#### TRAVIS J. ILES SECURITIES COMMISSIONER

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# Texas State Securities Board

208 E. 10th Street, 5th Floor Austin, Texas 78701-2407 www.ssb.texas.gov E. WALLY KINNEY CHAIR

MIGUEL ROMANO, JR. MEMBER

> KENNY KONCABA MEMBER

ROBERT BELT MEMBER

MELISSA TYROCH MEMBER

IN THE MATTER OF	
ADMIN ONLINEEXPO AND AMAGE TRADES	

Order No. ENF-20-CDO-1819

# Admin OnlineExpo

2760 East Trinity Mills Road, Carrollton, Texas 75006; and 5027 Nails Road, Simonton, Texas 77476.

# **Amage Trades**

2760 East Trinity Mills Road, Carrollton, Texas 75006; and 5027 Nails Road, Simonton, Texas 77476.

### **EMERGENCY CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**

This is your OFFICIAL NOTICE of the issuance by the Securities Commissioner of the State of Texas (the "<u>Securities Commissioner</u>") of an EMERGENCY CEASE AND DESIST ORDER pursuant to Section 23-2 of The Securities Act, Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat. Ann. arts. 581-1-581-45 (the "<u>Securities Act</u>").

The Enforcement Division of the Texas State Securities Board has presented evidence sufficient for the Securities Commissioner to find:

### FINDINGS OF FACT

- Admin OnlineExpo ("<u>Respondent Admin OnlineExpo"</u>) purports to maintain offices at 2760 East Trinity Mills Road, Carrollton, Texas 75006, and 5027 Nails Road, Simonton, Texas 77476.
- 2. Amage Trades ("Respondent Amage Trades") purports to maintain offices at 2760 East Trinity Mills Road, Carrollton, Texas 75006, and 5027 Nails Road, Simonton, Texas 77476.

#### **OVERVIEW**

3. Respondents Admin OnlineExpo and Amage Trades ("Respondents") are misappropriating the identity of registered parties as part of a scheme to

impersonate registrants, deceive clients, secure principal and obtain control of funds.

- 4. In furtherance of the scheme, Respondents are registering internet websites and social media accounts that use the likenesses of the registered parties and present the credentials of the registered parties.
- 5. Respondents are using the spoofed internet websites and social media accounts to solicit clients, falsely acting as if Respondents are registered parties and offering lucrative investments tied to forex trading.
- 6. Respondents are providing potential clients with fraudulent contracts that contain the forged signatures of registered parties and a forged notary seal.
- Respondents are directing potential clients to turn over sensitive identifying information and telling potential clients their account will be maintained at a registered broker. In truth and in fact, the account has no affiliation with the registered broker.
- 8. After clients are tricked into turning over their identifying information and sending their funds, Respondents are able to take control of the money and use it for purposes wholly unrelated to the forex investment program.

#### THE REGISTRANTS

- 9. Peters Wealth Management LLC (CRD No. 172203, SEC No. 901-80181) ("PWM") is registered as an investment adviser with the United States Securities & Exchange Commission ("SEC") and notice-filed with the Texas State Securities Board.
- 10. James Robert Peters (CRD No. 3135650) ("<u>Peters</u>") is registered as an investment adviser. He is the owner and manager of PWM.
- Ann Sharp (CRD No. 6870473) ("<u>Sharp</u>") is registered as an investment adviser representative. She is an employee of PWM.
- 12. Peters Wealth Management maintains an internet website at peterswealthmanagement.com (the "PWM Website").

## THE FIRST FRAUDULENT WEBSITE

- Respondent Admin OnlineExpo registered and is the owner of peterwealthmanagement.com (the "<u>First Spoofed Website</u>").
- 14. Respondent Admin OnlineExpo is using the First Spoofed Website to impersonate PWM and Peters as follows:

- A. Respondent Admin Online Expo is using a domain that is substantially similar to the domain for the PWM Website, differing by only one of 24 characters;
- B. Respondent Admin OnlineExpo is using the First Spoofed Website to identify the firm as "Peter Wealth Management" instead of "Peters Wealth Management;"
- C. Respondent Admin OnlineExpo is identifying the firm as an investment adviser registered with the SEC, and claims it has the same CRD Number and SEC number of PWM;
- D. Respondent Admin OnlineExpo is identifying Peters as a capital market specialist and expert trader, and it is publishing the CRD Number of Peters;
- E. Respondent Admin OnlineExpo is publishing photographs purporting to be Peters in both professional and personal settings, including photographs purporting to show Peters engaging in an African humanitarian effort referred to as Forex for Charity;
- F. Respondent Admin OnlineExpo is publishing an electronic mail address that is substantially similar to the electronic mail address for PWM, differing by only one of 24 characters in the domain;
- G. Respondent Admin OnlineExpo is representing the firm is located in Carrollton, Texas, the same city and state where PWM is located; and
- H. Respondent Admin OnlineExpo is publishing a telephone number with an area code that resolves to the same geographic area where PWM is located.

#### THE SECOND FRAUDULENT WEBSITE

- 15. Respondent Amage Trades registered and is the owner of peter-wealth-management-llc.business.site (the "Second Spoofed Website").
- 16. Respondent Amage Trades is also using the Second Spoofed Website to impersonate PWM and Peters.

## THE FRAUDULENT TWITTER ACCOUNT

- 17. Potential investors are being solicited through @anniek2sharp (the "**Spoofed Twitter Handle**"), a Twitter handle that has been falsely impersonating Sharp as follows:
  - A. The Spoofed Twitter Handle has been posting photographs that purport to depict Sharp and Peters;
  - B. The Spoofed Twitter Handle has been publishing the CRD Number of Sharp;
  - C. The Spoofed Twitter Handle has been publishing information that purports to show it is controlled by Sharp as a Senior Account Manager at PWM;
  - D. The Spoofed Twitter Handle has been publishing information that purports to show Sharp is located in Carrollton, Texas, the same city as PWM; and
  - E. The Spoofed Twitter Handle has been used to direct potential investors to the First Spoofed Website.

# THE FRAUDULENT FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

18. Potential investors are being solicited through a Facebook account (the "<u>Spoofed Facebook Account</u>"). The Spoofed Facebook Account is impersonating Sharp by publishing photographs purporting to depict Sharp and by directing potential investors to the First Spoofed Website.

#### THE OFFER

- 19. Respondents are using the First Spoofed Website, the Second Spoofed Website, the Spoofed Twitter Account and the Spoofed Facebook Account to make it appear as if PWM, Peters and Sharp are offering investments in forex trading programs.
- 20. Respondents, while holding themselves out as PWM, Peters and/or Sharp, are describing the forex trading programs as follows:
  - A. The Personal Account forex trading program requires a minimum investment of \$1,000.00;
  - B. The Corporate Account forex trading program requires a minimum investment of \$10,000.00; and
  - C. The PAMM Account forex trading program requires a minimum investment of \$100,000.00.

- 21. Respondents, while holding themselves out as PWM, Peters and/or Sharp, are permitting investors to elect trading methods, and they are describing these trading methods as follows:
  - A. The Conservative or Gold trading method purports to average 5 percent to 10 percent daily returns or 60 percent to 120 percent monthly returns; and
  - B. The Normal or Platinum method purports to average 10 percent to 40 percent daily returns or 120 percent to 480 percent monthly returns.
- 22. Respondents, while holding themselves out as PWM, Peters and/or Sharp, are guaranteeing profits of 10 to 90 percent weekly and the payment of monthly returns.
- 23. Respondents, while holding themselves out as PWM, Peters and/or Sharp, are representing the investments are "risk-free" and they will refund 100 percent of any losses associated therewith.

#### THE BROKERAGE FIRM

- 24. Respondents, while holding themselves out as PWM, Peters and/or Sharp, are claiming principal may be maintained at Stax Capital.
- 25. Stax Capital (CRD No. 300607, SEC No. 8-70311) is registered with the SEC and with eleven states, including Texas.
- 26. Stax Capital is not, however, in any way affiliated with Respondent and is not maintaining principal deposited by investors.

## RESPONDENTS' USE OF A FRAUDULENT INVESTMENT AGREEMENT

- 27. Respondents, while holding themselves out as PWM, Peters and/or Sharp, are providing potential investors with investment agreements.
- 28. The investment agreements purport to be contracts for the provision of investment services by PWM.
- 29. The investment agreements contain the forged signature of Peters and Sharp.
- 30. Although the investment agreements appear to be notarized by a notary public, the notary seal is a forged notary seal, and the person named as the notary public is not a notary public.

#### THE RECEIPT OF INVESTOR FUNDS

- Respondents are directing investors to transfer funds to an account maintained at a financial institution and provide Respondents with login credentials for the account.
- 32. Respondents are also directing potential investors to provide their name, telephone number, electronic mail address, physical address and a scanned identity card, such as a driver license or official contract.
- 33. After investors transfer their funds and provide information, Respondents will be able to take over the account and take control of principal deposited by investors.

# REGISTRATION VIOLATIONS

- 34. Respondents have not been registered with the Securities Commissioner as dealers, agents, investment advisers, or registered investment adviser representatives at any time material hereto.
- 35. The investments in the forex trading program have not been registered by qualification, notification, or coordination, and no permit has been granted for their sale in Texas at any time material hereto.

## <u>FRAUD</u>

- 36. In connection with the offer of investments in the forex trading programs, Respondents are misrepresenting the following relevant facts:
  - A. They are misrepresenting their identity as PWM when in truth and in fact they have no affiliation with PWM;
  - B. They are misrepresenting their identity as Peters when in truth and in fact they have no affiliation with Peters;
  - C. They are misrepresenting their identity as Sharp when in truth and in fact they have no affiliation with Sharp:
  - D. They are misrepresenting they are registered as an investment adviser with the SEC and misrepresenting they have been assigned the CRD and SEC Numbers for PWM;
  - E. They are misrepresenting they have been assigned the CRD Numbers for Peters and Sharp;

- F. They are misrepresenting their affiliation with Stax Capital and that Stax Capital will maintain custody of principal;
- G. They are misrepresenting the investment agreement was prepared and executed by PWM;
- H. They are misrepresenting the signatures of Peters and Sharp in the investment agreement;
- I. They are misrepresenting the investment agreement was notarized by a notary public; and
- J. They are misrepresenting they are a Texas company located at 2760 E. Trinity Mills Road, Carrollton, Texas 75006.
- 37. In connection with the offer of investments in the forex trading programs, Respondents are intentionally failing to disclose the following material facts:
  - A. They are intentionally failing to disclose their true identities;
  - B. They are intentionally failing to disclose their true address or physical location:
  - C. They are intentionally failing to disclose the First Spoofed Website, Second Spoofed Website, Spoofed Twitter Account and Spoofed Facebook Account are not maintained by or otherwise associated with PWM; and
  - D. They are intentionally failing to disclose the purpose of their scheme and their use of investor funds.
- 38. In connection with the offer of investments in the forex trading programs, Respondents are making promises and representations as to the future, and these promises and representations are not made honestly and in good faith, to-wit:
  - A. They are guaranteeing PWM will pay profits of 10 to 90 percent weekly when in truth and in fact they know PWM is not in any way involved in the scheme and will not be paying any profits to investors; and
  - B. They are guaranteeing PWM will pay monthly returns when in truth and in fact they know PWM is not in any way involved in the scheme and will not be guaranteeing the payment of any returns to investors.

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The investments in the forex trading program are a "security" as that term is defined in Section 4.A of the Securities Act.
- Respondents are violating Section 7 of the Securities Act by offering securities for sale in Texas at a time when the securities are not registered with or permitted by the Securities Commissioner.
- 3. Respondents are violating Section 12 of the Securities Act by offering securities for sale in Texas without being registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 of the Securities Act.
- Respondents are engaging in fraud in connection with the offer for sale of securities.
- Respondents' conduct, acts, and practices threaten immediate and irreparable public harm.
- 6. The foregoing violations constitute bases for the issuance of an Emergency Cease and Desist Order pursuant to Section 23-2 of the Securities Act.

#### **ORDER**

- It is therefore ORDERED that Respondents immediately CEASE AND DESIST from offering for sale any security in Texas until the security is registered with the Securities Commissioner or is offered for sale pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act.
- It is further ORDERED that Respondents immediately CEASE AND DESIST from acting as a securities dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative in Texas until they are registered with the Securities Commissioner or are acting pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act.
- 3. It is further ORDERED Respondents immediately CEASE AND DESIST from engaging in any fraud in connection with the offer for sale of any security in Texas.
- 4. It is further ORDERED that Respondents immediately CEASE AND DESIST from offering securities in Texas through an offer containing a statement that is materially misleading or otherwise likely to deceive the public.

#### NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 23-2 of the Securities Act, you may request a hearing before the 31st day after the date you were served with this Order. The request for a hearing

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must be in writing, directed to the Securities Commissioner, and state the grounds for the request to set aside or modify the Order. Failure to request a hearing will result in the Order becoming final and non-appealable.

You are advised under Section 29.D of the Securities Act that any knowing violation of an order issued by the Securities Commissioner under the authority of Section 23-2 of the Securities Act is a criminal offense punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment in the penitentiary for two to ten years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the Securities Commissioner this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2020.

TRAVIS (1/ ILES

Securities Commissioner