

**DARDEN**  
RESTAURANTS

1548

Red Lobster®

The Olive Garden®

Bahama Breeze®

**DOUGLAS E. WENTZ**  
Senior Associate General Counsel

VIA FAX TO (202) 942-9651  
ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW BY OVERNIGHT MAIL

August 19, 2002

Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
450 Fifth Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20549-0609

Re: Darden Restaurants, Inc. (File No. 1-13666)  
Written Statements of Principal Executive and Financial Officers under  
Commission Order No. 4-460

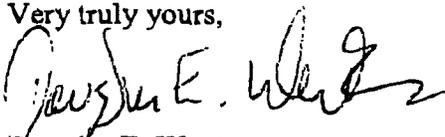
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Joe R. Lec, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Darden Restaurants, Inc. ("Darden"), and Clarence Otis, Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Darden, I am submitting herewith for filing with the Commission, for each of Mr. Lec and Mr. Otis, a Written Statement Under Oath Regarding the Facts and Circumstances Relating to Exchange Act Filings in the form of Exhibit A to the Commission's Order No. 4-460.

Please note that Darden also is filing a copy of these Written Statements of Mr. Lec and Mr. Otis as Exhibits 99(a) and 99(b), respectively, to the Darden Form 10-K for the year ended May 26, 2002, as filed today with the Commission by Edgar.

Please acknowledge your receipt of the enclosures by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me using the enclosed, self-addressed and stamped envelope provided for this purpose. If you have any questions, please call me at 407-245-5811.

Very truly yours,

  
Douglas E. Wentz

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
AUG 19 2002

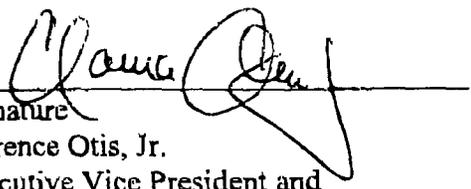
Enclosures

1548

**STATEMENT UNDER OATH OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER REGARDING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO EXCHANGE ACT FILINGS**

I, Clarence Otis, Jr., state and attest that:

- (1) To the best of my knowledge, based upon a review of the covered reports of Darden Restaurants, Inc., and, except as corrected or supplemented in a subsequent covered report:
  - no covered report contained an untrue statement of a material fact as of the end of the period covered by such report (or in the case of a report on Form 8-K or definitive proxy materials, as of the date on which it was filed); and
  - no covered report omitted to state a material fact necessary to make the statements in the covered report, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading as of the end of the period covered by such report (or in the case of a report on Form 8-K or definitive proxy materials, as of the date on which it was filed).
  
- (2) I have reviewed the contents of this statement with the Company's Audit Committee.
  
- (3) In this statement under oath, each of the following, if filed on or before the date of this statement, is a "covered report":
  - Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended May 26, 2002, of Darden Restaurants, Inc.;
  - all reports on Form 10-Q, all reports on Form 8-K and all definitive proxy materials of Darden Restaurants, Inc. filed with the Commission subsequent to the filing of the Form 10-K identified above; and
  - any amendments to any of the foregoing.

  
 Signature  
 Clarence Otis, Jr.  
 Executive Vice President and  
 Chief Financial Officer  
 Darden Restaurants, Inc.  
 August 19, 2002

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2002.

  
 Notary Public - Theresa M. Tralongo  
 State of Florida/County of Orange  
 My Commission Expires: 5/30/05

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 THE SECRETARY  
 AUG 19 2002

