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DEC 29, 2008

STEVEN M. LARIMORE CLERK U.S. DIST. CT. S.D. OF FLA. MIAMI

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO.

08-81565-CIV-HURLEY/HOPKINS
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

٧.

CREATIVE CAPITAL CONSORTIUM, LLC, A CREATIVE CAPITAL CONCEPTS, LLC, and GEORGE L. THEODULE,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND OTHER RELIEF

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission alleges:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Commission brings this action to enjoin Creative Capital Consortium, LLC ("Consortium"), A Creative Capital Concept\$, LLC ("Concept\$") (collectively "Creative Capital" or "the Companies"), and George L. Theodule from continuing to defraud investors through their violations of the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws.
- 2. From at least November 2007 to the present, Theodule, directly and through the Companies, has raised at least \$23.4 million from thousands of investors in an ongoing fraud and Ponzi scheme targeting mostly Haitian and Haitian-American investors nationwide.
- 3. Theodule solicits investments for the Companies primarily during in-person presentations where he guarantees prospective investors a 100% return on their investment within 90 days based on his successful trading of stocks and options.
- 4. In reality, Theodule has lost at least \$18 million trading stocks and options over the last year. In addition, Creative Capital merely repaid earlier investors with approximately

\$15.2 million collected from new investors in typical Ponzi scheme fashion. Finally, Theodule has commingled investor funds with his personal funds and misappropriated at least \$3.8 million for himself and his family members.

- 5. As recently as mid-December, the Defendants have continued to solicit new investors and repeated the false claims about Theodule's trading prowess.
- 6. Through this ongoing fraudulent conduct, the Defendants have violated and, unless restrained and enjoined, will continue to violate Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)], and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

DEFENDANTS

- 7. Concept\$ is an inactive Florida limited liability company organized in November 2007. Theodule is Concept\$'s manager, along with two other individuals. Concept\$ was the initial entity Theodule used to raise funds from investors until he formed Consortium.
- 8. Consortium is a Florida limited liability company organized in January 2008 with its principal place of business in Lake Worth, Florida. Consortium became the primary entity through which Theodule raised investor funds and transacted business with investment clubs.
- 9. Theodule, 48, currently resides in Loganville, Georgia, where he relocated from Wellington, Florida in September 2008. He is the managing member of the Companies and solicited investors.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 21(d), 21(e), and 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d), 78u(e), and 78aa].

- 11. The Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants, and venue is proper in the Southern District of Florida because many of the Defendants' acts and transactions constituting violations of the Exchange Act occurred in the Southern District of Florida. In addition, Creative Capital's principal place of business is in the Southern District of Florida, and until recently Theodule resided in the Southern District of Florida.
- 12. In connection with the conduct alleged in this Complaint, the Defendants, directly and indirectly, singly or in concert with others, have made use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, the means or instruments of transportation and communication in interstate commerce, and the mails.

THE DEFENDANTS' FRAUDULENT INVESTMENT SCHEME

A. Overview of the Scheme

- 13. The Defendants have engaged in a fraudulent Ponzi scheme primarily targeting the US Haitian community since at least November 2007.
- 14. Theodule ingratiates himself with investors by claiming he recently decided to offer his investment expertise to help build wealth in the Haitian community. He also tells investors he uses part of his trading profits to fund start-up businesses in the Haitian community, as well as business projects in Haiti and Sierra Leone.
- 15. The Defendants primarily attract investors through word-of-mouth, and Theodule makes his representations during face-to-face meetings in which he touts his ability to double investor funds in just 90 days. Theodule typically depicts his investment plan and incredible profits trading stocks and options on dry erase boards or flip charts.
- 16. Theodule also routinely boasts to investors about Creative Capital's high rates of return, and stresses the need to begin investing as soon as possible. He told one investor he had

made millionaires out of a significant number of people in the time it had taken her to decide to invest, and pressured her to liquidate the equity in her home to invest with him.

- 17. The Defendants' presentations also emphasize the safety and security of investing with them. They guarantee investors 100% returns with no risk, and claim to invest in the stocks and options of well-known companies such as Google, John Deere, Monsanto, Best Buy, GameStop, and others.
- 18. Since the commencement of the investment scheme, the Defendants have raised more than \$23.4 million from thousands of investors nationwide.

B. Investor Funds Are Also Raised Through a Network of Investment Clubs

- 19. To add to investors' sense of security, Theodule directs prospective investors to form "investment clubs," which a purported self-regulatory agency, Smart Investment Management Services, LLC ("SIMS"), helps the investors form. This entity also supposedly protects investors through independent verification of their deposits.
- 20. In reality, SIMS is a private company run by a former Creative Capital employee and not a regulatory entity.
- 21. The investment clubs pool investor funds and send them to Creative Capital for a 90-day period, during which Theodule purportedly trades stocks and options on behalf of the investment club members.
- 22. Unlike a real investment club, the members do not participate in making investment decisions, rarely have club meetings, and deposit funds exclusively with the Defendants.
- 23. Thus, the investment clubs serve principally as vehicles to funnel funds to Theodule and Creative Capital.

- 24. The investment clubs typically require a minimum \$1,000 investment per investor, which the investor may not withdraw for the 90-day investment period.
- 25. The investment clubs deposit the investors' funds into their own bank accounts, pool the funds, and remit the money to Creative Capital, minus a 10% club commission.
- 26. At the end of the 90-day investment period, when the Defendants have purportedly doubled the investment amount, they supposedly return the principal and profits back to the investment clubs, minus a 40% commission on the profits. Prior to distributing the proceeds back to the individual club members, the investment clubs typically charge a second 10% commission on the principal.

C. Fraudulent Misrepresentations and Omissions

- 27. In connection with Defendants' fraudulent Ponzi scheme, they have made and continue to make numerous material misrepresentations and omissions regarding Creative Capital's business, Theodule's stock trading, and the use of investor funds.
- 28. For example, Theodule's claim of success trading stocks and options is demonstrably false. Of the more than \$18.3 million deposited in brokerage accounts Theodule controls, he has lost approximately 97% of those funds trading stocks and options. In fact, Theodule has consistently lost money trading in those accounts since November 2007, and has never generated net trading profits.
- 29. However, Creative Capital hid those losses from current and prospective investors, paying principal and purported profits to existing investment clubs and individual investors of approximately \$15.2 million from new investor funds.

- Additionally, Theodule claims he uses trading profits to fund new business 30. ventures, some of which benefit the Haitian community in the United States and Haiti, and others in Sierra Leone.
- In reality, there were no trading profits, and most of the funds the Defendants 31. disbursed went to pay earlier investors their purported profits, not fund business projects.
- Theodule's representations about the safety and security of investors' funds are 32. also patently false. SIMS is not a regulatory agency, but rather a private entity that was, until recently, headed by a former Creative Capital employee.
- Further, there is no evidence that SIMS has access to or otherwise verifies the 33. deposits to ensure the safety of investor funds. To the contrary, Theodule has commingled investor funds extensively with his own personal accounts and has misappropriated at least \$3.8 million. This includes net transfers of at least \$1.7 million to his personal bank accounts, cash withdrawals of more than \$1.5 million and more than \$600,000 for apparent personal expenses such as two luxury vehicles, credit card bills, a wedding payment, and a house down payment.
- Thus, Theodule misrepresented the safety and security of the Creative Capital 34. investments when he led investors to believe: they could withdraw their funds any time after the initial 90-day investment period; there was no risk; and SIMS verified the security of their funds.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Fraud in Violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder

- The Commission repeats and realleges Paragraphs 1 through 34 of the Complaint. 35.
- Starting no later than November 2007, the Defendants, directly and indirectly, by 36. use of the means and instrumentality of interstate commerce, and of the mails in connection with the purchase or sale of securities, have been knowingly, willfully or recklessly: (a) employing

devices, schemes or artifices to defraud; (b) making untrue statements of material facts and omitting to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or (c) engaging in acts, practices and courses of business which have operated, are now operating and will operate as a fraud upon the purchasers of such securities.

37. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have directly or indirectly violated and, unless restrained and enjoined, will continue to violate Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests the Court:

I.

Declaratory Relief

Declare, determine and find that the Defendants have committed the violations of the federal securities laws alleged herein.

II.

Temporary Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction, and Permanent Injunction

Issue a Temporary Restraining Order, a Preliminary Injunction, and a Permanent Injunction, restraining and enjoining the Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with them, and each of them, from violating Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, as indicated above.

III.

Asset Freeze and Sworn Accountings

Issue an Order freezing the assets of all Defendants until further Order of the Court and

requiring the Defendants to file with this Court sworn written accountings.

IV.

Repatriation of Investor Proceeds

Issue an Order requiring the Defendants to take such steps as necessary to repatriate to the territory of the United States all funds and assets of investors described in the Commission's Complaint in this action which are held by them or are under their direct or indirect control, and deposit such funds into the registry of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and provide the Commission and the Court a written description of the funds and assets repatriated.

V.

Records Preservation

Issue an Order prohibiting the destruction of and requiring the Defendants to preserve any records relating to the subject matter of this lawsuit that are in their custody or possession or subject to their control.

VI.

Disgorgement

Issue an Order directing the Defendants to disgorge all ill-gotten gains, including prejudgment interest, resulting from the acts or courses of conduct alleged in this Complaint.

VII.

Penalties

Issue an Order directing the Defendants to pay civil money penalties pursuant to Section 21(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)].

Further Relief

Grant such other and further relief as may be necessary and appropriate.

IX.

Retention of Jurisdiction

Further, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court retain jurisdiction over this action in order to implement and carry out the terms of all orders and decrees that it may enter, or to entertain any suitable application or motion by the Commission for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.

December 29, 2008

Respectfully submitted.

By:

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE **COMMISSION**

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12/29/08

RECEIPT #

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'LJS 44 (Rev. 2'08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

NOTICE: Attorneys MUST Indicate All Re-filed Cases Below. I. (a) PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION CREATIVE CAPITAL CONSORTIUM, LLC, A CREATIVE CAPITAL CONCEPT\$, LLC, and GEORGE L. THEODULE + County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Palm Beach OPE CASES OF USE (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (IN U.S. PLA S ONLY) (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNA OCATION OF THE TRACT LAND INVOLVED Brian K. Barry, Esq., (305) 982-6382 Securities and Exchange Commission Attorneys (If Known) 801 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1800, Miami, FL 33131 (d) Check County Where Action Arose: JMIAMI-DADE J MONROE J BROWARD J PALM BEACH J MARTIN KEECHOBEE HIGHLANDS II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box (Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PA in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only) Box for Defendant) U.S. Government Federal Onestion DEF PTF DEF PTF Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party) Citizen of This State 7 (4 ı Incorporated or Principal Place J 4 of Business In This State J 2 U.S. Government **J** 4 Diversity Citizen of Another State J 2 Incorporated and Principal Place Defendant of Business In Another State (Indicate Citizenship of Partie .7 3 Foreign Nation J 6 J 6 NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS FORFEITURE/PENALT BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES 7 110 Insurance PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY 610 Agriculture J 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 400 State Reapportionment □ 120 Marine 620 Other Food & Drug 310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury -□ 423 Withdrawal 410 Antitrust 130 Miller Act 3 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractice 625 Drug Related Scizure 28 USC 157 430 Banks and Banking 3 140 Negotiable Instrument Liability 365 Personal Injury of Property 21 USC 881 450 Commerce 150 Recovery of Overpayment コ 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability 630 Liquor Laws PROPERTY RIGHTS 460 Deportation & Enforcement of Judgment Slander 368 Asbestos Personal 640 R.R. & Truck 820 Copyrights 470 Rucketeer Influenced and 151 Medicare Act 330 Federal Employers* Injury Product 650 Airline Regs. J 830 Patent Corrupt Organizations 3 152 Recovery of Defaulted Liability Liability 660 Occupational J 840 Trademark 480 Consumer Credit Student Loans □ 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPERTY Safety/Health 490 Cable Sat TV (Excl. Veterans) 3 345 Marine Product 370 Other Fraud 690 Other **X10 Selective Service** 3 153 Recovery of Overpayment Liability 371 Truth in Lending LABOR SOCIAL SECURITY 850 Securities Commodities of Veteran's Benefits □ 350 Motor Vehicle 380 Other Personal 710 Fair Labor Standards J 861 HIA (1395ff) Exchange 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage J 862 Black Lung (923) 875 Customer Challenge Λeι Product Liability 3 190 Other Contract 385 Property Damage 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations → 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 12 USC 3410 3 864 SSID Title XVI 195 Contract Product Liability □ 360 Other Personal Product Liability 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 196 Franchise Injury & Disclosure Act □ 865 RSI (405(g)) 891 Agricultural Acts REAL PROPERTY CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIONS 740 Railway Labor Act FEDERAL TAX SUITS 892 Economic Stabilization Act 210 Land Condemnation 441 Voting 790 Other Labor Litigation 510 Motions to Vacate J 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff 893 Environmental Matters 220 Foreclosure 442 Employment Sentence 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Securi or Defendant) 894 Energy Allocation Act Habeas Corpus: J 871 IRS Third Party 26 USC 7609 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 443 Housing/ Accommodations 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 895 Freedom of Information Act 530 General □ 444 Wellare 900 Appeal of Fee Determination 535 Death Penalty IMMIGRATION □ 445 Amer. Employment w/Disabilities 462 Naturalization 3 290 All Other Real Property Under Equal Access to Justice 540 Mandamus & Other Application J 446 Amer. w/Disabilities 463 Habeas Corpus-Alien 550 Civil Rights Detainee 465 Other Immigration 950 Constitutionality of State 3 440 Other Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Appeal to District Transferred from Original Removed from 3 Re-filed-(see VI below) Judge from Reinstated or 🗇 5 5 6 Multidistrict 5 7 another district Magistrate Proceeding State Court Reopened Litigation (specify) Judement a) Re-filed Case I YES INO b) Related Cases DYES VNO VI. RELATED/RE-FILED (See instructions CASE(S). econd page): JUDGE **DOCKET NUMBER** Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and Write a Brief Statement of Cause (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): VII. CAUSE OF ACTION 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5. Violations of the federal securities laws. LENGTH OF TRIAL via 8 days estimated (for both sides to try entire case) VIII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION TRO DEMAND \$ Freeze, CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint; COMPLAINT: UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes 🗗 No disgorgement ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE & CORRECT TO SEGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD civil penalty THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE