Investment Advisers Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-6(1)								
18	& 80b-6(2).								
19	PRAYER FOR RELIEF								
20	WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:								
21	I.								
22	Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that Defendants Life Wealth								
23	and Preston committed the alleged violations.								
24	II.								
25	Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d),								
26	permanently enjoining Defendants Life Wealth and Preston, and their agents,								
27	servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or								
28	participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the judgment by								

personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from violating Section 10(b) of 1 the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. 2 § 240.10b-5, and Sections 206(1) and 206(2) of the Advisers Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 3 80b-6(1) & 80b-6(2). 4 III. 5 Order Defendants Life Wealth and Preston to disgorge all ill-gotten gains 6 from their illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon. 7 IV. 8 Order Defendants Life Wealth and Preston to pay civil penalties pursuant to 9 Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3), and Section 10 209(e)(1) of the Investment Advisers Act, 15 U.S.C. § 80b-9(e)(1). 11 12 Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity 13 and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the 14 terms of all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable 15 application or motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court. 16 VI. 17 Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and 18 19 necessary. 20 DATED: June 28, 2010 21 Attorney for Plaintiff 22 Securities and Exchange Commission 23 24 25 26 27 28

John M. McCoy III, Cal. Bar No. 166244 Email: mccoyj@sec.gov Catherine W. Brilliant, Cal. Bar No. 229992 Email: brilliantc@sec.gov Securities and Exchange Commission 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, 11th Floor

Los Angeles, California 90036 Telephone: (323) 965-3998 Facsimile: (323) 965-3908

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

	CT OF CALIFORNIA			
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION	CASE NUMBER			
PLAINTIFF(S) V.	CV10 4769 RSWL (MAN)			
LIFE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, INC., and JEFFERY S. PRESTON	SUMMONS			
DEFENDANT(S).				
TO: DEFENDANT(S): A lawsuit has been filed against you.				
Within 21 days after service of this summ				
must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached Counterclaim Cross-claim or a motion under Rule or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, Joungment by default will be entered against you for the	12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer shn M. McCoy III/Catherine W. Brilliant, whose address is If you fail to do so,			
must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached ☐ counterclaim ☐ cross-claim or a motion under Rule	complaint amended complaint 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer hn M. McCoy III/Catherine W. Brilliant _, whose address is If you fail to do so,			

[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].

CV-01A (12/07) SUMMONS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

	<u> Partie de la companya de la compa</u>		<u> </u>								
I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself □) SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION					מ	DEFENDANTS LIFE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, INC., and JEFFERY S. PRESTON					
									•		
					į	Los Ang	geles County				
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)					representing A	• •	If Known)				
John M. McCoy III and/or Catherine W. Brilliant (323) 965-3998				-3998		M. Anderson	(2.	13) 607-2115			
Securities and Exchange Commission					Klinedinst PC 777 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 4700						
5670 Wilshire Boulevard, 11th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90036							eles, CA 90017				
						NSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES - For Diversity Cases Only X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant.)					
1 U.:	S. Government Plaintiff	□ 3	Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)) :	Citizen of This St	ate	PTF □ 1	DEF □ 1	Incorporated or P		PTF DEF □ 4 □ 4
□ 2 U.	S. Government Defendant	□ 4	Diversity (Indicate Citize of Parties in Item III)	enship	Citizen of Anothe	r State	□2	□2	Incorporated and of Business in Ar		e □5 □5
					Citizen or Subject	of a Fore	ign Country 🗆 3	□ 3	Foreign Nation		□6 □6
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□ 470	Racketeer Influenced		Enforcement of	□ 330	Fed. Employers' Liability	□ 385	Property Damage		Mandamus/	Discl	osure Act
	and Corrupt	□ 151	Judgment Medicare Act	□ 340	Marine	63	Product Liability	L 550	Other Civil Rights		ay Labor Act
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□ 875	Customer Challenge 12		Veteran's Benefits	□ 360	Other Personal Injury		Voting	020	Drug	□ 830 Paten	
			Stockholders' Suits	□ 362	Personal Injury-	1	Employment	□ 625	Drug Related	□ 840 Trade	
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			Land Condemnation Foreclosure	1	Liability AMIGRATION	□ 446	Employment	,	Airline Regs Occupational	□ 864 SSID □ 865 RSI (
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CV10 4769

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

CV-71 (05/08)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Case Number: _

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has If yes, list case number(s):	this action been pre	eviously filed in this court an	nd dismissed, remanded or closed? ☑ No □ Yes				
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have If yes, list case number(s):	any cases been pre-	viously filed in this court that	at are related to the present case? MNO Yes				
□ C. I	Arise from the same Call for determination For other reasons we	or closely related transaction on of the same or substantiall ould entail substantial duplic	ons, happenings, or events; or Ily related or similar questions of law and fact; or cation of labor if heard by different judges; or , <u>and</u> one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.				
IX. VENUE: (When completing the	following informati	on, use an additional sheet if	f necessary.)				
(a) List the County in this District; C Check here if the government, its	California County of agencies or emplo	utside of this District; State i yees is a named plaintiff. If	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. this box is checked, go to item (b).				
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country				
(b) List the County in this District; (Check here if the government, it	California County of	utside of this District; State i	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. If this box is checked, go to item (c).				
County in this District:*	s agencies or emplo	yees is a named defendant.	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country				
Life Wealth Management, Inc Jeffery S. Preston - Los Angeles		nty; and					
(c) List the County in this District; (County In land condemnation ca			if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose.				
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country				
Los Angeles County							
* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernar Note: In land condemnation cases, us			San Luis Obispo Counties				
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (Date June 28, 2010				
or other papers as required by law	. This form, approv	ed by the Judicial Conference	ermation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings ce of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed atting the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)				
Key to Statistical codes relating to So	cial Security Cases:						
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of	f Cause of Action				
861	НІА	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))					
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lun (30 U.S.C. 923)	ng" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.				
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured amended; plus all claims f	workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as illed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))				
863	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on d Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))						
864	SSID	Act, as amended.	al security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security				
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (U.S.C. (g))	old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42				

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Ronald S. W. Lew and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Margaret A. Nagle.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

CV10- 4769 RSWL (MANx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

[X]	Western Division 312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012	Ц	Southern Division 411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053 Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516	Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 13 Riverside, CA 92501
			,	•

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.