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10	Donald Gilbert, and Global Tech Industries Group	p Inc.			
11					
12	DISTRI	CT COURT			
14					
13	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA				
14	WHITE ROCKS (BVI) HOLDINGS INC., et al.) Case No. A-24-896359-B			
15	Plaintiffs,) Dept. No. 16			
16	VS.) DECLARATION OF SASHA			
17	DAVID REICHMAN, KATHY M. GRIFFIN,	ABLOVATSKIY IN SUPPORT OFDEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO			
18	FRANK BENINTENDO, DONALD GILBERT, DOES I THROUGH X,) PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE MOTION TO			
10	INCLUSIVE, and ROE CORPORATIONS I) APPOINT RECEIVER AND ISSUE A			
19	THROUGH X, inclusive,) TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER			
20) ON AN ORDER SHORTENING TIME			
21	Defendants,)			
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DECLARATION OF SASHA ABLOVATSKIY IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE MOTION TO APPOINT RECEIVER AND ISSUE A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER ON AN ORDER SHORTENING TIME

1

DECLARATION OF SASHA ABLOVATSKIY

- I, Aleksander "Sasha" Ablovatskiy, do hereby declare as follows:
- 1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of New York. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto.
- 2. I am a co-founding partner of the law firm of Foley Shechter Ablovatskiy LLP. I have been practicing law for nearly 20 years, specializing in securities and corporate law, m&a and public company representation. I represent both public and private companies in variety of corporate, financing and other transactions. I also represent publicly traded companies in assisting them with compliance with their U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, reporting obligations and a wide array of related matters, including ongoing compliance and regulatory inquiries.
- 3. On or about June 3, 2024, my firm was retained by Global Tech Industries Group, Inc. ("GTII"), a publicly traded company, to assist GTII with its required filings and reporting obligations with the SEC in light of the SEC's order, dated May 3, 2024, banning GTII's former auditors, BF Borgers CPA PC and its sole audit partner, Benjamin F. Borgers CPA (collectively, "BF Borgers") from appearing or practicing before the SEC as an accountant due to what the SEC characterized as BF Borgers' "massive fraud" and "deliberate and systematic failures" to comply with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (the "PCAOB") standards in its audits (collectively, the "SEC Order"). A true and correct copy of the SEC Order which can be found at https://www.sec.gov/files/litigation/admin/2024/33-11283.pdf is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 4. GTII was not the only victim of BF Borgers' malfeasance. According to BF Borgers' annual statement filed in 2023, BF Borgers had more than 110 clients, and its fraud affected more than 1,500 filings with the commission from January 2021 through June 2023. One of the companies affected was former President Donald Trump's company, Trump Media & Technology Group, a company trading on The Nasdaq Global Market.
- 5. Within days of the SEC's ban, on May 7, 2024, GTII retained a new PCAOB certified independent registered public accounting firm, Fortune CPA ("Fortune"), as GTII disclosed in its

Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on May 10, 2024. The appointment of Fortune as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm was approved by the Company's board of directors. My firm has been in contact with Fortune, and they are working diligently on reauditing GTII's financial statements for the 2023 and 2022 fiscal years, which BF Borgers previously audited. Pursuant to our discussions with Fortune, until those reaudits are complete, GTII cannot file its Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2024, as Fortune cannot rely on the audit BF Borgers' audit papers, records and procedures in light of the SEC Order, and needs to redo the audit itself brand new.

- 6. On May 3, 2024, the SEC staff issued a public statement to assist public companies that were affected by the SEC Order and the SEC's permanent ban against BF Borgers. A true and correct copy of the SEC statement can be found at https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/speeches-statements/staff-statement-borgers-05032024 and is attached hereto as Exhibit B. In recognition of the significant undertaking that these public companies face in light of BF Borgers' actions, the statement recommended that companies file a Form 12b-25 Notification of Late Filing to allow affected public companies more time to comply with its applicable SEC filings. On May 15, 2024, GTII timely filed with the SEC its Form 12b-25.
- 7. Based on my experience and applicable auditor audit procedures, under the circumstances, it would be in GTII's and shareholders' best interests to allow current management to remain in place to complete the reaudit so that the required reporting can be submitted as soon as possible. Removing current management and replacing the new audit company would only derail and substantially delay and materially impede the audit process and the Company's steps to file all of the SEC required reports as soon as possible and cause more harm to GTII and its shareholders, including having Fortune undertake a new background check on any GTII replacement management and the board of directors, as well as lack of continuity, knowledge and institutional knowledge and records of GTII by any such GTII replacement management and the board of directors.
- 8. There is no basis for the purported concerns raised by Plaintiffs that GTII's management will somehow issue and sell stock for the following reasons.
- (a) GTII maintains an Insider Trading Policy (the "Policy") which applies to all individuals, such as GTII's and its subsidiaries' officers and directors (including, without limitation, the members of

GTII's management referred to by the Plaintiffs), executive officers and other management personnel, full-time and part-time employees, salaried employees and temporary employees, who provide services to GTII and who, it is reasonably likely, will receive or be exposed to Inside Information (as defined in the Policy). The Policy also applies to family members and those who share a household with someone otherwise subject to this Policy, as well as independent retirement accounts, trusts and other entities controlled by those subject to this Policy.

Among other things, the Policy applies trading blackout periods to the aforementioned individuals (including, without limitation, the members of GTII's management referred to by the Plaintiffs). More specifically, directors, officers and executive officers and other members of the senior management group, as well as certain other insiders designated as having potential access to Inside Information because of their job responsibilities may not trade in GTII's shares or other securities during standing "blackout" periods commencing on the 15th day before the end of each fiscal quarter and concluding at the end of the second business day after the date of a public announcement of the Company's earnings following such fiscal quarter. As of the date of this Declaration, for the reasons discussed above in relation to BF Borgers, GTII has not yet released its earnings for its quarter ended March 31, 2024, and accordingly the "blackout" trading period applies to the aforementioned individuals (including, without limitation, the members of GTII's management referred to by the Plaintiffs), and such persons (including, without limitation, the members of GTII's management referred to by the Plaintiffs) cannot sell any shares or other securities of GTII as a result of the Policy.

(b) Furthermore, under the Policy and applicable federal securities laws, no purchases or sales of GTII's shares or other securities should be made if the insider is in possession of material nonpublic information or if such transaction would violate a federal or state law or regulatory agency rule or order. So long as GTII remains not current in its periodic SEC reports for the reasons described above (i.e., not having filed its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2024, and after August 14, 2024, if GTII at such time has not filed its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2024) and has not filed all other applicable necessary financial statements and material non-public information of GTII is made available to GTII's insiders, GTII's insiders are prohibited from trading in GTII's shares or other securities as such persons are in possession of material

non-public information. Accordingly, there is no basis for the purported concerns raised by Plaintiffs that GTII's management will somehow issue and sell stock.

While the Plaintiffs may argue that GTII may permit transactions pursuant to a pre-arranged

While the Plaintiffs may argue that GTII may permit transactions pursuant to a pre-arranged trading program that complies with Rule 10b5-1 of the Exchange Act to take place during periods in which the individual entering into the transaction may have material nonpublic information during blackout periods, for the reasons discussed above, not only would the Policy still not allow such trades to happen during a "blackout" period, which currently applies to GTII, but any such plan makes the insider represent that such insider is not aware of material non-public information as a condition of the execution of any transactions under such plan. For the reasons discussed above, any GTII insider cannot make such a representation until all of GTII's applicable SEC filings are made with the SEC.

(c) If and when GTII issues any shares to its insiders, such shares are issued in a private transaction in reliance on the exemption from registration contained in Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and/or Rule 506 of Regulation D promulgated thereunder and involving a transaction by an issuer not involving any public offering. Accordingly, the recipient of any such shares receives restricted securities, which may not be sold until some considerable holding period elapses (at least 6 months under Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act ("Rule 144") or some other exemption is available based on the considerable length of such person's holding period of such shares. More specifically, unless GTII issues shares to an insider under a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (which would allow GTII to issued registered shares in a public offering to an insider) or pursuant to another registration statement in compliance with applicable SEC Rules, a GTII insider cannot sell any newly issues shares until at least 6 months elapses after the date on which such insider acquires such shares.

Furthermore, GTII does not have any effective registration statements on file with SEC (such as S-8 or others) that have registered any shares to be issued to insiders.

Moreover, if and when such 6-month holding period expires, Rule 144 may or may not be available to such insider as for example for the reasons discussed above, GTII may not be then current with its SEC reporting obligations and/or other SEC rules may apply, which would prohibit such insider from utilizing Rule 144 from selling any of such insider's shares. In addition, if and when Rule 144 does

EXHIBIT "A"

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 Release No. 11283 / May 3, 2024

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 Release No. 100053 / May 3, 2024

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING ENFORCEMENT Release No. 4500 / May 3, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-21926

In the Matter of

BF BORGERS CPA PC, and BENJAMIN F. BORGERS, CPA,

Respondents.

ORDER INSTITUTING PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATIVE AND CEASEAND-DESIST PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO
SECTION 8A OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF
1933, SECTIONS 4C AND 21C OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AND
RULE 102(e) OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES
OF PRACTICE, MAKING FINDINGS, AND
IMPOSING REMEDIAL SANCTIONS AND A
CEASE-AND-DESIST ORDER

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") deems it appropriate that public administrative and cease-and-desist proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted against BF Borgers CPA PC ("BF Borgers") and Benjamin F. Borgers, CPA ("Borgers") (collectively "Respondents") pursuant to Section 8A of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"), Sections 4C¹ and 21C of

Section 4C provides, in relevant part, that:

The Commission may censure any person, or deny, temporarily or permanently, to any person the privilege of appearing or practicing before the Commission in any way, if that person is found . . . (1) not to possess the requisite qualifications to represent others; (2) to be lacking in character or integrity, or to have engaged in unethical or improper professional conduct; or (3) to have willfully violated, or

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and Rule 102(e)(1)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice ("CRP").²

II.

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, Respondents have submitted Offers of Settlement (the "Offers") which the Commission has determined to accept. Solely for the 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 them and the subject matter of these proceedings, which are admitted, and except as provided herein in Section V, Respondents consent to the entry of this Order Instituting Public Administrative and Cease-and-Desist Proceedings Pursuant to Section 8A of the Securities Act of 1933, Sections 4C and 21C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions and a Cease-and-Desist Order ("Order"), as set forth below.

III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondents' Offers, the Commission finds³ that:

A. SUMMARY

- 1. This matter involves the deliberate and systematic failure to audit and review public company and SEC-registered broker-dealer clients' financial statements in accordance with Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") standards by PCAOB-registered auditing firm BF Borgers, and its owner and managing member, certified public accountant Borgers, and their fraudulent issuance of audit reports falsely representing that they had done so from at least January 2021 through at least June 2023.
- 2. Investors regularly rely on the financial statements of public companies when making investment decisions. This reliance is based on important safeguards built into the system, including the requirement that a PCAOB-registered accounting firm audit those financial

willfully aided and abetted the violation of, any provision of the securities laws or the rules and regulations issued thereunder.

Rule 102(e)(1)(ii) provides, in pertinent part, that:

The Commission may . . . deny, temporarily or permanently, the privilege of appearing or practicing before it . . . to any person who is found . . . to have engaged in unethical or improper professional conduct.

The findings herein are made pursuant to Respondents' Offers of Settlement and are not binding on any other person or entity in this or any other proceeding.

statements annually and review them on a quarterly basis in accordance with PCAOB standards. Further, SEC-registered broker-dealers are required to file annually with the Commission financial statements audited by a PCAOB-registered accounting firm in accordance with PCAOB standards.

- 3. Among other things, PCAOB Auditing Standard 1220: *Engagement Quality Review* ("AS 1220") requires audits and reviews of interim financial information to be approved by an engagement quality reviewer ("EQR"). Despite this clear requirement, Respondents failed to obtain an EQR to provide a concurring review and approval on audits and reviews of financial statements incorporated in at least 1,625 public filings and disclosures from January 2021 through June 2023, including over 336 SEC issuer annual filings, 1,039 SEC issuer quarterly filings, 180 SEC registration statements, 45 SEC-registered broker-dealer annual filings, and 25 OTC company annual report disclosures, representing at least 75% of their clients' public filings and disclosures incorporating such audits and reviews.
- 4. Respondents also violated PCAOB Auditing Standards 1201: Supervision of the Audit Engagement ("AS 1201") and 1215: Audit Documentation ("AS 1215") by failing both to adequately supervise and review the work of the engagement teams and to ensure that the workpapers properly documented that work on many of these engagements. Among other things, as engagement partner, Borgers failed to conduct or participate in audit planning meetings and to review important workpapers for many audits, including workpapers relating to his purported supervision and review of the engagement team's work and conclusions. Borgers also authorized BF Borgers audit staff and contractors to copy audit workpapers from previous audits as the final workpapers for new audit engagements. As a result, BF Borgers' workpapers falsely documented the performance of audit and review procedures and approvals that had not occurred, including falsely representing that both Borgers, as the engagement partner, and an EQR reviewed and approved audits and reviews of interim financial information.
- 5. Despite the failures above, Respondents falsely represented in engagement letters to their clients that the audits and quarterly reviews of their financial statements would be conducted in accordance with PCAOB standards, and, with respect to the audits, issued reports falsely certifying that the audits were completed in accordance with those standards.
- 6. As a result of the above, BF Borgers engaged in improper professional conduct within the meaning of Section 4C(a)(2) of the Exchange Act and CRP Rule 102(e)(1)(ii), violated Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, and Rules 2-02(b)(1) and 2-06 of Regulation S-X, and caused violations of Sections 13(a), 15(d), 17(a), and 17(e) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1, 13a-13, 15d-1, 15d-13, and 17a-5 thereunder, and Borgers engaged in improper professional conduct within the meaning of Section 4C(a)(2) of the Exchange Act and CRP Rule 102(e)(1)(ii), violated Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, and Rule 2-06 of Regulation S-X, and caused violations of Sections 13(a), 15(d), 17(a), and 17(e) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1, 13a-13, 15d-1, 15d-13, and 17a-5 thereunder, and Rule 2-02(b)(1) of Regulation S-X in connection with their audits and/or quarterly reviews of hundreds of public companies and broker-dealers registered with the Commission.

B. RESPONDENTS

- 7. BF Borgers is a Colorado professional corporation registered with the PCAOB and located in Lakewood, Colorado.
- 8. Borgers is the managing partner and 100% owner of BF Borgers and is a certified public accountant licensed in the state of Colorado.

C. FACTS

- 9. From January 2021 through June 2023, BF Borgers had 350 clients who were required under the Commission's rules and regulations to have their financial statements audited and/or reviewed by a PCAOB-registered accounting firm in accordance with PCAOB standards and to incorporate those financial statements into filings made with the Commission.
- 10. Borgers served as the engagement partner for the audit and review services BF Borgers performed for the overwhelming majority of these clients.
- 11. Respondents represented in engagement letters to these clients that the audits and quarterly reviews of their financial statements would be conducted in accordance with PCAOB standards.
- 12. Contrary to these representations, Respondents failed to conduct audits and/or quarterly reviews for these clients in accordance with PCAOB standards, and, with respect to the audits, issued reports falsely certifying that the audits were completed in accordance with those standards.
- 13. Respondents knew that the BF Borgers audit reports containing the false certifications were required to be and would be included in the clients' required filings with the Commission which, for issuers, would be publicly available to investors. Respondents also knew that (i) certain other BF Borgers clients made public disclosures via the website maintained by OTC Markets, (ii) those disclosures would include BF Borgers audit reports containing false certifications, and (iii) those disclosures would be publicly available to investors.

Respondents Failed To Properly Prepare and Retain Audit Documentation

- 14. Pursuant to PCAOB Auditing Standard 1215: *Audit Documentation* ("AS 1215"), audit documentation (the "workpapers") provides the written record of the basis for the auditor's conclusions. Audit documentation also facilitates the planning, performance, and supervision of the audit engagement. AS 1215.02.
- 15. AS 1215 requires detailed and accurate written audit and review documentation and further provides that the auditor must document the procedures performed, evidence obtained, and conclusions reached with respect to relevant financial statement assertions. Under this standard, the documentation must clearly demonstrate that the work was in fact performed and must contain

sufficient information to enable an experienced auditor, having no previous connection with the engagement to understand the nature, timing, extent, and results of the procedures performed, evidence obtained, and conclusions reached, and to determine who performed the work and the date such work was completed as well as the person who reviewed the work and the date of such review. AS 1215.06.

- 16. Borgers instructed BF Borgers audit staff and contractors to copy workpapers from previous engagements as the final workpapers for new engagements. Specifically, audit staff updated the balance sheet date and date of completion on the workpapers, but all of the other information indicating the substantive work done on the engagement was simply copied from the corresponding workpaper from the previous audit or quarterly review. As a result, BF Borgers' workpapers falsely documented the performance of audit and review procedures and approvals that had not occurred, including falsely representing that both Borgers, as the engagement partner, and an EQR reviewed and approved the workpapers.
- 17. For example, each engagement had a workpaper called "Engagement Team Discussion" which purported to document a planning meeting held by the engagement team at the beginning of the engagement. The planning meeting serves an important purpose. Pursuant to PCAOB Auditing Standards, the engagement team including the engagement partner who is ultimately responsible should discuss the client's business and consider any potential risk areas for material misstatement due to error or fraud for that particular client. *See* PCAOB Auditing Standard 2110: *Identifying and Assessing Risk of Material Misstatement*. But, at BF Borgers, those planning meetings did not occur. Instead, the staff level auditor simply rolled forward the Engagement Team Discussion workpaper from the prior year or quarter, updating the balance sheet date information on the document and inserting a new (and false) date of a planning meeting that never happened.
- 18. Another example of the workpapers falsely documenting non-existent work was the "Supervision Review and Approval" workpaper. This workpaper was divided into four sections: (1) Detailed Review; (2) Engagement Partner Review; (3) Engagement Quality Review; and (4) Partner Signing Auditor Report. The first three sections enumerate the specific work items to be done by the staff level auditor, the engagement partner, and the EQR, and the form requires each work item to be checked yes, no, or N/A. When completing this document, the staff level auditor updated the balance sheet date on the first page and then copied the check marks from the same workpaper for the previous audit or review. Additionally, the staff level auditor typed in the name of the EQR and engagement partner on the signature lines for their respective sections. This process created the false appearance that each specific work item checked "yes" was completed and that the engagement partner and EQR reviewed and approved in the completion of this workpaper, and had done so on the date typed next to their signature lines.
- 19. In the auditing industry, the generally accepted method for engagement partners to document their supervision of an engagement in compliance with PCAOB standards, and their review of the work performed by engagement team members, is by signing and dating (or "signing off") on workpapers when they perform or review work. Such sign offs provide evidence of who performed or reviewed audit work and the date on which such work or review occurred.

- 20. BF Borgers had audit management software which permitted individuals to electronically "sign off" on workpapers. But Borgers did not use that software to sign off on workpapers. Instead, Borgers instructed a staff member to electronically sign off on all workpapers for each engagement within the firm's audit management software. Borgers provided that staff member with usernames to create the false appearance of separate sign offs by the staff auditor, the engagement partner, and the EQR on individual workpapers. In reality, all of those sign offs were done by the same staff person within seconds of each other.
- 21. According to Borgers, his emails were the only written records evidencing the work he performed as engagement partner on BF Borgers engagements. However, Respondents did not include any of those emails as part of the workpapers retained by BF Borgers. They also failed to preserve the vast majority of Borgers' emails that pre-dated March 2023 by permitting those emails to be auto-deleted due to purported storage-size limitations on the firm's computer systems. To the extent that Borgers had emails that documented his participation in certain audits and reviews, Respondents did not preserve those emails or include them in the workpapers as required by AS 1215, nor were they retained for seven years as required by AS 1215.14 and Rule 2-06 of Regulation S-X.

Borgers Failed To Supervise and Review The Work Of The Engagement Team

- 22. PCAOB Auditing Standard 1201: Supervision of the Audit Engagement ("AS 1201") sets forth the engagement partner's responsibility for supervising the audit engagement, including the work of the engagement team members. Specifically, the engagement partner is responsible for informing the team members as to the objectives, nature, timing, and extent of the auditing procedures they are to perform as well as relevant information regarding the particular client that could affect those procedures. AS 1201.05(a).
- 23. Additionally, the engagement partner is required to review the work of the engagement team to ensure that work was performed and properly documented, all of the objectives of the auditing procedures were achieved, the work performed by the team support the conclusions reached and complied with PCAOB standards. AS 1201.03 and 1201.05(c).
- 24. Borgers, as the engagement partner, did not adequately review or supervise the audit engagements. As discussed above, there were no audit planning meetings held in relation to any of BF Borgers' audit engagements. In addition, Borgers rarely interacted with the staff level auditors. Borgers failed to inform the team members as to the objectives, nature, timing, and extent of the auditing procedures they were to perform as well as relevant information regarding the particular client that could affect those procedures as required by AS 1201; *see also* AS 1201.06(d) (requiring the audit partner to consider the knowledge, skill, and ability of each team member to determine the extent of supervision necessary).
- 25. As the engagement partner, Borgers also failed both to review the work of the engagement team and to ensure that the workpapers properly and accurately documented the work performed on the audits. Specifically, Borgers failed to review important workpapers for many

audits, including workpapers relating to his purported supervision and review of the engagement team's work and conclusions.

Respondents Failed To Obtain Engagement Quality Reviews

- 26. PCAOB Auditing Standard 1220: *Engagement Quality Review* ("AS 1220") requires audits and reviews of interim financial information to be approved by an engagement quality reviewer (previously defined as "EQR"). The purpose of this requirement is to have an independent and objective review of all of the significant judgments and related conclusions by the engagement team. If the EQR agrees with the engagement team's conclusions and is not aware of any significant engagement deficiency, then he/she provides a concurring approval of issuance (hereinafter a "concurring approval"). With respect to audits, "the firm may grant permission to the client to use the engagement report only after the engagement quality reviewer provides concurring approval of issuance." AS 1220.12 and 1220.13.
- 27. Despite this clear requirement, Respondents failed to engage an EQR to provide a concurring review and approval on audits and reviews of financial statements incorporated in at least 1,625 Public Filings and Disclosures from January 2021 through June 2023, including 336 SEC issuer annual filings, 1,039 SEC issuer quarterly filings, 180 SEC registration statements, 45 SEC-registered broker-dealer annual filings, and 25 OTC company annual reports. Put another way, Respondents failed to engage an EQR to provide a concurring approval for at least 75% of their clients' Public Filings and Disclosures incorporating such audits and reviews:

SEC Filing Type	No. of Clients	Total Filings	No EQR	
SEC Issuer Annual Filings		506	336	
SEC Issuer Quarterly Filings	330	1186	1039	
SEC Registration Statements		405	180	
SEC Registered Broker-Dealer Annual Filings	20	45	45	
TOTAL SEC FILINGS	350	2142	1600	
OTC Company Annual Reports	19	33	25	
TOTAL SEC FILINGS AND OTC DISCLOSURES				
("Public Filings and Disclosures")	369	2175	1625	

D. VIOLATIONS

Rule 102(e) and Section 4C of the Exchange Act

28. Section 4C of the Exchange Act and Rule 102(e)(1)(ii) provide, in part, that the Commission may censure a person or deny, temporarily or permanently, the privilege of appearing or practicing before it in any way to any person who is found by the Commission to have engaged in improper professional conduct. With respect to persons licensed to practice as accountants (Rule 102(e)(1)(iv), or any registered public accounting firm or associated person (Exchange Act Section 4C(b)), "improper professional conduct" includes intentional or knowing conduct, including

reckless conduct, that results in a violation of applicable professional standards, or either of the following two types of negligent conduct: (i) a single instance of highly unreasonable conduct that results in a violation of applicable professional standards in circumstances in which an accountant knows, or should know, that heightened scrutiny is warranted; or (ii) repeated instances of unreasonable conduct, each resulting in a violation of applicable professional standards, that indicate a lack of competence to practice before the Commission. Exchange Act Section 4C(b); Rule 102(e)(1)(iv). As a result of the conduct described above, Respondents engaged in "improper professional conduct" within the meaning of Exchange Act Section 4C(a)(2) and Rule 102(e)(1)(ii).

AS 1215: Audit Documentation

- 29. AS 1215 provides the "requirements for documentation the auditor should prepare and retain in connection with engagements conducted pursuant to [PCAOB] standards." AS 1215.01. The documentation must be clear and sufficiently detailed. AS 1215.04.
- 30. "The auditor must document the procedures performed, evidence obtained, and conclusions reached with respect to relevant financial statement assertions." AS 1215.06. Under this standard, "[a]udit documentation must clearly demonstrate that the work was in fact performed" and "must contain sufficient information to enable an experienced auditor, having no previous connection with the engagement [t]o understand the nature, timing, extent, and results of the procedures performed, evidence obtained, and conclusions reached, and [t]o determine who performed the work and the date such work was completed as well as the person who reviewed the work and the date of such review." *Id*.
- 31. As a result of the above-described conduct, Respondents violated these standards with respect to numerous engagements.

AS 1201: Supervision of the Audit Engagement

- 32. AS 1201 sets forth the engagement partner's responsibility "to supervise the audit engagement, including supervising the work of the engagement team members so that the work is performed as directed and supports the conclusions reached." AS 1201.02. The engagement partner is also responsible for ensuring compliance with PCAOB standards. AS 1201.03.
- 33. Specifically, the engagement partner is responsible for "[i]nform[ing] engagement team members [as to] [t]he objectives... nature, timing, and extent of procedures they are to perform" as well as relevant information regarding the particular client "that could affect the procedures to be performed or the evaluation of the results of those procedures." AS 1201.05(a).
- 34. Additionally, the engagement partner is required to "[r]eview the work of engagement team members to evaluate whether [t]he work was performed and documented, [t]he objectives of the procedures were achieved, and [t]he results of the work support the conclusions reached." AS 1201.05(c).

35. As a result of the above-described conduct, Respondents violated these standards with respect to numerous engagements.

AS 1220: Engagement Quality Review

- 36. "An engagement quality review and concurring approval of issuance are required for the following engagements conducted pursuant to [PCAOB] standards: (a) an audit engagement; (b) a review of interim financial information; and (c) an attestation engagement performed pursuant to [one of two relevant attestation standards]." AS 1220.01. The purpose of this requirement is to have an independent and objective "evaluation of the significant judgments made by the engagement team and the related conclusions reached in forming the overall conclusion on the engagement and in preparing the engagement report, if a report is to be issued, in order to determine whether to provide concurring approval of issuance." AS 1220.02; *see also* AS 1220.06 (independence) and AS 1220.07 (objectivity).
- 37. With respect to audits, "the firm may grant permission to the client to use the engagement report only after the engagement quality reviewer provides concurring approval of issuance." AS 1220.13.
- 38. As a result of the above-described conduct, Respondents violated these standards with respect to numerous engagements.

Respondents Violated Section 17(a) of the Securities Act and Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder

- 39. Section 17(a) of the Securities Act prohibits any person, in the offer or sale of securities, from (1) "employ[ing] any device, scheme or artifice to defraud;" (2) "obtain[ing] money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;" and (3) "engag[ing] in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser."
- 40. Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act prohibits fraud "in connection with the purchase or sale" of securities. Section 10(b) and Rule 10b-5 thereunder prohibit (a) using any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud; (b) making material misstatements of fact or omitting a material fact necessary to make a statement made not misleading; or (c) engaging in any act, practice, or course of business that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person.
- 41. Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1 and 13a-13 thereunder require issuers with securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act to file annual and quarterly reports with the Commission. Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and Rules 15d-1 and 15d-13 thereunder provide that issuers with reporting obligations under Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act must file annual and quarterly reports with the Commission. Regulation S-X requires that audits and reviews of such financial statements be done by an independent public accountant in accordance with PCAOB standards. Regulation S-X, Rules 1-02(d) (annual audits) and 10-01(d) (quarterly reviews of interim financial statements). The same requirements apply to smaller

reporting companies. Regulation S-X, Rules 8-02 (annual audits) and 8-03 (interim financial statements).

- 42. Respondents knew that their issuer clients were required under the Commission's rules and regulations to have their financial statements audited and/or reviewed by BF Borgers in accordance with PCAOB standards and to incorporate those financial statements into filings made with the Commission.
- 43. Respondents falsely represented in the firm's engagement letters to certain issuer clients that the audits and quarterly reviews would be conducted in accordance with PCAOB standards.
- 44. Respondents knew about the PCAOB standards discussed above and knowingly violated those standards.
- 45. Borgers the sole owner and sole engagement partner at the firm authorized BF Borgers to issue the audit reports that contained certifications falsely representing that the audits had been conducted in compliance with PCAOB standards.
- 46. Respondents also falsified workpapers to create the illusion that the firm's engagements complied with PCAOB standards including the falsification of workpaper sign offs and EQR concurring approvals.
- 47. Respondents also knew that the fraudulent audit reports would be and were included within hundreds of filings made by their issuer clients with the Commission, including annual reports and registration statements, and that investors could and would access those publicly-available filings. Respondents also knew that certain fraudulent audit reports would be and were included within additional annual reports publicly disclosed (and thus available to investors) via the website maintained by OTC Markets.

BF Borgers Violated Rule 2-02(b)(1) of Regulation S-X and Borgers Caused Those Violations

- 48. Rule 2-02(b)(1) of Regulation S-X requires an accountant's report to state the applicable professional standards under which the audit was conducted.
- 49. Through the conduct described above, BF Borgers violated Rule 2-02(b)(1) of Regulation S-X in connection with the issuance of numerous audit reports, each of which falsely stated that BF Borgers had conducted its audit in accordance with PCAOB standards.
- 50. Borgers as the engagement partner on those audits knew that the audits had not been conducted in accordance with PCAOB standards. Nevertheless, he authorized BF Borgers to issue audit reports containing the false certification. Thus, he knew or should have known that his conduct would contribute to BF Borgers' violations. As a result, Borgers caused BF Borgers' violations of Rule 2-02(b)(1).

Respondents Violated Rule 2-06 of Regulation S-X

51. Rule 2-06 of Regulation S-X requires that:

For a period of seven years after an accountant concludes an audit or review of an issuer's financial statements ..., the accountant shall retain records relevant to the audit or review, including workpapers and other documents that form the basis of the audit or review, and memoranda, correspondence, communications, other documents, and records (including electronic records) which: (1) Are created, sent or received in connection with the audit or review; and (2) Contain conclusions, opinions, analyses, or financial data related to the audit or review.

52. Through the above-described conduct, Respondents violated Rule 2-06 of Regulation S-X.

Respondents Caused Certain Issuer and Broker-Dealer Clients to Violate Sections 13(a), 15(d), 17(a), and 17(e) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1, 13a-13, 15d-1, 15d-13, and 17a-5 Thereunder

- 53. As discussed above, Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1 and 13a-13 thereunder require issuers with securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act to file annual and quarterly reports with the Commission.
- 54. Regulation S-X requires that audits and reviews of such financial statements be done by an independent public accountant in accordance with PCAOB standards. Regulation S-X, Rules 1-02(d) (annual audits) and 10-01(d) (quarterly reviews of interim financial statements). The same requirements apply to smaller reporting companies. Regulation S-X, Rules 8-02 (annual audits) and 8-03 (interim financial statements).
- 55. Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and Rules 15d-1 and 15d-13 thereunder provide that issuers with reporting obligations under Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act must file annual and quarterly reports with the Commission.
- 56. Thus, an issuer violates Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1 and 13a-13 thereunder, or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and Rules 15d-1 and 15d-13 thereunder, when it files annual or quarterly reports with the Commission that fail to include financial statements audited or reviewed by an independent public accountant in accordance with PCAOB standards.
- 57. Certain issuer clients of Respondents violated Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1 and 13a-13 thereunder, or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and Rules 15d-1 and 15d-13 thereunder, when they filed with the Commission annual and quarterly reports that included financial statements which had not been audited or reviewed by Respondents in accordance with PCAOB standards.

- 58. As discussed above, Respondents knew both that they had not audited or reviewed those financial statements in accordance with PCAOB standards and that their clients would include those financial statements in filings with the Commission. Thus, Respondents knew or should have known that their actions would contribute to their clients' violations. As a result, Respondents caused their clients' violations of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1 and 13a-13 thereunder, and Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and Rules 15d-1 and 15d-13 thereunder.
- 59. Sections 17(a) and 17(e) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-5 thereunder require registered broker-dealers to file with the Commission annual financial statements audited by an independent public accountant in accordance with PCAOB standards.
- 60. Thus, a registered broker-dealer violates Sections 17(a) and 17(e) and Rule 17a-5 thereunder when it files annual financial statements that have not been audited by an independent public accountant in accordance with PCAOB standards.
- 61. Certain registered broker-dealer clients of Respondents violated Sections 17(a) and 17(e) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-5 thereunder when they filed with the Commission annual financial statements that had not been audited by Respondents in accordance with PCAOB standards.
- 62. As discussed above, Respondents knew both that they had not audited those financial statements in accordance with PCAOB standards and that their clients would include those financial statements in filings with the Commission. Thus, Respondents knew or should have known that their actions would contribute to their clients' violations. As a result, Respondents caused their clients' violations of Sections 17(a) and 17(e) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-5 thereunder.

E. FINDINGS

- 63. Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that Respondents engaged in improper professional conduct pursuant to Sections 4C(a)(2) of the Exchange Act and Rule 102(e)(1)(ii).
- 64. Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that Respondents violated Section 17(a) of the Securities Act and Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder.
- 65. Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that BF Borgers violated Rule 2-02(b)(1) of Regulation S-X and that Borgers caused those violations.
- 66. Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that Respondents violated Rule 2-06 of Regulation S-X.
- 67. Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that Respondents caused certain issuer clients to violate Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13a-1 and 13a-13 thereunder, and caused certain other issuer clients to violate Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and Rules 15d-1 and 15d-13 thereunder.

68. Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that Respondents caused certain registered broker-dealer clients to violate Sections 17(a) and 17(e) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-5 thereunder.

IV.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanctions agreed to in Respondents' Offer.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED, effective immediately, that:

- A. Respondents BF Borgers and Borgers shall cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Sections 10(b), 13(a), 15(d), 17(a), and 17(e) of the Exchange Act and Rules 10b-5, 13a-1, 13a-13, 15d-1, 15d-13, and 17a-5 promulgated thereunder, and Rules 2-02(b)(1) and 2-06 of Regulation S-X.
 - B. Respondents BF Borgers and Borgers are censured.
- C. Respondent BF Borgers is denied the privilege of appearing or practicing before the Commission as an accountant.
- D. Respondent Borgers is denied the privilege of appearing or practicing before the Commission as an accountant.
- E. Respondent BF Borgers shall, within 10 days of the entry of this Order, pay a civil money penalty in the amount of \$12 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission for transfer to the general fund of the United States Treasury, subject to Exchange Act Section 21F(g)(3). If timely payment is not made, additional interest shall accrue pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717.
- F. Respondent Borgers shall, within 10 days of the entry of this Order, pay a civil money penalty in the amount of \$2 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission for transfer to the general fund of the United States Treasury, subject to Exchange Act Section 21F(g)(3). If timely payment is not made, additional interest shall accrue pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717.
 - G. Payment must be made in one of the following ways:
 - (1) Respondent may transmit payment electronically to the Commission, which will provide detailed ACH transfer/Fedwire instructions upon request;

- (2) Respondent may make direct payment from a bank account via Pay.gov through the SEC website at http://www.sec.gov/about/offices/ofm.htm; or
- (3) Respondent may pay by certified check, bank cashier's check, or United States postal money order, made payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission and hand-delivered or mailed to:

Enterprise Services Center Accounts Receivable Branch HQ Bldg., Room 181, AMZ-341 6500 South MacArthur Boulevard Oklahoma City, OK 73169

Payments by check or money order must be accompanied by a cover letter identifying the Respondent making payment (*i.e.*, BF Borgers CPA PC or Benjamin F. Borgers), and the file number of these proceedings; a copy of the cover letter and check or money order must be sent to Kathryn A. Pyszka, Associate Director, Division of Enforcement, Securities and Exchange Commission, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 1450, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

H. Amounts ordered to be paid as civil money penalties pursuant to this Order shall be treated as penalties paid to the government for all purposes, including all tax purposes. To preserve the deterrent effect of the civil penalty, Respondents agree that in any Related Investor Action, they shall not argue that they are entitled to, nor shall they benefit by, offset or reduction of any award of compensatory damages by the amount of any part of Respondent's payment of a civil penalty in this action ("Penalty Offset"). If the court in any Related Investor Action grants such a Penalty Offset, Respondents agree that they shall, within 30 days after entry of a final order granting the Penalty Offset, notify the Commission's counsel in this action and pay the amount of the Penalty Offset to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Such a payment shall not be deemed an additional civil penalty and shall not be deemed to change the amount of the civil penalty imposed in this proceeding. For purposes of this paragraph, a "Related Investor Action" means a private damages action brought against Respondent by or on behalf of one or more investors based on substantially the same facts as alleged in the Order instituted by the Commission in this proceeding.

It is further Ordered that, solely for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523, the findings in this Order are true and admitted by Respondent Borgers, and further, any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or other amounts due by Respondent Borgers under this Order or any other judgment, order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Respondent Borgers of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19).

By the Commission.

Vanessa A. Countryman Secretary

EXHIBIT "B"

EXHIBIT "B"



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STATEMENT

Staff Statement on Issuer Disclosure and Reporting Obligations in Light of Rule 102(e) Order against BF Borgers CPA PC

Office of the Chief AccountantMay 3, 2024

Introduction

[1]On May 3, 2024, the Commission entered an order instituting settled administrative and cease-and-desist proceedings[2] against BF Borgers CPA PC and its sole audit partner Benjamin F. Borgers CPA (individually and together, "BF Borgers"), finding that, among other things, BF Borgers:

- deliberately and systematically failed to conduct audits and quarterly reviews in accordance with applicable Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") standards;
- fraudulently issued audit reports that falsely represented that audits had been performed in accordance with PCAOB standards; and
- caused audit clients to violate certain provisions of the Exchange Act and rules thereunder, including Exchange Act Sections 13(a) and 15(d).
 The Order denies BF Borgers the privilege of appearing or practicing before the Commission as an accountant. As a result, BF Borgers may not participate in or perform the audit or review of financial information included in Commission filings, issue audit reports included in Commission filings, provide consents with respect to audit reports, or otherwise appear or practice before the Commission.[3]

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A significant number of issuers have engaged BF Borgers to audit or review financial information contained in their Commission filings and will be impacted by the Order. We are issuing this statement to assist issuers in complying with their disclosure and reporting obligations in light of the Order. We encourage all issuers that have previously engaged BF Borgers as their independent auditor to consider the findings and sanctions discussed in the Order, taking into account their disclosure obligations under the federal securities laws.

Form 8-K Item 4.01 (Changes in Registrant's Certifying Accountant)

Registrants must file an Item 4.01 Form 8-K when BF Borgers resigns or is dismissed. The Form 8-K must be filed within four (4) business days of the resignation or dismissal and include information called for by Item 304 of Regulation S-K. Registrants may indicate that their prior auditor is not currently permitted to appear or practice before the Commission in lieu of including a letter from BF Borgers stating whether it agrees with the Item 304 disclosures.

Exchange Act Reports

Because BF Borgers has been denied the privilege of appearing or practicing before the Commission, issuers that have engaged BF Borgers to audit or review financial information to be included in any Exchange Act filings to be made on or after the date of the Order will need to engage a new qualified, independent, PCAOB-registered public accountant. For example:

- Form 10-K filings on or after the date of the Order may not include audit reports from BF Borgers. Each fiscal year presented must be audited by a qualified, independent, PCAOB-registered public accountant that is permitted to appear or practice before the Commission.
- Form 10-Q filings on or after the date of the Order may not present financial information that has been reviewed by BF Borgers. Each quarterly period presented must be reviewed by a qualified, independent, PCAOB-registered public accountant that is permitted to appear or practice before the Commission.
- Form 20-F filings on or after the date of the Order may not include audit reports from BF Borgers. Each fiscal year presented must be audited by a qualified, independent, PCAOB-registered public accountant that is permitted to appear or practice before the Commission.
 - Exchange Act reports that were filed before the date of the Order do not necessarily need to be amended solely because of the Commission's entry of the Order. However, issuers should consider whether their filings may need to be amended to address any reporting deficiencies arising from the BF Borgers engagement. We appreciate that some issuers may encounter difficulties meeting filing deadlines applicable to their Exchange Act reports. We remind issuers of the availability of Exchange Act Rule 12b-25, which provides for a limited extension of the deadline for filing certain Exchange Act reports, for issuers that file a Form 12b-25 no later than one business day after the original due date for the report. We will continue to monitor this situation and encourage those issuers and market participants with questions or concerns to contact the staff.

Securities Act Registration Statements

Issuers are reminded that, at the time of effectiveness, a Securities Act registration statement must comply with the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and

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regulations thereunder. In evaluating any request for acceleration of a Securities Act registration statement, the staff must consider the adequacy of the disclosure in the filing as well as the public interest and the protection of investors. Before the staff could grant such a request, in light of the findings in the Order, and because BF Borgers has been denied the privilege of appearing or practicing before the Commission, any issuer with a pending registration statement that contains or incorporates by reference financial information audited or reviewed by BF Borgers would need to file a pre-effective amendment to include financial information audited or reviewed, as applicable, by a qualified, independent accountant that is permitted to appear or practice before the Commission. In addition, any issuer that has submitted a draft registration statement for nonpublic review that includes an audit opinion or consent from BF Borgers must retain a qualified, independent accountant that is permitted to appear or practice before the Commission to perform the required audit of financial information before publicly filing the registration statement. Finally, issuers with effective Securities Act registration statements are reminded that any sales must be preceded or accompanied by a Securities Act Section 10(a)-compliant prospectus, which must not include an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

Regulation A Offering Statements

Similarly, before the staff could grant a qualification request, in light of the findings in the Order, and because BF Borgers has been denied the privilege of appearing or practicing before the Commission, any issuer with a pending Regulation A offering statement requiring audited financial statements in which any financial statements have been previously audited by BF Borgers would need to file a pre-qualification amendment to include financial statements audited by a qualified, independent accountant that is permitted to appear or practice before the Commission. Issuers with ongoing Regulation A offerings are reminded that a qualified offering statement must not include an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

For More Information

The Division of Corporation Finance and Office of the Chief Accountant will carefully monitor developments related to the Commission's Order, and we invite any person with obligations under the federal securities laws to contact Commission staff with questions and concerns.

Please direct questions about disclosure of a change in accountants, restating financial statements and related guidance to the Chief Accountant's Office in the Division of Corporation Finance at (202) 551-3400 or via an Online Request for Assistance (https://www.sec.gov/forms/corp_fin_interpretive?#no-back).

Please direct questions about filing reviews and effectiveness of registration statements to the appropriate Industry Office in the Division of Corporation Finance at (202) 551-2076. If you do not know the office to contact, click https://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/ad-lookup.shtml).

Please direct any other requests for guidance to the Office of Chief Counsel in the Division of Corporation Finance at (202) 551-3500 or via an <u>Online Request for Assistance (https://www.sec.gov/forms/corp_fin_interpretive?#no-back)</u>.

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Please direct questions related to auditor practice, qualifications, or independence to the Office of the Chief Accountant at (202) 551-5300 or to OCA@sec.gov.

[1] This statement represents staff views of the Division of Corporation Finance ("CF") and the Office of the Chief Accountant ("OCA"). It is not a rule, regulation, or statement of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or the "Commission"). The Commission has neither approved nor disapproved its content. This statement, like all staff statements, has no legal force or effect: it does not alter or amend applicable law, and it creates no new or additional obligations for any person. "Our" and "we" are used throughout this statement to refer to CF and OCA staff. References herein to the "Securities Act" refer to the Securities Act of 1933 and references to the "Exchange Act" refer to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

[2] Order Instituting Administrative and Cease-and-Desist Proceedings Pursuant to Section 8A of the Securities Act of 1933, Sections 4C and 21C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions and a Cease-and-Desist Order, File No. 3-21926 (May 3, 2024) ("Order"). A copy of the Order is available on the Commission's website at https://www.sec.gov/files/litigation/admin/2024/33-11283.pdf.

[3] See Rule 102(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

Last Reviewed or Updated: May 3, 2024

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE