## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 Release No. 82177 / November 29, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-18119

In the Matter of

JAMES M. PALLADINO,

Respondent.

ORDER MAKING FINDINGS, AND IMPOSING REMEDIAL SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(b) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

I.

On August 18, 2017, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") previously instituted public administrative proceedings against James M. Palladino ("Palladino" or "Respondent") pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"). The Commission now deems it appropriate and in the public interest to enter this Order Making Findings and Imposing Remedial Sanctions Pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Order").

II.

Respondent has submitted an Offer of Settlement (the "Offer") which the Commission has determined to accept. Solely for the purpose of these proceedings and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Commission, or to which the Commission is a party, Respondent admits the Commission's jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of these proceedings, and the findings contained in paragraph III.2 below, and consents to the entry of this Order, as set forth below.

## III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondent's Offer, the Commission finds that:

1. During the relevant period, Palladino acted as a stock promoter and participated in various offerings of penny stocks. From July 1996 through August 2003, Palladino was associated

with various broker-dealers registered with the Commission. Respondent is 53 years old and resides in Wellington, Florida.

- 2. On April 26, 2017, Palladino pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to engage in money laundering in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957, before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. <u>U.S. v. James M. Palladino</u>, Case No. 1:17-cr-00054-WMS-JJM (W.D.N.Y).
- 3. In connection with that plea, Palladino admitted that between February 2011 and June 2011, he and his co-conspirators made payments totaling \$175,000 for fraudulent penny stock promotions. Palladino further admitted that he knew that the funds used to make these payments were criminally derived proceeds from wire fraud activities.

## IV.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanctions agreed to in Respondent's Offer.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act, that Respondent Palladino be, and hereby is barred from participating in any offering of a penny stock, including: acting as a promoter, finder, consultant, agent or other person who engages in activities with a broker, dealer or issuer for purposes of the issuance or trading in any penny stock, or inducing or attempting to induce the purchase or sale of any penny stock.

For the Commission, by its Secretary, pursuant to delegated authority.

Brent J. Fields Secretary