

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

Case No.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

ADAMANT STONE LIMITED

Defendant.

COMPLAINT AND JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), for its Complaint against Adamant Stone Limited (“Adamant Stone”), alleges as follows:

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS

1. This case concerns material misrepresentations and statements that could not be substantiated made by Adamant Stone, a purported investment adviser, in a form filed with the Commission and made available to the public on September 13, 2024, about Adamant Stone’s organization, office location, assets under management, and clients.

2. Specifically, Adamant Stone represented in its Form ADV (a form used by investment advisers to register with both the Commission and state securities regulators) that it operates out of office space at 1312 17th Street, Suite 890, Denver, Colorado 80202 (“1312 17th Street”); that Peng Denggao serves as its Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”); that it manages \$10 million in assets in the United States; that it advises a private fund (with the same name as the defendant: Adamant Stone Limited); and that a separate registered investment adviser (“RIA”) reports information about this private fund to the Commission on its own Form ADV.

3. Contrary to Adamant Stone's representations, the current business occupant of 1312 17th Street has no knowledge of Adamant Stone or its purported CEO, and the separate RIA has not reported information about the purported private fund. Moreover, the Commission has not found any reporting of information about the private fund on other filings made with the Commission.

4. In addition, Adamant Stone failed to respond to a request by Commission attorneys to provide records to substantiate the information on the Form ADV, including the amount of private fund assets under management in the United States.

5. By engaging in the conduct described in this Complaint, Adamant Stone violated, and unless enjoined will continue to violate, Sections 204(a) and 207 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act") [15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-4(a), 80b-7].

NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND RELIEF SOUGHT

6. The Commission brings this action under enforcement authority conferred by Sections 209(d) and 209(e) of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-9(d) and 80b-9(e)].

7. The Commission seeks a final judgment: (a) permanently enjoining Adamant Stone from violating the federal securities laws this Complaint alleges it has violated; (b) permanently enjoining Adamant Stone, its owners, and its executive officers, from filing a Form ADV as an exempt reporting adviser; (c) ordering Adamant Stone to pay a civil money penalty under Section 209(e) of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-209(e)]; and (d) ordering any other and further relief the Court may deem just and proper.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under Section 214 of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-14].

9. Defendant, directly or indirectly, made use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce or of the mails in connection with the transactions, acts, practices, and course of business alleged.

10. Venue is proper in the District of Colorado under Section 214 of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-14]. Certain of the acts, practices, transactions, and courses of business alleged in this Complaint occurred within this District. Specifically, Adamant Stone represented on corporate filings with both the Commission and the Colorado Secretary of State that its primary business address is 1312 17th Street, which is located in the District.

DEFENDANT

11. **Adamant Stone Inc.** claims that it is a Colorado corporation. On August 20, 2024, Adamant Stone filed a certificate of incorporation with the Colorado Secretary of State, in which it used the name “Spencer Ahmed” as the filer and incorporator. On the certificate of incorporation, Adamant Stone listed 1312 17th Street as both its principal office address and Ahmed’s address.

FACTS

I. Investment Adviser Registration and Commission Form ADV

12. The Commission regulates investment advisers, primarily under the Advisers Act and the rules adopted under that statute. One of the central elements of the regulatory program is the requirement that an “investment adviser” under the Advisers Act register with the Commission, unless exempt or prohibited from registration. Generally, only larger advisers that have \$100 million or more of regulatory assets under management, or that provide advice to investment company clients, are permitted to register with the Commission. Smaller advisers register under state law with state securities authorities.

13. Exempt reporting advisers (“ERAs”) are a category of investment advisers who would otherwise be required to register with the Commission under the Advisers Act but for the

specific exemptions outlined in Section 203 of the Advisers Act. ERAs include an adviser to private funds with less than \$150 million in assets under management in the United States. The registration exemption for such private fund advisers is Section 203(m) of the Advisers Act and Rule 203(m)-1 thereunder.

14. While ERAs are exempt from the registration requirements, any books or records they do maintain are subject to examination by the Commission under Section 204(a) of the Advisers Act.

15. Form ADV is the form used by investment advisers to register with the Commission and with state securities authorities. It consists of two parts, both of which are required to be filed with the Commission, and both of which are publicly available once filed: Form ADV Part 1 and Form ADV Part 2.

16. ERAs, while exempt from registration, are still required to file certain items in Form ADV Part 1. ERAs do not complete Part 2.

17. Part 1 asks for information about, among other things, an adviser's business, amount of assets under management, ownership, and clients.

18. Form ADV is filed electronically with the Commission through the Investment Adviser Registration Depository ("IARD"), a secure Internet based filing system that collects and maintains the registration, reporting, and disclosure information for investment advisers. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"), under contract with the Commission, is the developer and operator of the IARD system. Once filed, the Form ADV is available to the public through the Commission's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure database, located at <https://adviserinfo.sec.gov>.

II. Adamant Stone Made Material Misstatements and Statements in its Form ADV Filed with the Commission That Could Not Be Substantiated.

19. On September 13, 2024, Adamant Stone filed its Form ADV with the Commission as an ERA. In that filing, Adamant Stone claims that it qualifies for a registration exemption because it acts solely as an adviser to private funds and has assets under management in the United States of less than \$150 million.

20. In the Form ADV, Adamant Stone lists 1312 17th Street as its principal office and place of business, and states that Peng Denggao serves as its CEO. Adamant Stone also provides a telephone number with an (317) area code as the main number for its Colorado office, even though (317) is the area code for Indianapolis and its surrounding area.

21. In the Form ADV, Adamant Stone provides two Central Index Key (“CIK”) numbers, which are numbers that the Commission assigns to a public reporting company and that can be searched on the Commission’s computer systems to identify corporations and individuals required to file certain disclosure information.

22. The Form ADV represents that the amount of Adamant Stone’s private fund assets under management in the United States is \$10 million.

23. In addition, the Form ADV represents that Adamant Stone advises a private fund, also named “Adamant Stone Limited,” and lists a private fund identification number. The private fund identification number is a unique identification number assigned to a private fund.

24. Adamant Stone further states in its Form ADV that a separate RIA “provides information” about Adamant Stone’s private fund on its own Form ADV filing.

25. Contrary to Adamant Stone’s representations in the Form ADV:

- a. the individual who owns the business at 1312 17th Street stated that he has no records of Adamant Stone, Peng Denggao, or Spencer Ahmed;

b. the third-party RIA has not reported the Adamant Stone private fund on its Form ADV filings. Further, the Commission has not found reporting of the private fund or the associated identification number on other filings; and

c. a search for either Adamant Stone or its purported CIK numbers on the Commission's public reporting company database yields no information.

III. Adamant Stone Failed to Produce Records for Examination.

26. Section 204(a) of the Advisers Act provides that all records of investment advisers are "subject at any time, or from time to time, to such reasonable periodic, special, or other examinations by representatives of the Commission as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors." 15 U.S.C. § 80b-4(a).

27. Although ERAs are exempt from the registration requirements, any books and records they do maintain are subject to examination under Section 204(a).

28. Since November 13, 2024, Commission attorneys have attempted to obtain books and records from Adamant Stone that it is required to produce under the Advisers Act.

29. On November 13 and November 21, 2024, a Commission attorney emailed Adamant Stone a letter requesting production of books and records regarding the information on the Form ADV, including its organizational information and the private fund assets under management in the United States. Although the Form ADV itself does not contain an email address for Adamant Stone, the Commission attorney used email addresses that Adamant Stone provided to (i) FINRA in connection with the Form ADV filing process and (ii) the Colorado Department of State in connection with filing its incorporation documents.

30. On November 21, 2024, Commission attorneys called telephone numbers that Adamant Stone provided on the Form ADV and to FINRA in connection with the Form ADV filing process. One number reached a recording stating that the number is not accepting calls, another

number reached a recording stating that the call cannot be completed as dialed, and a third number went to a busy signal unanswered.

31. On April 15, 2025, a Commission attorney again emailed Adamant Stone at the same addresses that Adamant Stone provided to FINRA and the Colorado Department of State. To date, Adamant Stone has not responded to any emails.

32. In sum, the Form ADV materially misrepresented information about Adamant Stone's primary business location and reporting of private fund clients; and it provided information about its CEO and the amount of private fund assets under management in the United States that (1) could not be substantiated, (2) Adamant Stone failed to provide information about when requested, and (3) is likely false. Further, Adamant Stone failed to respond to Commission requests to produce books and records subject to examination.

33. Given the above facts, a reasonable investor would have considered it important in making their decision to invest with Adamant Stone to know complete and accurate information about its organizational structure and management personnel, office location, amount of assets under management in the United States, and private fund clients.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of Advisers Act Section 204(a)

34. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference here the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 33.

35. Adamant Stone failed to make its books and records available to Commission attorneys for examination.

36. By reason of the foregoing, Adamant Stone has violated and, unless enjoined, will again violate Section 204(a) of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-4(a)].

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of Advisers Act Section 207

37. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference here the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 33.

38. Adamant Stone, by use of the mails, and the means and instruments of interstate commerce, directly and indirectly, willfully made untrue statements of material fact in, and omitted to state material facts required to be stated in, reports filed with the Commission.

39. By reason of the foregoing, Adamant Stone, directly or indirectly, has violated and, unless enjoined, will again violate Section 207 of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-7].

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission requests that this Court enter a Final Judgment:

I.

Permanently restraining and enjoining Adamant Stone and its agents, servants, employees and attorneys and all persons in active concert or participation with any of them from violating, directly or indirectly, Sections 204(a) and 207 of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-4(a); 80b-7].

II.

Permanently restraining and enjoining Adamant Stone, its owners, and its executive officers, from filing a Form ADV as an ERA.

III.

Ordering Adamant Stone to pay a civil monetary penalty under Section 209(e) of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-9(e)].

IV.

Granting any other and further relief this Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Under Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands that this case be tried to a jury.

Dated: November 13, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David H. London

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