UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940
Release No. 6849 / February 7, 2025

Admin. Proc. File No. 3-21525

In the Matter of

VANIA MAY BELL

ORDER GRANTING AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND TO MOTION FOR ENTRY OF DEFAULT

On July 11, 2023, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued an order instituting administrative proceedings ("OIP") against Vania May Bell under Section 203(f) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.[1] On September 8, 2023, the Commission issued an order to show cause 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 or to otherwise defend this proceeding.[2]

According to the Division of Enforcement, Bell's daughter emailed to the Division a "response" on October 19, 2023. Because Bell did not send that document to the Office of the Secretary, however, the Commission did not have access to it. On February 7, 2024, the Commission therefore issued a renewed order to show cause, instructing Bell to properly file an answer with the Commission.[3]

After receiving no response from Bell, the Commission directed the Division to submit a filing, such as a motion for entry of default.[4] The Division did so on October 28, 2024. On November 14, 2024, Bell filed a letter with the Commission in which she cited difficulties sending and receiving mail while incarcerated and documented prior attempts to make

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

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

3 *Vania May Bell*, Advisers Act Release No. 6544, 2024 WL 473713 (Feb. 7, 2024).

4 *Vania May Bell*, Advisers Act Release No. 6735, 2024 WL 4357536 (Oct. 28, 2024).

submissions to the Commission.[5] Bell's letter included an exhibit in which she requested that the Commission "waive, adjourn, and/or forgo any hearing" until she is released from prison.

We construe Bell's filing as a motion to postpone or adjourn this proceeding indefinitely.[6] By preparing and filing various documents in this proceeding, Bell has not shown that she is entirely unable to proceed with this case given her current situation. We therefore DENY Bell's motion for an indefinite postponement.[7]

Under the circumstances, however, we find that it would be premature to deem Bell in default. We instead grant Bell an extension of time in which to file an opposition to the Division's motion for default.[8] It is therefore ORDERED that Bell file an opposition to the Division's motion by April 8, 2025. The Division of Enforcement may file a reply within 14 days after service of Bell's opposition.

Bell is reminded that she must *both* serve her opposition on the Division *and* file her opposition with the Commission.[9] She is further remined about the Commission's e-filing

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[5] Bell's exhibits indicate, for example, that she attempted to request an extension of time to file an answer on December 10, 2023. However, the Commission did not receive this request.

[6] *See* Rule of Practice 161, 17 C.F.R. § 201.161 (allowing Commission to "postpone or adjourn any hearing" "for good cause shown"); *see also Bradley C. Reifler*, Advisers Act Release No. 6304, 2023 WL 3274687, at *1 (May 5, 2023) (construing respondent's request that Commission stay proceeding due to his incarceration as a motion to postpone or adjourn proceeding indefinitely).

[7] *See, e.g., Matthew J. Skinner*, Release No. 98685, 2023 WL 6517529 (Oct. 5, 2023) (denying motion to postpone proceeding due to respondent's incarceration); *Bradley C. Reifler*, Release No. 6304, 2023 WL 3274687 (May 5, 2023) (denying motion to postpone due to incarceration where respondent cited lack of access to internet, files, and limited phone usage).

[8] *Robert Charles High, II*, Exchange Act Release No. 96462, 2022 WL 17503879 (Dec. 7, 2022).

[9] *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.").

requirements.[10] If she is unable to file or serve documents electronically, she should file a certification to that effect and may submit documents by mail.[11]

Bell's failure to file a brief or otherwise comply with this order may result, among other things, in the Commission deeming her to be in default.[12] If Bell defaults, the allegations in the OIP will be deemed to be true and the Commission may determine the proceeding her upon consideration of the record without holding a public hearing.[13]

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

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary

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[10] *See* Rules of Practice 151, 152(a), 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.151, .152(a) (providing procedure for filing papers with the Commission and mandating electronic filing in the form and manner posted on the Commission's website); *Instructions for Electronic Filing and Service of Documents in SEC Administrative Proceedings and Technical Specifications*, https://www.sec.gov/efapdocs/instructions.pdf. Parties generally also must certify that they have redacted or omitted sensitive personal information from any filing. Rule of Practice 151(e), 17 C.F.R. § 201.151(e).

[11] The following is the mailing address for the Office of the Secretary:

Office of the Secretary
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE, Mail Stop 1090
Washington, DC 20549

[12] Rule of Practice 180(c), 17 C.F.R. § 201.180(c).

[13] *See* Rules of Practice 155, 180, 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.155, .180.