

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940
Release No. 6544 / February 7, 2024

Admin. Proc. File No. 3-21525

In the Matter of VANIA MAY BELL
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RENEWED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

On July 11, 2023, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued an order instituting administrative proceedings (“OIP”) against Vania May Bell (“Respondent”), pursuant to Section 203(f) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.¹ On August 16, 2023, the Division of Enforcement filed a proof of service, which establishes that service of the OIP was made on Respondent on July 18, 2023, pursuant to Rule 141(a)(2)(i) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.² On September 8, 2023, the Commission issued an order to show cause.³

On November 17, 2023, the Division filed a document titled “Reply of the Division of Enforcement.” The Division’s reply indicated that it was replying to a “response” that Respondent’s daughter emailed to the Division on October 19, 2023. This “response” document was never filed with the Office of the Secretary. As a result, the Commission does not have access to it.

Accordingly, Respondent is ORDERED to SHOW CAUSE by February 20, 2024, why she should not be deemed to be in default and why this proceeding should not be determined against her due to her failure to file an answer and to otherwise defend this proceeding. Respondent’s submission shall address the reasons for her failure to timely file an answer, and include a proposed answer to be accepted in the event that the Commission does not enter a default against her.

¹ *Vania May Bell*, Advisers Act Release No. 6343, 2023 WL 4485357 (July 11, 2023).

² 17 C.F.R. § 201.141(a)(2)(i).

³ *Vania May Bell*, Advisers Act Release No. 6402, 2023 WL 5830513 (Sept. 8, 2023).

The Respondent is reminded that she must file an answer electronically or by mail as outlined in the Commission's Rules of Practice.⁴ This answer must specifically admit, deny, or state that the Respondent does not have sufficient information to admit or deny each allegation in the OIP.⁵ If Respondent fails to do so, she will be held in default.

We also remind the parties that any document filed with the Commission must be served upon all participants in the proceeding and be accompanied by a certificate of service.⁶ Documents filed with the Commission must be filed through the Office of the Secretary.⁷

⁴ See Rule of Practice 150(d), 17 C.F.R. § 201.150(d). ("If a person reasonably cannot serve electronically...service may be made by delivering a copy of the filing. *Delivery* [includes]... [m]ailing the papers through the U.S. Postal Service by first class, registered, or certified mail or express mail delivery addressed to the person"); *Amendments to the Commission's Rules of Practice*, Exchange Act Release No. 90442, 2020 WL 7013370 (Nov. 17, 2020), 85 Fed. Reg. 86,464, 86,474 (Dec. 30, 2020), <https://www.sec.gov/rules/final/2020/34-90442a.pdf>; *Instructions for Electronic Filing and Service of Documents in SEC Administrative Proceedings and Technical Specifications*, <https://www.sec.gov/efapdocs/instructions.pdf>. The amendments also impose other obligations such as a new redaction and omission of sensitive personal information requirement. *Amendments to the Commission's Rules of Practice*, 85 Fed. Reg. at 86,465–81.

⁵ See Rule of Practice 220, 17 C.F.R. § 201.220 ("Unless otherwise directed by the hearing officer or the Commission, an answer shall specifically admit, deny, or state that the party does not have, and is unable to obtain, sufficient information to admit or deny each allegation in the order instituting proceedings. When a party intends in good faith to deny only a part of an allegation, the party shall specify so much of it as is true and shall deny only the remainder. A statement of a lack of information shall have the effect of a denial.").

⁶ See Rule of Practice 150, 17 C.F.R. § 201.150 (generally requiring parties to serve each other with their filings); Rule of Practice 151(d), 17 C.F.R. § 201.151(d) ("Papers filed with the Commission . . . shall be accompanied by a certificate stating the name of the person or persons served, the date of service, the method of service, and the mailing address or email address to which service was made, if not made in person.").

⁷ See Rule of Practice of Practice 151 (b), 17 C.F.R. § 201.151(b) ("Filing of papers with the Commission shall be made by filing them with the Secretary.").

For the Commission, by the Office of the General Counsel, pursuant to delegated authority.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary