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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles
03/12/2021

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Sherri R. Carte	r, Executive Officer / Cle
D. c	M. De Luna

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT

6 PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, by and through MARY C. WICKHAM, County Counsel for the County of Los

Angeles,

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Plaintiffs,

v.

VAN NUYS FINANCIAL, a business; MASTER FINANCIAL OF CALIFORNIA, INC., a corporation dba MASTER FINANCIAL 2000; FLEETWOOD FINANCIAL, a business, JOHN EVA

SUTTON aka JASON SMITH, an individual; MARK ZOHAR SUTTON aka ZOHAR

SUTTON, an individual; ROY GADRI, an individual; RACHEL SUTTON, an individual; MARCIA SMITH, an individual; AND DOES 1 THROUGH 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 19STCV16670

[PROPOSED] FINAL JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTION PURSUANT TO STIPULATION AND STIPULATION

Dept.: 52

Judge: Hon. Armen E. Tamzarian

Action Filed: May 14, 2019

WHEREAS, Plaintiff THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA (hereinafter, the "People") brought the above-entitled civil law enforcement action against Defendants JOHN EZRA SUTTON; MARK ZOHAR SUTTON aka ZOHAR SUTTON; and RACHEL SUTTON (hereinafter, "Defendants"), for violations of the False Advertising Law (Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 et seq.), as described in the Complaint on file with the Court.

WHEREAS, the People, acting by and through their attorney, Rodrigo A. Castro-Silva, Los Angeles County Counsel, and Defendants, acting by and through their attorney, Craig P. Fagan, have entered into a written stipulation providing for entry of judgment in the Plaintiff's favor on the terms set forth in the stipulation ("Stipulation"); and

The Court having considered the matter and being fully advised therein;.

IT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED, ORDERED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. The People shall have Judgment entered against Defendants on the terms provided in the Stipulation, filed with the Court on March 8, 2021, and attached to this Judgment as "Exhibit 1" and fully incorporated herein as if set forth in its entirety.

2. The Court shall retain jurisdiction for ten (10 years) over the Parties, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6, to enable any party to apply to the Court at any time for such further orders and direction as may be necessary and appropriate to enforce the Judgment or to modify or dissolve the Injunction as the interests of justice may require.

12 DATED: 03/12/2021

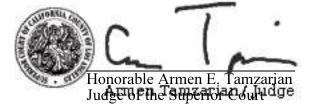


EXHIBIT 1

STIPULATION FOR FINAL JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTION

1 2 3 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT 4 5 PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, by and through MARY C. WICKHAM, County Counsel for the County of Los 7 Angeles, 8 Plaintiffs, 9 v. 10 VAN NUYS FINANCIAL, a business; MASTER FINANCIAL OF CALIFORNIA, 11 INC., a corporation dba MASTER FINÁNCIAL 2000; FLEETWOOD 12 FINANCIAL, a business, JOHN EVA 13 SUTTON aka JASON SMITH, an individual; MARK ZOHAR SUTTON aka ZOHAR SUTTON, an individual; ROY GADRI, an 14 individual; RACHEL SUTTON, an individual; MARCIA SMITH, an individual; AND DOES 15 1 THROUGH 25, inclusive, 16 Defendants. 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

CASE NO. 19STCV16670

STIPULATION FOR FINAL JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTION

Dept.: 52

Judge: Hon. Armen E. Tamzarian

Action Filed: May 14, 2019

HOA.103138444.1

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1	Plaintiff, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA (hereinafter, "People"),			
2	through their attorney, Rodrigo A. Castro-Silva, Los Angeles County Counsel, and Defendants			
3	JOHN EZRA SUTTON; MARK ZOHAR SUTTON aka ZOHAR SUTTON; and RACHEL			
4	SUTTON (hereinafter, "Defendants"), through their attorney, Craig P. Fagan, agree and stipulate			
5	that a Final Judgment and Injunction Pursuant to Stipulation ("Final Judgment") shall be entered in			
6	the above-entitled action in favor the People pursuant to the terms of this Stipulation for Final			
7	Judgment and Injunction ("Stipulation"). The People and Defendants also are sometimes			
8	collectively referred to herein as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party."			
9	The Parties hereby stipulate to the entry of the Judgment prior to the taking of any proof			
10	and without trial or adjudication of any issue or fact or law in this Action, and without the terms of			
11	the Judgment or any statements herein constituting any evidence against, or any admission of			
12	liability or wrongdoing by, any Party regarding any such issue of fact or law, as follows:			
13	I. <u>JURISDICTION</u>			
14	This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of and by agreement each of the parties			
15	to this action. The Complaint states a claim upon which relief may be granted against Defendants			
16	under the False Advertising Law (Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 et seq.).			
17	II. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>			
18	As used in this Final Judgment:			
19	A. "People" refers to the Plaintiff, People of the State of California.			
20	B. "County Counsel" refers to the Office of County Counsel, County of Los Angeles.			
21	C. "DCBA" refers to the County of Los Angeles, Department of Consumer and			
22	Business Affairs.			
23	D. "Defendants" refers to John Ezra Sutton; Mark Zohar Sutton aka Zohar Sutton; and			
24	Rachel Sutton.			
25	E. "Van Nuys Financial" refers to Defendants' business and includes all other			
26	fictitious business names of related business entities, whether incorporated or not, including but			

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not limited to: Master Financial California, Inc., Master Financial 2000, and Fleetwood Financial.

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Effective upon entry of this Final Judgment, Defendants, and all officers,

A.

employees, representatives, persons, corporations, independent consultants, consultants, or other entities acting by, through, under, in conjunction with, in participation with, or on behalf of said Defendants, or any of them, are hereby permanently enjoined and restrained under Business and Professions Code Sections 17535 as herein provided in connection with Defendants' business of: (1) offering, through advertisements, solicitation letters, telephone calls, or other means, to recover monetary court judgments on behalf of consumers or clients who are awarded such court judgments, primarily in Small Claims Court; and (2) negotiating and entering into written contracts with such consumers or clients to assign their monetary court judgments over to Defendants in exchange for a specified share of funds collected from the judgments.

- B. Defendants, and all officers, employees, representatives, persons, corporations, independent consultants, consultants, or other entities acting by, through, under, in conjunction with, in participation with, or on behalf of said Defendants, or any of them, are permanently enjoined and restrained from engaging in any violations of the law, including the following:
- 1. Making or authorizing in any manner or by any means whatever any statement to a client, written or oral, which is untrue or misleading, and which if known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.
- 2. Violating Busines and Professions Code section 17500 *et seq* by disseminating any false and misleading statements, written or oral:
- a. to induce potential clients or consumers to assign monetary court judgments over to Defendants;
- b. regarding the payment to clients of any shares of funds that

 Defendants have collected from monetary court judgments, including any false and misleading
 statements relating to: (1) the terms of any payment; (2) the amount of any payment; or (3) the
 timing, frequency, or date of any payment;

1	Business Affairs (hereinafter "DCBA"), twice a year, beginning on February 15, 2022, then on		
2	August 15, 2022, and on the same date each year thereafter, the following records:		
3	a. Records of all letters, internet sites, and telephone calls soliciting		
4	clients to assign to Defendants their monetary court judgments;		
5	b. Records of all contracts or agreements in which clients assigned to		
6	Defendants their rights to monetary court judgments;		
7	c. Records of all monetary court judgments that Defendants have		
8	enforced and/or collected money on;		
9	d. Records of all written notifications to clients that Defendants have		
10	collected on the judgment;		
11	e. Records of all payments of the share of funds collected from a		
12	monetary court judgment, as required by ay assignment contracts with clients;		
13	f. Records of all written communications, including telephone calls,		
14	emails, or letters, that describe the regularity or frequency of contacts that Defendants have with		
15	clients;		
16	7. Permit duly authorized representatives of the People, the County Counsel,		
17	and/or DCBA, at reasonable times and places, and upon at least ten (10) business days written		
18	notice to Defendants and their counsel, to interview Defendants, and their employees, agents, or		
19	representatives, in the presence of their counsel, regarding Defendants' compliance with this Final		
20	Judgment, and to examine and copy appropriate and relevant books and records of Defendants'		
21	business concerning compliance with this Final Judgment.		
22	B. Effective upon entry of this Final Judgment, Defendants shall:		
23	1. Investigate and respond to, within sixty (60) days, all complaints from		
24	clients or consumers;		
25	2. Keep a record of all complaints from clients and consumers. In keeping		
26	such records of complaints, Defendants shall:		
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L92 FINAL JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTION PURSUANT TO STIPULATION AND STIPULATION

Effective upon entry of this Final Judgment, the Court shall impose civil penalties in the amount of \$20,000.00, with the full amount to be suspended unless and until there is a violation of any terms of this Stipulation or Final Judgment.

VIII. RESTITUTION

- A. Each client of Defendant (hereinafter, "Claimant") who claims that they entered into a written contract with Defendants, or with their business known as Van Nuys Financial, to assign their monetary court judgments over to Defendants, and who claim that Defendants or Van Nuys Financial failed to pay Claimant a specified share of funds collected from the court judgments, as required by the written contract, shall be entitled to restitution, on a pro rata basis, if he or she submits a Claim Form in the manner proscribed below.
- B. Defendants shall, within sixty (60) days after entry of this Final Judgment, provide to DCBA a list of Claimants described in Section VIII.A., above, together with their address, other contact information, and the amount that Defendants contend they owe each Claimant in restitution. This list shall be supported by a sworn declaration by one or more Defendants, attesting that such persons constitute the complete list of such Claimants. In providing this information, any intentional misrepresentation or omission by Defendants regarding such Claimants' right to restitution and/or the amount shall be deemed a violation of this Final Judgment.
- C. DCBA shall provide, via mail and (where possible) email, a "Notice of Restitution" and a Claim Form within ninety (90) days after the entry of Final Judgment, to the last known address of the following potential Claimants:
- 1. Claimants who have filed a consumer complaint with DCBA regarding Defendants' business. By entering into this Stipulation and Final Judgment, Defendants hereby admit that DCBA has verified these Claimants' right to restitution and its amount, that each Claimant's claim is true and correct, and that Defendants have waived any right to challenge any claim for restitution by these Claimants.
 - 2. Claimants set forth pursuant to VIII.B, above.

1	F. Persons who are exempt from the restitution provisions herein shall include:			
2	persons to whom restitution has already been made; persons with complaints that have already			
3	been resolved by mediation, judicial arbitration or trial; persons with complaints that were directly			
4	resolved by Defendants in which Defendants have paid restitution pursuant to contract.			
5	Defendants shall be responsible for proving a Claimant to be ineligible to receive restitution.			
6	G. In the case of a dispute involving a Claimant's right to restitution or the amount of			
7	restitution owed to such a Claimant, DCBA may require Claimants and/or Defendants to submit			
8	documents and/or sworn statements. DCBA shall have the sole right and discretion to determine a			
9	Claimant's right to restitution, and the amount of restitution owed to the Claimant. Any			
10	determination by DCBA shall be binding. By entering into this Stipulation and Final Judgment,			
11	Defendants waive any right to contest DCBA's determination of a particular Claimant's			
12	entitlement to restitution or its amount.			
13	H. Defendants shall pay \$60,000.00 in restitution, at an interest rate of 3 percent			
14	annually, amortized over a period of 120 months (10 years), by a monthly payment of \$579.36, to			
15	be payable on the first day of each month, with the first payment due February 1, 2022. Payments			
16	shall be by check made out to the County of Los Angeles, and shall reference the Van Nuys			
17	Financial Restitution Fund in the memo section, and be sent to the following address:			
18	Rose Basmadzhyan LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs			
19	Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration			
20	500 W. Temple St., Room B-96 Los Angeles, California 90012-2713			
21	Attn: Van Nuys Financial Restitution Fund			
22	I. DCBA shall have the sole discretion to determine the amount and method of			
23	payment to each Claimant. A Claimant shall have no right to restitution beyond the amount he or			
24	she is owed. In the event that the total value of restitution owed to Claimants exceeds the amount			
25	available for payment, the amount of restitution owed to each Claimant shall be reduced pro rata.			
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1 IX. NOTICE For purposes of this Final Judgment, any notice or other communication to the People shall 2 3 be given to the persons at the addresses set forth below (or to such other addresses the Parties may 4 specify in writing by providing notice at the addresses listed below): 5 For the People: Joseph Mellis 6 **Deputy County Counsel** 7 County of Los Angeles, Office of County Counsel Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 8 500 West Temple Street, Room 648 Los Angeles, California 90012-2713 9 imellis@counsel.lacounty.gov 10 Rose Basmadzhyan Department of Consumer and Business Affairs 11 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 12 500 W. Temple St., Room B-96 Los Angeles, California 90012-2713 13 vbasmadzhyan@dcba.lacounty.gov 14 For Defendants: 15 Craig P. Fagan Law Offices of Craig P. Fagan 16 8030 La Mesa Blvd # 94 17 La Mesa, California 91942-0335 cpfagan@faganlegal.com 18 Notice pursuant to this Final Judgment, or pursuant to any terms therin, shall be given by 19 mail (which shall constitute the official notice) with a courtesy copy by email. 20 X. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION 21 Court to maintain jurisdiction for a period of ten (10) years from the date of entry of this 22 Final Judgment. The parties may apply to this Court at any time for further orders and directions 23 as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out or construe this Final Judgment, including to 24 enforce compliance with it, and to punish violations of its provisions, pursuant to Business and 25 Professions Code section 17535, insofar as the Court retains jurisdiction pursuant to this **26** paragraph. 27 28

1 XI. OTHER SETTLEMENT TERMS 2 A. Any successor statute or renumbered statute shall have the same force and effect as the statutes cited in this Judgment. 3 4 В. Except as otherwise provided herein, each Party shall bear its own costs, including 5 attorneys' fees. C. The payments required pursuant to this Judgment are not dischargeable in 6 7 bankruptcy. D. Defendants hereby declare the following under penalty of perjury: 8 9 1. Defendants have no employees in their business operation other than themselves; 10 Defendant John Ezra Sutton's middle name is Ezra, not Eva; Eva is the first 2. 11 name of John Ezra Sutton's wife and she has no involvement in Defendants' 12 13 business operations. 3. Defendant John Ezra Sutton has never used the name John Smith as an 14 alias: 15 4. Roy Gadri does not live in the United States and he has no connection to 16 17 Defendants' business operations; and 18 5. Pursuant to section VIII.B. and VIII.C.2, above, Defendants have no knowledge of any Claimants other than those Claimants described in 19 VIII.C.1. 20 21 XII. EFFECT AND ENTRY 22 A. This Final Judgment is a final and binding resolution and settlement of all claims, 23 violations or causes of action alleged by the People in the Complaint. /// 24 25 /// /// 26 27 /// 28 /// HOA.103138444.1

FINAL JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTION PURSUANT TO STIPULATION AND STIPULATION