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In the Matter of:

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# STATE OF NEVADA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE SECURITIES DIVISION

2250 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD NORTH, SUITE 400 NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89030

BRIAN A. WITTMAN INVESTMENT

COUNSEL, LLC, d/b/a WITTMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ORDER

File No. I16-157

**NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE** 

SECURITIES DIVISION

COUNSEL, LLC, d/b/a WITTMAN
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
INVESTMENT & ESTATE COUNSEL,
LLC, CRD No. 151676; and BRIAN ALAN
WITTMAN, CRD No. 4341176, an
individual,

Respondents.

TO: Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel, LLC c/o Brian A. Wittman, its Registered Agent 11201 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 100 Henderson, NV 89052

Brian A. Wittman 9 Corral de Tierra Place Henderson, NV 89052

George P. Kelesis, Esq. COOK & KELESIS

Counsel for Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel, LLC and Brian A.

Wittman, an individual 517 South 9th Street Las Vegas, NV 89101

WHEREAS, Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel, LLC, CRD No. 151676 ("BAW") is a Nevada domestic limited liability company organized on or about September 03, 2009, Nevada Business ID NV20091267709, licensed with the Nevada Securities Division ("Division") as a state

regulated investment adviser.

**WHEREAS**, for all times relevant, Brian A. Wittman, CRD No.4341176 ("Wittman") has been a resident of Henderson, Nevada, the managing member and Chief Compliance Officer of BAW, and licensed with the Division as a representative of the investment adviser.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority provided in the Nevada Uniform Securities Act ("Act") the Division initiated an investigation of Respondents to ensure compliance with and uncover violations of the Act, codified in NRS Chapter 90, and the regulations promulgated thereunder and codified in Chapter 90 of the Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC");

WHEREAS, based on the facts and circumstances revealed during the course of this investigation, the Division has alleged that Respondent violated certain laws and regulations that govern investment advisers and representatives of investment advisers in Nevada;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act and the regulations adopted thereunder, Respondents are charged with complying with all applicable requirements while engaged in any securities-related business in or from the State of Nevada;

WHEREAS, Respondents have provided written answers to the Division's inquiries and provided other evidence;

WHEREAS, Respondents have advised the Division of their agreement to voluntarily resolve the matters specified in this Administrative Consent Order ("Order") on the terms set forth herein; and;

WHEREAS, in connection with this Order, and the associated terms and Conditions, Respondent knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights in connection with this administrative matter. Respondent hereby knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights arising under the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Nevada Administrative Procedures Act, and any other legal rights that may be available to him or that may apply to him in connection with the administrative proceedings resulting from this Order, including defense and/or adjudication of any Complaint, and imposition of any disciplinary actions or sanctions ordered by the Division. Respondent agrees to settle and resolve the allegations as set out by this Order, without a hearing or any further proceedings and without the right to judicial review.

WHEREAS, as of the time of entering into this Consent Order, no formal hearing determining the allegations has been held. Respondents acknowledge that the Division has a reasonable basis to

allege that Respondents engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to Nevada Security laws. The Division acknowledges that Respondent is not admitting or denying the Division's claims.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Administrator of the Division, pursuant to the Act, hereby enters this Order:

#### **RELEVANT FACTS**

- 1. Investor #1, at all times relevant, was an advisory client of the Respondents. Investor #1 is not a financial institution engaged in the business of lending, a broker-dealer, or an affiliate of the adviser.
- 2. On or about March 11, 2014, Wittman borrowed \$600,000.00 from Investor #1 and issued and executed a promissory note in Investor #1's favor.
- 3. Prior to the Division initiating the Investigation, Respondent retired the loan with Investor #1 by paying all funds, plus interest.
- 4. Under the Nevada Uniform Securities Act, it is a violation for an investment adviser to borrow from a client unless the client is a broker-dealer, an affiliate of the investment adviser, or they are a financial institution engaged in the business of lending.
- 5. Investor #2, at all times relevant, was an advisory client of the Respondents. Investor #2 is an older person and is not a financial institution engaged in the business of lending, a broker-dealer, or an affiliate of the adviser.
- 6. Wittman recommended that Investor #2 invest in a sports figure related investment and advised Investor #2 that quarterly payments of 12% would be paid on the investment. Investor #2 invested \$ 150,000.00 on December 29, 2017 and \$ 50,000.00 on July 26, 2018 in this investment, by transferring funds to American Colocation Services, LLC.
- 7. American Colocation Services, LLC is an entity owned and managed by Mark Murphy, who has been an accountant for Brian Wittman.
- 8. The funds deposited in American Colocation Services, LLC were not utilized for an investment, but rather were utilized by Mr. Wittman personally, by a transfer to him of \$45,000.00 on July 27, 2018 and by paying the Internal Revenue Services as follows: \$91,623.00 on January 5, 2018; and \$51,000.00 on January 23, 2018.

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- 9. Millennial Lead Generation, LLC was an entity created by Respondent Wittman on or about December 31, 2014. On May 1, 2020, Respondents provided information regarding Millennial Lead Generation, LLC to the Division which included the following: that Millennial Lead Generation, LLC never had any employees, that no clients of the investment adviser were involved in the business, that it ceased doing business on 12/31/2018 and that it never generated any gross income. Millennial Lead Generation, LLC's license to do business was revoked by the Secretary of State on December 31, 2018.
- 10. Based upon a subpoena response received by the Division on or about August 4, 2020 from JP Morgan Chase Bank, Millennial Lead Generation, LLC, paid quarterly payments of \$6,000.00 to Investor #2 during 2019 and 2020. Investor #2 believed these payments were the interest payments owed on the sports figure investment.
- 11. In 2020 Wittman advised Investor #2 that due to Covid and the fact that ball players were not playing, she should get out of the fund.
- 12. On or about September 9, 2020 Investor #2 was repaid \$204,556.60 from American Colocation Services, LLC and given a letter from setting out that these funds were payment in full for the promissory notes issued by American Colocation Services, LLC.
  - 13. Investor #2 was never told that Wittman personally utilized the funds invested.
- 14. Based upon the above facts, Respondents have violated NRS 90.570, 90.590 and 90.605 by failing to provide Investor #2 with accurate information, by utilizing Investor #2's funds personally, and providing materially false information to the Nevada Securities Division regarding the use of Investor #2's funds.
- 15. Wittman earned the designation of Accredited Asset Management Specialist ("AAMS") in 2003. According to the College of Financial Planning, the issuer of this designation, the program provides advisers with a "strong fundamental financial knowledge with a specific focus on asset management and investments."
  - 16. From the time BAW became licensed in Nevada, Respondents held Wittman out as

having that certification. The designation was utilized on various places that were accessible by the public and Respondents' clients, including, but not limited to, Wittman's investment adviser business card, and on BAW's website located at WittmanCapital.com.

- 17. The Brochure sections of Respondents' ADV filed during at least the time periods set forth in the below paragraph 12, includes substantially the following information:
  - Mr. Wittman became an Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS®) in November of 2003. The AAMS® is awarded by the College for Financial Planning to investment professionals who complete its 12-module AAMS® Professional Education Program, pass an examination, commit to a code of ethics and agree to pursue continuing education. Continued use of the AAMS® designation is subject to ongoing renewal requirements. Every two (2) years the designee must renew their right to continue using the AAMS® designation by completing 16 hours of continuing education and reaffirming to abide by the Standards of Professional Conduct.
- 18. According to the College for Financial Planning, although the designation was subject to renewal every two years, Wittman had not renewed his designation since October 31, 2009 and therefore was not entitled to use the designation.
- 19. Although Wittman was no longer entitled to use the designation, the Respondents' ADV Brochure set forth the language in paragraph 10 above in each of the Brochure versions filed on the following dates:
  - a. March 31, 2015
  - b. January 18, 2016
  - c. December 19, 2016
  - d. March 30, 2017
  - e. March 26, 2018
  - f. March 27, 2018
  - g. May 23, 2018
- 20. Up to and including September 11, 2020, the Respondents' website noted that Wittman still held the AAMS designation.

- 21. Based upon the above facts, Respondents violated NRS 90.425 by claiming that Wittman held the AAMS designation for nearly eight years while Wittman was no longer entitled to use such designation.

  22. Fach ADV Brochure filing with the Division made from March 30, 2015 through May
- 22. Each ADV Brochure filing with the Division made from March 30, 2015 through May 23, 2018 contained the false information regarding the AAMS designation.
- 23. According to records maintained by the Clark County Recorder, the following tax liens have been recorded against Wittman:
  - a. On or about July 27, 2010 the Internal Revenue Service recorded a lien ("2010 Lien") in the amount of \$14,613.28, which was not released until September 14, 2010.
  - b. On or about May 23, 2017 the Internal Revenue Service lien recorded in the amount of \$49,652.31. The lien was not released until March 14, 2018.
  - c. On or about October 18, 2019, the Internal Revenue Service a lien recorded in the amount of \$50,913.28. The lien was not released until May 4, 2020.
- 24. Pursuant to NAC 90.3911(2) an investment adviser and a representative of an Investment adviser are required to update Form U-4's within 30 days of the change to the U-4 information, which required the reporting of the above tax liens. No U-4 filed for Wittman or ADV filed by BAW ever identifies any lien against Wittman.
- 25. As an investment adviser, and representative of an investment adviser, Respondents are required to provide information about the firm and its staff to the Division, through the required filing and updating of its form ADV and in its brochure on the IARD/CRD system, the filing of U-4's and through the audit and investigation process.
- 26. Respondents are required to provide information and update Wittman's U-4 through the IARD/CRD system regarding changes. The U-4 form requires that the applicant swear and affirm that they have read and understand the instructions and that the applicant's answers are true and complete to the best of their knowledge. The representatives also acknowledge that they are subject to administrative, civil or criminal penalties if they give false or misleading answers.

- 27. Similarly, the signature page to the form ADV provides that the individual signer and the investment adviser both certify, under penalty of perjury, that the information and statements made in the ADV are true and correct.
- 28. BAW has filed an ADV-W and Wittman has filed a U-5 setting forth that both are no longer providing investment advice, effective March 31, 2021.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The Division has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the Act, which authorizes the Division to regulate any person or entity acting as an investment adviser or representative of an investment adviser.
- 2. The Act, as codified in Chapter 90 of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") regulates investments advisers providing investment advice in or from the State of Nevada.
  - 3. Based upon the above facts, Respondents have violated NRS 90.425.
- 4. Based upon the above facts, Respondent Wittman has violated NAC 90.3864(1) relative to the loan from Investor #1.
- 5. Based upon the above facts, Respondents have violated NRS 90.570, 90.575, 90.590 and 90.605 regarding the investment made by Investor #2.
- 6. Based upon the above facts, Respondents have each violated NAC 90.3911(2) by failing to update Wittman's U-4 with the information regarding the three tax liens recorded by the Internal Revenue Service.
- 7. Pursuant to NRS 90.600 and NRS 90.605, Respondents are required to file accurate records and responses with the Division. Based upon the above facts, Respondents have violated NRS 90.600 and 90.605.
- 8. As set forth in NRS 90.630 and NRS 90.420, if the Administrator of the Division reasonably believes that a person is acting in violation of the Act, the Administrator may take action set forth in those sections of the Nevada Uniform Securities Act.

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On the basis of the foregoing Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Respondents' consent to this Order and voluntarily resolve this matter, the following Order is appropriate and in the public interest.

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- Respondents will cease from violating the Act and the regulations adopted hereunder and will comply with said Act and regulations now and in the future.
- 2. Respondent Brian A. Wittman's license, CRD # 4341176, as a representative of an investment adviser is hereby revoked, and Brian A. Wittman is barred from providing any services as a representative of an investment adviser, sales representative of an issuer, sales representative of a broker or dealer, act in any capacity as a representative of an investment adviser or sales representative, or be associated with a broker-dealer or investment adviser. All Nevada exemptions for the licensing of representatives of an investment adviser and sales representative are hereby revoked for Brian A. Wittman, and he shall not act in any capacity as a representative of an investment adviser or sales representative.
- 3. Respondent Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel, LLC, dba Wittman Capital Management Investment & Estate Counsel, LLC's investment adviser registration/licensing,CRD # 151676, is hereby revoked and this entity is barred from seeking any license as an investment adviser or broker-dealer. All Nevada exemptions for the licensing of an investment adviser and sales representative are hereby revoked for Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel LLC, dba Wittman Capital Management Investment & Estate Counsel, LLC.
- 4. This Order shall be binding on Brian A. Wittman and Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel, LLC and shall be fully enforceable by the Division and/or the State of Nevada should either Respondent violate the terms of this Order.
- 5. Nothing in this Order is intended to limit or create for third parties, any private remedies against Respondents. Respondents' agreements and admissions are not intended or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government regulatory agency proceeding, state or federal civil or criminal proceeding.

- 6. This Order fully resolves any causes of action that may be asserted against Respondents with respect to the facts set forth above. The compliance investigation of Respondents file no. I16-157 shall be closed as to the above Respondents.
- 7. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as a waiver of the Division's right to investigate and pursue any violations by either Respondent in connection with actions other than the actions set forth herein. Nothing in this Order shall preclude the Division from investigating additional violations or referring a matter for criminal prosecution on circumstances or facts other than those set forth above.
- 8. All agreements and admissions made by Respondents are solely for final disposition of this matter and any subsequent proceedings or litigation involving the Division and Respondents, or the State of Nevada's enforcement of this Order or any other violation of the Nevada Securities laws not based upon the above facts. Respondents shall not refute or deny any portion of this Order in any such action.
- 9.. That Respondents shall pay the costs of investigation in the sum of \$ 6,202.63 on or before the date of execution of this Order.
  - 10. This Order shall be effective as of the date on which it is signed by the Administrator.

IT IS SO ORDERED, day of lugust, 2021

NEVADA SECURITIES DIVISION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ERIN M. HOUSTON, ADMINISTRATOR

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITIES

# CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER BY BRIAN A. WITTMAN INVESTMENT COUNSEL, LLC

Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel, LLC ("BAW") hereby acknowledges that it has been served with a copy of this Administrative Order, has read the foregoing Order, is aware of its right to a hearing and appeal in this matter, and has waived the same.

BAW admits the jurisdiction of the Nevada Securities Division and consents to entry of this Order by the Nevada Securities Division as settlement of the issues contained in this Order.

BAW states that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever was made to it to induce it to enter into this Order and that it has entered into this Order voluntarily.

Brian A. Wittman represents that he is the sole managing member of BAW and that, as such, has been authorized by BAW to enter into this Order for and on behalf of BAW.

Dated this day of August, 2021.

Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel, LLC

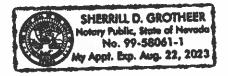
Title:

STATE OF NEVADA

COUNTY OF CLARK

Acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_\_\_day of August, 2021 by Brian A. Wittman in his capacity as Managing Member of Brian A. Wittman Investment Counsel, LLC.

Notary Public in and for the State of Nevada, County of Clark My Commission expires:



# CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER BY BRIAN A. WITTMAN

**Brian A. Wittman** hereby acknowledges that he has been served with a copy of this Administrative Consent Order ("Order"), has read the foregoing Order, is aware of his rights to a hearing and appeal in this matter, and has waived the same.

**Brian A. Wittman** admits the jurisdiction of the Securities Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, State of Nevada ("the Division") and consents to entry of this Order by the Nevada Securities Division as settlement of the issues contained in this Order.

**Brian A.** Wittman states that no promise of any kind or nature, other than the consideration set forth in the Order, was made to him to induce him to enter into this Order and that he has entered into this Order voluntarily.

DATED this \_\_\_ day of August, 2021.

Brian A. Wittman

STATE OF NEVADA

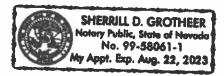
COUNTY OF CLARK

Acknowledged before me on this \_ 6

day of August, 2021, by Brian A. Wittman.

Notary Public in and for the State of Nevada, County of Clark

My Commission expires:



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