FILED JOHN M. MCCOY III, Cal. Bar No. 166244 1 08 JUL 31 PM 2: 33 E-mail: mccoyi@sec.gov FINOLA H. MANVELIAN, Cal. Bar No. 180681 2 CLERK. U.S. DISTRICT COLUMN SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA Email: manvelianf@sec.gov JESSICA R. PUATHASNANON, Cal. Bar No. 208074 3 E-mail: puathasnanoni@sec.gov WILLIAM G. BERRY, Cal. Bar No. 206348 DY: 4 DEPUTY E-mail: berryw@sec.gov 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff 6 Securities and Exchange Commission Rosalind R. Tyson, Regional Director
Andrew G. Petillon, Associate Regional Director
5670 Wilshire Boulevard, 11th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90036-3648
Telephone: (323) 965-3998
Facsimile: (323) 965-3908 7 8 9 10 11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 12 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 13 14 Case No. '08 CV 1388 15 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, 16 **COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS** 17 Plaintiff, OF THE FEDERAL SECURITIES **LAWS** vs. 18 19 MICHAEL F. CROWLEY, JR., 20 Defendant. 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") alleges as follows:

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 20(b), 20(d)(1), and 22(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b), 77t(d)(1), and 77v(a), and Sections 21(d)(1), 21(d)(3)(A), 21(e), and 27 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d)(1), 78u(d)(3)(A), 78u(e) and 78aa. Defendant has directly or indirectly made use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange in connection with the transactions, acts, practices and courses of business alleged in this Complaint.
- Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the 2. Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because defendant resided within this district during the relevant time period and certain of the transactions, acts, practices and courses of conduct constituting violations of the laws alleged in this Complaint occurred within this district.

## **SUMMARY**

- This case involves financial fraud at SeraCare Life Sciences, Inc. 3. ("SeraCare") by its former chief executive officer, Defendant Michael F. Crowley, Jr. ("Crowley").
- 4. SeraCare was based in Oceanside, California during the relevant time period and operates as a supplier and manufacturer of biological products (such as blood and plasma) for the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry.
- 5. Crowley failed to disclose material information in SeraCare's disclosures for the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 regarding a canceled bill and hold sale that represented almost 11% of its quarterly net income before taxes.
  - Specifically, at the end of SeraCare's first quarter of 2005, Crowley 6.

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was informed that a major customer had canceled a material portion of a bill and hold sale that accounted for almost 11% of SeraCare's net income before taxes for the period. In spite of this knowledge, on February 9, 2005, Crowley certified SeraCare's quarterly report filed on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 2004 ("SeraCare's 2005 First Quarter Form 10-Q"), even though it failed to disclose any information about the canceled portion of the sale. That misleading filing was then incorporated by reference in registration statements filed on Forms S-8 by SeraCare on February 25, 2005 in connection with the offering of 600,000 shares of SeraCare common stock.

- Crowley also made statements during SeraCare's quarterly conference 7. call and in the Company's quarterly earnings release touting SeraCare's record sales and net income for the period, again without disclosing the canceled sale. The quarterly earnings release was attached to a Form 8-K filed by SeraCare on February 9, 2005 ("SeraCare's February 9, 2005 Form 8-K"), which was also incorporated in SeraCare's February 25, 2005 Form S-8 registration statements.
- 8. Crowley aided and abetted SeraCare's uncharged violations of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20, 13a-11, and 13a-13 thereunder. Crowley also violated Section 17(a)(2) and (3) of the Securities Act and Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act.

### **DEFENDANT**

9. Defendant Michael F. Crowley, Jr. is a resident of San Diego, California. Crowley was the chief executive officer of SeraCare from 2002 until he was terminated in March 2006.

## **RELEVANT ENTITY**

10. SeraCare Life Sciences, Inc. is a Delaware corporation that is currently based in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts. During the relevant time period, SeraCare's principal headquarters were in Oceanside, California and its common stock was registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and

listed on the Nasdaq National Market. From at least 2004 through at least March 2006, SeraCare's fiscal year ended on September 30.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

# Crowley's Failure To Disclose Material Information About A Canceled Sale

- 11. Approximately two weeks before the end of fiscal year 2004, SeraCare acquired substantially all of the assets of Boston Biomedica, Inc. ("BBI") for about \$30 million. The acquisition almost doubled the size of SeraCare.
- 12. In December 2004, SeraCare's newly acquired BBI division secured a major sale with Roche Diagnostics, a key customer that agreed to purchase \$454,080 worth of product under a bill and hold arrangement.
- 13. On February 8, 2005 -- one day before SeraCare's Form 10-Q was filed and a scheduled earnings release was due -- a representative from Roche notified SeraCare's head of sales that Roche no longer wanted to take the product under bill and hold arrangements. Instead, Roche wanted to pay for the product as it was received throughout calendar year 2005.
- 14. Given the significant size of the sale, SeraCare's head of sales immediately notified Crowley by email of his conversation with Roche, and suggested that SeraCare "reverse" the sale and not book it as revenue for the first quarter of 2005. Specifically, the over \$300,000 in unearned revenue for the Roche sale accounted for 10.7% of SeraCare's net income before taxes for the quarter. Nevertheless, Crowley insisted that the full sale remain booked in the first quarter as a bill and hold sale without disclosing the canceled sale in the quarterly filing (on Form 10-Q), earnings release (on Form 8-K), and earnings call on the following day.
- 15. The February 9, 2005 earnings release acknowledges that SeraCare's tremendous growth in sales was primarily driven by its recent acquisition of BBI, but fails to disclose that revenue accounting for almost 11% of SeraCare's net income before taxes for the quarter had just been canceled. The earnings release

also quotes Crowley touting the Company's "record sales, operating income and net income" for the period.

- 16. In addition, Crowley spoke during the February 9, 2005 earnings call with analysts and trumpeted SeraCare's "triple-digit growth" in revenue for the quarter and the Company's "doubled" net income, without disclosing the canceled sale with Roche.
- 17. Crowley was also substantially involved in preparing, reviewing, and approving SeraCare's 2005 First Quarter Form 10-Q and its February 9, 2005 Form 8-K before they were filed with the Commission.
- 18. Crowley signed and certified SeraCare's 2005 First Quarter Form 10-Q and signed SeraCare's February 9, 2005 Form 8-K even though they were materially misleading because they failed to disclose that Roche had canceled a portion of a bill and hold sale that represented almost 11% of SeraCare's net income before taxes for the period.
- 19. Crowley knew, or should have known, that both SeraCare's 2005 First Quarter Form 10-Q and its February 9, 2005 Form 8-K were materially misleading.
- 20. SeraCare filed Form S-8 registration statements on February 25, 2005, which Crowley also signed, in connection with the offering of 600,000 shares of its common stock. By statute, SeraCare's Form S-8 registration statements incorporated by reference SeraCare's 2005 First Quarter Form 10-Q and February 9, 2005 Form 8-K.

# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES

# Violations of Section 17(a)(2) and (3) of the Securities Act

- 21. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 20 above.
- 22. Defendant, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or instruments of

1 transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails: 2 obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of a (a) 3 material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the 4 circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; 5 6 and engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which 7 (b) operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the 8 purchaser. 9 By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant violated, and 10 23. 11 unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a)(2) and (3) of 12 the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77q(a). **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF** 13 14 **VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION PERIODIC** 15 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS Violations of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, 16 and Rules 12b-20, 13a-11, and 13a-13 thereunder 17 18 24. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 20 above. 19 20 25. SeraCare violated Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20, 13a-11, and 13a-13 thereunder, by filing with the Commission materially 21 22 misleading reports on Form 10-Q and on Form 8-K on February 9, 2005 for the 23 quarter ended December 31, 2004. Defendant knowingly provided substantial assistance to SeraCare's 24 26. violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20, 13a-11, and 13a-25 26 13 thereunder. 27 By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 27.

20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendant aided and abetted

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SeraCare's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(a), and Rules 12b-20, 13a-11, and 13a-13 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. §§ 240.12b-20, 240.13a-11, and 240.13a-13.

## **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

# **FALSE CERTIFICATION**

# Violations of Exchange Act Rule 13a-14

- 28. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 20 above.
- 29. Defendant certified the quarterly report filed by SeraCare on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 2004 that, among other things, he reviewed the report and, based on his knowledge, the report (i) did not contain any untrue statement of material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading and (ii) included financial statements and other financial information which fairly presented, in all material respects, SeraCare's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.
- 30. By engaging in the conduct alleged above, defendant violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Exchange Act Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

- (a) Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that defendant committed the violations alleged and charged herein.
- (b) Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining defendant and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with him, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section

- 17(a)(2) and (3) of the Securities Act and Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act, and aiding and abetting violations of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20, 13a-11, and 13a-13 thereunder.
- (c) Order defendant to pay civil penalties under Section 20(d) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77t(d), and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3).
- (d) Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.
- (e) Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and necessary.

DATED: July 31, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM G. BERRY

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Securities and Exchange Commission

# **ORIGINAL**

SS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

## **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.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS MICHAEL F. CRO	owlek ir	n
U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION			OWLEY, JR.	org .
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff		County of Residence of	FOR JULO 3 Idan PM	an Dego County
• •	KCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O	ONLY)
		NOTE: IN LAND	CONTEMPLE OF CASE OF C	ETHE LOCATION OF THE
		LANDÍ	8°CV 1388	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)	0 01 1700	
William G. Berry, Esq.		Charles G. La Bella		DEPUTY
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  La Bella & McNamara, LLP				
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  III. CITIZEN HIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only)  and One Box for Defendant)				
U.S. Government Plaintiff	<ul><li>3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)</li></ul>	PT Citizen of This State		PTF DEF incipal Place
2 U.S. Government	· 🗖 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State	2	Principal Place
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		of Business In A	Another State
		Citizen or Subject of a	3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				
	SEPONDE CORRESPONDE SECTION TO THE SECTION OF THE S			Secret OTHER STATUTES. Second
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR  310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury		☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal	400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust
☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractice	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure	28 USC 157	☐ 430 Banks and Banking
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability 365 Personal Injury 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability	☐ 630 Liquor Laws	SEPROPERTY/RIGHTS	450 Commerce 460 Deportation
& Enforcement of Judgment  151 Medicare Act	Slander	al G 640 R.R. & Truck G 650 Airline Regs.	☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 830 Patent	470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability Liability	☐ 660 Occupational	3 840 Trademark	480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV
(Excl. Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud	☐ 690 Other		☐ 810 Selective Service
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 371 Truth in Lending 350 Motor Vehicle 380 Other Personal	710 Fair Labor Standards	SOCIAL SECURITY	850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage Product Liability ☐ 385 Property Damage	Act	☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	☐ 360 Other Personal Product Liability	☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury  CIVIL RIGHTS - St PRISONER PETITIO	& Disclosure Act  NS 740 Railway Labor Act	□ 865 RSI (405(g))  FEDERAL TAX SUITS	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 510 Motions to Vaca ☐ 442 Employment Sentence		☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus:	Security Act	☐ 871 IRS—Third Party	☐ 895 Freedom of Information
<ul><li>240 Torts to Land</li><li>245 Tort Product Liability</li></ul>	Accommodations 530 General 535 Death Penalty		26 USC 7609	. Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination
290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Mandamus & Of Employment ☐ 550 Civil Rights	her		Under Equal Access to Justice
	☐ 446 Amer, w/Disabilities - ☐ 555 Prison Condition			☐ 950 Constitutionality of
	Other 440 Other Civil Rights			State Statutes
V. ORIGIN  (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  Display  (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  Remanded from 3 Remanded from another district 5 Transferred from another district 1 Transferred from Magistrate				
Proceeding S	tate Court Appellate Court  Cite the U.S. Civil Statute upder which you	Reopened (specific filing (Do not cite jurisdictions		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION  Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing 100 not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity: 15 U.S.C. § 77q(a), 15 U.S.C. § 78m(a), 17 C.F.R. §§ 240.12b-20, 240.13a-11, 240.13a-13, and 240.13a-14  Brief description of cause: The complaint alleges violations of the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws.				
VII. REQUESTED IN	. 1			if demanded in complaint:
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	·	JURY DEMAND	: 🗆 Yes 🗆 No
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD				
1-31-08 Willin & Belg FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				
RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE				
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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 11/04)

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

#### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading 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. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.

  Example:

  U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
  Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.