

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 98522 / September 26, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-21720

In the Matter of

ANTHONY R. SICHENZIO,

Respondent.

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

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) deems it appropriate and in the public interest that public administrative proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) against Anthony R. Sichenzio (Sichenzio or “Respondent”).

II.

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, 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, and without admitting or denying the findings herein, except as to the Commission’s jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of these proceedings and the findings contained in paragraph III.2 below, which are admitted, Respondent consents to the entry of this Order Instituting Public Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions (“Order”), as set forth below.

III.

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

1. From at least August 2010 through at least September 2018, Sichenzio held multiple officer roles with Pristec America, Inc. and related entities (the "Pristec Companies"), including Vice Chairman, Vice President, Secretary, and Director. He also was a partial owner. From 1989 through 2018, Sichenzio was a registered representative associated with various broker-dealers registered with the Commission. Sichenzio, 61 years old, is a resident of Warren, New Jersey.

2. On August 22, 2023, a judgment was entered by consent against Sichenzio, permanently enjoining him from future violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") and Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, in a civil action entitled *Securities and Exchange Commission v. Joseph M. Laura, et al.*, No. 18 Civ. 5075, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

3. The Commission's Complaint alleged that, from at least June 2013 through January 2017, Sichenzio, along with others (together, "Defendants"), engaged in a scheme to defraud investors of the Pristec Companies, which purported to have exclusive rights to a crude oil processing technology, and to misappropriate and misuse investor funds. As alleged in the complaint, from at least June 2013 through January 2017, Defendants raised more than \$3.7 million from at least 80 investors through the fraudulent offer and sale of securities of the Pristec Companies. The Complaint further alleged that Sichenzio was aware of or recklessly disregarded his co-Defendant's misappropriation and misuse of funds, and that he solicited investors into the scheme without disclosing the misappropriation or his own troubled financial history with his co-Defendant, and aided and abetted his co-Defendant's misstatements.

4. On June 28, 2023, the District Court issued a Memorandum and Order granting summary judgment to the Commission concerning, among other things, certain aspects of its claim against Sichenzio for aiding and abetting his co-Defendant's violations of Section 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act.

IV.

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

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act that Respondent Sichenzio be, and hereby is barred from association with any broker, dealer, investment adviser, municipal securities dealer, municipal advisor, transfer agent, or nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

Any reapplication for association by the Respondent will be subject to the applicable laws and regulations governing the reentry process, and reentry may be conditioned upon a number of

factors, including, but not limited to, compliance with the Commission's order and payment of any or all of the following: (a) any disgorgement or civil penalties ordered by a Court against the Respondent in any action brought by the Commission; (b) any disgorgement amounts ordered against the Respondent for which the Commission waived payment; (c) any arbitration award related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order; (d) any self-regulatory organization arbitration award to a customer, whether or not related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order; and (e) any restitution order by a self-regulatory organization, whether or not related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order.

By the Commission.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary