

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

FILED BY W D.C.
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CARLOS JUENKE
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.
S.D. OF FLA.-MIAMI

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,)
)
Plaintiff)
)
v.)
)
J.W. KORTH & CO. and)
JAMES WILDER KORTH,)
)
Defendants.)

CIVIL ACTION NO.
97-0280

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE
AND OTHER RELIEF

CIV - UNGARO - BENAGES
MAGISTRATE JUDGE
TURNOFF

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

1. This matter involves the ongoing refusal of Defendants, J.W. Korth & Co. ("JWK"), a registered broker-dealer, and its president, James Wilder Korth ("Korth"), to give the SEC access to certain records concerning defaulted pre-World War II German gold bonds (the "German Bonds") in violation of the federal securities laws. Sections 17(a)(1) and 17(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), and Rule 17a-4(j) promulgated thereunder, require Defendants to give the SEC true and complete copies of records containing the certificate numbers of securities such as the German Bonds. Despite the SEC's repeated demands, JWK, aided and abetted by Korth, has refused to do so, and has instead given the SEC altered and redacted copies which omit the critical certificate number information.

2. Defendants' willful defiance of the law has interfered with the SEC's well-settled powers to examine the books and records of a registered broker-dealer. Accordingly, Defendants have

hindered the SEC's efforts to determine whether their offering of the German Bonds violates other provisions of the federal securities laws. In fact, the SEC has received preliminary information tending to indicate that the vast majority of the German Bonds in circulation may be invalid and unredeemable.

3. Defendants JWK and Korth will, unless restrained and enjoined by this Court, continue to flout the law and refuse to give the SEC true and complete copies of the relevant records.

DEFENDANTS

4. J.W. Korth & Co. is a securities broker and dealer registered with and regulated by the SEC pursuant to Section 15 of the Exchange Act. JWK is primarily engaged in the business of underwriting debt offerings on behalf of major corporations. It maintains its headquarters in Farmington Hills, Michigan and has a branch office located in Miami, Florida. The Miami office deals exclusively in the offer and sale of German Bonds.

5. James Wilder Korth is the president of JWK. He resides in Coconut Grove, Florida and works out of the firm's Miami office.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 21(d), 21(e) and 27 of the Exchange Act.

7. Certain of the acts and transactions constituting violations of the Exchange Act have occurred within the Southern District of Florida. Defendant JWK's branch office is located within the Southern District of Florida. Defendant Korth resides in the Southern District of Florida. Defendants JWK and Korth have

BACKGROUND

8. In October 1996, JWK began offering and selling the German Bonds to the public. JWK, with the substantial assistance of Korth, offered two defaulted German Bonds for sale: the 5.5% German International Loan of 1930 ("Young bond") and the 7% External Loan of 1924 ("Dawes bond"). JWK offered the Young bond, with a face amount of \$1,000 for \$1,250, and the Dawes bond, with a face amount of \$1,000 for \$1,500. JWK has sold 14 of the 50 bonds in its inventory to three investors.

9. JWK, with the substantial assistance of Korth, issued a press release about the German Bonds which was reported by several newspapers and magazines, including the Wall Street Journal, Miami Herald, and Business Week. Prompted by these articles and pursuant to its statutory authority, the SEC conducted a cause examination of JWK's Miami office on November 27, 1996. Korth was present during the examination.

**DEFENDANTS' REFUSAL TO FURNISH TRUE AND COMPLETE
COPIES OF RECORDS RELATING TO THE GERMAN BONDS**

10. During the examination, the SEC requested that Defendants provide copies of certain books and records, including blotters, reflecting the certificate numbers of the German Bonds. Defendants agreed to provide the SEC with copies of the German Bonds and the requested books and records.

11. The SEC returned the following week to obtain the copies of the German Bonds and the books and records reflecting their certificate numbers, but Defendants refused to provide them. Instead, Defendants demanded a written explanation of the reasons for the SEC's request for the German Bonds' certificate numbers.

12. On December 2, 1996, Defendants made a written proposal to the SEC offering to turn over JWK's research and due diligence files concerning the German Bonds if the SEC hired JWK as a consultant for a fee. Defendants still refused, however, to give the SEC copies of the books and records reflecting the German Bonds' certificate numbers.

13. On December 3, 1996, the SEC rejected Defendants' proposal and again demanded copies of the records. Defendants refused to comply.

14. On December 6, 1996, after retaining counsel, Defendants delivered to the SEC what purported to be JWK's entire research and due diligence files on the German Bonds. Defendants did not, however, produce copies of the relevant records.

15. On December 9-10, 1996, the SEC returned to JWK's Miami office to complete its examination. Defendants gave the SEC examiners copies of the blotters and other original entry documents, i.e., documents reflecting receipt and disposition of the German Bonds. However, the blotters did not contain the certificate numbers, and Defendants had redacted the certificate numbers or failed to include them with the other documents. Defendants also gave the SEC copies of the German Bonds themselves, but again redacted the certificate numbers.

16. During the course of the SEC's efforts to secure Defendants' compliance with the federal securities laws, Defendants represented that, pending a resolution of this matter, JWK would not offer or sell the German Bonds. Despite this representation, the SEC subsequently learned that JWK was touting the German Bonds

on JWK's Internet Web Page and was continuing to solicit "indications of interest" from prospective purchasers and clients.

17. Defendants subsequently ceased this activity, but only after the SEC questioned JWK's counsel about it. Recently, the SEC has learned that Defendants are considering offering the German Bonds to the public through a public, cash auction.

18. The SEC has obtained information from the German government and the paying agent for the German Bonds indicating that the vast majority of all German Bonds in circulation are invalid and unredeemable.

19. Defendants' refusal to provide the SEC with true and complete copies of the records reflecting the certificate numbers has hampered the SEC's investigation into the validity of JWK's German Bonds. The SEC is particularly concerned about the danger to the investing public given Defendants' prior offers and sales and present intention to sell the German Bonds in a public, cash auction.

CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of Section 17(a)(1) and 17(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-4(j) thereunder

20. Paragraphs 1 through 19 are hereby realleged and incorporated by reference.

21. Section 17(a)(1) of the Exchange Act requires broker-dealers to make and keep certain books and records and to furnish copies to the SEC in accordance with rules promulgated by the Commission. Pursuant to Section 17(b), all such records are subject to examination at any time by the SEC.

22. SEC Rule 17a-4(j) requires that broker-dealers must, upon demand, "furnish promptly" to the SEC "legible, true and complete copies" of records required to be preserved under Rule 17a-4.

23. Pursuant to subsection (a) of Rule 17a-4, such records include records broker-dealers are required to maintain under Rule 17a-3(a)(1).

24. SEC Rule 17a-3(a)(1) provides that broker-dealers must make and keep "records relating to [their] business," including "[b]lotters (or other records of original entry) containing an itemized daily record of all . . . receipts and deliveries of securities (including certificate numbers)."

25. JWK is a broker-dealer registered with the SEC and is subject to these statutes and rules.

26. JWK has and unless enjoined will continue to violate Sections 17(a)(1) and 17(b), and Rule 17a-4(j), by refusing to furnish promptly true, complete and unredacted copies of blotters or other original entry records setting forth the certificate numbers for the German Bonds.

27. Korth has and unless enjoined will continue to knowingly provide substantial assistance to JWK in connection with JWK's violations of these provisions of the Exchange Act, and is therefore liable as an aider and abettor pursuant to Section 20(f) of the Exchange Act.

RELIEF SOUGHT

WHEREFORE, the SEC respectfully requests that the Court:

I.

Declaratory Relief

Declare, determine and find that Defendants JWK and Korth committed the violations of the federal securities laws alleged herein.

II.

**Temporary Restraining Order,
Preliminary and Permanent Injunctive Relief**

Issue a Temporary Restraining Order, a Preliminary Injunction and a Permanent Injunction, restraining and enjoining Defendants JWK and Korth, their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with them, and each of them, from violating Sections 17(a) (1) and 17(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-4(j) promulgated thereunder.

III.

Penalties

Issue an Order directing Defendants JWK and Korth to pay civil penalties pursuant to Section 21(d) of the Exchange Act.

IV.

Records Preservation and Expedited Discovery

Issue an Order requiring Defendants JWK and Korth to preserve any records related to the subject matter of this lawsuit that are in their custody, possession or subject to their control, and to respond to discovery on an expedited basis.

V.

Further Relief

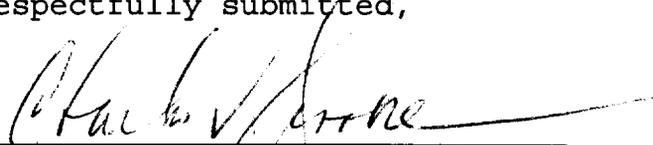
Grant such other and further relief as may be necessary and appropriate.

VI.

Retention of Jurisdiction

Further, the SEC respectfully requests that the Court retain jurisdiction over this action in order to implement and carry out the terms of all orders and decrees that may hereby be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or motion by the SEC for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 4, 1997

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CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I (a) PLAINTIFFS

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

DEFENDANTS

97-0280

J.W. KORTH & CO. and JAMES WILDER KORTH

CIV-UNGARO-BENAGES

(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

DADE 97 cv 0280 URB/WCT

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED MAGISTRATE JUDGE TURNOFF

(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER) Christian R. Bartholomew, Esq. (305) 982-6344 David R. Chase, Esq. (305) 982-6363 SEC 1401 Brickell Ave., Suite 200, Miami, FL 33131

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

(d) CIRCLE COUNTY WHERE ACTION AROSE:

DADE, MONROE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, INDIAN RIVER, OKEECHOBEE, HIGHLANDS

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION

(PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES

(For Diversity Cases Only)

- Citizen of This State
Citizen of Another State
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country
PTF DEF
Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State
Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in Another State
Foreign Nation

IV. CAUSE OF ACTION

(CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.)

DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)

15 U.S.C. §§ 78q(a)(1) and 78q(b), 17 C.F.R. §§ 240.17a-4(a)

Iva. 2 Violations of the books and records provisions of the federal securities laws. 240.17a-4(j). days estimated (for both sides) to try entire case.

V. NATURE OF SUIT

(PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, BANKRUPTCY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories and checkboxes.

VI. ORIGIN

(PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- 1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Refiled
5 Transferred from another district (specify)
6 Multidistrict Litigation
7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

Check YES only if demanded in complaint:

TRO, Perm. & Prel. JURY DEMAND: YES NO

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

Inj.

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Christian R. Bartholomew, Esq.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

S/P I-2

REV. 6/90

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Receipt No. Amount:

Date Paid: N/iff: