

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940
Release No. 6314 / May 22, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-21436

In the Matter of

THOMAS CARTER RONK,

Respondent.

ORDER INSTITUTING
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS
PURSUANT TO SECTION 203(f) OF THE
INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940,
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 203(f) of the Investment Advisers Act (“Advisers Act”) against Thomas Carter Ronk (“Ronk” 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 2 below, which are admitted, Respondent consents to the entry of this Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Section 203(f) of the Investment Advisers Act, 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. Ronk was the President and a Director of Casablanca Mining Ltd. ("Casablanca") and served in various official capacities at WealthMakers, Ltd. ("WealthMakers"), including at times as its part-owner, President and Chief Analytics Officer. Ronk held multiple securities licenses and was associated with a number of registered broker-dealers between 1992 and 1998. Ronk, age 50, is a resident of Corona Del Mar, California.

2. On April 14, 2023, a final judgment was entered by consent against Ronk, permanently enjoining him from future violations of Sections 17(a) and 17(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") and Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, in the civil action entitled Securities and Exchange Commission v. Thomas Carter Ronk, Civil Action Number 8:19-cv-00607-JWH-ADS, in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

3. The Commission's complaint alleged that Ronk, during the period of May 2012 to July 2017, participated in three separate fraudulent schemes. First, Ronk engaged in fraudulent promotional efforts to sell or assist in the sale of the common stock of microcap issuers Casablanca and Gepco, Ltd. ("Gepco"), including, by making numerous misleading statements or misstatements of material fact while promoting the sale of these stocks to investors. Second, Ronk made false statements to prospective investors in connection with a private stock offering by WealthMakers, a private company he co-founded. Third, Ronk manipulated the trading price of the common stock of Casablanca and Gepco during the period from May 2012 to September 2014. Rather than allow the markets to set the prices of the companies' securities through the natural interplay of supply and demand, the Defendant engaged in numerous practices aimed at misleading the market to increase and maintain artificially high prices so that he and others could sell of their holdings for substantial gains.

IV.

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

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED pursuant to Section 203(f) of the Advisers Act, that Respondent Ronk 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, with the right to apply for reentry after five (5) years to the appropriate self-regulatory organization, of if there is none, to the Commission.

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