

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 1 2 MARC SPITZER Afrizonaa Corporation Commission Chairman JIM IRVIN DOCKETED 3 Commissioner WILLIAM A. MUNDELL JAN 2 8 2003 Commissioner JEFF HATCH-MILLER Commissioner 5 DOCKETED BY MIKE GLEASON Commissioner 6 In the matter of DOCKET NO. S-03472A-02-0000 SCOTTSDALE FINANCIAL FUNDING 8 GROUP, LLC DECISION NO. 65556 4000 North Scottsdale Road 9 Scottsdale, AZ 85251 10 MARTIN & GRIFFIN, LLC ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, ORDER 4000 North Scottsdale Road OF RESTITUTION, ORDER FOR 11 Scottsdale, AZ 85251 ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND **CONSENT TO SAME** 12 GREGORY B. GILL aka GREGORY P. BY: TAD LYN ULRICH and TAD L. URICH GILL, & ASSOCIATES, LLC 4015 N. 78th St. #141 13 Scottsdale, AZ 85251 14 HAYDEN KEITH HOLLAND 15 5618 E. Montecito Phoenix, AZ 85018-3223 16 TAD L. ULRICH & ASSOCIATES, LLC 13386 North 88th Place 17 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 18 TAD LYN ULRICH 13386 North 88th Place 19 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 20 SENIOR ADVISORY SERVICES, LLC 1401 Kimdale Street 21 Lehigh Acres, Florida 33936 22 WALLACE BUTTERWORTH 1411 East Orangewood Avenue #239 23 Phoenix, AZ 85020

RESPONDENTS.

24

25

TAD LYN ULRICH and TAD L. ULRICH & ASSOCIATES, LLC ("ULRICH RESPONDENTS") elect to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal under Articles 11 and 12 of the Securities Act of Arizona, A.R.S. § 44-1801 et seq. ("Securities Act") with respect to this Order To Cease And Desist ("Order"). ULRICH RESPONDENTS admit the jurisdiction of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission"); admit only for purposes of this proceeding and any other administrative proceeding before the Commission or any other administrative agency of the State of Arizona the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order; and consent to the entry of this Order by the Commission.

I.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. TAD L. ULRICH & ASSOCIATES, LLC is an Arizona limited liability company organized on March 3, 1999. It is and was at all pertinent times located at 13386 N. 88th Place, Scottsdale, Arizona, 85260.
- 2. TAD LYN ULRICH ("TAD ULRICH") is an individual whose last known address is 13386 N. 88th Place, Scottsdale, Arizona, 85260. TAD ULRICH was at all pertinent times managing member of TAD L. ULRICH & ASSOCIATES, LLC. At all pertinent times, ULRICH was a sales agent for MARTIN & GRIFFIN, LLC ("M&G") and/or SCOTTSDALE FINANCIAL FUNDING GROUP, LLC ("SFF"). ULRICH is a licensed insurance salesman in Arizona.
- 3. Beginning in or around 1999, ULRICH RESPONDENTS solicited investors in two investment programs, in which investors were told that they would receive profits from the management efforts of others: The Credit Investors, LLC "Non-Performing or Consumer Debt Program" and the M&G "Factoring or Accounts Receivable Management Program."
- 4. ULRICH was solicited to sell Credit Investors, LLC and M&G investments by GREGORY B. GILL ("GILL"), who represented himself as the managing member of M&G and a purported principal, owner, officer, director, or shareholder of Credit Investors, LLCs and of SFF.

- 5. GILL is an individual whose last known address is 4015 N. 78th St. #141, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251. On July 20, 1988, a federal grand jury indicted GILL and another cofounder of a company in Newport Beach, California called First Capital Corporation, alleging various instances of mail and wire fraud. A jury convicted GILL on one count of conspiracy and two counts of wire fraud relating to charges of preparing a phony financial statement and guaranty used to defraud investors. GILL was sentenced to five years imprisonment, five years probation, and an order to pay \$89,300 in restitution. GILL appealed the conviction, and the judgment was affirmed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Opinion No. 89-1372, United States of America v. Gregory B. Gill, decided on August 3, 1990. ULRICH asserts that he was not aware of GILL's criminal history until approximately December 2001.
- 6. ULRICH RESPONDENTS solicited private investors through public media advertisements primarily targeted to retired persons and senior citizens, within or from Arizona.
- 7. ULRICH RESPONDENTS distributed written materials, provided by GILL, to investors representing that "SFF is a finance company that specializes in analyzing and acquiring select investment alternatives for the discriminating investor demanding better than average returns without taking undue risk." SFF promised to provide investors with alternatives to the traditional market place, with returns that were competitive with stocks and bonds, and that would allow them to diversify their portfolio so that they were not dependent on the volatility that usually accompanies the traditional market place. Investors were assured that only quality investments would be made available for their benefit, and that SFF was committed to provide them profitable investment alternatives, minimize risk, and provide high growth yield.
- 8. Since around 1998, ULRICH RESPONDENTS placed monthly ads in the Senior World monthly newspaper promising "CD Alternatives" earning up to 8.5%. When prospective investors called ULRICH about CD investments in response to his ad, ULRICH placed them in SFF's and/or M&G's investment programs.

- 9. Some offerees and investors in the SFF investment programs are unsophisticated and inexperienced in investments.
- 10. Some investors were given only promotional materials and receipts or IRA custodial applications prior to their investments.

"Purchase of Non-Performing and Consumer Debt Program"

- 11. Beginning around December 1999, ULRICH RESPONDENTS solicited passive investments in a program involving the sale of membership interests in a series of companies called "Credit Investors, LLCs," ULRICH RESPONDENTS distributed marketing materials to investors describing this investment program as a "Purchase of Non-Performing and Consumer Debt," with management services to be provided by SFF.
- 12. Investor contracts for the "Purchase of Non-Performing and Consumer Debt" program include an "Operating Agreement" whereby the investor is to become a member of a limited liability company called "Credit Investors, LLCs," and a "Member Representation Agreement." The Operating Agreement represents that the nature of the business and of the purposes to be conducted and promoted by the Company shall be to engage the acquisition, collection and disposition of non-performing receivables. Salesmen describe the investment as involving "non-collected consumer credit card-type paper."
- 13. ULRICH RESPONDENTS represented to investors in written promotional materials provided by GILL that their investments in the "Purchase of Non-Performing and Consumer Debt" program involve certain risks but that SFF has taken steps to reduce the risks to investors. SFF represented that those steps include a strategic partnership between SFF and Intervention & Recovery Specialist Corp. (IRSC), a collections company that purportedly engages in the management and collection of consumer and commercial paper for profit. SFF represented that IRSC has been successfully collecting on non-performing commercial and consumer debt for over 38 years. SFF further represented that "because IRSC scrutinizes the debt first hand, we know exactly what we are purchasing, thereby minimizing the risk to our investors." ULRICH

RESPONDENTS did not disclose the address or telephone number for IRSC or the identity of any of its principals, or its financial condition. IRSC made no filing with the Arizona Corporation Commission for authorization to operate in Arizona as a domestic or foreign corporation.

- 14. Credit Investors, LLCs made no filings with the Arizona Corporation Commission for authorization to operate in Arizona as limited liability companies.
 - 15. Distributions have not been paid to most investors since around October 2001.
- 16. Approximately 32 investors invested approximately \$4,300,397 in SFF's Non-Performing and Consumer Debt "Credit Investors, LLC" program, of which ULRICH RESPONDENTS solicited at least \$1,579,694 from 15 investors, mostly Arizona residents.

"Factoring and Accounts Receivable Management Program"

- 17. Beginning around June 1999, ULRICH RESPONDENTS solicited passive investments in another program involving factored receivables allegedly purchased from a Phoenix-based company, American Business Funding Group, Inc. ("ABF"). ULRICH RESPONDENTS distributed marketing materials that represented that ABF's professional credit management team with over 20 years of experience would "perform all credit, accounting and other technical and servicing functions," and that ABF proposed to expand its business "by selling commercial accounts receivable to various independent third-party buyers. For this servicing and marketing function, ABF will receive a fee comprised of a portion of the gross fees earned by the buyer." Marketing materials referred to this program as "Factoring and Accounts Receivable Management" (the "M&G factoring program"). M&G was to purchase the accounts receivable, and the investors were to share in the profits of those investments.
- 18. The "Commercial Factoring" investment program was promoted as a "business opportunity" in which a "participant" "can project returns of 10%+ per annum in a fully secured AND INSURED environment" and "Returns with safety a promise from Scottsdale Financial Funding Group, LLC."

- 19. ULRICH RESPONDENTS told some investors that ABF and third parties manage and monitor the investment and do everything to service the investors; that SFF and M&G and their principals have a procuring agreement with ABF and perhaps other suppliers of factored paper, under which SFF and/or M&G own the receivables and that investors will share the profits from administration of the factored paper; that investors can get a distribution quarterly or reinvest the dividends, accrued quarterly, for a one-year, two-year, or three-year term; that at the end of the investment term, investors will get a return of their investment capital plus interest if any has accrued, or they have an opportunity to reinvest if they choose.
- 20. The amount of the interest or profit varies in accordance with the amount invested and the term of the investment. Although marketing materials represent the minimum investment as \$100,000, investments of \$25,000 have been accepted in the program.
- 21. ULRICH RESPONDENTS gave investors promotional materials provided by GILL that described the commercial factoring program as a "Factoring and Accounts Receivable Management" program. Investor contracts included an "Accounts Receivable Purchase Agreement" and a "Purchaser Representation Agreement."
- 22. The Purchaser Representation Agreement represents that M&G is in the business of acquiring the receivables from "Clients," and describes a sharing of interests in the receivables as follows: M&G "agrees to sell and assign to Purchaser all of its rights, title, and interest in and to each Receivable or pro rata portion thereof that Purchaser agrees to purchase. M&G shall not be obligated to sell any specific Receivables to Purchaser and nothing provided herein shall be construed to obligate M&G to provide any minimum or maximum amount of Receivables for sale to Purchaser."
- 23. The Purchaser Representation Agreement represents that the profits to be obtained by the investor are dependent on the efforts and expertise of third parties: "Since one of the most critical aspects of the Factoring business is proper due diligence with respect to the Clients, the Account Debtors, and monitoring of payments, the role of the servicers of these activities will be

3

9

12

16

17

15

18 19

20

212223

2425

26

SFF or M&G, or their principals.

26. Investors were provided no background or financial information concerning any of

amount invested by Purchasers and the terms of their investment."

27. Investors were provided no background or financial information concerning any companies whose receivables SFF and/or M&G were allegedly buying or selling.

the third parties or principals of these third parties who will purportedly provide the services that

important in determining whether Purchasers receive a return of, or any return on, their investment.

("Purchasers") will be paid from fees paid to M&G and other third parties: "Clients will receive a

discounted purchase price for Receivables they sell directly or indirectly to M&G. Upon payment

of the Receivables by the Account Debtor, the Client will receive its remaining funds. Until such

repayment, these Clients will pay monthly fees to M&G and the servicers of the Receivables,

Purchasers will receive a portion of those fees. ... This compensation may vary depending upon the

The Purchaser Representation Agreement provides that profits to investors

Investors were given no disclosure documents relating to the financial condition of

... [T]hird parties will provide these services."

24.

25.

would produce a profit for investors.

28. The contracts included statements that the investors are all "accredited," as that term is defined under securities laws. Many of the investors solicited by URLICH RESPONDENTS were unaccredited.

29. ULRICH RESPONDENTS gave investors promotional materials provided by GILL that represented that SFF receivables, in most cases, are insured to their full-face amount by insurance provided by nationally-known insurance companies and that debtors are financially sound. However, contrary to the representations contained in the promotional materials, the Purchaser Representation Agreements state: "Certain of the Receivables purchased from M&G are or will be insured to a limited extent by certain insurance policies. However, not all of the Receivables will be covered by insurance, and thus no Purchaser should acquire Receivables in reliance on insurance."

65556

7

- 30. Investors were given no specific information concerning the alleged insurance.
- 31. Investors were given no background or financial information concerning the debtors who were allegedly obligated to pay the receivables.
- 32. ULRICH RESPONDENTS gave investors promotional materials provided by GILL that represented that "You are secured by an assignment of our security to you plus we pass title to the purchased invoices to your entity. SFF manages the entire process on your behalf" However, contrary to these representations, there is no provision in the investor contracts for assigning security or passing title to purchased invoices to the investor, or for providing any security for the investments.
- 33. Investors' funds were paid to M&G. Although the records of ABF reflect some investment by M&G, there is no record on the books of ABF reflecting any investment by or on behalf of any of M&G's investors.
- 34. On February 24, 2000, ABF filed a petition in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona, for protection under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.
- 35. Sometime prior to December 1999, according to ABF's bankruptcy filings, ABF allegedly discovered that its controlling principal, Angelo Tullo, had been engaging in fraudulent activities including forging signatures to create phony receivables and companies; destroying documents and altering bank statements, client statements, buyer accounts, and other records; and misappropriating ABF investor funds "to support his lavish lifestyle and to further his ponzi scheme." As a result of the alleged fraudulent activities of former management, ABF estimated that investors lost about \$8 million.
- 36. After ABF filed for bankruptcy protection, ULRICH RESPONDENTS continued to offer and sell the M&G factoring program to investors without disclosing any of the background or financial information about ABF, or its bankruptcy.
- 37. Individual private investors solicited by ULRICH RESPONDENTS, whose funds were used to invest in ABF, were not identified as creditors in the ABF bankruptcy.

- 38. After February 2000, ABF was reorganized under new management and continued operations as New Horizon Capital, Inc. ("New Horizon"). New Horizon solicited no new private investors.
- 39. Although ULRICH RESPONDENTS continued to solicit new investors and new funds after ABF's bankruptcy, SFF and M&G invested no new funds in New Horizon and purchased no receivable paper from New Horizon or ABF since February 2000.
- 40. Approximately 59 investors invested approximately \$6,186,560 in M&G's Factoring and Accounts Receivable Management program, of which ULRICH RESPONDENTS solicited at least \$3,139,758 from 49 investors, mostly Arizona investors.
 - 41. Distributions have not been paid to most investors since around October 2001.
- 42. In connection with the offer or sale of securities within or from Arizona, RESPONDENT directly or indirectly: (i) employed a device, scheme or artifice to defraud; (ii) made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts which were necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading in light of the circumstances under which they were made; and/or (iii) engaged in transactions, practices or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon offerees and investors. ULRICH RESPONDENTS' conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a) Failing to disclose the nature of the investment;
 - b) Failing to fully disclose the risks;
 - c) Failing to provide investors with disclosure statements, prospectuses or financial statements including but not limited to past operations, balance sheets, statements of income, retained earnings, cash flows and uses of proceeds that would reflect the financial position of these entities;
 - d) Failing to disclose financial and background information about third parties that are supposed to provide management services and technical expertise necessary to produce profits for the investors;

- e) Failing to disclose the identities, the principals, or the financial condition of the "clients" from whom the receivables were purchased or the debtors that are obligated to pay the receivables;
- f) Failing to disclose that IRSC, the company responsible for providing management services and producing a profit for investors in the Credit Investors, LLCs, is not authorized to conduct business as a domestic or foreign corporation in Arizona.
- g) Failing to disclose, after February 24, 2000, that ABF filed a petition for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code;
- h) Failing to disclose, after February 2000, the alleged fraudulent conduct of the former controlling principal of ABF that resulted in the alleged loss of approximately \$8 million of investor funds; and
- i) Failing to disclose that one of the principles of M&G and SFF, GREGORY B. GILL, had a prior felony conviction for fraud involving misrepresentations in soliciting an investment and misuse of investor funds.

П.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Article XV of the Arizona Constitution and the Securities Act.
- 2. ULRICH RESPONDENTS offered or sold securities within or from Arizona, within the meaning of A.R.S. §§ 44-1801(15), 44-1801(21), and 44-1801(26).
- 3. ULRICH RESPONDENTS violated A.R.S. § 44-1841 by offering or selling securities that were neither registered nor exempt from registration.
- 4. ULRICH RESPONDENTS violated A.R.S. § 44-1842 by offering or selling securities while neither registered as a dealer or salesman nor exempt from registration.

5. ULRICH RESPONDENTS violated A.R.S. § 44-1991 by (a) employing a device	
scheme or artifice to defraud, (b) making untrue statements or misleading omissions of materia	
facts, and/or (c) engaging in transactions, practices or courses of business which operate or would	
operate as a fraud or deceit.	

- 6. ULRICH RESPONDENTS' conduct is grounds for a cease and desist order pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032.
- 7. ULRICH RESPONDENTS' conduct is grounds for an order of restitution pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032.
- 8. ULRICH RESPONDENTS' conduct is grounds for administrative penalties under A.R.S. § 44-2036.

III.

ORDER

THEREFORE, on the basis of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and ULRICH RESPONDENTS consent to the entry of this Order, the Commission finds that the following relief is appropriate, in the public interest, and necessary for the protection of investors:

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that ULRICH RESPONDENTS, and any of ULRICH RESPONDENTS' agents, employees, successors and assigns, permanently cease and desist from violating the Securities Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that ULRICH RESPONDENTS shall pay restitution to investors shown on the records of the Commission in the amount of \$4,719,452 plus interest at the rate of 10% per annum from the date of the investment, pursuant to A.A.C. R14-4-308, subject to any legal set-offs by any other Respondents and verified by the Director of Securities. Payment shall be made by cashier's check or money order payable to the "State of Arizona" to be placed in an interest-bearing account maintained and controlled by the Arizona Attorney General. The Arizona Attorney General shall disburse the funds on a pro

rata basis to investors. Any funds that the Attorney General is unable to disburse shall revert to the 1 state of Arizona. 2 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2036, that ULRICH 3 RESPONDENTS shall, jointly and severally, pay administrative penalties in the amount of 4 \$25,000. Payment shall be made in full by cashier's check or money order on the date of this 5 Order, payable to the "State of Arizona." Any amount outstanding shall accrue interest at the rate of 10% per annum from the date of this Order until paid in full. 6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective immediately. 7 BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 8 9 **CHAIRMAN** COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER 10 11 12 COMMISSIONER 13⁴ IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, BRIAN C. McNEIL, 14 Executive Secretary of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto set my hand and caused the 15 official seal of the Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this 28+ day of 16 January-, 2003. 17 18 19 Executive Secretary 20 21 DISSENT 22 23 DISSENT 24 This document is available in alternative formats by contacting Shelly M. Hood, Executive Assistant to the 25 Executive Secretary, voice phone number 602-542-3931, E-mail shood@cc.state.az.us. (PTJ) 26

CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

- 1. TAD LYN ULRICH and TAD L. ULRICH & ASSOCIATES, LLC ("ULRICH RESPONDENTS"), admit the jurisdiction of the Commission over the subject matter of this proceeding. ULRICH RESPONDENTS acknowledge that they have been fully advised of their right to a hearing to present evidence and call witnesses and ULRICH RESPONDENTS knowingly and voluntarily waive any and all rights to a hearing before the Commission and all other rights otherwise available under Article 11 of the Securities Act and Title 14 of the Arizona Administrative Code. ULRICH RESPONDENTS acknowledge that this Order to Cease and Desist, Order of Restitution, Order for Administrative Penalties and Consent to Same ("Order") constitutes a valid final order of the Commission.
- 2. ULRICH RESPONDENTS knowingly and voluntarily waive any right under Article 12 of the Securities Act to judicial review by any court by way of suit, appeal, or extraordinary relief resulting from the entry of this Order.
- 3. ULRICH RESPONDENTS acknowledge and agree that this Order is entered into freely and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.
- 4. ULRICH RESPONDENTS acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel in this matter, they have reviewed this Order with their attorney and understand all terms it contains.
- 5. ULRICH RESPONDENTS admit only for purposes of this proceeding and any other administrative proceeding before the Commission or any other administrative agency of the State of Arizona the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order.
- 6. By consenting to the entry of this Order, ULRICH RESPONDENTS agree not to take any action or to make, or permit to be made, any public statement denying, directly or indirectly, any Finding of Fact or Conclusion of Law in this Order or creating the impression that this Order is without factual basis. ULRICH RESPONDENTS will undertake steps necessary to assure that all of his agents and employees understand and comply with this agreement.

- 7. While this Order settles this administrative matter between ULRICH RESPONDENTS and the Commission, ULRICH RESPONDENTS understand that this Order does not preclude the Commission from instituting other administrative proceedings based on violations that are not addressed by this Order.
- 8. ULRICH RESPONDENTS understand that this Order does not preclude the Commission from referring this matter to any governmental agency for administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings that may be related to the matters addressed by this Order.
- 9. ULRICH RESPONDENTS understand that this Order does not preclude any other agency or officer of the state of Arizona or its subdivisions from instituting administrative, civil or criminal proceedings that may be related to matters addressed by this Order.
- 10. ULRICH RESPONDENTS agree that they will not apply to the state of Arizona for registration as a securities dealer or salesman or for licensure as an investment adviser or investment adviser representative at any time in the future.
- 11. ULRICH RESPONDENTS agree that they will not exercise any control over any entity that offers or sells securities or provides investment advisory services, within or from Arizona.
- 12. ULRICH RESPONDENTS agree that until restitution and penalties are paid in full, ULRICH RESPONDENTS will notify the Director of the Securities Division within 30 days of any change in home address or any change in ULRICH RESPONDENTS' ability to pay amounts due under this Order.
- 13. ULRICH RESPONDENTS understand that default shall render them liable to the Commission for its costs of collection and interest at the maximum legal rate.
- 14. ULRICH RESPONDENTS agree that they will continue to cooperate with the Securities Division including, but not limited to, providing complete and accurate testimony at any hearing in this matter and cooperating with the state of Arizona in any related investigation or any other matters arising from the activities described in this Order.

Docket No. S-03472A-02-0000

1	15. ULRICH RESPONDENTS consent to the entry of this Order and agree to be fully
2	bound by its terms and conditions. If ULRICH RESPONDENTS breach any provision of this
3	Order, the Commission may vacate this Order and restore this case to its active docket.
4	16. TAD LYN ULRICH represents that he is authorized by TAD L. ULRICH &
5	ASSOCIATES, LLC to enter into this Order for and on its behalf.
6	-1/1/1/1
7	10 Mich
8	TAD LYN ULRICH
9	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE me this 7 day of January, 2003.
10	Leset
11	REBEOCA KANGS PUBLIC Notary Public - Arizona MARICOPA COUNTY
12	My Commission Expires: MARICOPA COUNTY My Commission Expires OCTOBER 30, 2006
13	10-30-06
14	TAD L. ULRICH & ASSOCIATES, LLC
15	11/11-1
16	By Its Managing Member, TAD LYN ULRICH
17	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE me this 7 day of Jonuary, 2003.
18	
19	hoberen K. West
20	My Commission Expires: REBECCA K. WEST Notary Public - Arizona MARICOPA COUNTY
21	My Commission Expires OCTOBER 30, 2006
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	