UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 102251 / January 21, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-22439

In the Matter of **KARINA N. FERNANDEZ, Esq.** **Respondent.**	**ORDER INSTITUTING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO RULE 102(e) OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES OF PRACTICE, 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 against Karina N. Fernandez ("Respondent" or "Fernandez") pursuant to Rule 102(e)(3)(i) of the Commission's Rules of Practice.[1]

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

[1] Rule 102(e)(3)(i) provides, in relevant part, that:

The Commission, with due regard to the public interest and without preliminary hearing, may, by order, . . . suspend from appearing or practicing before it any attorney . . . who has been by name (A) [p]ermanently enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction, by reason of his or her misconduct in an action brought by the Commission, from violating or aiding and abetting the violation of any provision of the Federal securities laws or of the rules and regulations thereunder; or (B) [f]ound by any court of competent jurisdiction in an action brought by the Commission to which he or she is a party … to have violated (unless the violation was found not to have been willful) or aided and abetted the violation of any provision of the Federal securities laws or of the rules and regulations thereunder.

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 her and the subject matter of these proceedings, and the findings contained in Section III.2 below, which are admitted, Respondent consents to the entry of this Order Instituting Public Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 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. Fernandez, age 30, is a resident of Miami, Florida. Fernandez is a member of the Florida State Bar. Fernandez solicited investors to invest in MJ Capital Funding, LLC ("MJ Capital"), which, with its affiliate MJ Taxes and More, Inc. and their principal ran a $196 million Ponzi scheme. Fernandez has never been registered or associated with a registered broker-dealer or investment adviser. Prior to the Commission's action, she had no known disciplinary history.

2. On September 24, 2024, the Commission filed a civil injunctive action against Fernandez in SEC v. Fernandez, No. 0:24-cv-61774, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, charging her with violations of Sections 5(a), 5(c), 17(a)(2), and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 15(a)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. On October 22, 2024, the Court entered a consented to bifurcated Judgment as to Fernandez, permanently enjoining her from violating these provisions of the federal securities laws consistent, as applicable, with *SEC v. Goble*, 682 F.3d 934 (11th Cir. 2012).

3. The Commission's complaint alleged, among other things, that Fernandez, a licensed Florida attorney, was a manager for MJ Capital, ran a team of over 64 sales agents who solicited investors to invest in MJ Capital, and made materially false and misleading statements to investors regarding the use of investor proceeds. Fernandez personally solicited and raised approximately $891,000 from about 89 MJ Capital investors and received about $362,000 in commission payments for her efforts. She represented in a video posted to her Instagram page titled "Entrepreneur | Lawyer on Instagram" that she was able to grow her investment portfolio to the point where she could leave her job as an attorney. In truth, she based that statement on the commissions she was receiving from selling MJ Capital's securities and her parents covering her living expenses. Without conducting due diligence, she also falsely claimed in a video she sent to her sales team that MJ Capital was not operating a Ponzi scheme and that it does not "take money from Peter to pay Paul."

IV.

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

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED pursuant to Rule 102(e)(3)(i) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, effective immediately, that**:**

Fernandez is suspended from appearing or practicing before the Commission as an attorney.

By the Commission.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary