#### STATE OF NEVADA

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE – SECURITIES DIVISION 2250 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD NORTH, SUITE 400 NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89030

In the Matter of:

MICHAEL B. ECKERMAN, DUSTIN KLEIN,
& ROBERT PAYNE, individuals; and NOVUS

DIA, LLC d/b/a NOVUS DIA FINANCIAL,
aka NOVUS DIA, LLC, NV PROPERTY 1,
NDF CAPITAL HOLDINGS,

Respondents.

Pile No. <u>I13-196</u>

FINAL ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST

TO: Michael B. Eckerman 8812 N. 65<sup>th</sup> Street Paradise Valley, AZ 85253-1809

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Dustin Klein 2151 Village Walk Drive, #2 Henderson, NV 89012

Novus Dia, LLC c/o John E. Dawson, its Registered Agent 8925 W. Post Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89148

WHEREAS, the Securities Division of the Office of the Nevada Secretary of State (Division) filed a Notice of Summary Order to Cease and Desist and Opportunity for Hearing on August 3, 2020. Pursuant to NRS 90.630, the Division attempted to serve these documents on Respondents that same day. Service was not effective, as no one could be found at the listed addresses the Division had on file.

**NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE** 

SECURITIES DIVISION

DATE FILED:

WHEREAS, after diligent search, the Division ultimately was able to serve Defendants via certified mail on December 24, 2021.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the original Notice, Respondents had 45 days to respond to the Division's Order to Cease and Desist.

WHEREAS, Respondents failed to request a hearing within forty-five (45) of being served.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority set forth in NRS 90.630, the Order to Cease and Desist (a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference) is hereby made final.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

#### BY ORDER OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Nevada Securities Division, Office of the Secretary of State

**ERIN M. HOUSTON** 

Deputy Secretary of State for Securities Securities Administrator

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I am an employee of the Office of the Nevada Secretary of State and that on the day of April, 2021 have caused a copy of the foregoing FINAL ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, to be served by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and First Class Mail, to the following:

Michael B. Eckerman 8812 N. 65<sup>th</sup> Street Paradise Valley, AZ 85253-1809

Dustin Klein 2151 Village Walk Drive, #2 Henderson, NV 89012

Novus Dia, LLC c/o John E. Dawson, its Registered Agent 8925 W. Post Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89148

Eli Beauchamp, Division Legal Secretary

# **SECURITIES DIVISION**

3	2250 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD NORTH, SUITE 400 NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89030
4	NONTH EAS VEGAS, NEVADA 69030
5	
6	In the Matter of:
7	MICHAEL B. ECKERMAN, DUSTIN  KLEIN, & ROBERT PAYNE individuals;  OCOMPLAINT FOR SUMMARY ORDER  AND FINAL ORDER TO CEASE AND
9	and NOVUS DIA, LLC d/b/a NOVUS DIA  FINANCIAL, aka NOVUS DIA, LLC, NV  PROPERTY 1, NDF CAPITAL  DESIST AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  RELIEF  )
10	HOLDINGS
11	Respondents. File No. <u>I13-196</u>
12	TO: Novus Dia, LLC  Nevada secretary of state
13	c/o John E. Dawson, its Registered Agent  8925 W. Post Road, Suite 210  DATE FILED:
14	Las Vegas, NV 89148
15 16	COMES NOW, the Securities Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, State of Nevada
17	("Division"), sets forth the following allegations of fact, conclusions of law, notice of agency action,
18	temporary order to cease and desist, and notice of right to a hearing for violations of the Nevada
19	Uniform Securities Act, as codified in Chapter 90 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. The Administrator
20	has authority to take such action pursuant to NRS 90.800.
21	ALLEGATIONS OF FACT
22	1. Respondent Michael B. Eckerman ("Eckerman"), is an individual who, upon
23	information and belief, is a resident of Scottsdale, Arizona.
24	2. Respondent Dustin Klein ("Klein"), is an individual who, upon information and belief,
25	is a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada.
11	

Respondent Robert Payne ("Payne") is an individual the Division has no knowledge 3. of his actual whereabouts.

27

- 4. Respondent Novus Dia, LLC, d/b/a Novus Dia Financial ("NDF") was a Nevada-based, self-professed real estate asset management firm offering above-market returns and claiming to hold over \$18,000,000.00 in real estate. Michael B. Eckerman is the CEO and founder of NDF. Dustin Klein and Robert Payne allegedly appear to have been employees and/or salespersons of NDF. NDF's business license was revoked on September 1, 2018.
- 5. NV Property 1 was a Nevada-based LLC that was registered with the Nevada Secretary of State Commercial Recordings Division ("Commercial Recordings"), Nevada Business ID #NV20121176507. NV Property 1's business license was revoked in 2018.
- 6. NDF Capital Holdings ("NDF Capital") was a Nevada-based LLC that was registered with the Nevada Secretary of State Commercial Recordings Division ("Commercial Recordings"), Nevada Business ID#20121646746. NDF Capital's business license was revoked in 2018.
- 7. NDF used both mailings and personal contacts to solicit capital on the guise that they were offering investments with fixed interest rates of return, with the capital purportedly to be used for the development of real property for profit.
- 8. NDF provided investors with the option of being secured by deeds of trust to properties owned by NV Property 1, LLC. The alleged purpose of these deeds of trust was to give investors the assurance that they could foreclose and liquidate the assets to receive their principal back if the venture failed.
- 9. NDF allegedly used Provident Trust Group ("PTG") to hold the investments and make distribution payouts to the investors. The alleged purpose of this was to give investors the assurance that their money was being securely held by third parties.
- 10. In August 2014, an unnamed investor wired \$54,000.00 to PTG in order to invest those funds with NDF. According to the unnamed investor, both Klein and Payne promised an 8% return through a promissory note that held interest in a residential property. The maturity date for that promissory note was August 2017.
- 11. Between August 2014 and August 2017, the aforementioned unnamed investor contacted Klein and Payne on numerous occasions via text message and e-mail seeking information

relative to the initial \$54,000.00 investment, as well as requesting a copy of the document showing investment type and ownership. Throughout this time period, the unnamed investor was unable to speak directly with either Klein or Payne. Instead, the investor spoke to multiple individuals, all of whom said that someone would be in contact with them at some point relative to the status of their investment.

- 12. Throughout the first year of the loan, NDF failed to make several interest payments, namely, March 2015, May 2015, June, 2015, July 2015, and September 2015. Payments commenced in January 2016 and continued through August 2016; however, NDF failed to make payments from December 2016 through August 2017.
- 13. In late 2015, legal counsel for NDF contacted the unnamed investor and explained that Klein and Payne were illegally representing NDF and that Eckerman was entirely unaware of the fraud they perpetrated. Through legal counsel, Eckerman promised the unnamed investor a return on the investment, replacement of missed interest payments, and a return of the initial contribution.
- 14. Despite Eckerman's promises, the unnamed investor did not receive any missed or future interest payments. Further, no return of the initial investment amount was made to the unnamed investor.
  - 15. In June 2019, the Division subpoenaed NDF, PTG, and NV Property 1.
- 16. In July 2019, counsel for NDF and NV Property 1 stated that they had no documentation to produce that would be responsive to the subpoena. While providing documents that included the file for the unnamed investor, PTG's submissions did not contain any new information subsequent to material it provided the Division earlier in 2017.
- 17. In December 2019, Klein confirmed with the Division that he was employed by Eckerman and NDF. Klein further confirmed that he is a resident of Las Vegas, and was such at the time of his employment with NDF. While confirming that he solicited clients on behalf of NDF, Klein could not confirm the identities of the clients.

- 18. As of today's date, NDF, NDF Capital Holdings, and NV Property 1 have no physical presence in Nevada, no active business licenses, or any d/b/a's. Further, none of the aforementioned entities have any active websites.
- 19. According to Division records, none of the Respondents have been licensed with the Division as a sales representative of a broker-dealer or issuer. Respondents did not disclose this fact to either the unnamed investor or other investors who may have been solicited.
- 20. According to Division records, NDF never filed an application for the registration of securities, nor filed a notice of exemption from registration with the Division. Respondents did not disclose this fact to either the unnamed investor or other investors who may have been solicited.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 21. The Nevada Uniform Securities Act ("Act"), as codified in Chapter 90 of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and regulates the offer, sale, and purchase of securities in or from the State of Nevada.
- 22. Pursuant to NRS 90.220, a broker-dealer is any person who engages in the business of effecting transaction securities for the account of others.
- 23. Pursuant to NRS 90.310(1), it is unlawful for a person to transact business in Nevada as a broker-dealer unless the person is registered with the Division or is exempt from registration.
- 24. Respondents acted as an unregistered broker-dealer as a result of never being licensed with the Division as a sales representative of a broker-dealer or issuer.
- 25. Pursuant to NRS 90.250, an "investment adviser" is "any person who, for compensation, engages in the business of advising others as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities, or who, for compensation and as a part of a regular business, issues or promulgates analyses or reports concerning securities."
- 26. Pursuant to NRS 90.330(1), "it is unlawful for any person to transact business as an investment adviser or as a representative of an investment adviser unless licensed or exempt from licensing under this chapter."

- 27. Respondents violated NRS 90.330(1) by acting as investment advisors when they promised an 8% return through a promissory note that held interest in a residential property.
- 28. Pursuant to NRS 90.570, a person shall not, directly or indirectly and in connection with the offer to sell, sale, offer to purchase or purchase of a security, employ any device, scheme or artifice to defraud; make an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading in the light of the circumstances under which they are made; or engage in an act, practice or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person.
- 29. Respondents violated NRS 90.570 by not informing investors of the fact that they were not and never had been licensed with the Division as a sales representative of a broker-dealer or issuer.
- 30. Pursuant to NRS 90.630(1), if the Administrator of the Division reasonably believes that a security is being offered or has been offered or sold in violation of the Act, or that a person is acting in violation of the Act, the Administrator may issue, without a prior hearing, a Summary Order against the person engaged in the prohibited activities, directing such person to desist and refrain from further activity until the security is registered or such person is licensed under the Act.
- 31. Pursuant to NRS 90.630(2), the Administrator of the Division, after giving notice by registered certified mail and conducting a hearing in an administrative proceeding, unless the right to notice and hearing is waived by the person against whom the sanction is imposed, may: (a) issue an order against the person to cease and desist; (b) censure the person if he or she is a licensed broker-dealer, sales representative, investment adviser or representative of an investment adviser; (c) bar or suspend the person from association with a licensed broker-dealer or investment adviser in this State; (d) issue an order against an applicant, licensed person or other person who willfully violates this chapter, imposing a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each violation, or if the violation was committed against an older person or vulnerable person, a civil penalty equal to twice the amount of the civil penalty that would otherwise have been imposed pursuant to this paragraph, not to exceed \$50,000 for each violation; or (e) initiate one or more of the actions specified in NRS 90.640.

2

4

7

8

6

9 10

11

12 13

14 15

16

17 18

19

2021

22

23

2425

2627

28

#### **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

Based upon the foregoing, the Division respectfully requests the following:

- 1. That a Summary Order be entered requiring that all Respondents immediately Cease and Desist from violating the Act;
- 2. That a Final Order be entered requiring that Respondents immediately Cease and Desist from violating the Act;
- 3. That a Civil Penalty not to exceed \$25,000.00 be imposed against Respondents for each violation of the Act, including but not limited to:
  - a. Acting as an unregistered investment advisor each time he received a performance fee;
  - Acting as an unregistered salesperson each time he traded in client accounts on investor accounts;
  - c. Committing securities fraud when they failed to disclose to investors that they were not licensed to sell or advise people to sell securities products in Nevada;
  - That a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000.00 be imposed against Respondents for failing to register as a broker-dealer in Nevada while its employees traded in brokerage accounts;
  - 5. That a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000.00 be imposed against Respondents for committing securities fraud when they failed to disclose to investors that they were not licensed to sell or advise people to sell securities products in Nevada;
  - 6. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs of investigation; and
  - 7. For such other and further relief as the Hearing Officer deems just and proper.

#### STATEMENT OF RIGHTS

Respondents have a right to request a hearing on the matters set forth herein. Should you request a hearing, the Administrator shall set the matter for hearing at her earliest convenience but not less than 15 days or more than 60 days after she receives written notice of that request for a hearing. Should you request a hearing, the Administrator will notify you by registered or certified mail of the time and place set for the hearing.

Respondents have the right to be accompanied, represented, and advised by an attorney.

The Securities Division, in addition to seeking a Final Order to Cease and Desist, may also seek any of the sanctions allowed pursuant to NRS 90.630, and may seek to hold Respondents liable for the costs of the investigation in this matter if this matter should proceed to hearing. The Nevada Securities Division does not waive the right to seek criminal prosecution pursuant to 90.650.

#### POSSIBILITY OF DEFAULT

If you do not request a hearing in writing within 15 days of receipt of this notice, you waive your right to a hearing and the Administrator may issue a permanent order and grant any relief requested herein. NRS 90.800(4)(a); 90.420(1).

#### CONTACT WITH THE DIVISION

If you have questions or wish to discuss this matter, please direct your comments to the Chief of Enforcement. Should you retain counsel, please make any contacts with the office through your attorney.

Respectfully submitted this 3 day of August, 2020.

NEVADA SECURITIES DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ERIN HOUSTON

Securities Division Administrator

#### SUMMARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST

Based upon the Division's Allegations of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Respondents pose an immediate danger to the public welfare because Respondents have previously engaged in violations of the Act, are actively engaging in violations of the Act, and appear to intend to continue to violate the Act. Therefore, Respondents Michael Eckerman, Dustin Klein, Robert Payne, Novus Dia Financial, NV Property 1, and NDF Capital Holdings are hereby ordered to immediately Cease and Desist from further activities in violation of the Act, including but not limited to acting as an unregistered investment advisor, acting as a sales representative or agent of Novus Dia Financial without being licensed, and engaging in an act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person.

Michael Eckerman, Dustin Klein, Robert Payne, Novus Dia Financial, NV Property 1, and NDF Capital Holdings are likewise prohibited from seeking investors in its pooled fund as described in the registration documents submitted to the Division.

This Summary Order to Cease and Desist is effective immediately upon signing.

Dated this 3 day of August, 2020.

ERIN HOUSTON ADMINISTRATOR

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I am an employee of the Securities Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, State of Nevada, and that on this day of August 2020, I have caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Complaint for Summary and Final Order to Cease and Desist and Other Appropriate Relief to be served by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and First Class Mail, to the following:

Novus Dia, LLC c/o John E. Dawson, its Registered Agent 8925 W. Post Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89148

Employee of the Nevada Securities Division