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9 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS
10 OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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12	In the Matter of)	CASE NO.
13)	
14	THE CALIFORNIA CORPORATIONS)	FILE NO. 923-3835
15	COMMISSIONER,)	
16	Complainant,)	ACCUSATION RE INTENT TO ISSUE
17	v.)	ORDER SUSPENDING FAME
18)	RENAISSANCE HANCOCK VENTURE,
19)	LLC.,'S INVESTMENT ADVISER
20	FAME RENAISSANCE HANCOCK)	CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO
21	VENTURE, LLC.)	CORPORATIONS CODE SECTION 25232
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	Respondent.)	
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22 WAYNE STRUMPFER, the Acting California Corporations Commissioner
23 ("Commissioner") of the Department of Corporations ("Department") alleges and charges as follows:
24 FAME RENAISSANCE HANCOCK VENTURE, LLC. ("FAME"), holds a valid and unrevoked
25 investment adviser certificate issued by the Commissioner pursuant to Corporations Code section
26 25230 on June 2, 1999. FAME is in the investment adviser business and is located at 2270 South
27 Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018 with a mailing address of 2270 South Harvard
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1 Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018. Steven D. Johnson is the president and chief financial officer
2 of the corporation. Michael J. Fourticq is a general partner of FAME.

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4 1. On or about July 12, 2002 and June 9, 2004, the Department commenced regulatory
5 examinations of FAME's investment adviser business ("the examinations"). The examinations
6 revealed violations of the books and records provisions of the Corporate Securities Law of 1968,
7 Corporations Code section 25000 et seq., and the regulations thereunder found at California Code of
8 Regulations, title 10, section 260.000 et seq.

9 2. These violations consisted of FAME's failure to keep true, accurate and current books
10 and records, as well as minimum capitalization requirements including; 1) failing to maintain an
11 accurate general ledger accounting system that is in accordance with generally accepted accounting
12 principles ("GAAP"); 2) failing to file annual financial reports; 3) failure to maintain minimum
13 capital requirements and 4) failure to obtain a required examination and verification of clients' funds
14 and securities by a certified public accountant at least once a year

15 3. Corporations Code section 25241 provides that investment advisers are required to
16 maintain books and records that are subject to examinations by the Commissioner. Section 25241
17 provides, in relevant part, as follows:

- 18 "(a) Every...investment adviser licensed under Section 25230 shall make and keep such
19 accounts, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records and shall file such
20 financial and other reports as the commissioner by rule requires, subject to the limitations of .
21 . . Section 222 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 with respect to investment advisers.
22 (b) All records so required shall be preserved for the time specified in the rule.
23 (c) All records referred to in this section are subject at any time and from time to time to such
24 reasonable periodic, special, or other examinations by the commissioner, within or without
25 this state, as the commissioner deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the
26 protection of investors...."

27 4. California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 260.241.3 sets forth the specific books
28 and records that are required to be maintained by investment advisers and provides as follows:

"(a)Every licensed investment adviser shall make and keep true, accurate and current the
following books and records relating to such person's investment advisory business:...

- (2) General and auxiliary ledgers (or other comparable records) reflecting asset, liability,
reserve, capital, income and expense accounts...

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2 (c) Every licensed investment adviser who renders any investment supervisory or
3 management service to any client shall, with respect to the portfolio being supervised or
4 managed and to the extent that the information is reasonably available to or obtainable by
5 the investment adviser, make and keep true, accurate and current:

- 6 (1) Records showing separately for each such client the securities purchased and sold,
7 and the date, amount and price of each such purchase or sale.
8 (2) For each security in which any such client has a current position, information from
9 which the investment adviser can promptly furnish the name of each such client, and
10 the current amount of the interest of such client...

11 (j) Any investment adviser who is subject to the minimum financial requirements of Section
12 260.237.1 or Section 260.237.2 as applicable, shall, in addition to the records otherwise
13 required under this section, maintain a record of the proof of money balances of all ledger
14 accounts in the form of trial balances and a record of the computations of net capitals and
15 aggregate indebtedness pursuant to Section 260.237.1 of these rules or minimum net worth
16 pursuant to Section 230.237.2 of these rules (as of the trial balance date). The trial balances
17 and computations shall be prepared currently at least once a month.”

18 5. The Department's examiner found during the regulatory examinations on or about
19 July 12, 2002, and June 9, 2004, that FAME's accounting records were not accurate as although they
20 indicated that FAME had a capital value of \$496,593, the records did not reflect the investment in
21 the fund as an asset. The equity section of the balance sheet also did not contain accounts for the
22 member capital contributions. FAME therefore failed to maintain an accurate general ledger in
23 violation of California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 260.241.3, subdivision (a)(2). The
24 examinations also revealed that a trial balance computation of net capital was not prepared each
25 month in violation of section 260.241.3, subdivision (j) and that no detailed records of the clients'
26 securities transactions were being maintained in violation of section 260.241.3, subdivision (c).

27 6. FAME has also failed to file annual financial reports. California Code of Regulations
28 section 260.241.2(a) requires the filing of an annual report by investment advisers, who like FAME
have custody of clients' funds or securities. California Code of Regulations, section 260.241.2,
subdivision (a)(2), provides as follows:

“(a) General Rule. Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, ...every
licensed investment adviser subject to the provisions of Section 260.237.1 or Section
260.237.2, as applicable, of these rules, shall file an annual financial report containing the
information required by a form or forms to be supplied or approved by the Commissioner, as
follows:

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... (2) The annual report for investment advisers shall contain a Statement of Financial Condition. Supporting schedules shall contain computations of net capitals, aggregate indebtedness and ratios required under Section 260.237.1 or minimum financial requirements required under Section 260.237.2, as applicable....”

7. California Code of Regulations sections 260.237.1 provides in pertinent part as follows:

“An investment adviser licensed prior to 03/01/03 may comply with either the minimum financial requirements in this section or in Section 260.237.2 until January 1, 2005, at which time this section shall become inoperative and an investment adviser shall comply with the minimum financial requirements in Section 260.237.2

(a) No investment adviser who has any power of attorney from any investment advisory client to execute transactions or has regular or periodic custody of any of its investment advisory clients securities or funds...shall permit its total aggregate indebtedness to exceed 500% of its tangible net capital or permit its current aggregate indebtedness to exceed its current net capital; and,

(1) The investment adviser shall at all times have and maintain tangible net capital of not less than \$25,000.00; or,

(2) If the investment adviser has any power of attorney from any investment advisory client to execute transactions and does not have regular or periodic custody or possession of any of its investment advisory clients’ securities or funds...it shall at all times have and maintain tangible net capital of not less than \$5,000.00....

(c) Definitions. For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, all financial information shall be determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles....”

8. The alternative minimum financial requirement California Code of Regulations Section 260.237.2 provides in pertinent part as follows:

“An investment adviser licensed prior to 03/01/03 may comply with either the minimum financial requirements in this section or in Section 260.237.1 until January 1, 2005 at which time section 260.237.1 shall become inoperative and an investment adviser shall comply with the minimum financial requirements in this section

(a) Every investment adviser who has custody of client funds or securities, shall maintain at all times a minimum net worth of \$35,000.

(d) For purposes of this rule, the term “net worth” shall mean an excess of assets over liabilities, as determined by generally accepted accounting principles....”

9. FAME has power of attorney or discretionary power to execute transactions in the brokerage accounts of its investment adviser clients and has custody and possession of clients’ funds and securities. Therefore, FAME is required to meet the capital requirements provided for under either California Code of Regulations Section 260.237.1 or section 260.237.2, and to show proof of

1 compliance with these regulations by filing annual financial reports required by section 260.241.2
2 and failed to do so at the examinations.

3 10. As of July 29, 2005, the examinations revealed FAME has failed to submit annual
4 financial reports that comply with GAAP for the years 2002 through 2004, in violation California
5 Code of Regulations section 260.241.2.

6 11. The examination of July 12, 2002 revealed FAME had a tangible net capital deficiency of
7 \$99,140.40 and a current net capital deficiency of \$55,422 as of September 30, 2001. The
8 examination on June 9, 2004, revealed that as of April 30, 2004, FAME had a current net capital
9 deficiency of \$430,163, and that its aggregate indebtedness exceeded 500% of its tangible net capital
10 by \$275,118 in violation of the requirements of section 260237.1. Net capital was deficient by
11 \$6,430 under the requirements of section 260.237.2.

12 12. California Code of Regulations section 260.237 provides that it shall constitute a
13 fraudulent, deceptive or manipulative act under Corporations Code Section 25235, for any
14 investment adviser who has custody or possession of any funds or securities in which any client has
15 any beneficial interest to do any act or take any action, directly or indirectly, with respect to any such
16 funds or securities, unless:

17 (e) all funds and securities of clients are verified by actual examination at least once during
18 each calendar year by an independent certified public accountant or public accountant at a
19 time which shall be chosen by the accountant without prior notice to the investment adviser.
20 A certificate of the accounting stating that such person has made an examination of the funds
and securities, and describing the nature and extent of the examination, shall be filed with the
Commissioner promptly after each examination.

21 13. The examinations revealed that FAME had custody and control of clients' funds and
22 failed to have annual examinations of clients' funds and securities by a public accountant conducted
23 in compliance with Corporations Code section 25235 for the years 2002 through 2004.

24 14. On December 19, 2002, the Department sent Michael J. Fourticq of FAME a
25 regulatory letter notifying FAME of various violations discovered during the July 12, 2002,
26 examination as noted above, including violations of California Code of Sections 260.241.2 and
27 260.241.3. On August 9, 2004, the Department sent Michael J. Fouticq of FAME another letter
28 notifying FAME of the various violations discovered during the June 9, 2004 examination as noted

1 above. The Department's letters also requested that in response FAME set forth the action taken to
2 establish a general ledger accounting system that is in accordance with GAAP. The Department
3 letters also noted the failure to file financial reports and requested copies of annual financial reports
4 for the year-ends 2002 and 2003, a verification form to accompany both reports, and a confirmation
5 that FAME would file annual reports as required in the future and comply with adequate
6 capitalization and record keeping requirements.

7 15. In a letters dated October 15, 2004, Steven Johnson of FAME responded to the
8 Department's letter claiming that it had corrected accounting procedures and record keeping and
9 maintained adequate capitalization. However, in a responding letter to Mr. Johnson from the
10 Department dated December 16, 2004, FAME was notified that the documents and reports that had
11 been requested had not been provided and the examination had revealed that there had not been
12 adequate capitalization and requesting that FAME promptly submit the documents requested
13 including explanation of the corrective action taken regarding net worth, the trial balance or balance
14 income sheet and copies of brokerage accounts with a reconciliation of each clients account and
15 confirmation that annual CPA inspections of clients funds and securities would occur. Although the
16 letter requested a response from FAME by January 10, 2005, no response has been received from
17 FAME up to an including July 27, 2005.

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19 16. Corporations Code section 25232 provides, in pertinent part:

20 The commissioner may, after appropriate notice and opportunity for hearing, by order
21 censure, deny a certificate to, or suspend for a period not exceeding 12 months or
22 revoke the certificate of, an investment adviser, if the commissioner finds that the
23 censure, denial, suspension, or revocation is in the public interest and that the
24 investment adviser, whether prior or subsequent to becoming such, or any partner,
25 officer or director thereof or any person performing similar functions or any person
26 directly or indirectly controlling the investment adviser, whether prior or subsequent to
27 becoming such, or any employee of the investment adviser while so employed...

28 (e) Has willfully violated any provision of . . . Title 4 (commencing with Section
25000)... or of any rule or regulation under any of those statutes, or any order of the
commissioner which is or has been necessary for the protection of any investor.

17. Corporations Code section 25233 provides:

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No order may be entered under Section 25232, 25232.1, or 25252 except after notice to the person affected thereby of the intention of the commissioner to enter that order and of the reasons therefor and that upon receipt of a request the matter shall be set down for hearing to commence within 15 business days after that receipt unless the person affected consents to a later date. If no hearing is requested within 30 days after the mailing of that notice and none is ordered by the commissioner, the order may be entered without hearing to remain in effect until it is modified or vacated by the commissioner....

If a hearing is requested or ordered, it shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), and the commissioner shall have all of the powers granted there under.

18. By reason of the foregoing, FAME has violated California Code of Regulations sections 260.241.2, 260.241.3, and 260.237.1 or 260.237.2, justifying the issuance of an order suspending FAME's investment adviser certificate for 6 months. FAME, as a licensee, was obligated to have knowledge of, and to comply with, the provisions of the Corporations Code and the regulations thereunder to maintain its investment adviser certificate.

19. FAME violated California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 260.241.2, subdivision (a) by failing to file annual financial reports for years 2002 through 2004, section 260.241.3, by failing to properly maintain a general ledger, keep records of securities purchased or sold for each client and maintain trial balance ledgers showing the computation of net capital and indebtedness every month. Fame also violated section 260.237 (e) by failing to obtain a required examination and verification of clients fund and securities by a public accountant at least once a year and section 260.237.1 or 260.237.2 by failing to maintain minimum net worth and capital requirements.

Therefore, pursuant to Corporations Code section 25232, the Commissioner intends to issue an order suspending FAME's investment adviser certificate for 6 months

WHEREFORE, good cause showing, and pursuant to Corporations Code section 25252, the California Corporations Commissioner hereby finds that it is in the public interest to suspend FAME's investment adviser certificate for 6 months for willful acts committed as specified in

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Corporations Code section 25232 (e) and hereby notifies FAME of its intention to make final the
Order suspending FAME's investment adviser certificate for 6 months.

Dated: August 2, 2005
San Francisco, California

WAYNE STRUMPFER
Acting California Corporations Commissioner

By: _____
KIRK WALLACE
Corporations Counsel
Enforcement Division