

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No: 8:23-cv-2212-MSS-CPT

STEPHONE N. PATTON, et al.,

Defendants.

FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANT STEPHONE N. PATTON

WHEREAS, this matter came before the court on Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission's Motion for Entry of Default pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(b)(2). (Dkt. 32)

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2023, the Commission filed its Complaint, (Dkt. 1), and on October 3, 2024, a Clerk's Default was entered against Defendant Patton due to his failure to appear, answer, or otherwise plead to the Complaint. (Dkt. 19)

Having reviewed the Motion for Entry of Default Judgment and for good cause shown:

I.

PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

A.

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] thereunder

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

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

(b) to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or

(c) to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person;

by, directly or indirectly, (i) creating a false appearance or otherwise deceiving any person, or (ii) disseminating false or misleading documents, materials, or information or making, either orally or in writing, any false or misleading statement in any communication with any investor or prospective investor, about: (A) any investment

strategy or any investment in or offering of securities; (B) the prospects for success of any product or company; (C) the use of investor funds; or (D) Defendant's qualifications.

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

B.

Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)]

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

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

(b) to obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or

(c) to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser.

by, directly or indirectly, (i) creating a false appearance or otherwise deceiving any person, or (ii) disseminating false or misleading documents, materials, or information or making, either orally or in writing, any false or misleading statement in any communication with any investor or prospective investor, about: (A) any investment strategy or any investment in or offering of securities; (B) the prospects for success of any product or company; (C) the use of investor funds; or (D) Defendant's qualifications.

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

C.

Section 21(d)(1) and 21(d)(5) of the Exchange Act of 1934

CONDUCT-BASED INJUNCTION

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that pursuant to Sections 21(d)(1) and 21(d)(5) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d)(1) and (5)], and Section 20(b) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(b)], that

Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, through any entity he owns or controls: (1) participating in the issuance, purchase, offer, or sale of any security provided, however, that such injunction shall not prevent Patton from purchasing or selling securities for his own personal account; (2) exercising control over any commercial enterprise or project that issues, purchases or sells securities to any person other than himself; and (3) controlling any EDGAR account other than an individual EDGAR account in his own name to comply with Patton's individual shareholder reporting obligations, if any; and (4) making any filings using the Commission's EDGAR system, other than filings related to Patton's individual shareholder reporting obligations, if any, pursuant to Section 21(d)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(5).

II.

OFFICER AND DIRECTOR BAR

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2)] and Section 20(e) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(e)], Defendant is prohibited from acting as an officer or director of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78l] or that is required to file reports pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78o(d)].

III.

DISGORGEMENT, PREJUDGMENT INTEREST, AND CIVIL PENALTY

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is liable for disgorgement of \$65,303 representing Defendant's ill-gotten gains, together with prejudgment interest thereon in the amount of \$14,132.38, and a civil penalty in the amount of \$236,451 pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)], and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3)].

Defendant shall satisfy this obligation by paying \$315,886.38 to the Securities and Exchange Commission within 14 days after entry of this Final Judgment. Defendant may transmit payment electronically to the Commission, which will provide detailed ACH transfer/Fedwire instructions upon request. Payment may also be made directly from a bank account via Pay.gov through the SEC website at <http://www.sec.gov/about/offices/ofm.htm>. Defendant may also pay by certified check, bank cashier's check, or United States postal money order payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which shall be delivered or mailed to Enterprise Services Center Accounts Receivable Branch 6500 South MacArthur Boulevard Oklahoma City, OK 73169 and shall be accompanied by a letter identifying the case title, civil action number, and name of this Court; Stephone Patton as a defendant in this action; and specifying that payment is made pursuant to this Final Judgment.

Defendant shall simultaneously transmit photocopies of evidence of payment and case identifying information to the Commission's counsel in this action. By making this payment, Defendant relinquishes all legal and equitable right, title, and

interest in such funds and no part of the funds shall be returned to Defendant. The Commission may enforce the Court's judgment for disgorgement and prejudgment interest by moving for civil contempt (and/or through other collection procedures authorized by law) at any time after 14 days following entry of this Final Judgment. Defendant shall pay post judgment interest on any delinquent amounts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961. The Commission shall hold the funds, together with any interest and income earned thereon (collectively, the "Fund"), pending further order of the Court.

The Commission may propose a plan to distribute the Fund subject to the Court's approval. Such a plan may provide that the Fund shall be distributed pursuant to the Fair Fund provisions of Section 308(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over the administration of any distribution of the Fund. If the Commission staff determines that the Fund will not be distributed, the Commission shall send the funds paid pursuant to this Final Judgment to the United States Treasury. Regardless of whether any such Fair Fund distribution is made, amounts ordered to be paid as civil penalties pursuant to this Judgment shall be treated as penalties paid to the government for all purposes, including all tax purposes. To preserve the deterrent effect of the civil penalty, Defendant shall not, after offset or reduction of any award of compensatory damages in any Related Investor Action based on Defendant's payment of disgorgement in this action, argue that he is entitled to, nor shall he further benefit by, offset or reduction of such compensatory damages award by the amount of any part of Defendant's payment of a civil penalty in this action ("Penalty Offset"). If the court in any Related Investor Action grants such a

Penalty Offset, Defendant shall, within 30 days after entry of a final order granting the Penalty Offset, notify the Commission's counsel in this action and pay the amount of the Penalty Offset to the United States Treasury or to a Fair Fund, as the Commission directs. Such a payment shall not be deemed an additional civil penalty and shall not be deemed to change the amount of the civil penalty imposed in this Judgment. For purposes of this paragraph, a "Related Investor Action" means a private damages action brought against Defendant by or on behalf of one or more investors based on substantially the same facts as alleged in the Complaint in this action.

IV.

BANKRUPTCY NONDISCHARGEABILITY

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

V.

RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

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

VI.

RULE 54(b) CERTIFICATION

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

DONE and ORDERED in Tampa, Florida, this 12th day of February 2026.



MARY S. SCRIVEN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies furnished to:
Counsel of Record
Any Unrepresented Person