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# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

#### FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, by and through the CALIFORNIA CORPORATIONS COMMISSIONER,

Plaintiff.

VS.

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Eurobrand, Inc., Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC., Mintech International, Inc., Daniel Cohen, individually, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive.

Defendants.

Case No. 7AS02200

NOTICE OF EX PARTE APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER; ASSET FREEZE; APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVER; AND MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITY IN SUPPORT

(Corporations Code section 25110, 25401, 25530, 25535)

DATE: TIME:

DEPT:

TRIAL DATE: None set

#### TO ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that EX PARTE AND WITHOUT NOTICE TO ANY DEFENDANT, on the date and time and in the Department set forth above, Preston DuFauchard, California Corporations' Commissioner for the State of California, acting in the name of the People of the State of California, will apply to the Court, for an Order Appointing a Receiver and an Order issuing a Temporary Restraining Order barring defendants, Eurobrand, Inc., Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC., Mintech International, Inc., and Daniel Cohen, individually, and DOES 1 through 20 from operating any type of business related to or involved with the offer and sale of securities in the State

of California, for an Order freezing all assets of defendants including, but not limited to, any personal property, corporations, fictitious business entities, or real property trusts in which defendants have any interest or controlling interest or right of operational control, and all related bank accounts, and for an Order appointing a receiver to take control of the assets of defendants and the business entities in which they have control or operational control, to be held for the benefit of investors. Without these Orders, irreparable injury will occur to the citizens of California.

This request is made on behalf of the People of the State of California on information and on belief by the Commissioner that defendants, have been and are currently involved in the offer and sale of unqualified, non-exempt securities in the State, are offering and selling the securities without being appropriately licensed, are offering and selling the securities based on material misrepresentations and omissions of fact, and are violating the Commissioner's desist and refrain order issued on February 6, 2006 (Commissioner's Order) in violation of the Corporate Securities Law. Defendant and primary control person, Daniel Cohen, operates a boiler room openly and in defiance of the Corporate Securities Law and the Commissioner's order, and continues to solicit investors in California. Without these Orders, defendants will undoubtedly continue their illegal activities unabated, with substantial injury to the People of the State of California.

The requested orders are necessary to preserve any property, money, business interests or real property which may exist, so that upon proof of the illegal activities of defendants, investors may participate in a return of at least some of their investment.

Dated: May 11, 2007

Preston DuFauchard California Corporations Commissioner

By:

MARY ANN CLARK

Attorney for the People of the
State of California

By: EKIK BRUNKAL
Attorney for the People of the
State of California

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# MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR:

A Temporary Restraining Order And Preliminary Injunction As Follows:

- 1) Barring Defendants From The Offer Or Sale Of Unqualified Non-Exempt Securities;
- Barring Defendants From The Offer Or Sale Of Securities By Means Of Misrepresentations
   Or Omissions Of Material Facts
- 3) Barring Defendants From Violating The Commissioner's Desist And Refrain Order Issued On February 6, 2006
- 4) Issuing An Order Freezing All Business And Personal Assets And Companies Related To Or Controlled By Defendants; And
- 5) Appointing A Receiver To Take Control Of Assets For The Benefit Of Consumers And/Or Victims Of Defendants' Unlicensed Activities.

#### A. STATEMENT OF FACTS

The People of the State of California, by and through the California Corporations Commissioner (the Commissioner), seek an ex parte Order, without notice to defendants, appointing a receiver to preserve assets illegally obtained, to prevent the destruction of books and records, and an Order issuing a Temporary Restraining Order to prevent ongoing and continuing violations of the California Securities Law of 1968. Corporations Code sectionsection 25000 et seq. ("CSL").

This case involves an ongoing scheme by defendants to offer and sell securities in violation of the CSL by soliciting investments in the form of stock in Eurobrand, Inc., Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC., and Mintech International, Inc. Defendants have their principal place of business in Los Angeles County, California, but offer and sell securities throughout the state of California including Sacramento County.

Securities must be qualified with the Department of Corporations. The defendants offered and sold stock, which are securities under Corporations Code section 25019. Defendants filed exemption notices with the Department of Corporations for Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC and Eurobrand, Inc., however the exemption does not apply. The securities offered and sold by defendants were not qualified as required by section 25110. The offer and sale of securities referred to herein were not

exempt from the requirement of qualification under section 25110. (Exhibit 1, Certification from the Department of Corporations re: qualification.)

On October 31, 2005, Paula Harrison filed a Civil RICO suit against Ronald Samuel, Daniel Cohen, and Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC (among others) in the Southern District of New York. Ms. Harrison claims the idea for UNLeashed Magazine was all her own. In her complaint, Ms. Harrison alleges that Ron Samuel and Daniel Cohen committed a series of crimes, including drug dealing (the distribution of MDMA, aka Ecstasy) and money laundering. With the monetary proceeds of these crimes, Samuel and Cohen were attempting to steal the magazine from her. (Exhibit 2, First Amended Complaint and Jury Demand, USDC (So. Dist. N.Y.) no. 05-CV-8914.)

On February 6, 2006, the Commissioner issued a desist and refrain order (the Commissioner's order) against defendants, Daniel Cohen, individually, and Eurobrand, Inc. for selling unqualified securities. (Exhibit 3, California Department of Corporations Desist and Refrain Order dated February 6, 2006 and proof of personal service.) The order specifically found that Daniel Cohen called potential investors with whom he had no previous relationship and sought investments in Eurobrand, Inc. which is not a qualified security with the State of California. (Ex. 2.) The order was personally served on Daniel Cohen on February 15, 2006, and was immediately in effect. (Ex. 2.) Daniel Cohen and Eurobrand, Inc. failed to challenge the order within thirty days of service and as a result the order is final.

On April 27, 2006, the Alabama Securities Commission issued a Cease and Desist Order against Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC, UNLeashed Magazine, Daniel Cohen, Ron Samuel and Joseph Magmoon for calling potential Alabama investors with whom there was no previous relationship and seeking investments in Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC. Due to the general solicitation of investors, the exemption filed by Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC was void. (Exhibit 4, Alabama Securities Commission Cease and Desist Order dated April 27, 2006.)

On May 8, 2006 Ron Samuel, of Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC was arrested and charged by federal authorities with, among other things, conspiracy to import MDMA ("Ecstacy") and running a criminal enterprise. (Exhibit 5, Excerpts of Criminal Docket.) Ron Samuel was never released from jail after that date. He later pled guilty to running a criminal enterprise and now faces a lengthy

prison sentence. (Exhibit 6, Change of Plea Form.)

Defendants purposely misled and defrauded investors by failing to disclose material facts, including the desist and refrain order issued by the Commissioner, failing to disclose the criminal charges against Ron Samuel, failing to disclose the Civil RICO suit, and failing to disclose the cease and desist order issued by the state of Alabama, while continuing to solicit investments in Eurobrand, Inc. and Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC. (Exhibit 7, Declarations of Robert Downer, Roger Godic, Mark Hedburg, and Walt Stickel.) These material misrepresentations and omissions were made in direct violation of Corporations Code section 25401.

Defendant, Daniel Cohen, operates a boiler room in which the employees call potential investors with whom no preexisting relationship exists, and offer and sell unqualified securities in the form of stock in Eurobrand, Inc., Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC., Mintech International, Inc, and others. (Exhibit 8, Declaration of Aaron Ward.) Defendant, Daniel Cohen, through the operation of his boiler room, promises investors high returns in Eurobrand, Inc., Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC., and Mintech International, Inc. (Ex. 7.) These sales occurred from about January, 2001, to the present and are continuing.

The boiler room activities and most control activities related to the investments, took place at the Agoura Road address in Calabasas, California, and offer and sales were made throughout California including Sacramento County. (Ex. 8.)

From January, 2001, to the present, Daniel Cohen's boiler room raised money from more than 250 investors totaling well over five million dollars in investment money. Defendants' own documents show two separate offerings of Eurobrand, Inc. (one offering for \$3,000,000 and a second offering for \$10,000,000), a \$3,000,000 offering for Mintech International, Inc., and two separate offerings for Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC at least one for \$6,000,000. (Exhibit 9, Offering Memorandums.) One investor alone invested \$600,000 in defendants' offerings, and was refused a return of his money. (Ex. 7, Downer Declaration.) Although some investors have been paid lulling money over the years, many investors are owed, hundreds and thousands of dollars in promised returns and even more in principal.

California investors continue to risk losing their money. Plaintiff is informed that the

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business operations continue uninterrupted as of the date of this Application.

Defendants are currently engaged in an ongoing business that offers and sells unqualified, non-exempt securities to the general public. (Ex. 8.) Defendants offer and sell these illegal securities based on misrepresentations or omissions of material facts, and in violation of the Commissioner's Order. The entire business operation is in violation of the Corporate Securities Laws, including Corporations Code sections 25110 and 25401 and also is in violation of the Commissioner's Order. An injunction should issue and the Court should appoint a receiver and freeze the assets of defendants and their related businesses.

### B. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Plaintiff seeks to enjoin defendants from offering or selling unqualified non-exempt securities in violation of section 25110 of the Corporate Securities Law of 1968 (Corporations Code sections 25000, et seq.) None of the securities sold by defendants were qualified.

Further, in connection with the offer and sale of these securities, defendants violated an order of the Commissioner, made misrepresentations, and omitted material facts in violation of Corporations Code section 25401. Plaintiff seeks to enjoin defendants from continuing to violate Corporations Code sections 25110, 25401 and the Commissioner's Order.

Plaintiff seeks a temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction, asset freeze, and appointment of a receiver, and, further, pursuant to Corporations Code section 25530, an Order of restitution and disgorgement and, finally, pursuant to Corporations Code section 25535, the imposition of civil penalties in the amount of \$25,000 per violation of the securities law.

#### C. LAW AND ARGUMENT

1. An injunction should issue to prevent continuing violations of the Corporate

Securities Laws. Plaintiff is not required to allege or prove the usual equitable

considerations in bringing an action for injunction under California Securities

Law section 25530.

Corporations Code 25530(a) authorizes the Commissioner to bring this action for injunctive and ancillary relief whenever it appears that any person has engaged or is about to engage in any violation under the CSL. Where an injunction is authorized by statute to protect the public interest,

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the usual equitable considerations, such as inadequacy of legal remedy, irreparable harm, and balancing of interests are irrelevant and it is not necessary to allege or prove them. *Porter v. Fiske* (1946) 74 Cal.App.2d 332, 338.

The California Supreme Court in *IT Corp. v. County of Imperial* (1983) 35 Cal.3d 63, 72, states the proper standard to be applied when a governmental entity seeks to enjoin alleged violations of a statute as follows:

Where a governmental entity seeking to enjoin the alleged violation of an ordinance, which specifically provides for injunctive relief establishes that it is <u>reasonably probable</u> it will prevail on the merits, a rebuttable presumption arises that the potential harm to the public outweighs the potential harm to the defendant... (Emphasis added.)

Here, plaintiff has provided substantive evidence, through the declarations attached hereto, that defendants have committed countless violations of CSL sections 25110 and 25401 and the Commissioner's order. The Court can and should grant the injunctive and ancillary relief prayed for.

 Defendants offered and sold unqualified non-exempt securities in violation of Corporations Code section 25110.

CSL section 25110 makes it unlawful for any person to offer or sell in this state any security in an issuer transaction unless such sale has been qualified under the CSL or unless such transaction is exempted from qualification.

Corporations Code section 25019 defines the term "security", in relevant part, as follows: "... any ... stock ... or in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a 'security' ... All of the foregoing are securities whether or not evidenced by a written document ..."

Stocks are expressly defined as securities under CSL section 25019. Individuals invested money in stock in Eurobrand, Inc., Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC., and Mintech International, Inc., which was supposed to return a very high profit. (Ex. 7 and 9). Defendants filed exemption notices for Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC and Eurobrand, Inc. However, defendants do not qualify for the claimed exemptions because defendants conducted general solicitations of investors.

The United States Supreme Court found that "an instrument bearing the name "stock" that, among other things, is negotiable, offers the possibility of capital appreciation, and carries the right to dividends contingent on the profits of a business enterprise is plainly within the class of instruments

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Congress intended the securities laws to cover." Landreth Timber Co. v. Landreth (1985) 471 U.S. 681, 105 S.Ct. 2297, 85 L.Ed.2d 692.

CSL section 25163 provides that the burden of proving an exemption is on the person claiming it. See also *People v. Park* (1978) 87 Cal. App. 3d 550, 556-557 [state did not bear burden of proving lack of private offering exemption in prosecution under section 25110]. Finally, it is incumbent upon the person offering or selling a security to determine whether qualification is required. *Towne v. Friedrich* (1982) 207 Cal.App.2d 205, 211-212.

Defendants have violated CSL section 25110 numerous times, and will continue to do so unless enjoined by this court.

3. Defendants violated the anti-fraud provisions of Corporations Code section 25401 by failing to disclose the Commissioner's order and making misrepresentations of material facts or omitting material facts in the offer and sale of securities in this state.

It unlawful for any person to offer or sell any security by means of any untrue statement or omission of material fact. Corporations Code section 25401.

In *People v. Simon* (1995) 9 Cal.4th 493, the court stated that such misrepresentations or omissions need not be knowing:

An enforcement action by the commissioner to enjoin future sales by means of false or misleading statements is designed to protect the public. People v. Pacific Land Research Co. (1977) 20 Cal.3d 10, 17 [141 Cal.Rptr. 20, 569 P.2d 125]; People v. Martinson (1986) 188 Cal.App.3d 894, 899 [233 Cal.Rptr. 617].) For that reason, it is irrelevant that the defendant knows that the statements or omissions are false or misleading. In light of the language of section 25401, it is reasonable to conclude that the Legislature did not intend to permit members of the public to be harmed by such sales simply because the offeror was unaware that his or her sales pitch was misleading. [Id., at 515-516.]

Section 25401 does not require that a misrepresentation or omission be made knowingly and the express wording of section 25401 contains no requirement of proof of intended reliance by a person to whom the statement is made. As a result, section 25401 differs from common law fraud in that no proof of reliance is required. *Bowden v. Robinson* (1977) 67 Cal.App.3d 705, 715.

Finally, the misrepresentation or omission must be made with regard to a material fact. Under section 25401, a fact is "material" if there is a substantial likelihood that, under all the circumstances,

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a reasonable investor would consider it important in reaching an investment decision. *Insurance Underwriters Clearing House, Inc. v. Natomas Co.* (1986) 184 Cal.App.3d 1520, 1526.

Defendants have, in connection with offer or sale of stocks, failed to tell investors that Daniel Cohen, and Eurobrand, Inc. were subject to a desist and refrain order issued by the California Department of Corporations, failed to tell investors that Ron Samuel of Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC was indicted and eventually pled guilty to running a criminal conspiracy, failed to tell investors that Daniel Cohen, Ron Samuel and Samuel & Cohen Media were subject to a Cease and Desist Order issued by the State of Alabama, and also defendants in a civil RICO suit in federal court.

Exemptions from the requirement of qualification of the sale of securities do not apply to sales that are conducted in violation of the antifraud provisions of the CSL. The sale of securities by means of a material misrepresentation or omissions of material facts is unlawful, even if the sale of securities would otherwise be exempted from qualification. In *People v. Smith* (1989) 215 Cal.App.3d 230, 235-236, the court found that "[i]n contrast to the qualification requirements, the prohibition against making false or misleading statements in the offer or sale of securities does not contain exemptions (section 25401), and so is applicable to the offer or sale of all securities, whether public or not."

Defendants have repeatedly violated section 25401, and will continue to do so unless enjoined by this court.

4. <u>Defendants violated the California Corporations Commissioner's Order filed</u> on February 6, 2006.

Corporations Code section 25532 permits the Commissioner to issue a desist and refrain order when it is the commissioner's opinion that such security is subject to qualification. On February 6, 2006 the Commissioner issued a desist and refrain order against defendants, Daniel Cohen, individually, and Eurobrand, Inc. for selling unqualified securities.

Accordingly, pursuant to Corporations Code section 25530 the Commissioner may bring an action in the name of the people of the State of California when it appears that a person has engaged in any act or practice that violates any order under the Corporations Code.

Daniel Cohen and his boiler room continue to call potential investors with whom he has no previous relationship and seek investments in direct violation of the Commissioner's order.

# 5. Appointment of a receiver is necessary and proper to protect investors.

As discussed above, plaintiff need not allege or prove the usual equitable considerations when bringing an action authorized by statute. IT Corp. v. County of Imperial, supra, 35 Cal.3d 63.

Corporations Code section 25530 authorizes the appointment of a receiver upon a proper showing when "any person has engaged, or is about to engage, in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision" of the CSL. The evidence that accompanies this Application documents the serious violations of the CSL. Even after the Commissioner issued a desist and refrain order against Daniel Cohen and Eurobrand, Inc. defendants have continued to openly operate the boiler room in California and solicit and accept investment money from California citizens, in spite of the Commissioner's order.

Defendants' egregious conduct and continuous disregard for the laws of California necessitate the appointment of a receiver on terms and conditions as are detailed in the accompanying Order. Plaintiff has documented at least 250 investors who collectively have invested at least \$5.5 million. Indeed, defendants' own documents reflect that Daniel Cohen's boiler room is selling oil rig leasing ventures and other unqualified securities. If a receiver is not appointed to take control of the businesses and possession of the business assets, it is likely that defendants will shut the operation down and move the money to banks outside the reach of this Court.

Appointment of a receiver has been upheld in cases where a prima facie showing was made of fraud in connection with the sale of securities to the public. Securities and Exchange Comm'n v. Keller Corporation (1963) 323 F.2d 397. In addition, "a receiver is permissible and appropriate where necessary to protect the public interest and where it is obvious . . . that those who have inflicted serious detriment in the past must be ousted." Securities and Exchange Comm'n v. Bowler (1970) 427 F.2d 190, 198.

Courts also have ordered the appointment of a receiver where "no injunction [the court] could frame would cure for the past or prevent in the future the mismanagement and illegalities found in the operation of the defendant . . . to the detriment of the mostly unsophisticated investors to whom it has

sold and again proposes to sell." Securities and Exchange Comm'n v. Heritage Trust (1975) 402 F.Supp. 744, 753. That is the case here.

In the present case, there is significant evidence to support the allegations that defendants have engaged and continue to engage in illegal securities transactions. In spite of the fact that the Commissioner has issued a desist and refrain order against the primary control person, Daniel Cohen, he continues to operate the identical business openly throughout the state of California and in defiance of the Corporate Securities Law. Such blatantly illegal activity coupled with defendants' deliberately fraudulent practices compels the appointment of a receiver. In order to maintain the status quo and protect what remains of investors' money, the appointment of a receiver is necessary. Defendants cannot be relied upon to comply with any temporary restraining order or other injunction without dissipating the assets rightfully belonging to investors.

# 6. A Receiver should be appointed ex parte, without notice.

The issuance of an ex parte order, without notice, appointing a receiver is imperative to prevent defendants from transferring their cash assets offshore, thereby ensuring that some level of restitution can be made to defendants' victims, and that records pertaining to the illegal activities are preserved. The extraordinary amount of money fraudulently and illegally obtained, and the existence of numerous business entities and involved individuals, indicates that recovering any funds is unlikely if a receiver is appointed on a noticed motion, or even a noticed ex parte hearing. Undoubtedly, defendants will abscond with all investors' funds and destroy evidence of their illegal activities if they are put on notice of an impending injunction or receivership. The total loss for only 250 investors between January 2001 and today is approximately \$5.5 million.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Daniel Cohen is violating the desist and refrain order issued by the Department of Corporations on February 6, 2006, by soliciting investors through cold calls from his boiler room for investments in Eurobrand, Inc., Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC, and Mintech International, Inc. Daniel Cohen continues to use his boiler room to take investors' money without disclosing he is the subject of a desist and refrain order.

The investigation further revealed that Daniel Cohen is using his boiler room to sell unqualified securities in Eurobrand, Inc., Mintech International, Inc and Samuel & Cohen Media,

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LLC. Given the extraordinary amount of money involved and defendants' demonstrated contempt for California law and judicial systems, an <u>ex parte</u>, <u>no notice</u>, appointment of a receiver appears to be the only viable option for halting these illegal activities and providing a reasonable chance of recovering investor funds.

## 7. Ex parte appointment of receiver is proper in this case.

In People v. Christ's Church (1947) 79 Cal.App.2d 858, the court held that a church president was properly removed and replaced with a receiver, ex parte, after the attorney general filed an action alleging misappropriations and misapplications of church funds and unauthorized expenditures. In Misita v. Distillers Corp., Ltd. (1942) 54 Cal.App.2d 244, 250, the court stated, citing Lent v. H.C. Morris Co., (1938) 25 Cal.App.2d 305, "the appointment of a receiver may be made 'ex parte' and without notice if the 'imperative necessity' or emergency is shown in the petition or supporting affidavits."

"[G]enerally the granting of such orders [ex parte appointment of receivers] rests in the sound discretion of the trial court..." Christ's Church, supra, at 861, citing Misita, supra. Plaintiff respectfully requests that the court exercise its discretion and appoint a receiver, ex parte.

#### D. CONCLUSION.

The evidence filed with this Application demonstrates that the defendants have engaged in a blatant and ongoing pattern of violating Corporation Code sections 25110 and 25401 and the Commissioner's Order. Plaintiff requests that this Court grant the injunctive relief by issuing a temporary restraining order, freezing all assets over which defendants have ownership or control, Order that a receiver be appointed ex parte, with no notice to defendants, and grant the ancillary relief requested and prayed for in the complaint in order to protect the public and prevent further harm to the investors.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court Rule 379(d)(1), the address and telephone number for all parties known to the Plaintiff are as follows:

1. Daniel Cohen

26565 Agoura Road, Calabasas, California Telephone:

2. Eurobrand, Inc.

26565 Agoura Road, Calabasas, California

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1	3.Samuel & Cohen Media, LLC	
2	26565 Agoura Road, Calabasas, California 4. Mintech International, Inc.	
3	26565 Agoura Road, Calabasas, California	
4	DATED: May <u>/</u> , 2007	
5		eston DuFauchard
6	Ca	llifornia Corporations Commissioner
7	Ву	:
8		MARY ANN CLARK Attorney for the People of the State of California
9		State of California
10	Ву	ERIK BRUNKAL
11	,	Attorney for the People of the State of California
12		State of Camornia
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