

2	<u>COMMISSIONERS</u>	Arizona Corporation Commission			
3	SUSAN BITTER SMITH - Chairman		DOCKETED APR 2 3 2015		
4	BOB STUMP BOB BURNS				
5	DOUG LITTLE TOM FORESE		DOCKETED BY RID		
6			EXZ		
7	In the matter of:		DOCKET NO. S-20876A-13-0014		
8	JAMES F. LIEBES, CRD #2332174, a sing man and	le	DECISION NO. 75024		
9	LANESBOROUGH FINANCIAL GROUP				
10	LLC, an Arizona limited liability company,				
11	Respondent	S	OPINION AND ORDER		
12	DATE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE:	March 14,	2013		
13	DATES OF STATUS CONFERENCES:	April 23, 2013 and June 12, 2014			
14	DATE OF HEARING:	May 20, 2014			
15	PLACE OF HEARING:	Phoenix, Arizona			
16	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:	Marc E. Stern and Mark Preny ¹			
17	APPEARANCES:	Mr. Ryan J. Millecam, Staff Attorney, on behalf of the			
18		Securities Division of the Arizona Corporation Commission.			
19	BY THE COMMISSION:				
20	On January 28, 2013, the Securities Division ("Division") of the Arizona Corporation				
21	Commission ("Commission") filed a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing ("Notice") against James F.				
22	Liebes and Lanesborough Financial Group, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company ("LFG")				

²³ (collectively "Respondents"), in which the Division alleged multiple violations of the Arizona
²⁴ Securities Act ("Act") as an unregistered dealer or salesman in connection with the offer and sale of
²⁵ securities.

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The Respondents were duly served with copies of the Notice.

²⁸ The proceedings were held before Administrative Law Judge Marc E. Stern. Administrative Law Judge Marc E. Stern and Administrative Law Judge Mark Preny drafted the Recommended Opinion and Order.

On February 11, 2013, Respondents James F. Liebes and LFG filed a request for hearing in
 this matter.

3 On February 28, 2013, by Procedural Order, a pre-hearing conference was scheduled on
4 March 14, 2013.

5 On March 14, 2013, the parties appeared through counsel at the pre-hearing conference, and 6 requested that a status conference be scheduled in approximately 30 days while the issues raised by 7 the Notice are discussed.

8 On March 18, 2013, by Procedural Order, a status conference was scheduled on April 23,
9 2013.

10 On April 23, 2013, the Division and Respondents appeared through counsel, and while the
11 parties are attempting to resolve the issues raised in the Notice, the Division requested that a hearing
12 be scheduled.

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On April 26, 2013, by Procedural Order, a hearing was scheduled on December 2, 2013.

On May 16, 2013, a Motion to Withdraw was filed by counsel for Respondents James F. Liebes and LFG stating that his clients had failed to fulfill their financial obligations which were owed for legal services despite warnings that counsel would withdraw "if his bills were not made current." In support of his Motion to Withdraw, counsel cited Rule 1.16 of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct where the rule is set forth. Counsel served a copy of his Motion to Withdraw upon his clients and certified that his clients had been notified in writing of the status of the case including pending matters related to the proceeding.

On June 6, 2013, by Procedural Order, the Motion to Withdraw was granted and the hearing
was scheduled to commence on December 2, 2013, as previously ordered.

On November 15, 2013, the Division filed a pleading which was captioned as "Motion to Consolidate Hearings and Recommendation to Continue December 2nd Hearing". The Division's pleading stated that while the proceeding was pending, the Division had found evidence that Respondents had allegedly "committed additional ongoing violations" of the Act. As a result, the Division, on November 5, 2013, filed a Temporary Order to Cease and Desist in Docket No. S-28 20876A-13-0376 ("TC&D"). The Division stated that Respondents were not served with the TC&D

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until November 14, 2013, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1972 and A.A.C. R14-4-307, Respondents had
 20 days to request a hearing and within 30 days of service, file their Answers. The Division stated
 further that the proceedings were interrelated and should be consolidated; however, Respondents had
 not yet responded to the TC&D and it was unknown if Respondents would either request a hearing or
 file an Answer in that proceeding.

On November 20, 2013, by Procedural Order, the hearing was vacated, and the Motion to
Consolidate the two proceedings was held in abeyance until Respondents either defaulted or
requested a hearing in the TC&D proceeding.

9 On January 29, 2014, the Commission issued Decision No. 74302, a Default Order, in Docket
10 No. S-20876A-13-0376 because the Respondents had neither requested a hearing nor filed an Answer
11 in the proceeding.

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On February 12, 2014, the Division filed a Motion to Schedule Hearing in this proceeding.

13 On February 19, 2014, by Procedural Order, a hearing was scheduled to commence on May14 20, 2014.

On May 8, 2014, the Division filed a Motion to Allow Telephonic Testimony stating that it
would be unduly burdensome for an out of state witness to appear at the hearing scheduled in
Phoenix. Respondents did not file a response to this request.

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On May 14, 2014, by Procedural Order, the Division's Request was granted.

19 On May 20, 2014, a full public hearing was convened before a duly authorized Administrative 20 Law Judge ("ALJ") of the Commission at its offices in Phoenix, Arizona. The Division was present 21 with counsel, but Respondents failed to enter an appearance. At the conclusion of the proceeding, 22 after the Division had presented its evidence, the matter was taken under advisement pending 23 submission of a Recommended Opinion and Order to the Commission. However, as the proceeding 24 concluded, a representative of the Division arrived with an email from Respondent Liebes requesting 25 a continuance. The request had been received by the Division that morning, but Respondent Liebes 26 had not sent the email to the Hearing Division. Mr. Liebes requested a continuance until the fall 27 because he represented that he would not be in a position to retain counsel until August.

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On May 22, 2014, by Procedural Order, a status conference was scheduled to allow an

opportunity for Respondent Liebes to appear to address the issues raised by his email, which was
 treated as a motion to continue, and to determine the time required for a continuance in order for
 Respondent to present his evidence.

4 On June 12, 2014, at the status conference, the Division appeared through counsel and 5 Respondent Liebes again failed to appear to further discuss the need for a continuance. Notice of the proceeding had been mailed by both regular and certified U.S. mail to Respondent Liebes at his home 6 address, with neither mailing having been returned at that time.² The Division's counsel stated that 7 8 he also sent a copy of the May 22, 2014 Procedural Order scheduling the status conference to the email address from which Respondent Liebes had used to request the continuance. Neither the 9 10 Division nor the Hearing Division was contacted by Respondent Liebes after the issuance of the May 11 22, 2014 Procedural Order.

On June 13, 2014, by Procedural Order, Mr. Liebes' Motion to Continue was denied as he
failed to provide further information concerning his request for a continuance. A deadline was
ordered for the Division to file a closing brief.

On July 31, 2014, the Division filed its post-hearing brief.

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DISCUSSION

18 I. Testimony

19 This is an action brought against Respondents James F. Liebes and Lanesborough Financial 20 Group, LLC., for alleged violations of the Arizona Securities Act. The Division alleges that during 21 the years 2010, 2011 and 2012, the Respondents acted as securities dealers and/or salesmen by 22 brokering twenty transactions of shares of stock, by engaging in activity including: locating buyers 23 for the shares of stock, offering the shares for sale to buyers, negotiating sales prices, and locating 24 professionals to provide services facilitating the transfers. The Division further asserts that during 25 this time period, the Respondents made offers to sell stock in two additional transactions that did not 26 close. The Division alleges that the Respondents were not properly registered as dealers or salesmen,

^{28 &}lt;sup>2</sup> The copy sent via certified mail was later returned as unclaimed on July 28, 2014.

and therefore violated A.R.S. § 44-1842. The Division asserts that the Respondents have committed
 a total of ninety-eight violations of the Act. The Division requests that the Respondents be ordered to
 pay an administrative penalty of \$50,000 and restitution in a total amount of \$138,275.02.

4 II. Testimony

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Michael Brokaw

6 Mr. Brokaw testified that he is a senior special investigator employed by the Arizona Corporation Commission.³ In that capacity, Mr. Brokaw was assigned to conduct the Division's 7 investigation of Mr. Liebes and LFG.⁴ Mr. Brokaw testified that Mr. Liebes was a resident of 8 9 Maricopa County, Arizona from 2010 through 2013.⁵ Mr. Brokaw testified that he investigated the employment background of Mr. Liebes and found that he worked as a registered securities salesman 10 from April 1993 through December 2009.⁶ From December 25, 2009 through October 9, 2013, Mr. 11 Liebes was not registered with the Commission as a securities salesman or dealer.⁷ Mr. Brokaw 12 testified that the articles of organization for LFG, filed on October 21, 2008, identify the company as 13 14 being located in Maricopa County, Arizona, and managed by its members, with Mr. Liebes named as the sole member.⁸ From December 1, 2008 through October 9, 2013, LFG was not registered with 15 the Commission as a securities dealer.⁹ 16

Mr. Brokaw testified that pursuant to his investigation, he requested documents from
LifeLock, Inc. ("LifeLock"), to determine whether Mr. Liebes was involved with the sale of
LifeLock stock.¹⁰ The Division received a letter from counsel for LifeLock, dated April 4, 2012,
accompanied by "a spreadsheet of third party purchases/sales of LifeLock stock in which LifeLock
believes that James Liebes and/or Lanesborough Financial Group was involved for transactions
closing after January 1, 2010."¹¹ On April 17, 2012, counsel for LifeLock sent a letter to the Division
accompanied by a CD of e-mails related to "secondary market sales involving James Liebes and/or

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- $\begin{array}{c} 25 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 7r. at 12. \\ 5 \\ 1d. \end{array}$
- 26 ⁶ Tr. at 16-18; Exh. S-4.
 ⁷ Tr. at 18-19; Exh. S-1.
 ⁸ Tr. at 15-16; Exh. S-3.
 ⁹ Tr. at 19; Exh. S-2.
 ¹⁰ Tr. at 19-20.

^{28 &}lt;sup>11</sup> Tr. at 20; Exh. S-5.

1	Lanesborough Financial Group." ¹² Also received on the CD were stock agreements and other			
2	documents associated with transactions. ¹³ Mr. Brokaw testified that on July 23, 2012, the Division			
3	received an e-mail from LifeLock's counsel identifying three "secondary resales that are in process			
4	that involve Jim Liebes," one of which the Division was able to confirm as having closed. ¹⁴			
5	The documents provided to the Division by LifeLock identified the following sales or			
6	LifeLock stock in which the Respondents were involved:			
7	1. January 4, 2010: 48,000 shares sold by N.D. to three separate			
8	buyers for a total purchase price of \$144,000. ¹⁵			
9	2. January 15, 2010: 125,000 shares sold by R.M. to 14 separate			
10	buyers for a total purchase price of \$410,853.50. ¹⁶			
11	3. February 11, 2010: 50,000 shares sold by R.A.L. Revocable Trust			
12	to a single buyer for a total purchase price of \$150,000. ¹⁷ Mr.			
13	Liebes received a six percent commission (\$9,000) from the seller			
14	for this transaction. ¹⁸			
15	4. April 15, 2010: 10,158 shares sold by B.G. to a single buyer for a			
16	total purchase price of \$40,632. ¹⁹			
17	5. June 15, 2010: 35,000 shares sold by R.A.L. Revocable Trust to			
18	five separate buyers for a total purchase price of \$175,000. ²⁰ Mr.			
19	Liebes received a six percent commission (\$10,500) from the seller			
20	for this transaction. ²¹			
21	6. August 11, 2010: 29,444 shares sold by R.A.L. Revocable Trust to			
22	two separate buyers for a total purchase price of \$132,498. ²² Mr.			
23	¹² Tr. at 21-22; Exh. S-6.			
24	¹ Tr. at 30-32; Exh. S-29.			
25	Tr. at 25; Exhs. S-5, S-8.			
26	¹⁷ Tr. at 25-26; Exhs. S-5, S-9, S-18. ¹⁸ Tr. at 38-39; Exh. S-18. ¹⁹ Exhs. S-5, S-7, S-10.			

- 27 ¹⁹ Exhs. S-5, S-7, S-10.
 ²⁰ Tr. at 26; Exhs. S-5, S-18.
 ²¹ Tr. at 39; Exh. S-18.
 ²² Tr. at 26; Exhs. S-5, S-9, S-18.

Liebes received a six percent commission (\$7,95	50) from the seller
for these transactions. ²³	

- August 27, 2010: 10,000 shares sold by J.L. to a single buyer for a total purchase price of \$45,000.²⁴
- October 18, 2010: 5,555 shares sold by R.A.L. Revocable Trust to a single buyer for a total purchase price of \$24,997.50.²⁵ Mr. Liebes received a six percent commission (\$1,500) from the seller in this transaction.²⁶
- October 18, 2010: 10,000 shares sold by J.L. to a single buyer for a total purchase price of \$45,000.²⁷
- 10. November 30, 2010: 131,053 shares sold by G.W. to five separate buyers for a total purchase price of \$610,001.75.²⁸ Mr. Liebes received a commission between four and six percent from the seller for this transaction.²⁹
- 15 11. December 7, 2010: 18,392 shares sold by G.W. to a single buyer
 16 for a total purchase price of \$82,764.³⁰ Mr. Liebes received a
 17 commission between four and six percent from the seller for this
 18 transaction.³¹
- 19 12. December 7, 2010: 9,167 shares sold by S.M. to a single buyer for
 20 a total purchase price of \$41,251.50.³²
 - 13. December 7, 2010: 16,388 shares sold by LGTV II, LLC to two
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- ²⁴ Exhs. S-5, S-11.
- 25 rr. at 26; Exhs. S-5, S-9, S-18.

- 26 $\begin{bmatrix} 28 \\ 28 \end{bmatrix}$ Tr. at 26-28; Exhs. S-5, S-12.
- 27 $\begin{bmatrix} 29 & \text{Tr. at } 28. \\ 30 & \text{Tr. at } 26. \end{bmatrix}$
- $\begin{bmatrix} 27 \\ 3^{0} \text{ Tr. at } 26\text{-}28; \text{ Exhs. S-5, S-12.} \\ 3^{1} \text{ Tr. at } 28. \end{bmatrix}$
- 28 32 Exhs. S-5, S-13.

 ^{23 &}lt;sup>23</sup> Tr. at 39-40; Exh. S-18. We note that the Division's Post Hearing Brief incorrectly states the total commission from these two transactions as being \$7,750. Division Post-Hearing Brief at 8. The Division's subsequently stated totals for commissions are short by \$200 as a result. Division Post-Hearing Brief at 9, 15.

²⁵ ²⁶ Tr. at 39; Exh. S-18. ²⁷ Exhs. S-5, S-11.

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1	separate buyers for a total purchase price of \$73,746.33		
2	14. March 21, 2011: 25,000 shares sold by L.G. to a single buyer for a		
3	total purchase price of \$110,000. ³⁴ Mr. Liebes received a ten		
4	percent commission (\$11,000) from the seller for this transaction. ³⁵		
5	15. May 12, 2011: 4,583 shares sold by K.M. to a single buyer for a		
6	total purchase price of \$20,623.50. ³⁶		
7	16. June 14, 2011: 15,000 shares sold by L.G. to two separate buyers		
8	for a total purchase price of \$75,000.37 Mr. Liebes received a ten		
9	percent commission ($$7,500$) from the seller for this transaction. ³⁸		
10	17. June 21, 2011: 15,046 shares sold by LGTV II, LLC to two		
11	separate buyers for a total purchase price of \$75,230.39		
12	18. June 21, 2011: 20,000 shares sold by J.L. to two separate buyers		
13	for a total purchase price of \$100,000.40		
14	19. December 2, 2011: 33,602 shares sold by B.T. to a single buyer for		
15	a total purchase price of \$159,609.50.41 Mr. Liebes received a ten		
16	percent commission (\$15,960.95) from the seller for this		
17	transaction. ⁴²		
18	20. Shortly after July 23, 2012: 20,000 shares sold by I.G. to a single		
19	buyer for a total purchase price of \$125,000.43 Mr. Liebes received		
20	a six percent commission (\$7,500) from the seller for this		
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22	³³ Exhs. S-5, S-13.		
23	³⁴ Tr. at 28-29; Exhs. S-5, S-14. ³⁵ Tr. at 28-29.		
24	³⁶ Exhs. S-5, S-15. ³⁷ Tr. at 28-29; Exh. S-5.		
25	³⁸ Tr. at 28-29. ³⁹ Exh. S-5.		
26	40 Id. 41 Exhs. S-5, S-16, S-17.		
27	⁴² Tr. at 50-51; Exh. S-17. We note that the Division's Post Hearing Brief incorrectly states the total commission from these two transactions as being \$15,690.95. Division Post-Hearing Brief at 8-9. This typographical error is not reflected		
28	in the total commission amounts subsequently stated by the Division. Division Post-Hearing Brief at 9, 15. 43 Tr. at 30-32; Exh. S-29.		

transaction.44

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Mr. Brokaw testified that he contacted some of the investors identified in the LifeLock documents.⁴⁵ Mr. Brokaw spoke with James Baselice, one of the purchasers of stock from the January 15, 2010 transaction.⁴⁶ According to Mr. Baselice, Mr. Liebes' role in the transaction was to find buyers for the stock and connect buyers and sellers to complete the transaction.⁴⁷ Mr. Baselice also stated that he had no direct communication with the seller and that all communication was done by Mr. Liebes.⁴⁸

8 Mr. Brokaw also testified that he spoke with Bill Harris, trustee for the R.A.L. Revocable
 9 Trust.⁴⁹ According to Mr. Harris, Mr. Liebes acted as the broker for the purchase and sale of
 10 LifeLock shares held by the trust.⁵⁰

11 Mr. Brokaw testified that he spoke with Arizona resident Gary Woods, the seller of LifeLock stock in the November 30 and December 7, 2010 transactions.⁵¹ Mr. Woods was a former employee 12 of LifeLock who knew Mr. Liebes as the "go-to guy" for buying and selling LifeLock shares.⁵² Mr. 13 Woods told Mr. Brokaw that Mr. Liebes acted as broker for his two sales of LifeLock stock.⁵³ As 14 broker, Mr. Liebes connected the sellers and buyers, did all the communication, saw that necessary 15 legal work was performed, and then charged a commission for his fees.⁵⁴ Mr. Woods informed Mr. 16 Brokaw that he had no contact with the buyers and that he had paid Mr. Liebes a commission 17 between four and six percent on the transactions.⁵⁵ 18

Mr. Brokaw also contacted Linda Gustafson regarding her sales of LifeLock stock on March
21 and June 14, 2011. Mr. Brokaw testified that Ms. Gustafson and her husband knew Mr. Liebes
through a California financial group with whom Mr. Liebes had been associated.⁵⁶ The Gustafsons

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22 44 Tr. at 31-32. 45 Tr. at 25. 23 Id. Id. 24 ⁴⁸ Id. ⁴⁹ Tr. at 26. 25 Tr. at 26. Tr. at 26-27. 26 ⁵² Tr. at 27. 27 Tr. at 27-28. Tr. at 28. 28 Tr. at 29.

1 informed Mr. Brokaw that Mr. Liebes acted as broker for their two sales of LifeLock stock and that
2 they had paid him a ten percent commission for both.⁵⁷

Mr. Brokaw spoke with Ira Gaines, who sold shares of stock shortly after July 23, 2012.⁵⁸ Mr. Gaines informed Mr. Brokaw that Mr. Liebes acted as broker for the transaction by finding the buyers and sellers, initiating the legal work and, pursuant to a contract, charging a 6 percent commission of \$7,500 on the sale.⁵⁹

7 Mr. Brokaw also testified that in the course of his investigation he received bank records
8 pursuant to a subpoena, and that an examination under oath of Mr. Liebes was conducted.⁶⁰

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William Masterson Harris

Mr. Harris testified that he is a California resident formerly employed as the chief financial
officer for the Lurie Company where his duties included working on investments for Robert Lurie
and his family.⁶¹ Mr. Harris testified that he had met Mr. Liebes approximately ten years ago when
Mr. Liebes worked with the Shemano Group in San Francisco, and that he and Mr. Lurie participated
in several investments presented by Mr. Liebes.⁶² Mr. Harris testified that after Mr. Liebes left the
Shemano Group, Mr. Liebes moved to Arizona and conducted business under Lanesborough
Financial Group.⁶³ One of the investments Mr. Liebes brought to Mr. Harris was LifeLock stock.⁶⁴

Mr. Harris testified that the transactions conducted with Mr. Liebes included sales of
LifeLock stock by the Robert A. Lurie Revocable Trust.⁶⁵ Specifically, Mr. Liebes brokered deals
and received commissions for sales of LifeLock stock as follows: 1) a \$9,000 commission on
January 20, 2010 for the sale of 50,000 shares; 2) a \$10,500 commission on May 26, 2010 for the sale
of 35,000 shares; 3) a total commission of \$2,700 on June 25, 2010 for two sales totaling 9,999
shares; 4) a \$6,750 commission on July 2, 2010 for the sale of 25,000 shares; 5) a \$10,000

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24 57 *Id.*25 58 Tr. at 31; Exh. S-29.
59 Tr. at 31-32.
26 60 Tr. at 32-33; Exhs. S-20, S-21.
61 Tr. at 35-36, 44.
27 62 Tr. at 36.
63 Tr. at 37.
64 Tr. at 41.
65 Tr. at 37, 44.

commission on June 8, 2011 for the sale of 47,339 shares.⁶⁶ Mr. Liebes found the buyers for these
sales, generally contacting Mr. Harris with a buyer's offered price, though once or twice the purchase
price was negotiated.⁶⁷ Mr. Liebes also referred Mr. Harris to a lawyer, Chris Rogers, who drafted
purchase-sale agreements for most, if not all, of the transactions.⁶⁸ Mr. Harris testified that he had no
prior relationship with any of the buyers in these transactions and that usually all interactions with the
buyers was conducted by Mr. Liebes and Mr. Rogers.⁶⁹ Mr. Harris testified that he believed Mr.
Liebes brokered stock transactions full-time.⁷⁰

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Brian George Tritch

9 Mr. Tritch testified that he is an Arizona resident who was involved in initial funding meetings for LifeLock.⁷¹ At these meetings, Mr. Tritch met Mr. Liebes, who was present for the 10 Shemano Group working to raise capital for LifeLock.⁷² Subsequently, when Mr. Tritch sought to 11 12 sell his shares of LifeLock, friends referred him to Mr. Liebes as being someone who could find buyers and broker a sale.⁷³ On or about November 1, 2011, Mr. Tritch entered into an agreement 13 14 with Mr. Liebes whereby Mr. Liebes would receive a ten percent commission for brokering the sale of Mr. Tritch's 33,602 shares of LifeLock stock.⁷⁴ Mr. Tritch testified that, as agreed, Mr. Liebes 15 located a buyer, the shares were sold, and a commission fee of \$15,960.95 was paid to Mr. Liebes.⁷⁵ 16

<u>Avi Knishinsky</u>

Mr. Knishinsky is an Arizona resident.⁷⁶ Mr. Knishinsky's brother, who was aware of his
interest in stock, introduced him to Mr. Liebes.⁷⁷ Mr. Knishinsky testified that he understood Mr.
Liebes brokered stock transactions and he met with Mr. Liebes regarding an investment opportunity
in LifeLock stock.⁷⁸ Mr. Knishinsky and his brother each agreed to purchase 10,000 shares of

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22 ⁶⁶ Tr. at 38-41; Exh. S-18. ⁶⁷ Tr. at 41, 45. 23 ⁶⁸ Tr. at 42. Tr. at 43. 24 Tr. at 46. Tr. at 47-48. 25 ⁷² Id. ⁷³ Tr. at 48-49. 26 Tr. at 50; Exh. S-17. Tr. at 50-51, 53-54. 27 Tr. at 55-56. Tr. at 56. 28 ⁷⁸ Tr. at 56-57.

LifeLock stock.⁷⁹ Mr. Knishinsky testified that he did not know the seller other than by name in the
 purchase agreement, and that he had no interaction with her in connection with the transaction.⁸⁰ Mr.
 Knishinsky also testified that Chris Rogers was involved in the transaction as an attorney
 representing the seller, but that Mr. Knishinsky's understanding was that Mr. Liebes had brought Mr.
 Rogers in as an escrow agent.⁸¹ Mr. Knishinsky learned that Mr. Liebes and Mr. Rogers had worked
 together in many prior transactions.⁸²

Mr. Knishinsky testified that Mr. Liebes informed him that the purchase price was set by the
seller at \$4.45 per share, which Mr. Knishinsky paid for the 10,000 shares he purchased.⁸³ Mr.
Knishinsky understood that Mr. Liebes was to be paid a ten percent commission on the sale.⁸⁴ Mr.
Knishinsky's brother funded a similar transaction with Mr. Liebes to receive a commission on that
sale as well.⁸⁵ The combined purchase price for both Mr. Knishinsky and his brother totaled
\$89,000.⁸⁶

Mr. Knishinsky testified that while he and his brother paid for the transactions, they did not receive the stock as a third party held a right of first refusal.⁸⁷ Mr. Knishinsky was not informed of this situation before making his payment on January 10, 2011.⁸⁸ Even though Mr. Knishinsky received no stock, the purchase money was immediately released to the seller and Mr. Liebes received his commission.⁸⁹ Mr. Knishinsky testified that, per Mr. Rogers, Mr. Liebes and Mr. Rogers had prefunded several stock transactions like this before.⁹⁰ Mr. Knishinsky and his brother were returned their money on or about March 27, 2011.⁹¹

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James F. Liebes

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Mr. Liebes did not appear at the hearing on May 20, 2014. However, Mr. Liebes did appear

22 ⁷⁹ Tr. at 57; Exh. S-19. Tr. at 57-58. 23 Tr. at 58; Exh. S-19. Tr. at 58. 24 Tr. at 59-60. Tr. at 59. 25 Tr. at 60. ⁸⁶ Exh. S-19. 26 Tr. at 60-61, 63-64; Exh. S-19. Tr. at 60-61, 63, 65; Exh. S-19. 27 Tr. at 61-64. ⁹⁰ Tr. at 62. 28 ⁹¹ Tr. at 61, 65; Exh. S-19.

and give sworn testimony at an Examination Under Oath on June 7, 2012.⁹² Mr. Liebes testified that 1 he has always been the sole member of LFG and that he is the custodian of records for LFG.⁹³ When 2 asked whether he or LFG possessed any documents that would be responsive to the Division's 3 subpoenas in this case, Mr. Liebes asserted his Fifth Amendment privilege.⁹⁴ When asked to describe 4 his role in transactions involving the sales of LifeLock stock from 2010, Mr. Liebes asserted his Fifth 5 Amendment privilege.⁹⁵ When asked if he has engaged at least part-time as an agent or broker in the 6 7 business of offering, selling or dealing securities, or if he has engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for other persons, Mr. Liebes asserted his Fifth Amendment privilege.⁹⁶ 8 9 When asked if he received compensation in the form of a commission for engaging in such services, Mr. Liebes asserted his Fifth Amendment privilege.⁹⁷ When asked if he had been involved in twelve 10 11 or more such securities transactions in 2010, and eight or more such securities transactions in 2011, Mr. Liebes asserted his Fifth Amendment privilege.98 12

13 III. Legal Argument

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Violation of Registration Requirement

15 The Division contends that Respondents Mr. Liebes and LFG have violated A.R.S. § 44-1842

16 by selling and offering to sell securities within or from Arizona without being registered as dealers.⁹⁹

17 The Division asserts that Respondents Mr. Liebes and LFG meet the statutory definition of dealers.¹⁰⁰

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 - ⁹² Exh. S-20.
- 19 ⁹³ Exh. S-20 at 6-8.
 - 94 Exh. S-20 at 8, 10.
- 20 95 Exh. S-20 at 19-20.
- ⁹⁶ Exh. S-20 at 20-21. ⁹⁷ Exh. S-20 at 23.
- 21 $\int_{98}^{97} Exh.$
- 22 ⁹⁹ A.R.S. § 44-1842. Transactions by unregistered dealers and salesmen prohibited; classification
- A. It is unlawful for any dealer to sell or purchase or offer to sell or buy any securities, or for any salesman to sell or offer for sale any securities within or from this state unless the dealer or salesman is registered as such pursuant to the provisions of article 9 of this chapter.
- 24 B. A person violating this section is guilty of a class 4 felony.
 - ¹⁰⁰ A.R.S. § 44-1801 provides, in pertinent part:
- 25 In this chapter and chapter 13 of this title, unless the context otherwise requires ...
- 9. "Dealer":

27 regulated by an agency of this state or the United States.

28 (b) Means an issuer, other than an investment company, who, directly or through an officer, director, employee or agent who is not registered as a dealer under this chapter, engages in selling securities issued by such issuer.

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^{26 (}a) Means a person who directly or indirectly engages full-time or part-time in this state as agent, broker or principal in the business of offering, buying, selling or otherwise dealing or trading in securities issued by another person, and who is not a salesman for a registered dealer or is not a bank or savings institution the business of which is supervised and

Specifically, the Division contends that Respondents Mr. Liebes and LFG engaged full-time in 1 2 conducting securities transactions, as evidenced by Mr. Liebes' employment as a securities salesman since 1993, his being known as a securities broker from 2010 through 2012, and the LifeLock stock 3 4 transactions with which he was involved during that period. The Division contends that Mr. Liebes acted as an agent¹⁰¹ by "act[ing] on behalf of sellers in finding and communicating with buyers, 5 negotiating the sale price, obtaining legal counsel, and communicating with Lifelock counsel."102 6 The Division further contends that Mr. Liebes acted as a broker¹⁰³ by finding buyers for persons who 7 8 contacted him to sell their LifeLock shares, handling the negotiation of sales prices generally without 9 any direct correspondence between the buyer and seller, arranging counsel for the transactions, and 10 being involved in communications through all stages of the transaction. The Division asserts that Mr. 11 Liebes conducted these actions through his entity, LFG, which thereby also acted as a broker. The Division asserts that the actions of Mr. Liebes meet the statutory definition of sale¹⁰⁴ or offer to 12 13 sell.¹⁰⁵ The Division contends that since Mr. Liebes and LFG were not registered as securities 14 dealers for the relevant time period between 2010 through 2012, as established by the testimony and 15 evidence of record, the Respondents have violated A.R.S. § 44-1842.

- 16
- 17 (c) Does not include a person who sells or offers to sell securities exclusively to dealers registered under this chapter, and who has no place of business within this state.
- 18 (d) Does not include a person who buys or sells securities for his own account, either individually or in a fiduciary capacity, but not as part of a regular business.
- ¹⁰¹ Not defined statutorily by the Securities Act or the Federal Securities Exchange Act, "agent" is defined in Black's Legal Dictionary as "One who is authorized to act for or in place of another; a representative." *Black's Law Dictionary* 64 (7th Ed. 1999).
- ¹⁰² Division Post-Hearing Brief at 11.

¹⁰³ Undefined by the Arizona Securities Act, under the Federal Securities Exchange Act, broker "means any person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for the account of others." 15 U.S.C. § 78c (a)(4)(A).
 ¹⁰⁴ A.R.S. § 44-1801 provides, in pertinent part:

- 23 21. "Sale" or "sell" means a sale or any other disposition of a security or interest in a security for value, and includes a contract to make such sale or disposition. A security given or delivered with, or as a bonus on account of, a purchase of securities or other thing shall be conclusively presumed to constitute a part of the subject of the purchase and to have been sold for value.
- 25 A.R.S. § 44-1801 provides, in pertinent part:

In this chapter and chapter 13 of this title, unless the context otherwise requires ...

In this chapter and chapter 13 of this title, unless the context otherwise requires ...

^{26 15. &}quot;Offer to sell" or "offer for sale" means an attempt or offer to dispose of, or solicitation of an order or offer to buy, a security or interest in a security for value or any sale or offer for sale of a warrant or right to subscribe to another security of the same issuer or of another issuer. Any sale or offer for sale of a security which gives the holder thereof a present or

²⁷ future right or privilege to convert such security into another security of the same issuer or of another issuer shall be deemed an offer to sell the security to be acquired pursuant to such right or privilege, but the existence thereof shall not be

²⁸ construed as affecting the registration or exemption under this chapter of the security to which it attaches.

The Division further contends that, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2033 the Respondents bear the 1 burden of proof to establish an exemption from registration.¹⁰⁶ The Respondents, having failed to 2 participate in the hearing, have presented no evidence that an exemption may apply. During his 3 examination under oath, Mr. Liebes repeatedly asserted his Fifth Amendment privilege not to testify 4 when asked questions regarding his involvement in transactions of LifeLock stock and whether he 5 had acted as an agent or broker in the sale of securities since 2010. The Division contends that an 6 7 adverse inference should be drawn from Mr. Liebes' invocation of his Fifth Amendment right. In 8 civil proceedings, an adverse inference may be drawn from a party's invocation of Fifth Amendment 9 privilege when the party's silence is countered by independent evidence of the fact being auestioned.¹⁰⁷ The Division further contends that even if the securities or transactions in this case 10 11 were exempt, the Respondents were required to be registered as dealers under the Commission rules, in particular A.A.C. R-14-4-104(4) and A.A.C. R-14-4-104(5).¹⁰⁸ 12

The evidence of record establishes that the Respondents acted as securities dealers who sold and offered to sell securities within Arizona from 2010 through 2012. During this time, the Respondents were not registered as required by the Act. The Respondents have failed to submit evidence that any of these transactions were exempt from registration. Even if one or more of these transactions were found exempt, the record contains no evidence that the Respondents were not required to be registered as dealers under the Commission rules. The weight of the evidence

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¹⁰⁶ A.R.S. § 44-2033. Burden of proof of exemptions

In any action, civil or criminal, when a defense is based upon any exemption provided for in this chapter, the burden of proving the existence of the exemption shall be upon the party raising the defense, and it shall not be necessary to negative the exemption in any petition, complaint, information or indictment, laid or brought in any proceeding under this chapter.

23 ¹⁰⁸ A.A.C. R14-4-104 provides, in pertinent part:

4. Securities transactions exempt from registration under A.R.S. 44-1844(A)(1), R14-4-126(E), or R14-4-126(F) if the dealer or salesman is engaged principally and primarily in the business of making a series of private offerings. For the

15

 28 whether the securities are of the same or different issuers.

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^{22 &}lt;sup>107</sup> Doe ex rel. Rudy-Glanzer v. Glanzer, 232 F.3d 1258, 1264 (9th Cir. 2000); see also Montoya v. Superior Court In & For Cnty. of Maricopa, 173 Ariz. 129, 131, 840 P.2d 305, 307 (Ct. App. 1992).

Notwithstanding A.R.S. §§ 44-1843 and 44-1844, a dealer or salesman shall register under A.R.S. Title 44, Chapter 12, Article 9 before engaging in transactions in any of the following: ...

²⁵ dealer or salesman is engaged principally and primarily in the business of making a series of private offerings. For the purposes of this Section, "series" means in excess of four private offerings within, from, or outside Arizona in any 26 consecutive 12-month period.

^{5.} Securities transactions exempt from registration under A.R.S. § 44-1844(A)(4) if the dealer or salesman receives compensation or engages or offers to engage in repeated or successive transactions of a similar character. "Repeated or successive transactions of a similar character. "Repeated or

successive transactions of similar character" include transactions that occur sufficiently close in time to reasonably indicate continuity or association, whether the transactions are made on behalf of one or more securities owners, and whether the securities are of the same or different issuers.

establishes that the Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1842 by engaging in securities transactions as
 unregistered dealers.

Restitution

3

The Division contends that the Commission should order the Respondents pay restitution in the amount of \$138,275.02. The Division reaches this sum from the above-identified twenty stock transactions by stating that the sellers in transaction numbers 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 19 and 20 paid commissions totaling \$98,421.58, assuming a four percent commission was paid by Mr. Woods in transactions 10 and 11. The Division then applies the most conservative reported commission, four percent, to the remaining transactions to reach a total of \$39,853.44 for those ten transactions.

The Commission has the authority to order restitution pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032.¹⁰⁹ The evidence of record established that the Respondents received total commissions of \$70,910.95 from eight transactions (nos. 3, 5, 6, 8, 14, 16, 19, and 20). An order of restitution in this amount for the benefit of the sellers in these eight transactions is appropriate.

14 The weight of the evidence further established that Mr. Woods paid the Respondents a 15 commission for the two sales of his stock (transaction nos. 10 and 11). However, the record is 16 inconclusive as to the amount of the commissions for these two transactions. As for the remaining 17 ten transactions, the Division contends that the lowest rate of commission otherwise in evidence, four 18 percent, should be applied to the purchase prices to determine restitution. The record contains 19 insufficient evidence as to what commissions, if any, the Respondents received for these twelve transactions. The Division bore the burden of proof to establish both the necessity and the amount of 20 21 any award of restitution. We cannot assume facts not in evidence to make an order of restitution. 22 Accordingly, we decline to order restitution arising from these twelve transactions.

23 24

²⁵ A.R.S. § 44-2032 provides, in pertinent part:

If it appears to the commission, either on complaint or otherwise, that any person has engaged in, is engaging in or is about to engage in any act, practice or transaction that constitutes a violation of this chapter, or any rule or order of the commission under this chapter, the commission, in its discretion may:

^{1.} Issue an order directing such person to cease and desist from engaging in the act, practice or transaction, or doing any other act in furtherance of the act, practice or transaction, and to take appropriate affirmative action within a reasonable period of time, as prescribed by the commission, to correct the conditions resulting from the act, practice or transaction

²⁸ including, without limitation, a requirement to provide restitution as prescribed by rules of the commission. ...

Administrative Penalties

1

2 The Division recommends that the Respondents be ordered to pay an administrative penalty in 3 the amount of \$50,000. The Division alleges that the Respondents committed a total of ninety-eight 4 violations of the Securities Act. The Division asserts that the Respondents committed two violations 5 of A.R.S. § 44-1842 by offering securities, without being registered, to two individuals in transactions that did not close. The Division contends that the Respondents committed forty-eight 6 7 violations of A.R.S. § 44-1842 by selling LifeLock stock, without being registered, to forty-eight 8 buyers in twenty transactions. The Division further asserts that those forty-eight sales should also be 9 counted as forty-eight offers and, therefore, forty-eight additional violations of A.R.S. § 44-1842. 10 The Division argues that Mr. Liebes' prior registration and knowledge of licensing requirements 11 make the violations especially egregious.

The evidence of record established that the Respondents acted as unregistered dealers in fortyeight sales of stock, each of which constituted a violation of A.R.S. § 44-1842. In brokering these sales, the Respondents offered for sale, or solicited offers to buy, shares in LifeLock stock, thereby constituting an additional forty-eight violations of A.R.S. § 44-1842. The Respondents also acted as unregistered dealers in an additional two offers for sale that did not close, constituting another two violations of A.R.S. § 44-1842.

18 Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2036(A), the Commission has authority to assess an administrative penalty.¹¹⁰ As the Division notes, Mr. Liebes did have knowledge of the registration requirements. 19 20 However, in considering an appropriate amount of an administrative penalty, we have considered 21 other factors that we find to be mitigating: the lack of any allegation of fraud; the amount of 22 restitution; the number of transactions as compared to the number of violations; the degree of harm to 23 either investors or sellers in those transactions; and the return of investment funds to those buyers 24 whose transactions did not close. Under the totality of the circumstances, we find it reasonable and 25 appropriate to assess a total administrative penalty of \$20,000 in this case.

26

²⁷ A.R.S. § 44-2036 provides, in pertinent part:

A. A person who, in an administrative action, is found to have violated any provision of this chapter or any rule or order
 of the commission may be assessed an administrative penalty by the commission, after a hearing, in an amount of not to exceed five thousand dollars for each violation.

1	* * * * * * * * *			
2	Having considered the entire record herein and being fully advised in the premises, the			
3	Commission finds, concludes, and orders that:			
4	FINDINGS OF FACT			
5	1. James F. Liebes was an Arizona resident from 2010 through 2013. ¹¹¹			
6	2. From 1993 through December 24, 2009, Mr. Liebes worked as a registered securities			
7	salesman. ¹¹²			
8	3. From December 25, 2009 to October 9, 2013, Mr. Liebes was not registered with the			
9	Commission as a securities salesman or dealer. ¹¹³			
10	4. On October 21, 2008, LFG was organized as a member managed Arizona limited			
11	liability company with Mr. Liebes as the sole member. ¹¹⁴			
12	5. From December 1, 2008 to October 9, 2013, LFG was not registered with the			
13	Commission as a securities dealer. ¹¹⁵			
14	6. Though not registered as a securities dealer or salesman, Mr. Liebes had developed a			
15	reputation for brokering sales of LifeLock stock. ¹¹⁶			
16	7. From 2010 through 2012, Mr. Liebes brokered 20 transactions of LifeLock stock			
17	which included sales to forty-eight purchasers. ¹¹⁷			
18	8. Mr. Liebes role in these transactions included locating buyers, handling			
19	communications between the buyers and sellers, and ensuring that necessary legal work was			
20	performed. ¹¹⁸			
21	9. Mr. Liebes conducted these transactions through LFG, emailing buyers and sellers			
22	from an LFG email address with a footer containing LFG contact information, and entering sales			
23	service contracts under LFG. ¹¹⁹			
24	111 Tr. at 14.			
25	1 ¹¹¹ Ir. at 18-19; Exh. S-1.			
26	17. at 19; Exn. S-2.			
27	11. at 23-32; EXIIS. 5-3-5-16, 5-29.			
28	¹¹⁸ Tr. at 25, 27-28, 32, 41-43, 45. ¹¹⁹ Tr. at 37; Exhs. S-7, S-10, S-17, S-18, S-19.			

1	10.	Mr. Liebes received commissions totaling at least \$70,910.95 from sellers for his work
2	in these transa	ctions. ¹²⁰

3 11. On or about January 10, 2011, Mr. Liebes, through LFG, received a total of \$89,000
4 from two persons seeking to purchase a combined 20,000 shares of LifeLock stock based upon an
5 offer made to them by Mr. Liebes.¹²¹

6 12. The two January 2011 sales did not close, and the two buyers did not receive their
7 money back until March 27, 2011.¹²²

8 13. These findings of fact are based upon the Discussion above, and those findings are
9 also incorporated herein.

10

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Article XV of the
 Arizona Constitution and the Securities Act of Arizona, A.R.S. § 44-1801, et. seq.

13 2. The findings and conclusions of law contained in the Discussion above are14 incorporated herein.

3. Within or from Arizona, the Respondents offered or sold securities, within the
meaning of A.R.S. § 44-1801.

17 4. Respondents acted as a dealer and/or a salesman within the meaning of A.R.S. § 4418 1801(9) and (22).

19 5. Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1842 by offering or selling securities while neither
20 registered as dealers or salesmen nor exempt from registration.

21 6. Respondents' conduct is grounds for a cease and desist order pursuant to A.R.S. § 4422 2032.

7. Respondents' conduct is grounds for an order of restitution pursuant to A.R.S. § 4424 2032.

8. Respondents' conduct is grounds to order administrative penalties pursuant to A.R.S.

26 § 44-2036.

 $\begin{array}{c|c} 28 & 1122 \\ \hline 122 \\ Tr. at 60-65; Exh. S-19. \\ \end{array}$

^{27 &}lt;sup>120</sup> Tr. at 28-29, 31-32, 38-40, 50-51; Exhs. S-17, S-18. ¹²¹ Tr. at 57; Exh. S-19.

<u>ORDER</u>

1

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission
under A.R.S. § 44-2032, Respondents James F. Liebes, and Lanesborough Financial Group shall
cease and desist from their actions, as described above, in violation of A.R.S. § 44-1842.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under
A.R.S. § 44-2032, Respondents James F. Liebes, and Lanesborough Financial Group shall make
restitution in the amount of \$70,910.95, payable to the Arizona Corporation Commission within 90
days of the effective date of this Decision. Such restitution shall be made pursuant to A.A.C. R14-4308 subject to legal setoffs by the Respondents and confirmed by the Director of Securities.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all ordered restitution payments shall be deposited into an
 interest-bearing account(s), if appropriate, until distributions are made.

12 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the ordered restitution shall bear interest at the rate of the 13 lesser of 10 percent *per annum*, or at a rate *per annum* that is equal to one percent plus the prime rate 14 as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System of Statistical Release H.15, or 15 any publication that may supersede it on the date that the judgment is entered.

16 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission shall disburse the restitution funds on a 17 pro rata basis to the investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any restitution funds that the 18 Commission cannot disburse because an investor refuses to accept such payment, or any restitution 19 funds that cannot be disbursed to an investor because the investor is deceased and the Commission 20 cannot reasonably identify and locate the deceased investor's spouse or natural children surviving at 21 the time of distribution, shall be disbursed on a pro rata basis to the remaining investors shown on the 22 records of the Commission. Any funds that the Commission determines it is unable to or cannot 23 feasibly disburse shall be transferred to the general fund of the State of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents James F. Liebes and Lanesborough Financial Group shall pay to the State of Arizona administrative penalties in the amount of \$20,000 for Lanesborough Financial Group's and Mr. Liebes' multiple violations of the registration provisions of the Securities Act, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 44-2036. Said administrative penalties shall be payable by either cashier's check or money order payable to "the State of Arizona" and presented to the Arizona

DECISION NO. **75024**

1 Corporation Commission for deposit in the general fund for the State of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the payment obligations for these administrative penalties
shall be subordinate to the restitution obligations ordered herein and shall become immediately due
and payable only after restitution payments have been paid in full or upon Respondents' default with
respect to Respondents' restitution obligations.

6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Respondents fail to pay the administrative penalties 7 ordered hereinabove, any outstanding balance plus interest, at the rate of the lesser of ten percent *per* 8 *annum* or at a rate *per annum* that is equal to one percent plus the prime rate as published by the 9 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Statistical Release H.15 or any publication that 10 may supersede it on the date that the judgment is entered, may be deemed in default and shall be 11 immediately due and payable, without further notice.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if any of the Respondents fail to comply with this Order, any outstanding balance shall be in default and shall be immediately due and payable without notice or demand. The acceptance of any partial or late payment by the Commission is not a waiver of default by the Commission.

16 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that default shall render Respondents liable to the Commission
17 for its cost of collection and interest at the maximum legal rate.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if any of the Respondents fail to comply with this Order,
 the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against the Respondent(s) including application
 to the Superior Court for an order of contempt.

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- 23 . . .
- 24 . . .
- 25 ...

26 ...

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28 . . .

DECISION NO.

1	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1974, upon application the			
2	Commission may grant a rehearing of this Order. The application must be received by the			
3	Commission at its offices within twenty (20) calendar days after entry of this Order. Unless otherwise			
4	ordered, filing an application for rehearing does not stay this Order. If the Commission does not grant			
5	a rehearing within twenty (20) calendar days after filing the application, the application is considered			
6	to be denied. No additional notice will be given of such denial.			
7	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Decision shall become effective immediately.			
8	BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION.			
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10	Annald Vichet			
11	CHAIRMAN COMMISSIONER			
12	MA The fores Much Burn			
13	COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER			
14				
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, JODI JERICH, Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have			
16	hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix,			
17	this <u>23rd</u> day of <u>April</u> 2015.			
18	Ail Asiat			
19	JODI JERICH			
20	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR			
21	DISSENT			
22				
23	DISSENT			
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	22 DECISION NO. 75024			

1	SERVICE LIST FOR:	JAMES F. LIEBI		ANESBOROU	ЭH
2		FINANCIAL GROUP,	LLC.		
3	DOCKET NO.:	S-20876A-13-0014			
4	James F. Liebes				
5	6301 E. Vista Drive Paradise Valley, AZ 85253				
6	Lanesborough Financial Group, LLC 7373 E. Doubletree Ranch Road, Suite 125				
7	Scottsdale, AZ 85258				
8	Matt Neubert, Director Securities Division				
9	ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSIC	DN			
10	1300 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007				
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