

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-20249

In the Matter of

**WORLD TREE FINANCIAL,
LLC,**

Respondent.

**JOINT PREHEARING
CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

The Division of Enforcement (“Division”) and Respondent World Tree Financial LLC (“World Tree”) (collectively, “the Parties”), having telephonically met and conferred, hereby submit the following joint prehearing conference statement.

Rule 221(c) Matters

Stipulation of Facts

The Parties have reached the following stipulations of fact:

1. World Tree Financial, LLC is a Louisiana corporation with its principal place of business in Lafayette, Louisiana.
2. World Tree was a Commission-registered investment adviser (File No. 801-70736) until June 15, 2012, when it withdrew its registration, as required by the Dodd-Frank Act and amended Investment Advisers Act of 1940, because its assets under management (“AUM”) fell below \$100 million.

3. In September 2018, when the underlying SEC complaint was filed, World Tree was registered with Louisiana, and had over \$54 million in AUM and 161 clients who were all individuals.
4. On January 15, 2021, a judgment was entered against Respondent, permanently enjoining it from future violations of Sections 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (“Securities Act”), Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, and Sections 206(1) and 206(2) of the Advisers Act, in the civil action entitled Securities and Exchange Commission v. World Tree Financial, LLC, et al., Civil Action Number 6:18-cv-01229-MJJ-CBW, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana.
5. On February 2, 2021, Respondent appealed the January 15, 2021, Judgment. The appeal has been briefed and argued and is currently under submission in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Pre-Hearing Schedule:

Exchange of Witness and Exhibit Lists:	August 2, 2022
Objections to Exhibits: ¹	August 9, 2022
Pre-hearing briefs:	August 16, 2022
Final pre-hearing telephonic conference:	August 23, 2022
Hearing: ²	August 30, 2022

Other Matters

The Parties further agreed to use electronic mail (e-mail) as the method of service for papers other than Commission orders.

¹ The parties have agreed that exhibits not objected to will be deemed admitted at the beginning of the hearing.

² The parties both request that the hearing take place in Lafayette, Louisiana. The parties expect the hearing will take 1 day.

The Parties do not anticipate, at this time, any amendments to the Order Instituting Proceedings or to the Answer. However, neither party waives or abandons any rights to file motions or amendments in the future.

Production of documents set forth in Rule 230 is complete.

The Parties will engage in settlement discussions and will promptly advise the Commission if a tentative settlement, subject to Commission approval, is reached.

The Parties Disagree Regarding Summary Disposition

Division's Position

The Division believes the matter is appropriate for summary disposition and has agreed to the above proposed pre-hearing schedule in order to build in time for such a motion. The Division proposes the following summary disposition schedule.

Summary Disposition Motion	May 10, 2022
Opposition to Summary Disposition	May 24, 2022
Reply to Summary Disposition	May 31, 2022

Respondent's Position

Respondent does not believe the matter is appropriate for summary disposition, because the judgment against Respondent is not final. The judgment below is the predicate for the Division pursuing this administrative proceeding, a judgment that has been appealed and argued before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Respondent takes the position that the Fifth Circuit is likely to take adverse action against the current judgment as written, up to and including potential reverse and remand. Such action by the Appellate Court would dissolve any and all basis for the instant administrative hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 14, 2022

DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT



LYNN M. DEAN
Securities and Exchange Commission
444 South Flower Street, Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(323) 965-3574 (*direct dial*)
(213) 443-1904 (*facsimile*)
Email: deanl@sec.gov

Dated: April 14, 2022

LAUREN ASHLEY NOEL
Durio, McGoffin, Stagg, Shelton, Guidry
220 Heymann Boulevard
Lafayette, LA 70503
Office: (337) 233-0300
Fax: (337) 233-0694
Email: lauren@dmsfirm.com

Respectfully submitted,

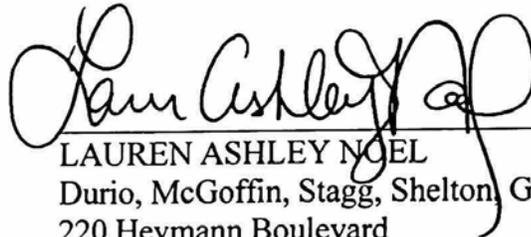
Dated: April 14, 2022

DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT



LYNN M. DEAN
Securities and Exchange Commission
444 South Flower Street, Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(323) 965-3574 (*direct dial*)
(213) 443-1904 (*facsimile*)
Email: deanl@sec.gov

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LAUREN ASHLEY NOEL
Durio, McGoffin, Stagg, Shelton, Guidry
220 Heymann Boulevard
Lafayette, LA 70503
Office: (337) 233-0300
Fax: (337) 233-0694
Email: lauren@dmsfirm.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
SERVICE LIST

Pursuant to Commission Rule of Practice 151 (17 C.F.R. § 201.151), I certify that
the:

JOINT PREHEARING CONFERENCE STATEMENT

was served on April 14, 2022 upon the following parties as follows:

By eFAP and Email

Vanessa Countryman, Secretary
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F. Street, N.E., Mail Stop 1090
Washington, DC 20549-1090
Facsimile: (703) 813-9793
Email: apfilings@sec.gov

By Email

Lauren Ashley Noel
Durio, McGoffin, Stagg, Shelton & Guidry
220 Heymann Boulevard
Lafayette, LA 70503
Email: lauren@dmsfirm.com
Counsel for Respondent World Tree Financial

Dated: April 14, 2022



Lynn M. Dean