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| 11 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT | | |
| 12 | DISTRICT OF ARIZONA | | |
| 13 | SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, | Case No. | |
| 14 | COMMISSION, | COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OI | |
| 15 | Plaintiff, vs. | THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS | |
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| 17 | MARTIN G. FRASER; DON W. WATSON; EDWARD W. O'BRIEN; and | | |
| 18 | GARY M. OPPER, | | |
| 19 | Defendants. | | |
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Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") alleges as follows:

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SUMMARY

- 1. CSK Auto Corporation ("CSK") was one of the largest specialty retailers of automotive parts and accessories in the United States. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, CSK became a publicly traded company in March 1999. As of January 30, 2005, CSK operated 1,134 stores in nineteen states under three brand names: Checker Auto Parts, Schucks Auto Supply, and Kragen Auto Parts. In 2008, after the conduct alleged in this Complaint, CSK became a wholly-owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.
- 2. As a retailer of automotive products, CSK purchased products from vendors that manufacture automotive parts and accessories. From at least fiscal years 2002 through 2004, a significant portion of CSK's income was derived from allowances it received from its vendors. Vendor allowances are used to provide retailers, such as CSK, with financial support to market the vendor's products. In general, CSK accounted for vendor allowances by reducing its costs of goods sold. Thus, the more vendor allowances CSK earned, the lower its costs of goods sold, resulting in greater reported pre-tax income. During the years at issue, vendor allowances were vital to CSK's financials, increasing its reported pre-tax income by tens of millions of dollars each fiscal year.
- 3. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK knew that there were millions of dollars of vendor allowances that were recognized on its books but were not collectible. Rather than write off the uncollectible receivables, as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), CSK and its senior management engaged in a scheme to hide the uncollectible receivables through various accounting tricks. In addition, during fiscal year 2003, CSK over recognized millions of dollars of vendor allowances. To perpetuate the fraudulent scheme, CSK's senior management lied to the company's independent auditors and audit committee.

- 4. If CSK had written off the uncollectible vendor allowances, it would have increased the company's expenses and decreased its income. Because CSK concealed its uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK's annual reports filed with the Commission for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 materially overstated the company's financial results in violation of GAAP and misled the public about the company's financial performance.
- 5. During the relevant time period, defendant Martin G. Fraser ("Fraser") served as CSK's chief operating officer and president, defendant Don W. Watson ("Watson") served as its chief financial officer, defendant Edward W. O'Brien ("O'Brien") served as a vice president and controller, and defendant Gary M. Opper ("Opper") served as its director of credits and receivables (Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants"). Because of Fraser's and Watson's conduct, CSK filed with the Commission a false annual report for fiscal year 2002 that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for that year by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. In addition, because of Defendants' conduct, CSK filed false annual reports with the Commission that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss, and for fiscal year 2004 by approximately 65%, or \$21 million.
- 6. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent conduct, CSK restated its financial statements as part of its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004 (the "First Restatement"). As part of the First Restatement, CSK reduced its previously recognized vendor allowances for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and the first three quarters of fiscal year 2004. Defendants, however, continued to conceal known, significant uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. The First Restatement also falsely attributed the vendor allowance adjustments to mere errors in estimates and bookkeeping mistakes rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct.

- 7. As a result of Defendants' failure to acknowledge and write off the magnitude of CSK's uncollectible vendor allowance receivables in the First Restatement, CSK still had approximately \$15 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, which, under GAAP, should have been written off. Defendants made a final attempt to collect that \$15 million deficit by intentionally over billing its vendors. When the vendors complained about being double billed, CSK paid back the amounts it had wrongfully collected, but incorrectly accounted for some of those paybacks and mischaracterized the reasons for other paybacks to avoid detection that the company had over collected vendor allowances.
- 8. Each of the Defendants knew CSK was not writing off uncollectible vendor allowances receivables and was over recognizing vendor allowances resulting in CSK's financial statements for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 being materially misstated. Defendants Fraser and Watson substantially participated in the preparation of CSK's 2002, 2003, and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant O'Brien substantially participated in the preparation of the 2003 and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant Opper substantially participated in, or provided substantial assistance to, the preparation of the false 2003 and 2004 financial statements.
- 9. Based on their conduct, Defendants, among other things, violated the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws, falsified CSK's books and records, circumvented CSK's internal controls, and lied to CSK's independent auditors. The Commission seeks an order enjoining Defendants from future violations of the securities laws, requiring Defendants to disgorge ill-gotten gains with prejudgment interest, ordering Defendants to pay civil monetary penalties, requiring Watson to reimburse stock profits pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, barring Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from serving as officers or directors of a public company, and providing other appropriate relief.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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10. 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) & 78aa. Defendants have 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.

11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because defendants reside and transact business within this district and certain of the transactions, acts, practices and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws alleged in this Complaint occurred within this district.

THE DEFENDANTS

- 12. Martin G. Fraser (53) is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, and was CSK's chief operating officer and president from 2000 until September 2006, when he resigned at CSK's request.
- 13. **Don W. Watson** (53) is a resident of Gilbert, Arizona. From January 1998 to September 2005, Watson was CSK's chief financial officer, senior vice president, and treasurer. Watson served as CSK's chief administrative officer and senior vice president from September 2005 to his termination in October 2006.
- 14. Edward W. O'Brien (46) is a resident of Cave Creek, Arizona. O'Brien was CSK's controller and vice president from March 2003 until his termination in September 2006.
- 15. Gary M. Opper (56) is a resident of Mesa Arizona. Opper was CSK's director of credit and receivables, reporting to O'Brien, from March 17, 2003 until he was terminated in September 2006.

RELATED PARTY

16. **CSK Auto Corporation** is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices in Phoenix, Arizona. CSK's common stock was registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. On July 11, 2008, CSK became a wholly owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.

BACKGROUND

I. CSK's "Let's Work Together" Program

- 17. Each year, most of CSK's vendors agreed to pay vendor allowances. Although CSK had various vendor allowance programs, its largest was its "Let's Work Together" program ("LWT"). Typically, LWT agreements covered a one-year period, which CSK referred to as the "program year." Although the LWT agreements varied, CSK generally earned LWT allowances at a set dollar amount, as a percentage of the amount CSK spent to purchase the vendor's product, or as a certain number of cents per item CSK purchased from the vendor.
- 18. CSK recognized LWT allowances ratably, on a monthly basis, based on its estimate of the total allowances it expected to earn for the entire program year. Thus, CSK did not recognize LWT allowances as they were actually earned or collected. In theory, CSK's estimate was based on the LWT agreement and CSK's expected purchases from its vendors. In general, CSK recognized LWT allowances as a reduction to costs of sales (an expense), thereby increasing the company's pre-tax income.
- 19. As CSK recognized LWT allowances for a given program year, it increased the LWT account receivable for that program year. Each LWT program year had its own account receivable. As CSK collected LWT allowances for a particular program year, GAAP required that CSK reduce the outstanding receivable for that same LWT program year.

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In general, CSK collected LWT allowances by issuing a debit memo to the vendor, which notified the vendor that CSK was deducting the amount of the LWT allowance from the amount CSK owed the vendor. If CSK collected too much, it generally paid back the vendor by issuing a credit memo, notifying the vendor that CSK was adding the amount back to the overall amount it owed the vendor.

Defendants' Fraudulent Scheme

The Fraudulent Scheme To Avoid Vendor Allowance Write Offs

- 21. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK was unable to collect all of the vendor allowances it had recognized. As a result, large accounts receivable built up for each LWT program year.
- 22. GAAP required that CSK write off the uncollectible LWT accounts receivable. Specifically, under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5 ("SFAS No. 5"), Accounting for Contingencies Paragraph 8, an estimated loss from a loss contingency shall be accrued by a charge to income if: (i) information available prior to issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that an asset had been impaired at the date of the financial statements; and (ii) the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 3 defines "probable" to mean that the future event or events are likely to occur. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 4 states that examples of loss contingencies include collectibility of receivables. A write off of the uncollectible LWT allowance receivables would have increased CSK's expenses during the fiscal year the write off was made, resulting in a decrease in pre-tax income.
- 23. Instead of writing off CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and taking the requisite reduction to pre-tax income, Fraser and Watson, for fiscal year 2002, and Defendants, for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, concealed CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable by: (i) applying tens of millions of dollars of LWT allowances earned and collected for later LWT program years to prior LWT program year accounts receivable (referred to within CSK as "filling the bucket"); and (ii) incorrectly accounting for millions of dollars of LWT allowances it paid back to

vendors. Through this scheme, CSK avoided writing off tens of millions of dollars in uncollectible LWT receivables, which it had previously recognized.

- 24. CSK "filled the bucket" by taking LWT allowances collected for later program years and applying them to reduce an earlier LWT program year's account receivable. Specifically, CSK: (i) made baseless journal entries reducing the account receivable for a prior LWT program year with an offsetting increase to the account receivable for a later LWT program year; and (ii) applied LWT allowance collections for a later LWT program year to an earlier program year's LWT account receivable.
- 25. CSK also failed to write off LWT allowances it had over collected for prior LWT program years and ultimately paid back to its vendors. Instead of writing off amounts CSK paid back, which would reduce its pre-tax income, CSK increased a later LWT program year's account receivable, making it appear that it had collected an older account receivable when all CSK had done was move the outstanding receivable balance to a more recent year. This accounting treatment was contrary to GAAP because by paying an amount back to a vendor for a prior LWT program year, CSK acknowledged its uncollectibility and should have written off the amount.

A. <u>During CSK's 2002 Fiscal Year, The Company Concealed</u> <u>Approximately \$11 Million Of Uncollectible Vendor Allowances</u>

26. During its 2002 fiscal year, CSK failed to write off approximately \$11 million of uncollectible vendor allowances it had recognized in previous years, most significantly as part of the 2001 LWT program year. Instead of writing off the uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK: (i) made improper journal entries moving approximately \$6 million of collections for the 2002 LWT program to the 2001 LWT account receivable; (ii) misapplied paybacks of approximately \$3 million to the 2002 LWT receivable; and (iii) reached an agreement whereby a vendor agreed to accept an invalid \$2 million debit memo for the 2001 LWT program year in exchange for CSK not collecting \$2 million in allowances earned as part of the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 5, 2003, CSK overstated its

pre-tax income by approximately \$11 million, or 47%.

- 27. Throughout fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew of CSK's numerous efforts to hide uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 28. During fiscal year 2001, the company's controller at the time informed Fraser and Watson that CSK was recognizing more LWT allowances for the 2001 program year than it was actually earning or likely to earn during that program year.
- 29. The 2001 LWT program year ended in September 2001. CSK tried to collect the outstanding 2001 LWT account receivable throughout fiscal year 2002.
- 30. During fiscal year 2002, CSK issued a \$2 million debit memo to a vendor to collect LWT allowances recognized as part of the 2001 LWT program year. The vendor vigorously disputed the debit memo claiming that CSK had not purchased enough products from the vendor to have earned the \$2 million. Fraser negotiated the dispute. By the middle of the 2002 fiscal year, CSK agreed to forego collecting \$2 million worth of LWT allowances it expected to earn on purchases during the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years in exchange for the vendor accepting the \$2 million debit memo. Both Fraser and Watson knew that the vendor had agreed to accept the already-issued \$2 million debit memo only in exchange for CSK's agreement not to collect \$2 million in LWT for the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. Since the vendor only accepted the debit memo in exchange for future benefits from CSK, *i.e.*, future purchases of product from the vendor, GAAP required that CSK immediately write off the \$2 million because it was not collectible as part of the 2001 LWT program year.
- 31. During fiscal year 2002, CSK had to make various paybacks to vendors for vendor allowances it had recognized during prior fiscal years. Instead of correctly accounting for those paybacks by writing them off and increasing CSK's expenses, the company increased the 2002 LWT program year's account receivable. Watson instructed CSK employees that they would have to raise additional allowances to cover for those amounts paid back because CSK "could not afford a charge for any

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paybacks." Fraser knew of Watson's instruction and CSK's failure to write off vendor allowances paid back to vendors.

- 32. In October 2002, Fraser, Watson, and others met to discuss the collectibility of the 2001 LWT account receivable, which had been outstanding for approximately one year. At that time, of the remaining outstanding balance for the 2001 LWT account receivable, \$3.2 million was known to be uncollectible and \$4.5 million was "questionable." These amounts did not include either the \$2 million Fraser and Watson already knew was uncollectible or the paybacks.
- 33. Rather than write off these uncollectible amounts, as required by GAAP, in October and November 2002, CSK devised a plan to move collections for the 2002 LWT program year to cover the 2001 LWT account receivable. As part of that plan, in or about November 2002, Watson instructed a CSK employee to identify collections for the 2002 LWT program year to move to the 2001 LWT program year account receivable to cover 2001 shortfalls.
 - B. During Fiscal Year 2003, CSK Concealed Approximately \$24 Million In Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances And Improperly Recognized Approximately \$10 Million In Vendor Allowances
- During its 2003 fiscal year, CSK used various tactics to fraudulently 34. conceal, rather than properly write off, approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowances recognized during previous LWT program years, primarily as part of the 2002 LWT program year. Moreover, CSK improperly and prematurely recognized \$6 million in vendor allowances and improperly recognized an additional \$4 million of LWT allowances. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on April 15, 2004, CSK overstated its 2003 pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, turning its actual pre-tax loss of approximately \$18 million into purported pre-tax income of \$16 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and over recognized allowances, and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 35. During fiscal year 2003, CSK hid approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. First, CSK applied approximately \$10 million in 2003 LWT program year collections to the 2002 LWT program year receivable. Second, CSK failed to write off approximately \$5 million in vendor allowances CSK had over collected during prior LWT program years but had to pay back during fiscal year 2003. Third, CSK made a baseless journal entry decreasing the 2002 LWT receivable by \$9 million and increasing the 2003 LWT receivable by the same amount, which reduced the 2002 LWT receivable to zero.
- 36. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew CSK was failing to write of uncollectible LWT allowances. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants regularly received information regarding CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. For example, on or about September 9, 2003, Opper sent an email to Fraser, Watson, O'Brien and others discussing the collection of the 2002 LWT account receivable, which was then approximately one-year old. The email stated that: (i) "approximately \$9.6mm in 2003 collections . . . were moved to 2002 to cover short falls from prior periods;" and (ii) the outstanding 2002 LWT program year receivable balance did not include \$5.4 million in 2002 paybacks. Defendant Opper referenced in the email a chart he had attached that explained the "\$24.2 million in LWT exposure from 2002 and prior." That chart included detailed explanations regarding millions of dollars of uncollectible LWT allowances for prior years, including the 2002 LWT program year.
- 37. Defendants also met to discuss the uncollectible LWT receivables during fiscal year 2003. For example, Defendants attended a meeting on or about September 17, 2003 to discuss the "2002 Outstanding LWT status" where Opper provided copies of the chart attached to his September 9, 2003 email.
- 38. During the fourth quarter of 2003, CSK prematurely recognized approximately \$6 million in additional vendor allowances, which would not be earned, if at all, until fiscal year 2004, in order to meet its earnings numbers. On December 23, 2003, Defendants and others met with CSK's independent auditor in Fraser's office to

additional warranty allowances from two vendors. At that same time, CSK had a warranty deficit of approximately \$13 million, which represented returns from customers covered by warranties in excess of the warranty accrual recorded by CSK. Under GAAP, a warranty deficit should be written off unless additional warranty allowances are obtained to cover the deficit. However, instead of applying the \$4 million of additional warranty allowances to offset a portion of its warranty deficit balance, CSK improperly recognized those warranty allowances as additional LWT allowances. Thus, the warranty deficit included in CSK's inventory balance remained \$13 million, and CSK improperly inflated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$4 million.

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C. <u>During Fiscal Year 2004, CSK Failed To Write Off Approximately</u> \$21 Million Of Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances

40. During fiscal year 2004, CSK concealed that it could not collect vendor allowances totaling approximately \$21 million. Specifically, CSK applied:

(i) approximately \$11 million in 2004 LWT program year collections to the 2003 LWT account receivable; (ii) approximately \$4 million CSK paid back to vendors for the 2003 and 2002 LWT program years to the 2004 LWT receivable; and

(iii) approximately \$6 million via baseless journal entries to the 2003 LWT receivable from other vendor allowance receivables in other time periods. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 2, 2005, CSK overstated pre-tax income for fiscal year 2004 by

approximately 65%, or \$21 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and that, as a result, the company's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 41. CSK's 2004 Form 10-K included CSK's First Restatement, which partially restated CSK's vendor allowances recognized during prior years. Specifically, CSK restated because it could not collect all of the 2003 LWT receivable. In addition, CSK restated for vendor allowances paid back during fiscal year 2003 that CSK failed to properly write off during the 2003 fiscal year. CSK's restatement regarding vendor allowances resulted in CSK adjusting its costs of sales upward and its pre-tax income downward, for the first three quarters of 2004, and the 2003, 2002, and 2001 fiscal years by \$1.9 million, \$7.1 million, \$9.0 million, and \$0.5 million, respectively.
- 42. The First Restatement, however, falsely attributed the vendor allowance restatement to "errors in estimation in earlier periods" and "vendor allowances recorded in improper periods" due to "imprecise estimates, bookkeeping errors and recording allowances in the incorrect periods." Defendants knew the reasons stated for the vendor allowance restatement were false because the First Restatement resulted from Defendants' fraudulent scheme.
- 43. The First Restatement also failed to: (i) write off all known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables; (ii) disclose the full extent of CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible receivables from its independent auditors; and (iii) disclose CSK's over recognition of vendor allowances during fiscal 2003. Defendants knew about these misstatements contained in the First Restatement.
- 44. While preparing the First Restatement, Defendants hid the full extent of their fraudulent conduct from CSK's independent auditor. For example, despite the independent auditor's request for a list of all paybacks CSK had made to its vendors, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided an incomplete list. As a result, CSK failed to write off \$4 million in paybacks it had made during 2004 and applied to the 2003 LWT receivable. Similarly, Fraser and Watson negotiated agreements with

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falsify documents to make it appear that CSK had entered into separate, seemingly unrelated agreements, containing different dates, in order to hide from CSK's independent auditor that CSK's receipt of additional LWT allowances were contingent upon CSK's willingness to grant price increases offsetting the LWT amounts the vendors purportedly agreed to pay. Thus, Defendants knew they were hiding material information from CSK's independent auditor and excluding from the restatement. intentional accounting errors regarding vendor allowances.

D. To Further Cover Up Its Fraud In The Wake Of The First Restatement, CSK Debited Its Vendors For Amounts It Knew They **Did Not Owe**

- 45. After filing its First Restatement in May 2005, CSK's outstanding 2004 LWT account receivable still contained approximately \$15 million that was not collectible. In an effort to conceal that uncollectible receivable, CSK issued debit memos to the vendors for the \$15 million at the end of July 2005.
- 46. As of July 15, 2005, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knew that \$15 million of the outstanding 2004 LWT receivable was not uncollectible because it had previously been collected and had been applied to prior LWT program year receivables as part of CSK's fraudulent scheme.
- 47. In July 2005, CSK issued debit memos totaling approximately \$31 million, including the \$15 million that CSK had previously collected. Opper instructed employees to prepare the debit memos to collect the entire \$31 million even though \$15 million of the allowances had already been collected. When the debit memos were issued, Fraser met with Watson, O'Brien, Opper, and other CSK employees. Fraser told the group that CSK needed to make the debit memos "stick" and that, when it had sent out debit memos in the past, CSK paid back only about ten percent of the debits.

- 48. In late July 2005 or early August 2005, Fraser was told that many of the buyers saw errors in the proposed debits. Fraser responded that probably 70% of the debits would "stick" and that many of the vendors would not even notice them. At least as early as September 2005, Fraser knew that a substantial amount CSK had debited was at risk of having to be paid back to its vendors.
- 49. After the vendors complained about the debit memos, CSK continued to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. First, CSK negotiated deals with vendors for future vendor allowances that CSK offset against the already-issued 2004 LWT debit memos. Second, CSK falsified its books and records to conceal that it was paying back portions of the debit memos. For example, CSK issued to certain vendors credit memos, which O'Brien created or caused to be created, that falsely described the paybacks as being related to "costing," "pricing increases—steel surcharge," or "warranty." In fact, the credit memos paid back LWT amounts that CSK had improperly debited.

II. <u>CSK's Forms 10-K For Fiscal Years 2002, 2003, And 2004 Contained</u> <u>Materially False Information</u>

- 50. CSK filed annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.
- 51. The notes to the financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 falsely stated that "Specific accounts are written off against the allowance when management determines the account is uncollectible." In fact, CSK did not write off known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, but rather engaged in a scheme to avoid and hide such write offs, as set forth above.

52. In all, CSK understated its costs of goods sold during fiscal years 2002 through 2004 as follows:

| FY | Concealed Receivables From Prior Years | | Over | Total | |
|------|--|------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| | Unsupported Journal Entries | Misapplied Debit Memos | Misapplied Paybacks | Recognized Allowances / Other Uncollectible Receivables | |
| 2002 | \$6M | | \$3 M | \$2 M | \$11 M |
| 2003 | \$9 M | \$10 M | \$5 M | \$10 M | \$34 M |
| 2004 | \$6 M | \$11 M | \$4 M | | \$21 M |

- 53. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002 falsely overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew that the company's financial statement were materially misstated.
- 54. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003 overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew that the company's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 55. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, which also contained the First Restatement, overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 65%, or \$21 million. In addition, it falsely attributed the need for the vendor allowance restatement to estimation errors, imprecise estimates, and bookkeeping errors, rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Defendants knew the company's financial statements were materially misstated and mischaracterized the reasons for the vendor allowance restatement.
- 56. Watson, as CSK's CFO, signed CSK's annual reports and the accompanying Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In connection with each of the Forms 10-K filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Watson certified he had no knowledge of

any untrue statement of material fact in the report, the annual report "fairly presents in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows . . .," and that he had disclosed to CSK's independent auditors and audit committee "any fraud, whether or not material, that involved management or any other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal controls." At the time he made those certifications, Watson knew that each of those statements was false.

- 57. On March 27, 2006, CSK announced that it was conducting an internal investigation relating to, among other things, accounting irregularities regarding vendor allowances. CSK's stock price immediately dropped 8% and dropped a total of 13% for the week.
- 58. On May 1, 2007, CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2005 restating, for the second time, its financial statements for 2002, 2003, and 2004 due, in part, to the fraudulent scheme relating to CSK's failure to write off uncollectible vendor allowances.

III. <u>Defendants Substantially Participated In Making CSK's Misleading Annual</u> Reports

- 59. Fraser substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well to review and discuss related accounting and disclosure issues, such as collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (ii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, Fraser falsely represented that to his

knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those representations were false;

- (iii) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, falsely certifying that: (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading; (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report;" and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those statements were false; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Fraser "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 60. Watson substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith by among other things:
 - (i) signing the Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;

- (ii) signing the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications filed with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;
- (iii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Watson "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 61. O'Brien substantially participated, and had intricate involvement, in the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being CSK's controller, whose responsibilities included reviewing CSK's financial statements for accuracy;
 - (ii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (iii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, O'Brien falsely represented that to his knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility;"

- (iv) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, certifying that (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading, (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report," and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, O'Brien knew that those statements were false; and
- (vi) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. In those management representation letters, O'Brien "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 62. Opper substantially participated in Defendants' fraudulent scheme to avoid writing off uncollectible vendor allowance amounts in CSK's annual reports, or, in the alternative, provided substantial assistance to CSK in carrying out the fraudulent scheme. Rather than sound the alarm on CSK's improper accounting, Opper chose to become an essential participant in CSK's fraudulent scheme by among other things:
- (i) using his position in charge of the day-to-day management of CSK's vendor accounts receivable department, particularly CSK's LWT operations, to instruct employees to make accounting entries to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. For example, on October 10, 2003, Opper instructed a CSK employee to

make an improper journal entry moving an outstanding 2002 LWT receivable to the 2003 LWT receivable.

- (ii) approving the misapplication of paybacks to vendors and the misapplication of those paybacks to later year LWT receivables;
- (iii) tracking CSK's movement of funds to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables and periodically providing this information to senior management, including Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien; and
- (iv) providing to CSK's independent auditor false documents and explanations in order to hide that CSK could not collect a material portion of its vendor allowance receivables. For example, in a November 24, 2003 memo to CSK's independent auditor, Opper provided false information and documentation regarding collections for the 2003 LWT program that were improperly applied to the 2002 LWT program.

IV. In Carrying Out And Covering Up The Fraud, Defendants Repeatedly Lied To CSK's Independent Auditor

- 63. Defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and CSK's independent auditor regularly attended audit committee meetings and frequently and at length discussed the collectibility of the outstanding LWT receivables. Defendants Fraser and Watson often led the discussion regarding LWT collections, and regularly stated that the outstanding LWT receivables were collectible.
- 64. To avoid detection of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants regularly lied to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its reviews and audits of CSK's financial statements.
- 65. In connection with the Forms 10-K CSK filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Fraser, Watson, and (starting in fiscal year 2003) O'Brien, signed management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor. Specifically, in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson signed a management letter dated May 2, 2003; in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year

2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated April 14, 2004; and in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated May 2, 2005. In each of those management representation letters, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien falsely representing that: (i) the receivables were collectible; (ii) the company's financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP; and (iii) they had no knowledge of any fraud involving management or employees with a significant role in internal controls, or any other fraud that could have a material effect on the company's consolidated financial statements. For fiscal years 2002 and 2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien also falsely represented that CSK had adequate internal controls. All of those representations were false for the reasons set forth above. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew that these representations were false when they signed the letters.

66. Defendant Opper gave CSK's independent auditor modified schedules that omitted the columns showing the uncollectible amounts and memoranda containing false information.

V. <u>Defendants Circumvented CSK's Internal Controls</u>

- 67. During 2002, 2003, and part of 2004, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper circumvented CSK's internal controls by, among other things, instructing or approving the entry of false journal entries.
- 68. In 2004, CSK developed various policies regarding vendor allowances, one of which disallowed side letters with terms that differed from the LWT agreements. Contrary to this policy, however, Fraser directed that a vendor agreement relating to LWT allowances be split into two, with one agreement backdated.

VI. Offerings While The False Financial Information Was Outstanding

69. While the false financial statements were outstanding, CSK engaged in several private debt offerings. In January 2004, CSK issued \$225 million of 7% Senior Subordinated Notes. In August 2005, CSK completed a \$125 million issuance of 3 3/8% senior exchangeable notes. In December 2005, CSK issued \$100 million of 4

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25 26 5/8% senior exchangeable notes. CSK's materially false financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

- 70. With respect to the 2004 debt offering, on May 20, 2004 Fraser, Watson. and O'Brien signed a management representation letter to CSK's independent auditor confirming their prior representations contained in the April 14, 2004 management representation letter provided with the fiscal year 2003 Form 10-K. The April 14 management representation letter stated that the 2003 LWT receivable reflected amounts owed CSK for the 2003 LWT program year. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew this representation was false when they signed both the April 14 and May 20. 2004 letters.
- 71. CSK's materially false and misleading disclosures and financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the various Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal year 2002, 2004 and 2005. Defendants knew that these registration statements were false and misleading when filed because they incorporated misstatements from CSK's Forms 10-K.

VII. **Defendants Received Bonuses And Sold Stock During The Fraudulent Scheme**

- 72. For the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years, Fraser and Watson each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 73. For the 2003 fiscal year, O'Brien and Opper each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 74. Fraser, Watson, and Opper sold CSK stock in 2003, 2004, and 2005, during the period of the fraud. Their net profits were \$195,419, \$155,122, and \$28,078.20, respectively.

| 1 | FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
|----|--|---|--|
| 2 | FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES | | |
| 3 | Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act | | |
| 4 | 75. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 5 | above. | | |
| 6 | 76. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | |
| 7 | above, direc | etly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or | |
| 8 | instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of | | |
| 9 | the mails: | | |
| 10 | | a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; | |
| 11 | | b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of a | |
| 12 | | material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in | |
| 13 | | order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances | |
| 14 | | under which they were made, not misleading; or | |
| 15 | | c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which | |
| 16 | | operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser. | |
| 17 | 77. | By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated, and | |
| 18 | unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities | | |
| 19 | Act, 15 U.S | .C. § 77q(a). | |
| 20 | | SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
| 21 | | FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE | |
| 22 | | PURCHASE OR SALE OF SECURITIES | |
| 23 | | Violations and Aiding and Abetting Violations of | |
| 24 | | Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act | |
| 25 | | and Rule 10b-5 thereunder | |
| 26 | 78. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 27 | above. | | |
| 28 | 79. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | |

above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:

- a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- b. made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated c. or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- 80. Alternatively, Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in its violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5 in connection with CSK's annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004.
- 81. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants 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 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.
- 82. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder.

| 1 | THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION PERIODIC | | |
| 3 | REPORTING REQUIREMENTS | | |
| 4 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | | |
| 5 | Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder | | |
| 6 | 83. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 7 | above. | | |
| 8 | 84. CSK violated Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and | | |
| 9 | 13a-13 thereunder, by filing with the Commission annual reports on Form 10-K for | | |
| .0 | fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 that were materially false and failed to include | | |
| .1 | material information necessary to make the required statements, in light of the | | |
| .2 | circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. | | |
| .3 | 85. Fraser and Watson knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in | | |
| .4 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 | | |
| .5 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and | | |
| .6 | 2004. | | |
| 7 | 86. O'Brien and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in | | |
| .8 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 | | |
| .9 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. | | |
| 20 | 87. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) | | |
| 21 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Defendants aided and abetted CSK's | | |
| 22 | violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, | | |
| 23 | of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder. | | |
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| 1 | FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | RECORD-KEEPING VIOLATIONS | | |
| 3 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | | |
| 4 | Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act and Violations of | | |
| 5 | Rule 13b2-1 thereunder | | |
| 6 | 88. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 7 | above. | | |
| 8 | 89. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § | | |
| 9 | 78m(b)(2)(A), by failing to make or keep books, records, and accounts, which, in | | |
| 10 | reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflected its transactions and disposition of its | | |
| 11 | assets. | | |
| 12 | 90. Defendants knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation | | |
| 13 | of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(A). | | |
| 14 | 91. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) | | |
| 15 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and | | |
| 16 | Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will | | |
| 17 | continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. | | |
| 18 | 92. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated | | |
| 19 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-1 by, directly or indirectly, falsifying or causing to be falsified | | |
| 20 | CSK's books, records, or accounts subject to Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. | | |
| 21 | Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Rule 13b2-1, 17 | | |
| 22 | C.F.R. § 240.13b2-1. | | |
| 23 | FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 24 | INTERNAL CONTROLS VIOLATIONS | | |
| 25 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | | |
| 26 | Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act | | |
| 27 | 93. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 28 | above. | | |

- 94. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B), by failing to devise and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that transactions were recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statement in conformity with GAAP and to maintain the accountability for assets.
- 95. Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).
- 96. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

CIRCUMVENTION OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS

Violations of Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange

- 97. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 above.
- 98. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5), by knowingly circumventing or failing to implement a system of internal accounting controls, or, directly or indirectly, by knowingly falsifying or causing to be falsified any CSK books, records, or accounts described in Section 13(b)(2) of the Exchange Act. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5).

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| 1 | SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 2 | FALSE STATEMENT TO ACCOUNTANTS | | |
| 3 | Violations of Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2 | | |
| 4 | (Against Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien) | | |
| 5 | 99. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 6 | above. | | |
| 7 | 100. Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien, directly or indirectly, (i) made, | | |
| 8 | or caused to be made, materially false or misleading statements or (ii) omitted to state, | | |
| 9 | or caused others to omit to state, material facts necessary in order to make statements | | |
| 10 | made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, to an | | |
| 11 | accountant in connection with an audit, review or examination of financial statements | | |
| 12 | or the preparation or filing of a document or report required to be filed with the | | |
| 13 | Commission. | | |
| 14 | 101. By engaging in the conduct alleged above, defendants Fraser, Watson, | | |
| 15 | and O'Brien violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, | | |
| 16 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2. | | |
| 17 | EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 18 | CERTIFICATION VIOLATIONS | | |
| 19 | Violations of Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act | | |
| 20 | (Against Defendant Watson) | | |
| 21 | 102. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 22 | above. | | |
| 23 | 103. Watson violated Rule 13a-14 by signing the certifications included with | | |
| 24 | CSK fiscal year 2002, 2003, and 2004 Forms 10-K, certifying, among other things, that | | |
| 25 | the forms fully complied with the requirements of the Exchange Act and fairly | | |
| 26 | presented, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of | | |
| 27 | the company, when, in fact, the reports contained untrue statements of material fact and | | |
| 28 | omitted material information necessary to make the reports not misleading. | | |

104. By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant Watson violated Exchange Act Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14. Unless restrained and enjoined, defendant Watson will continue to violate Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

I

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendants committed the alleged violations.

II

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Fraser and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

III

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Watson and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13a-14, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

IV

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant O'Brien and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

 \mathbf{V}

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5 and 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder. Or, in the alternative, issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

VI

Enter an order, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2), prohibiting defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from acting as officers

| or directors of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 | | |
|---|--|--|
| of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 781, or that is required to file reports pursuant to | | |
| Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78o(d). | | |
| VII | | |
| Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to disgorge all ill-gotten | | |
| gains from their illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon. | | |
| VIII | | |
| Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to pay civil penalties | | |
| under Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3). | | |
| IX | | |
| Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity an | | |
| 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. | | |
| \mathbf{X} | | |
| Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and | | |
| necessary. | | |
| | | |
| DATED: March 5, 2009 Respectfully submitted, | | |
| a Wahren O'Ken of and | | |
| C. DABNEY O'RIORDAN | | |
| Attorney for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission | | |
| Securities and Exchange Commission | | |
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| 10 | | | |
| 11 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT | | |
| 12 | DISTRICT OF ARIZONA | | |
| 13 | SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, | Case No. | |
| 14 | COMMISSION, | COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OI | |
| 15 | Plaintiff, vs. | THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS | |
| 16 | | | |
| 17 | MARTIN G. FRASER; DON W. WATSON; EDWARD W. O'BRIEN; and | | |
| 18 | GARY M. OPPER, | | |
| 19 | Defendants. | | |
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Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") alleges as follows:

J

SUMMARY

- 1. CSK Auto Corporation ("CSK") was one of the largest specialty retailers of automotive parts and accessories in the United States. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, CSK became a publicly traded company in March 1999. As of January 30, 2005, CSK operated 1,134 stores in nineteen states under three brand names: Checker Auto Parts, Schucks Auto Supply, and Kragen Auto Parts. In 2008, after the conduct alleged in this Complaint, CSK became a wholly-owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.
- 2. As a retailer of automotive products, CSK purchased products from vendors that manufacture automotive parts and accessories. From at least fiscal years 2002 through 2004, a significant portion of CSK's income was derived from allowances it received from its vendors. Vendor allowances are used to provide retailers, such as CSK, with financial support to market the vendor's products. In general, CSK accounted for vendor allowances by reducing its costs of goods sold. Thus, the more vendor allowances CSK earned, the lower its costs of goods sold, resulting in greater reported pre-tax income. During the years at issue, vendor allowances were vital to CSK's financials, increasing its reported pre-tax income by tens of millions of dollars each fiscal year.
- 3. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK knew that there were millions of dollars of vendor allowances that were recognized on its books but were not collectible. Rather than write off the uncollectible receivables, as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), CSK and its senior management engaged in a scheme to hide the uncollectible receivables through various accounting tricks. In addition, during fiscal year 2003, CSK over recognized millions of dollars of vendor allowances. To perpetuate the fraudulent scheme, CSK's senior management lied to the company's independent auditors and audit committee.

- 4. If CSK had written off the uncollectible vendor allowances, it would have increased the company's expenses and decreased its income. Because CSK concealed its uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK's annual reports filed with the Commission for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 materially overstated the company's financial results in violation of GAAP and misled the public about the company's financial performance.
- 5. During the relevant time period, defendant Martin G. Fraser ("Fraser") served as CSK's chief operating officer and president, defendant Don W. Watson ("Watson") served as its chief financial officer, defendant Edward W. O'Brien ("O'Brien") served as a vice president and controller, and defendant Gary M. Opper ("Opper") served as its director of credits and receivables (Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants"). Because of Fraser's and Watson's conduct, CSK filed with the Commission a false annual report for fiscal year 2002 that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for that year by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. In addition, because of Defendants' conduct, CSK filed false annual reports with the Commission that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss, and for fiscal year 2004 by approximately 65%, or \$21 million.
- 6. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent conduct, CSK restated its financial statements as part of its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004 (the "First Restatement"). As part of the First Restatement, CSK reduced its previously recognized vendor allowances for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and the first three quarters of fiscal year 2004. Defendants, however, continued to conceal known, significant uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. The First Restatement also falsely attributed the vendor allowance adjustments to mere errors in estimates and bookkeeping mistakes rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct.

- 7. As a result of Defendants' failure to acknowledge and write off the magnitude of CSK's uncollectible vendor allowance receivables in the First Restatement, CSK still had approximately \$15 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, which, under GAAP, should have been written off. Defendants made a final attempt to collect that \$15 million deficit by intentionally over billing its vendors. When the vendors complained about being double billed, CSK paid back the amounts it had wrongfully collected, but incorrectly accounted for some of those paybacks and mischaracterized the reasons for other paybacks to avoid detection that the company had over collected vendor allowances.
- 8. Each of the Defendants knew CSK was not writing off uncollectible vendor allowances receivables and was over recognizing vendor allowances resulting in CSK's financial statements for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 being materially misstated. Defendants Fraser and Watson substantially participated in the preparation of CSK's 2002, 2003, and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant O'Brien substantially participated in the preparation of the 2003 and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant Opper substantially participated in, or provided substantial assistance to, the preparation of the false 2003 and 2004 financial statements.
- 9. Based on their conduct, Defendants, among other things, violated the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws, falsified CSK's books and records, circumvented CSK's internal controls, and lied to CSK's independent auditors. The Commission seeks an order enjoining Defendants from future violations of the securities laws, requiring Defendants to disgorge ill-gotten gains with prejudgment interest, ordering Defendants to pay civil monetary penalties, requiring Watson to reimburse stock profits pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, barring Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from serving as officers or directors of a public company, and providing other appropriate relief.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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10. 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) & 78aa. Defendants have 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.

11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because defendants reside and transact business within this district and certain of the transactions, acts, practices and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws alleged in this Complaint occurred within this district.

THE DEFENDANTS

- 12. Martin G. Fraser (53) is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, and was CSK's chief operating officer and president from 2000 until September 2006, when he resigned at CSK's request.
- 13. **Don W. Watson** (53) is a resident of Gilbert, Arizona. From January 1998 to September 2005, Watson was CSK's chief financial officer, senior vice president, and treasurer. Watson served as CSK's chief administrative officer and senior vice president from September 2005 to his termination in October 2006.
- 14. Edward W. O'Brien (46) is a resident of Cave Creek, Arizona. O'Brien was CSK's controller and vice president from March 2003 until his termination in September 2006.
- 15. Gary M. Opper (56) is a resident of Mesa Arizona. Opper was CSK's director of credit and receivables, reporting to O'Brien, from March 17, 2003 until he was terminated in September 2006.

RELATED PARTY

16. **CSK Auto Corporation** is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices in Phoenix, Arizona. CSK's common stock was registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. On July 11, 2008, CSK became a wholly owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.

BACKGROUND

I. CSK's "Let's Work Together" Program

- 17. Each year, most of CSK's vendors agreed to pay vendor allowances. Although CSK had various vendor allowance programs, its largest was its "Let's Work Together" program ("LWT"). Typically, LWT agreements covered a one-year period, which CSK referred to as the "program year." Although the LWT agreements varied, CSK generally earned LWT allowances at a set dollar amount, as a percentage of the amount CSK spent to purchase the vendor's product, or as a certain number of cents per item CSK purchased from the vendor.
- 18. CSK recognized LWT allowances ratably, on a monthly basis, based on its estimate of the total allowances it expected to earn for the entire program year. Thus, CSK did not recognize LWT allowances as they were actually earned or collected. In theory, CSK's estimate was based on the LWT agreement and CSK's expected purchases from its vendors. In general, CSK recognized LWT allowances as a reduction to costs of sales (an expense), thereby increasing the company's pre-tax income.
- 19. As CSK recognized LWT allowances for a given program year, it increased the LWT account receivable for that program year. Each LWT program year had its own account receivable. As CSK collected LWT allowances for a particular program year, GAAP required that CSK reduce the outstanding receivable for that same LWT program year.

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In general, CSK collected LWT allowances by issuing a debit memo to the vendor, which notified the vendor that CSK was deducting the amount of the LWT allowance from the amount CSK owed the vendor. If CSK collected too much, it generally paid back the vendor by issuing a credit memo, notifying the vendor that CSK was adding the amount back to the overall amount it owed the vendor.

Defendants' Fraudulent Scheme

The Fraudulent Scheme To Avoid Vendor Allowance Write Offs

- 21. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK was unable to collect all of the vendor allowances it had recognized. As a result, large accounts receivable built up for each LWT program year.
- 22. GAAP required that CSK write off the uncollectible LWT accounts receivable. Specifically, under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5 ("SFAS No. 5"), Accounting for Contingencies Paragraph 8, an estimated loss from a loss contingency shall be accrued by a charge to income if: (i) information available prior to issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that an asset had been impaired at the date of the financial statements; and (ii) the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 3 defines "probable" to mean that the future event or events are likely to occur. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 4 states that examples of loss contingencies include collectibility of receivables. A write off of the uncollectible LWT allowance receivables would have increased CSK's expenses during the fiscal year the write off was made, resulting in a decrease in pre-tax income.
- 23. Instead of writing off CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and taking the requisite reduction to pre-tax income, Fraser and Watson, for fiscal year 2002, and Defendants, for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, concealed CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable by: (i) applying tens of millions of dollars of LWT allowances earned and collected for later LWT program years to prior LWT program year accounts receivable (referred to within CSK as "filling the bucket"); and (ii) incorrectly accounting for millions of dollars of LWT allowances it paid back to

vendors. Through this scheme, CSK avoided writing off tens of millions of dollars in uncollectible LWT receivables, which it had previously recognized.

- 24. CSK "filled the bucket" by taking LWT allowances collected for later program years and applying them to reduce an earlier LWT program year's account receivable. Specifically, CSK: (i) made baseless journal entries reducing the account receivable for a prior LWT program year with an offsetting increase to the account receivable for a later LWT program year; and (ii) applied LWT allowance collections for a later LWT program year to an earlier program year's LWT account receivable.
- 25. CSK also failed to write off LWT allowances it had over collected for prior LWT program years and ultimately paid back to its vendors. Instead of writing off amounts CSK paid back, which would reduce its pre-tax income, CSK increased a later LWT program year's account receivable, making it appear that it had collected an older account receivable when all CSK had done was move the outstanding receivable balance to a more recent year. This accounting treatment was contrary to GAAP because by paying an amount back to a vendor for a prior LWT program year, CSK acknowledged its uncollectibility and should have written off the amount.

A. <u>During CSK's 2002 Fiscal Year, The Company Concealed</u> <u>Approximately \$11 Million Of Uncollectible Vendor Allowances</u>

26. During its 2002 fiscal year, CSK failed to write off approximately \$11 million of uncollectible vendor allowances it had recognized in previous years, most significantly as part of the 2001 LWT program year. Instead of writing off the uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK: (i) made improper journal entries moving approximately \$6 million of collections for the 2002 LWT program to the 2001 LWT account receivable; (ii) misapplied paybacks of approximately \$3 million to the 2002 LWT receivable; and (iii) reached an agreement whereby a vendor agreed to accept an invalid \$2 million debit memo for the 2001 LWT program year in exchange for CSK not collecting \$2 million in allowances earned as part of the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 5, 2003, CSK overstated its

pre-tax income by approximately \$11 million, or 47%.

- 27. Throughout fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew of CSK's numerous efforts to hide uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 28. During fiscal year 2001, the company's controller at the time informed Fraser and Watson that CSK was recognizing more LWT allowances for the 2001 program year than it was actually earning or likely to earn during that program year.
- 29. The 2001 LWT program year ended in September 2001. CSK tried to collect the outstanding 2001 LWT account receivable throughout fiscal year 2002.
- 30. During fiscal year 2002, CSK issued a \$2 million debit memo to a vendor to collect LWT allowances recognized as part of the 2001 LWT program year. The vendor vigorously disputed the debit memo claiming that CSK had not purchased enough products from the vendor to have earned the \$2 million. Fraser negotiated the dispute. By the middle of the 2002 fiscal year, CSK agreed to forego collecting \$2 million worth of LWT allowances it expected to earn on purchases during the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years in exchange for the vendor accepting the \$2 million debit memo. Both Fraser and Watson knew that the vendor had agreed to accept the already-issued \$2 million debit memo only in exchange for CSK's agreement not to collect \$2 million in LWT for the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. Since the vendor only accepted the debit memo in exchange for future benefits from CSK, *i.e.*, future purchases of product from the vendor, GAAP required that CSK immediately write off the \$2 million because it was not collectible as part of the 2001 LWT program year.
- 31. During fiscal year 2002, CSK had to make various paybacks to vendors for vendor allowances it had recognized during prior fiscal years. Instead of correctly accounting for those paybacks by writing them off and increasing CSK's expenses, the company increased the 2002 LWT program year's account receivable. Watson instructed CSK employees that they would have to raise additional allowances to cover for those amounts paid back because CSK "could not afford a charge for any

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paybacks." Fraser knew of Watson's instruction and CSK's failure to write off vendor allowances paid back to vendors.

- 32. In October 2002, Fraser, Watson, and others met to discuss the collectibility of the 2001 LWT account receivable, which had been outstanding for approximately one year. At that time, of the remaining outstanding balance for the 2001 LWT account receivable, \$3.2 million was known to be uncollectible and \$4.5 million was "questionable." These amounts did not include either the \$2 million Fraser and Watson already knew was uncollectible or the paybacks.
- 33. Rather than write off these uncollectible amounts, as required by GAAP, in October and November 2002, CSK devised a plan to move collections for the 2002 LWT program year to cover the 2001 LWT account receivable. As part of that plan, in or about November 2002, Watson instructed a CSK employee to identify collections for the 2002 LWT program year to move to the 2001 LWT program year account receivable to cover 2001 shortfalls.
 - B. During Fiscal Year 2003, CSK Concealed Approximately \$24 Million In Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances And Improperly Recognized Approximately \$10 Million In Vendor Allowances
- During its 2003 fiscal year, CSK used various tactics to fraudulently 34. conceal, rather than properly write off, approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowances recognized during previous LWT program years, primarily as part of the 2002 LWT program year. Moreover, CSK improperly and prematurely recognized \$6 million in vendor allowances and improperly recognized an additional \$4 million of LWT allowances. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on April 15, 2004, CSK overstated its 2003 pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, turning its actual pre-tax loss of approximately \$18 million into purported pre-tax income of \$16 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and over recognized allowances, and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 35. During fiscal year 2003, CSK hid approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. First, CSK applied approximately \$10 million in 2003 LWT program year collections to the 2002 LWT program year receivable. Second, CSK failed to write off approximately \$5 million in vendor allowances CSK had over collected during prior LWT program years but had to pay back during fiscal year 2003. Third, CSK made a baseless journal entry decreasing the 2002 LWT receivable by \$9 million and increasing the 2003 LWT receivable by the same amount, which reduced the 2002 LWT receivable to zero.
- 36. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew CSK was failing to write of uncollectible LWT allowances. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants regularly received information regarding CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. For example, on or about September 9, 2003, Opper sent an email to Fraser, Watson, O'Brien and others discussing the collection of the 2002 LWT account receivable, which was then approximately one-year old. The email stated that: (i) "approximately \$9.6mm in 2003 collections . . . were moved to 2002 to cover short falls from prior periods;" and (ii) the outstanding 2002 LWT program year receivable balance did not include \$5.4 million in 2002 paybacks. Defendant Opper referenced in the email a chart he had attached that explained the "\$24.2 million in LWT exposure from 2002 and prior." That chart included detailed explanations regarding millions of dollars of uncollectible LWT allowances for prior years, including the 2002 LWT program year.
- 37. Defendants also met to discuss the uncollectible LWT receivables during fiscal year 2003. For example, Defendants attended a meeting on or about September 17, 2003 to discuss the "2002 Outstanding LWT status" where Opper provided copies of the chart attached to his September 9, 2003 email.
- 38. During the fourth quarter of 2003, CSK prematurely recognized approximately \$6 million in additional vendor allowances, which would not be earned, if at all, until fiscal year 2004, in order to meet its earnings numbers. On December 23, 2003, Defendants and others met with CSK's independent auditor in Fraser's office to

additional warranty allowances from two vendors. At that same time, CSK had a warranty deficit of approximately \$13 million, which represented returns from customers covered by warranties in excess of the warranty accrual recorded by CSK. Under GAAP, a warranty deficit should be written off unless additional warranty allowances are obtained to cover the deficit. However, instead of applying the \$4 million of additional warranty allowances to offset a portion of its warranty deficit balance, CSK improperly recognized those warranty allowances as additional LWT allowances. Thus, the warranty deficit included in CSK's inventory balance remained \$13 million, and CSK improperly inflated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$4 million.

11.

C. <u>During Fiscal Year 2004, CSK Failed To Write Off Approximately</u> \$21 Million Of Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances

40. During fiscal year 2004, CSK concealed that it could not collect vendor allowances totaling approximately \$21 million. Specifically, CSK applied:

(i) approximately \$11 million in 2004 LWT program year collections to the 2003 LWT account receivable; (ii) approximately \$4 million CSK paid back to vendors for the 2003 and 2002 LWT program years to the 2004 LWT receivable; and

(iii) approximately \$6 million via baseless journal entries to the 2003 LWT receivable from other vendor allowance receivables in other time periods. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 2, 2005, CSK overstated pre-tax income for fiscal year 2004 by

approximately 65%, or \$21 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and that, as a result, the company's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 41. CSK's 2004 Form 10-K included CSK's First Restatement, which partially restated CSK's vendor allowances recognized during prior years. Specifically, CSK restated because it could not collect all of the 2003 LWT receivable. In addition, CSK restated for vendor allowances paid back during fiscal year 2003 that CSK failed to properly write off during the 2003 fiscal year. CSK's restatement regarding vendor allowances resulted in CSK adjusting its costs of sales upward and its pre-tax income downward, for the first three quarters of 2004, and the 2003, 2002, and 2001 fiscal years by \$1.9 million, \$7.1 million, \$9.0 million, and \$0.5 million, respectively.
- 42. The First Restatement, however, falsely attributed the vendor allowance restatement to "errors in estimation in earlier periods" and "vendor allowances recorded in improper periods" due to "imprecise estimates, bookkeeping errors and recording allowances in the incorrect periods." Defendants knew the reasons stated for the vendor allowance restatement were false because the First Restatement resulted from Defendants' fraudulent scheme.
- 43. The First Restatement also failed to: (i) write off all known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables; (ii) disclose the full extent of CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible receivables from its independent auditors; and (iii) disclose CSK's over recognition of vendor allowances during fiscal 2003. Defendants knew about these misstatements contained in the First Restatement.
- 44. While preparing the First Restatement, Defendants hid the full extent of their fraudulent conduct from CSK's independent auditor. For example, despite the independent auditor's request for a list of all paybacks CSK had made to its vendors, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided an incomplete list. As a result, CSK failed to write off \$4 million in paybacks it had made during 2004 and applied to the 2003 LWT receivable. Similarly, Fraser and Watson negotiated agreements with

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falsify documents to make it appear that CSK had entered into separate, seemingly unrelated agreements, containing different dates, in order to hide from CSK's independent auditor that CSK's receipt of additional LWT allowances were contingent upon CSK's willingness to grant price increases offsetting the LWT amounts the vendors purportedly agreed to pay. Thus, Defendants knew they were hiding material information from CSK's independent auditor and excluding from the restatement. intentional accounting errors regarding vendor allowances.

D. To Further Cover Up Its Fraud In The Wake Of The First Restatement, CSK Debited Its Vendors For Amounts It Knew They **Did Not Owe**

- 45. After filing its First Restatement in May 2005, CSK's outstanding 2004 LWT account receivable still contained approximately \$15 million that was not collectible. In an effort to conceal that uncollectible receivable, CSK issued debit memos to the vendors for the \$15 million at the end of July 2005.
- 46. As of July 15, 2005, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knew that \$15 million of the outstanding 2004 LWT receivable was not uncollectible because it had previously been collected and had been applied to prior LWT program year receivables as part of CSK's fraudulent scheme.
- 47. In July 2005, CSK issued debit memos totaling approximately \$31 million, including the \$15 million that CSK had previously collected. Opper instructed employees to prepare the debit memos to collect the entire \$31 million even though \$15 million of the allowances had already been collected. When the debit memos were issued, Fraser met with Watson, O'Brien, Opper, and other CSK employees. Fraser told the group that CSK needed to make the debit memos "stick" and that, when it had sent out debit memos in the past, CSK paid back only about ten percent of the debits.

- 48. In late July 2005 or early August 2005, Fraser was told that many of the buyers saw errors in the proposed debits. Fraser responded that probably 70% of the debits would "stick" and that many of the vendors would not even notice them. At least as early as September 2005, Fraser knew that a substantial amount CSK had debited was at risk of having to be paid back to its vendors.
- 49. After the vendors complained about the debit memos, CSK continued to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. First, CSK negotiated deals with vendors for future vendor allowances that CSK offset against the already-issued 2004 LWT debit memos. Second, CSK falsified its books and records to conceal that it was paying back portions of the debit memos. For example, CSK issued to certain vendors credit memos, which O'Brien created or caused to be created, that falsely described the paybacks as being related to "costing," "pricing increases—steel surcharge," or "warranty." In fact, the credit memos paid back LWT amounts that CSK had improperly debited.

II. <u>CSK's Forms 10-K For Fiscal Years 2002, 2003, And 2004 Contained</u> <u>Materially False Information</u>

- 50. CSK filed annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.
- 51. The notes to the financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 falsely stated that "Specific accounts are written off against the allowance when management determines the account is uncollectible." In fact, CSK did not write off known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, but rather engaged in a scheme to avoid and hide such write offs, as set forth above.

52. In all, CSK understated its costs of goods sold during fiscal years 2002 through 2004 as follows:

| FY | Concealed Receivables From Prior Years | | Over | Total | |
|------|--|------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| | Unsupported Journal Entries | Misapplied Debit Memos | Misapplied Paybacks | Recognized Allowances / Other Uncollectible Receivables | |
| 2002 | \$6M | | \$3 M | \$2 M | \$11 M |
| 2003 | \$9 M | \$10 M | \$5 M | \$10 M | \$34 M |
| 2004 | \$6 M | \$11 M | \$4 M | | \$21 M |

- 53. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002 falsely overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew that the company's financial statement were materially misstated.
- 54. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003 overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew that the company's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 55. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, which also contained the First Restatement, overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 65%, or \$21 million. In addition, it falsely attributed the need for the vendor allowance restatement to estimation errors, imprecise estimates, and bookkeeping errors, rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Defendants knew the company's financial statements were materially misstated and mischaracterized the reasons for the vendor allowance restatement.
- 56. Watson, as CSK's CFO, signed CSK's annual reports and the accompanying Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In connection with each of the Forms 10-K filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Watson certified he had no knowledge of

any untrue statement of material fact in the report, the annual report "fairly presents in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows . . .," and that he had disclosed to CSK's independent auditors and audit committee "any fraud, whether or not material, that involved management or any other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal controls." At the time he made those certifications, Watson knew that each of those statements was false.

- 57. On March 27, 2006, CSK announced that it was conducting an internal investigation relating to, among other things, accounting irregularities regarding vendor allowances. CSK's stock price immediately dropped 8% and dropped a total of 13% for the week.
- 58. On May 1, 2007, CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2005 restating, for the second time, its financial statements for 2002, 2003, and 2004 due, in part, to the fraudulent scheme relating to CSK's failure to write off uncollectible vendor allowances.

III. <u>Defendants Substantially Participated In Making CSK's Misleading Annual</u> <u>Reports</u>

- 59. Fraser substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well to review and discuss related accounting and disclosure issues, such as collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (ii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, Fraser falsely represented that to his

knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those representations were false;

- (iii) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, falsely certifying that: (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading; (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report;" and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those statements were false; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Fraser "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 60. Watson substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith by among other things:
 - (i) signing the Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;

- (ii) signing the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications filed with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;
- (iii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Watson "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 61. O'Brien substantially participated, and had intricate involvement, in the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being CSK's controller, whose responsibilities included reviewing CSK's financial statements for accuracy;
 - (ii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (iii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, O'Brien falsely represented that to his knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility;"

- (iv) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, certifying that (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading, (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report," and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, O'Brien knew that those statements were false; and
- (vi) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. In those management representation letters, O'Brien "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 62. Opper substantially participated in Defendants' fraudulent scheme to avoid writing off uncollectible vendor allowance amounts in CSK's annual reports, or, in the alternative, provided substantial assistance to CSK in carrying out the fraudulent scheme. Rather than sound the alarm on CSK's improper accounting, Opper chose to become an essential participant in CSK's fraudulent scheme by among other things:
- (i) using his position in charge of the day-to-day management of CSK's vendor accounts receivable department, particularly CSK's LWT operations, to instruct employees to make accounting entries to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. For example, on October 10, 2003, Opper instructed a CSK employee to

make an improper journal entry moving an outstanding 2002 LWT receivable to the 2003 LWT receivable.

- (ii) approving the misapplication of paybacks to vendors and the misapplication of those paybacks to later year LWT receivables;
- (iii) tracking CSK's movement of funds to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables and periodically providing this information to senior management, including Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien; and
- (iv) providing to CSK's independent auditor false documents and explanations in order to hide that CSK could not collect a material portion of its vendor allowance receivables. For example, in a November 24, 2003 memo to CSK's independent auditor, Opper provided false information and documentation regarding collections for the 2003 LWT program that were improperly applied to the 2002 LWT program.

IV. In Carrying Out And Covering Up The Fraud, Defendants Repeatedly Lied To CSK's Independent Auditor

- 63. Defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and CSK's independent auditor regularly attended audit committee meetings and frequently and at length discussed the collectibility of the outstanding LWT receivables. Defendants Fraser and Watson often led the discussion regarding LWT collections, and regularly stated that the outstanding LWT receivables were collectible.
- 64. To avoid detection of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants regularly lied to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its reviews and audits of CSK's financial statements.
- 65. In connection with the Forms 10-K CSK filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Fraser, Watson, and (starting in fiscal year 2003) O'Brien, signed management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor. Specifically, in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson signed a management letter dated May 2, 2003; in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year

2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated April 14, 2004; and in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated May 2, 2005. In each of those management representation letters, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien falsely representing that: (i) the receivables were collectible; (ii) the company's financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP; and (iii) they had no knowledge of any fraud involving management or employees with a significant role in internal controls, or any other fraud that could have a material effect on the company's consolidated financial statements. For fiscal years 2002 and 2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien also falsely represented that CSK had adequate internal controls. All of those representations were false for the reasons set forth above. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew that these representations were false when they signed the letters.

66. Defendant Opper gave CSK's independent auditor modified schedules that omitted the columns showing the uncollectible amounts and memoranda containing false information.

V. <u>Defendants Circumvented CSK's Internal Controls</u>

- 67. During 2002, 2003, and part of 2004, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper circumvented CSK's internal controls by, among other things, instructing or approving the entry of false journal entries.
- 68. In 2004, CSK developed various policies regarding vendor allowances, one of which disallowed side letters with terms that differed from the LWT agreements. Contrary to this policy, however, Fraser directed that a vendor agreement relating to LWT allowances be split into two, with one agreement backdated.

VI. Offerings While The False Financial Information Was Outstanding

69. While the false financial statements were outstanding, CSK engaged in several private debt offerings. In January 2004, CSK issued \$225 million of 7% Senior Subordinated Notes. In August 2005, CSK completed a \$125 million issuance of 3 3/8% senior exchangeable notes. In December 2005, CSK issued \$100 million of 4

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25 26 5/8% senior exchangeable notes. CSK's materially false financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

- 70. With respect to the 2004 debt offering, on May 20, 2004 Fraser, Watson. and O'Brien signed a management representation letter to CSK's independent auditor confirming their prior representations contained in the April 14, 2004 management representation letter provided with the fiscal year 2003 Form 10-K. The April 14 management representation letter stated that the 2003 LWT receivable reflected amounts owed CSK for the 2003 LWT program year. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew this representation was false when they signed both the April 14 and May 20. 2004 letters.
- 71. CSK's materially false and misleading disclosures and financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the various Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal year 2002, 2004 and 2005. Defendants knew that these registration statements were false and misleading when filed because they incorporated misstatements from CSK's Forms 10-K.

VII. **Defendants Received Bonuses And Sold Stock During The Fraudulent Scheme**

- 72. For the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years, Fraser and Watson each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 73. For the 2003 fiscal year, O'Brien and Opper each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 74. Fraser, Watson, and Opper sold CSK stock in 2003, 2004, and 2005, during the period of the fraud. Their net profits were \$195,419, \$155,122, and \$28,078.20, respectively.

| 1 | | FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES | | |
| 3 | Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act | | |
| 4 | 75. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 5 | above. | | |
| 6 | 76. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | |
| 7 | above, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or | | |
| 8 | instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of | | |
| 9 | the mails: | | |
| 10 | | a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; | |
| 11 | | b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of a | |
| 12 | | material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in | |
| 13 | | order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances | |
| 14 | | under which they were made, not misleading; or | |
| 15 | | c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which | |
| 16 | | operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser. | |
| 17 | 77. | By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated, and | |
| 18 | unless restra | ained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities | |
| 19 | Act, 15 U.S | .C. § 77q(a). | |
| 20 | | SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
| 21 | | FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE | |
| 22 | | PURCHASE OR SALE OF SECURITIES | |
| 23 | | Violations and Aiding and Abetting Violations of | |
| 24 | | Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act | |
| 25 | | and Rule 10b-5 thereunder | |
| 26 | 78. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 27 | above. | | |
| 28 | 79. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | |

above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:

- a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- b. made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated c. or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- 80. Alternatively, Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in its violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5 in connection with CSK's annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004.
- 81. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants 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 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.
- 82. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder.

| 1 | THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
|----|--|
| 2 | VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION PERIODIC |
| 3 | REPORTING REQUIREMENTS |
| 4 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 5 | Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder |
| 6 | 83. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 7 | above. |
| 8 | 84. CSK violated Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and |
| 9 | 13a-13 thereunder, by filing with the Commission annual reports on Form 10-K for |
| .0 | fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 that were materially false and failed to include |
| .1 | material information necessary to make the required statements, in light of the |
| .2 | circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. |
| .3 | 85. Fraser and Watson knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in |
| .4 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 |
| .5 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and |
| .6 | 2004. |
| .7 | 86. O'Brien and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in |
| .8 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 |
| .9 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. |
| 20 | 87. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) |
| 21 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Defendants aided and abetted CSK's |
| 22 | violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, |
| 23 | of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder. |
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| 1 | FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | RECORD-KEEPING VIOLATIONS | | |
| 3 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | | |
| 4 | Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act and Violations of | | |
| 5 | Rule 13b2-1 thereunder | | |
| 6 | 88. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 7 | above. | | |
| 8 | 89. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § | | |
| 9 | 78m(b)(2)(A), by failing to make or keep books, records, and accounts, which, in | | |
| 10 | reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflected its transactions and disposition of its | | |
| 11 | assets. | | |
| 12 | 90. Defendants knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation | | |
| 13 | of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(A). | | |
| 14 | 91. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) | | |
| 15 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and | | |
| 16 | Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will | | |
| 17 | continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. | | |
| 18 | 92. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated | | |
| 19 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-1 by, directly or indirectly, falsifying or causing to be falsified | | |
| 20 | CSK's books, records, or accounts subject to Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. | | |
| 21 | Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Rule 13b2-1, 17 | | |
| 22 | C.F.R. § 240.13b2-1. | | |
| 23 | FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 24 | INTERNAL CONTROLS VIOLATIONS | | |
| 25 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | | |
| 26 | Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act | | |
| 27 | 93. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 28 | above. | | |

- 94. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B), by failing to devise and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that transactions were recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statement in conformity with GAAP and to maintain the accountability for assets.
- 95. Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).
- 96. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

CIRCUMVENTION OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS

Violations of Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange

- 97. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 above.
- 98. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5), by knowingly circumventing or failing to implement a system of internal accounting controls, or, directly or indirectly, by knowingly falsifying or causing to be falsified any CSK books, records, or accounts described in Section 13(b)(2) of the Exchange Act. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5).

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| 1 | SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 2 | FALSE STATEMENT TO ACCOUNTANTS | | |
| 3 | Violations of Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2 | | |
| 4 | (Against Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien) | | |
| 5 | 99. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 6 | above. | | |
| 7 | 100. Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien, directly or indirectly, (i) made, | | |
| 8 | or caused to be made, materially false or misleading statements or (ii) omitted to state, | | |
| 9 | or caused others to omit to state, material facts necessary in order to make statements | | |
| 10 | made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, to an | | |
| 11 | accountant in connection with an audit, review or examination of financial statements | | |
| 12 | or the preparation or filing of a document or report required to be filed with the | | |
| 13 | Commission. | | |
| 14 | 101. By engaging in the conduct alleged above, defendants Fraser, Watson, | | |
| 15 | and O'Brien violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, | | |
| 16 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2. | | |
| 17 | EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 18 | CERTIFICATION VIOLATIONS | | |
| 19 | Violations of Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act | | |
| 20 | (Against Defendant Watson) | | |
| 21 | 102. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 22 | above. | | |
| 23 | 103. Watson violated Rule 13a-14 by signing the certifications included with | | |
| 24 | CSK fiscal year 2002, 2003, and 2004 Forms 10-K, certifying, among other things, that | | |
| 25 | the forms fully complied with the requirements of the Exchange Act and fairly | | |
| 26 | presented, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of | | |
| 27 | the company, when, in fact, the reports contained untrue statements of material fact and | | |
| 28 | omitted material information necessary to make the reports not misleading. | | |

104. By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant Watson violated Exchange Act Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14. Unless restrained and enjoined, defendant Watson will continue to violate Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

I

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendants committed the alleged violations.

II

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Fraser and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

III

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Watson and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13a-14, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

IV

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant O'Brien and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

 \mathbf{V}

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5 and 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder. Or, in the alternative, issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

VI

Enter an order, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2), prohibiting defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from acting as officers

| 1 | or directors of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 | |
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| 2 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 781, or that is required to file reports pursuant to | |
| 3 | Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78o(d). | |
| 4 | VII | |
| 5 | Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to disgorge all ill-gotten | |
| 6 | gains from their illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon. | |
| 7 | VIII | |
| 8 | Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to pay civil penalties | |
| 9 | under Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3). | |
| 10 | IX | |
| 11 | Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and | |
| 12 | the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of | |
| 13 | all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or | |
| 14 | motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court. | |
| 15 | $\ $ \mathbf{X} | |
| 16 | Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and | |
| 17 | necessary. | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | DATED: March 5, 2009 Respectfully submitted, | |
| 20 | a when O'X in al and | |
| 21 | C. DABNEY O'RIORDAN | |
| 22 | Attorney for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission | |
| 23 | Securities and Exchange Commission | |
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| | Facsimile: (323) 965-3908 | | | | |
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| 11 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT | | | | |
| 12 | DISTRICT OF | ARIZONA | | | |
| 13 | SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, | Case No. | | | |
| 14 | COMMISSION, | COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OI | | | |
| 15 | Plaintiff, vs. | THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS | | | |
| 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | MARTIN G. FRASER; DON W. WATSON; EDWARD W. O'BRIEN; and | | | | |
| 18 | GARY M. OPPER, | | | | |
| 19 | Defendants. | | | | |
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Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") alleges as follows:

J

SUMMARY

- 1. CSK Auto Corporation ("CSK") was one of the largest specialty retailers of automotive parts and accessories in the United States. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, CSK became a publicly traded company in March 1999. As of January 30, 2005, CSK operated 1,134 stores in nineteen states under three brand names: Checker Auto Parts, Schucks Auto Supply, and Kragen Auto Parts. In 2008, after the conduct alleged in this Complaint, CSK became a wholly-owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.
- 2. As a retailer of automotive products, CSK purchased products from vendors that manufacture automotive parts and accessories. From at least fiscal years 2002 through 2004, a significant portion of CSK's income was derived from allowances it received from its vendors. Vendor allowances are used to provide retailers, such as CSK, with financial support to market the vendor's products. In general, CSK accounted for vendor allowances by reducing its costs of goods sold. Thus, the more vendor allowances CSK earned, the lower its costs of goods sold, resulting in greater reported pre-tax income. During the years at issue, vendor allowances were vital to CSK's financials, increasing its reported pre-tax income by tens of millions of dollars each fiscal year.
- 3. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK knew that there were millions of dollars of vendor allowances that were recognized on its books but were not collectible. Rather than write off the uncollectible receivables, as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), CSK and its senior management engaged in a scheme to hide the uncollectible receivables through various accounting tricks. In addition, during fiscal year 2003, CSK over recognized millions of dollars of vendor allowances. To perpetuate the fraudulent scheme, CSK's senior management lied to the company's independent auditors and audit committee.

- 4. If CSK had written off the uncollectible vendor allowances, it would have increased the company's expenses and decreased its income. Because CSK concealed its uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK's annual reports filed with the Commission for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 materially overstated the company's financial results in violation of GAAP and misled the public about the company's financial performance.
- 5. During the relevant time period, defendant Martin G. Fraser ("Fraser") served as CSK's chief operating officer and president, defendant Don W. Watson ("Watson") served as its chief financial officer, defendant Edward W. O'Brien ("O'Brien") served as a vice president and controller, and defendant Gary M. Opper ("Opper") served as its director of credits and receivables (Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants"). Because of Fraser's and Watson's conduct, CSK filed with the Commission a false annual report for fiscal year 2002 that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for that year by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. In addition, because of Defendants' conduct, CSK filed false annual reports with the Commission that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss, and for fiscal year 2004 by approximately 65%, or \$21 million.
- 6. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent conduct, CSK restated its financial statements as part of its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004 (the "First Restatement"). As part of the First Restatement, CSK reduced its previously recognized vendor allowances for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and the first three quarters of fiscal year 2004. Defendants, however, continued to conceal known, significant uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. The First Restatement also falsely attributed the vendor allowance adjustments to mere errors in estimates and bookkeeping mistakes rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct.

- 7. As a result of Defendants' failure to acknowledge and write off the magnitude of CSK's uncollectible vendor allowance receivables in the First Restatement, CSK still had approximately \$15 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, which, under GAAP, should have been written off. Defendants made a final attempt to collect that \$15 million deficit by intentionally over billing its vendors. When the vendors complained about being double billed, CSK paid back the amounts it had wrongfully collected, but incorrectly accounted for some of those paybacks and mischaracterized the reasons for other paybacks to avoid detection that the company had over collected vendor allowances.
- 8. Each of the Defendants knew CSK was not writing off uncollectible vendor allowances receivables and was over recognizing vendor allowances resulting in CSK's financial statements for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 being materially misstated. Defendants Fraser and Watson substantially participated in the preparation of CSK's 2002, 2003, and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant O'Brien substantially participated in the preparation of the 2003 and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant Opper substantially participated in, or provided substantial assistance to, the preparation of the false 2003 and 2004 financial statements.
- 9. Based on their conduct, Defendants, among other things, violated the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws, falsified CSK's books and records, circumvented CSK's internal controls, and lied to CSK's independent auditors. The Commission seeks an order enjoining Defendants from future violations of the securities laws, requiring Defendants to disgorge ill-gotten gains with prejudgment interest, ordering Defendants to pay civil monetary penalties, requiring Watson to reimburse stock profits pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, barring Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from serving as officers or directors of a public company, and providing other appropriate relief.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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10. 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) & 78aa. Defendants have 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.

11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because defendants reside and transact business within this district and certain of the transactions, acts, practices and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws alleged in this Complaint occurred within this district.

THE DEFENDANTS

- 12. Martin G. Fraser (53) is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, and was CSK's chief operating officer and president from 2000 until September 2006, when he resigned at CSK's request.
- 13. **Don W. Watson** (53) is a resident of Gilbert, Arizona. From January 1998 to September 2005, Watson was CSK's chief financial officer, senior vice president, and treasurer. Watson served as CSK's chief administrative officer and senior vice president from September 2005 to his termination in October 2006.
- 14. Edward W. O'Brien (46) is a resident of Cave Creek, Arizona. O'Brien was CSK's controller and vice president from March 2003 until his termination in September 2006.
- 15. Gary M. Opper (56) is a resident of Mesa Arizona. Opper was CSK's director of credit and receivables, reporting to O'Brien, from March 17, 2003 until he was terminated in September 2006.

RELATED PARTY

16. **CSK Auto Corporation** is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices in Phoenix, Arizona. CSK's common stock was registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. On July 11, 2008, CSK became a wholly owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.

BACKGROUND

I. CSK's "Let's Work Together" Program

- 17. Each year, most of CSK's vendors agreed to pay vendor allowances. Although CSK had various vendor allowance programs, its largest was its "Let's Work Together" program ("LWT"). Typically, LWT agreements covered a one-year period, which CSK referred to as the "program year." Although the LWT agreements varied, CSK generally earned LWT allowances at a set dollar amount, as a percentage of the amount CSK spent to purchase the vendor's product, or as a certain number of cents per item CSK purchased from the vendor.
- 18. CSK recognized LWT allowances ratably, on a monthly basis, based on its estimate of the total allowances it expected to earn for the entire program year. Thus, CSK did not recognize LWT allowances as they were actually earned or collected. In theory, CSK's estimate was based on the LWT agreement and CSK's expected purchases from its vendors. In general, CSK recognized LWT allowances as a reduction to costs of sales (an expense), thereby increasing the company's pre-tax income.
- 19. As CSK recognized LWT allowances for a given program year, it increased the LWT account receivable for that program year. Each LWT program year had its own account receivable. As CSK collected LWT allowances for a particular program year, GAAP required that CSK reduce the outstanding receivable for that same LWT program year.

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In general, CSK collected LWT allowances by issuing a debit memo to the vendor, which notified the vendor that CSK was deducting the amount of the LWT allowance from the amount CSK owed the vendor. If CSK collected too much, it generally paid back the vendor by issuing a credit memo, notifying the vendor that CSK was adding the amount back to the overall amount it owed the vendor.

Defendants' Fraudulent Scheme

The Fraudulent Scheme To Avoid Vendor Allowance Write Offs

- 21. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK was unable to collect all of the vendor allowances it had recognized. As a result, large accounts receivable built up for each LWT program year.
- 22. GAAP required that CSK write off the uncollectible LWT accounts receivable. Specifically, under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5 ("SFAS No. 5"), Accounting for Contingencies Paragraph 8, an estimated loss from a loss contingency shall be accrued by a charge to income if: (i) information available prior to issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that an asset had been impaired at the date of the financial statements; and (ii) the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 3 defines "probable" to mean that the future event or events are likely to occur. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 4 states that examples of loss contingencies include collectibility of receivables. A write off of the uncollectible LWT allowance receivables would have increased CSK's expenses during the fiscal year the write off was made, resulting in a decrease in pre-tax income.
- 23. Instead of writing off CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and taking the requisite reduction to pre-tax income, Fraser and Watson, for fiscal year 2002, and Defendants, for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, concealed CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable by: (i) applying tens of millions of dollars of LWT allowances earned and collected for later LWT program years to prior LWT program year accounts receivable (referred to within CSK as "filling the bucket"); and (ii) incorrectly accounting for millions of dollars of LWT allowances it paid back to

vendors. Through this scheme, CSK avoided writing off tens of millions of dollars in uncollectible LWT receivables, which it had previously recognized.

- 24. CSK "filled the bucket" by taking LWT allowances collected for later program years and applying them to reduce an earlier LWT program year's account receivable. Specifically, CSK: (i) made baseless journal entries reducing the account receivable for a prior LWT program year with an offsetting increase to the account receivable for a later LWT program year; and (ii) applied LWT allowance collections for a later LWT program year to an earlier program year's LWT account receivable.
- 25. CSK also failed to write off LWT allowances it had over collected for prior LWT program years and ultimately paid back to its vendors. Instead of writing off amounts CSK paid back, which would reduce its pre-tax income, CSK increased a later LWT program year's account receivable, making it appear that it had collected an older account receivable when all CSK had done was move the outstanding receivable balance to a more recent year. This accounting treatment was contrary to GAAP because by paying an amount back to a vendor for a prior LWT program year, CSK acknowledged its uncollectibility and should have written off the amount.

A. <u>During CSK's 2002 Fiscal Year, The Company Concealed</u> <u>Approximately \$11 Million Of Uncollectible Vendor Allowances</u>

26. During its 2002 fiscal year, CSK failed to write off approximately \$11 million of uncollectible vendor allowances it had recognized in previous years, most significantly as part of the 2001 LWT program year. Instead of writing off the uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK: (i) made improper journal entries moving approximately \$6 million of collections for the 2002 LWT program to the 2001 LWT account receivable; (ii) misapplied paybacks of approximately \$3 million to the 2002 LWT receivable; and (iii) reached an agreement whereby a vendor agreed to accept an invalid \$2 million debit memo for the 2001 LWT program year in exchange for CSK not collecting \$2 million in allowances earned as part of the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 5, 2003, CSK overstated its

pre-tax income by approximately \$11 million, or 47%.

- 27. Throughout fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew of CSK's numerous efforts to hide uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 28. During fiscal year 2001, the company's controller at the time informed Fraser and Watson that CSK was recognizing more LWT allowances for the 2001 program year than it was actually earning or likely to earn during that program year.
- 29. The 2001 LWT program year ended in September 2001. CSK tried to collect the outstanding 2001 LWT account receivable throughout fiscal year 2002.
- 30. During fiscal year 2002, CSK issued a \$2 million debit memo to a vendor to collect LWT allowances recognized as part of the 2001 LWT program year. The vendor vigorously disputed the debit memo claiming that CSK had not purchased enough products from the vendor to have earned the \$2 million. Fraser negotiated the dispute. By the middle of the 2002 fiscal year, CSK agreed to forego collecting \$2 million worth of LWT allowances it expected to earn on purchases during the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years in exchange for the vendor accepting the \$2 million debit memo. Both Fraser and Watson knew that the vendor had agreed to accept the already-issued \$2 million debit memo only in exchange for CSK's agreement not to collect \$2 million in LWT for the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. Since the vendor only accepted the debit memo in exchange for future benefits from CSK, *i.e.*, future purchases of product from the vendor, GAAP required that CSK immediately write off the \$2 million because it was not collectible as part of the 2001 LWT program year.
- 31. During fiscal year 2002, CSK had to make various paybacks to vendors for vendor allowances it had recognized during prior fiscal years. Instead of correctly accounting for those paybacks by writing them off and increasing CSK's expenses, the company increased the 2002 LWT program year's account receivable. Watson instructed CSK employees that they would have to raise additional allowances to cover for those amounts paid back because CSK "could not afford a charge for any

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paybacks." Fraser knew of Watson's instruction and CSK's failure to write off vendor allowances paid back to vendors.

- 32. In October 2002, Fraser, Watson, and others met to discuss the collectibility of the 2001 LWT account receivable, which had been outstanding for approximately one year. At that time, of the remaining outstanding balance for the 2001 LWT account receivable, \$3.2 million was known to be uncollectible and \$4.5 million was "questionable." These amounts did not include either the \$2 million Fraser and Watson already knew was uncollectible or the paybacks.
- 33. Rather than write off these uncollectible amounts, as required by GAAP, in October and November 2002, CSK devised a plan to move collections for the 2002 LWT program year to cover the 2001 LWT account receivable. As part of that plan, in or about November 2002, Watson instructed a CSK employee to identify collections for the 2002 LWT program year to move to the 2001 LWT program year account receivable to cover 2001 shortfalls.
 - B. During Fiscal Year 2003, CSK Concealed Approximately \$24 Million In Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances And Improperly Recognized Approximately \$10 Million In Vendor Allowances
- During its 2003 fiscal year, CSK used various tactics to fraudulently 34. conceal, rather than properly write off, approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowances recognized during previous LWT program years, primarily as part of the 2002 LWT program year. Moreover, CSK improperly and prematurely recognized \$6 million in vendor allowances and improperly recognized an additional \$4 million of LWT allowances. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on April 15, 2004, CSK overstated its 2003 pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, turning its actual pre-tax loss of approximately \$18 million into purported pre-tax income of \$16 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and over recognized allowances, and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 35. During fiscal year 2003, CSK hid approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. First, CSK applied approximately \$10 million in 2003 LWT program year collections to the 2002 LWT program year receivable. Second, CSK failed to write off approximately \$5 million in vendor allowances CSK had over collected during prior LWT program years but had to pay back during fiscal year 2003. Third, CSK made a baseless journal entry decreasing the 2002 LWT receivable by \$9 million and increasing the 2003 LWT receivable by the same amount, which reduced the 2002 LWT receivable to zero.
- 36. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew CSK was failing to write of uncollectible LWT allowances. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants regularly received information regarding CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. For example, on or about September 9, 2003, Opper sent an email to Fraser, Watson, O'Brien and others discussing the collection of the 2002 LWT account receivable, which was then approximately one-year old. The email stated that: (i) "approximately \$9.6mm in 2003 collections . . . were moved to 2002 to cover short falls from prior periods;" and (ii) the outstanding 2002 LWT program year receivable balance did not include \$5.4 million in 2002 paybacks. Defendant Opper referenced in the email a chart he had attached that explained the "\$24.2 million in LWT exposure from 2002 and prior." That chart included detailed explanations regarding millions of dollars of uncollectible LWT allowances for prior years, including the 2002 LWT program year.
- 37. Defendants also met to discuss the uncollectible LWT receivables during fiscal year 2003. For example, Defendants attended a meeting on or about September 17, 2003 to discuss the "2002 Outstanding LWT status" where Opper provided copies of the chart attached to his September 9, 2003 email.
- 38. During the fourth quarter of 2003, CSK prematurely recognized approximately \$6 million in additional vendor allowances, which would not be earned, if at all, until fiscal year 2004, in order to meet its earnings numbers. On December 23, 2003, Defendants and others met with CSK's independent auditor in Fraser's office to

additional warranty allowances from two vendors. At that same time, CSK had a warranty deficit of approximately \$13 million, which represented returns from customers covered by warranties in excess of the warranty accrual recorded by CSK. Under GAAP, a warranty deficit should be written off unless additional warranty allowances are obtained to cover the deficit. However, instead of applying the \$4 million of additional warranty allowances to offset a portion of its warranty deficit balance, CSK improperly recognized those warranty allowances as additional LWT allowances. Thus, the warranty deficit included in CSK's inventory balance remained \$13 million, and CSK improperly inflated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$4 million.

11.

C. <u>During Fiscal Year 2004, CSK Failed To Write Off Approximately</u> \$21 Million Of Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances

40. During fiscal year 2004, CSK concealed that it could not collect vendor allowances totaling approximately \$21 million. Specifically, CSK applied:

(i) approximately \$11 million in 2004 LWT program year collections to the 2003 LWT account receivable; (ii) approximately \$4 million CSK paid back to vendors for the 2003 and 2002 LWT program years to the 2004 LWT receivable; and

(iii) approximately \$6 million via baseless journal entries to the 2003 LWT receivable from other vendor allowance receivables in other time periods. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 2, 2005, CSK overstated pre-tax income for fiscal year 2004 by

approximately 65%, or \$21 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and that, as a result, the company's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 41. CSK's 2004 Form 10-K included CSK's First Restatement, which partially restated CSK's vendor allowances recognized during prior years. Specifically, CSK restated because it could not collect all of the 2003 LWT receivable. In addition, CSK restated for vendor allowances paid back during fiscal year 2003 that CSK failed to properly write off during the 2003 fiscal year. CSK's restatement regarding vendor allowances resulted in CSK adjusting its costs of sales upward and its pre-tax income downward, for the first three quarters of 2004, and the 2003, 2002, and 2001 fiscal years by \$1.9 million, \$7.1 million, \$9.0 million, and \$0.5 million, respectively.
- 42. The First Restatement, however, falsely attributed the vendor allowance restatement to "errors in estimation in earlier periods" and "vendor allowances recorded in improper periods" due to "imprecise estimates, bookkeeping errors and recording allowances in the incorrect periods." Defendants knew the reasons stated for the vendor allowance restatement were false because the First Restatement resulted from Defendants' fraudulent scheme.
- 43. The First Restatement also failed to: (i) write off all known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables; (ii) disclose the full extent of CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible receivables from its independent auditors; and (iii) disclose CSK's over recognition of vendor allowances during fiscal 2003. Defendants knew about these misstatements contained in the First Restatement.
- 44. While preparing the First Restatement, Defendants hid the full extent of their fraudulent conduct from CSK's independent auditor. For example, despite the independent auditor's request for a list of all paybacks CSK had made to its vendors, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided an incomplete list. As a result, CSK failed to write off \$4 million in paybacks it had made during 2004 and applied to the 2003 LWT receivable. Similarly, Fraser and Watson negotiated agreements with

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falsify documents to make it appear that CSK had entered into separate, seemingly unrelated agreements, containing different dates, in order to hide from CSK's independent auditor that CSK's receipt of additional LWT allowances were contingent upon CSK's willingness to grant price increases offsetting the LWT amounts the vendors purportedly agreed to pay. Thus, Defendants knew they were hiding material information from CSK's independent auditor and excluding from the restatement. intentional accounting errors regarding vendor allowances.

D. To Further Cover Up Its Fraud In The Wake Of The First Restatement, CSK Debited Its Vendors For Amounts It Knew They **Did Not Owe**

- 45. After filing its First Restatement in May 2005, CSK's outstanding 2004 LWT account receivable still contained approximately \$15 million that was not collectible. In an effort to conceal that uncollectible receivable, CSK issued debit memos to the vendors for the \$15 million at the end of July 2005.
- 46. As of July 15, 2005, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knew that \$15 million of the outstanding 2004 LWT receivable was not uncollectible because it had previously been collected and had been applied to prior LWT program year receivables as part of CSK's fraudulent scheme.
- 47. In July 2005, CSK issued debit memos totaling approximately \$31 million, including the \$15 million that CSK had previously collected. Opper instructed employees to prepare the debit memos to collect the entire \$31 million even though \$15 million of the allowances had already been collected. When the debit memos were issued, Fraser met with Watson, O'Brien, Opper, and other CSK employees. Fraser told the group that CSK needed to make the debit memos "stick" and that, when it had sent out debit memos in the past, CSK paid back only about ten percent of the debits.

- 48. In late July 2005 or early August 2005, Fraser was told that many of the buyers saw errors in the proposed debits. Fraser responded that probably 70% of the debits would "stick" and that many of the vendors would not even notice them. At least as early as September 2005, Fraser knew that a substantial amount CSK had debited was at risk of having to be paid back to its vendors.
- 49. After the vendors complained about the debit memos, CSK continued to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. First, CSK negotiated deals with vendors for future vendor allowances that CSK offset against the already-issued 2004 LWT debit memos. Second, CSK falsified its books and records to conceal that it was paying back portions of the debit memos. For example, CSK issued to certain vendors credit memos, which O'Brien created or caused to be created, that falsely described the paybacks as being related to "costing," "pricing increases—steel surcharge," or "warranty." In fact, the credit memos paid back LWT amounts that CSK had improperly debited.

II. <u>CSK's Forms 10-K For Fiscal Years 2002, 2003, And 2004 Contained</u> <u>Materially False Information</u>

- 50. CSK filed annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.
- 51. The notes to the financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 falsely stated that "Specific accounts are written off against the allowance when management determines the account is uncollectible." In fact, CSK did not write off known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, but rather engaged in a scheme to avoid and hide such write offs, as set forth above.

52. In all, CSK understated its costs of goods sold during fiscal years 2002 through 2004 as follows:

| FY | Concealed Receivables From Prior Years | | Over | Total | |
|------|--|------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| | Unsupported Journal Entries | Misapplied Debit Memos | Misapplied Paybacks | Recognized Allowances / Other Uncollectible Receivables | |
| 2002 | \$6M | | \$3 M | \$2 M | \$11 M |
| 2003 | \$9 M | \$10 M | \$5 M | \$10 M | \$34 M |
| 2004 | \$6 M | \$11 M | \$4 M | | \$21 M |

- 53. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002 falsely overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew that the company's financial statement were materially misstated.
- 54. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003 overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew that the company's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 55. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, which also contained the First Restatement, overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 65%, or \$21 million. In addition, it falsely attributed the need for the vendor allowance restatement to estimation errors, imprecise estimates, and bookkeeping errors, rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Defendants knew the company's financial statements were materially misstated and mischaracterized the reasons for the vendor allowance restatement.
- 56. Watson, as CSK's CFO, signed CSK's annual reports and the accompanying Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In connection with each of the Forms 10-K filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Watson certified he had no knowledge of

any untrue statement of material fact in the report, the annual report "fairly presents in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows . . .," and that he had disclosed to CSK's independent auditors and audit committee "any fraud, whether or not material, that involved management or any other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal controls." At the time he made those certifications, Watson knew that each of those statements was false.

- 57. On March 27, 2006, CSK announced that it was conducting an internal investigation relating to, among other things, accounting irregularities regarding vendor allowances. CSK's stock price immediately dropped 8% and dropped a total of 13% for the week.
- 58. On May 1, 2007, CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2005 restating, for the second time, its financial statements for 2002, 2003, and 2004 due, in part, to the fraudulent scheme relating to CSK's failure to write off uncollectible vendor allowances.

III. <u>Defendants Substantially Participated In Making CSK's Misleading Annual</u> <u>Reports</u>

- 59. Fraser substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well to review and discuss related accounting and disclosure issues, such as collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (ii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, Fraser falsely represented that to his

knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those representations were false;

- (iii) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, falsely certifying that: (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading; (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report;" and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those statements were false; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Fraser "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 60. Watson substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith by among other things:
 - (i) signing the Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;

- (ii) signing the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications filed with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;
- (iii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Watson "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 61. O'Brien substantially participated, and had intricate involvement, in the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being CSK's controller, whose responsibilities included reviewing CSK's financial statements for accuracy;
 - (ii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (iii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, O'Brien falsely represented that to his knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility;"

- (iv) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, certifying that (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading, (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report," and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, O'Brien knew that those statements were false; and
- (vi) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. In those management representation letters, O'Brien "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 62. Opper substantially participated in Defendants' fraudulent scheme to avoid writing off uncollectible vendor allowance amounts in CSK's annual reports, or, in the alternative, provided substantial assistance to CSK in carrying out the fraudulent scheme. Rather than sound the alarm on CSK's improper accounting, Opper chose to become an essential participant in CSK's fraudulent scheme by among other things:
- (i) using his position in charge of the day-to-day management of CSK's vendor accounts receivable department, particularly CSK's LWT operations, to instruct employees to make accounting entries to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. For example, on October 10, 2003, Opper instructed a CSK employee to

make an improper journal entry moving an outstanding 2002 LWT receivable to the 2003 LWT receivable.

- (ii) approving the misapplication of paybacks to vendors and the misapplication of those paybacks to later year LWT receivables;
- (iii) tracking CSK's movement of funds to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables and periodically providing this information to senior management, including Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien; and
- (iv) providing to CSK's independent auditor false documents and explanations in order to hide that CSK could not collect a material portion of its vendor allowance receivables. For example, in a November 24, 2003 memo to CSK's independent auditor, Opper provided false information and documentation regarding collections for the 2003 LWT program that were improperly applied to the 2002 LWT program.

IV. In Carrying Out And Covering Up The Fraud, Defendants Repeatedly Lied To CSK's Independent Auditor

- 63. Defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and CSK's independent auditor regularly attended audit committee meetings and frequently and at length discussed the collectibility of the outstanding LWT receivables. Defendants Fraser and Watson often led the discussion regarding LWT collections, and regularly stated that the outstanding LWT receivables were collectible.
- 64. To avoid detection of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants regularly lied to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its reviews and audits of CSK's financial statements.
- 65. In connection with the Forms 10-K CSK filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Fraser, Watson, and (starting in fiscal year 2003) O'Brien, signed management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor. Specifically, in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson signed a management letter dated May 2, 2003; in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year

2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated April 14, 2004; and in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated May 2, 2005. In each of those management representation letters, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien falsely representing that: (i) the receivables were collectible; (ii) the company's financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP; and (iii) they had no knowledge of any fraud involving management or employees with a significant role in internal controls, or any other fraud that could have a material effect on the company's consolidated financial statements. For fiscal years 2002 and 2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien also falsely represented that CSK had adequate internal controls. All of those representations were false for the reasons set forth above. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew that these representations were false when they signed the letters.

66. Defendant Opper gave CSK's independent auditor modified schedules that omitted the columns showing the uncollectible amounts and memoranda containing false information.

V. <u>Defendants Circumvented CSK's Internal Controls</u>

- 67. During 2002, 2003, and part of 2004, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper circumvented CSK's internal controls by, among other things, instructing or approving the entry of false journal entries.
- 68. In 2004, CSK developed various policies regarding vendor allowances, one of which disallowed side letters with terms that differed from the LWT agreements. Contrary to this policy, however, Fraser directed that a vendor agreement relating to LWT allowances be split into two, with one agreement backdated.

VI. Offerings While The False Financial Information Was Outstanding

69. While the false financial statements were outstanding, CSK engaged in several private debt offerings. In January 2004, CSK issued \$225 million of 7% Senior Subordinated Notes. In August 2005, CSK completed a \$125 million issuance of 3 3/8% senior exchangeable notes. In December 2005, CSK issued \$100 million of 4

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25 26 5/8% senior exchangeable notes. CSK's materially false financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

- 70. With respect to the 2004 debt offering, on May 20, 2004 Fraser, Watson. and O'Brien signed a management representation letter to CSK's independent auditor confirming their prior representations contained in the April 14, 2004 management representation letter provided with the fiscal year 2003 Form 10-K. The April 14 management representation letter stated that the 2003 LWT receivable reflected amounts owed CSK for the 2003 LWT program year. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew this representation was false when they signed both the April 14 and May 20. 2004 letters.
- 71. CSK's materially false and misleading disclosures and financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the various Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal year 2002, 2004 and 2005. Defendants knew that these registration statements were false and misleading when filed because they incorporated misstatements from CSK's Forms 10-K.

VII. **Defendants Received Bonuses And Sold Stock During The Fraudulent Scheme**

- 72. For the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years, Fraser and Watson each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 73. For the 2003 fiscal year, O'Brien and Opper each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 74. Fraser, Watson, and Opper sold CSK stock in 2003, 2004, and 2005, during the period of the fraud. Their net profits were \$195,419, \$155,122, and \$28,078.20, respectively.

| 1 | | FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES | | |
| 3 | Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act | | |
| 4 | 75. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 5 | above. | | |
| 6 | 76. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | |
| 7 | above, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or | | |
| 8 | instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of | | |
| 9 | the mails: | | |
| 10 | | a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; | |
| 11 | | b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of a | |
| 12 | | material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in | |
| 13 | | order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances | |
| 14 | | under which they were made, not misleading; or | |
| 15 | | c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which | |
| 16 | | operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser. | |
| 17 | 77. | By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated, and | |
| 18 | unless restra | ained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities | |
| 19 | Act, 15 U.S | .C. § 77q(a). | |
| 20 | | SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
| 21 | | FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE | |
| 22 | | PURCHASE OR SALE OF SECURITIES | |
| 23 | | Violations and Aiding and Abetting Violations of | |
| 24 | | Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act | |
| 25 | | and Rule 10b-5 thereunder | |
| 26 | 78. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 27 | above. | | |
| 28 | 79. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | |

above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:

- a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- b. made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated c. or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- 80. Alternatively, Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in its violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5 in connection with CSK's annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004.
- 81. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants 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 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.
- 82. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder.

| 1 | THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
|----|--|
| 2 | VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION PERIODIC |
| 3 | REPORTING REQUIREMENTS |
| 4 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 5 | Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder |
| 6 | 83. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 7 | above. |
| 8 | 84. CSK violated Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and |
| 9 | 13a-13 thereunder, by filing with the Commission annual reports on Form 10-K for |
| .0 | fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 that were materially false and failed to include |
| .1 | material information necessary to make the required statements, in light of the |
| .2 | circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. |
| .3 | 85. Fraser and Watson knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in |
| .4 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 |
| .5 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and |
| .6 | 2004. |
| .7 | 86. O'Brien and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in |
| .8 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 |
| .9 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. |
| 20 | 87. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) |
| 21 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Defendants aided and abetted CSK's |
| 22 | violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, |
| 23 | of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder. |
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| 1 | FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | RECORD-KEEPING VIOLATIONS | | |
| 3 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | | |
| 4 | Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act and Violations of | | |
| 5 | Rule 13b2-1 thereunder | | |
| 6 | 88. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 7 | above. | | |
| 8 | 89. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § | | |
| 9 | 78m(b)(2)(A), by failing to make or keep books, records, and accounts, which, in | | |
| 10 | reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflected its transactions and disposition of its | | |
| 11 | assets. | | |
| 12 | 90. Defendants knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation | | |
| 13 | of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(A). | | |
| 14 | 91. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) | | |
| 15 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and | | |
| 16 | Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will | | |
| 17 | continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. | | |
| 18 | 92. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated | | |
| 19 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-1 by, directly or indirectly, falsifying or causing to be falsified | | |
| 20 | CSK's books, records, or accounts subject to Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. | | |
| 21 | Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Rule 13b2-1, 17 | | |
| 22 | C.F.R. § 240.13b2-1. | | |
| 23 | FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 24 | INTERNAL CONTROLS VIOLATIONS | | |
| 25 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | | |
| 26 | Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act | | |
| 27 | 93. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 28 | above. | | |

- 94. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B), by failing to devise and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that transactions were recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statement in conformity with GAAP and to maintain the accountability for assets.
- 95. Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).
- 96. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

CIRCUMVENTION OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS

Violations of Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange

- 97. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 above.
- 98. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5), by knowingly circumventing or failing to implement a system of internal accounting controls, or, directly or indirectly, by knowingly falsifying or causing to be falsified any CSK books, records, or accounts described in Section 13(b)(2) of the Exchange Act. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5).

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| 1 | SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 2 | FALSE STATEMENT TO ACCOUNTANTS | | |
| 3 | Violations of Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2 | | |
| 4 | (Against Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien) | | |
| 5 | 99. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 6 | above. | | |
| 7 | 100. Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien, directly or indirectly, (i) made, | | |
| 8 | or caused to be made, materially false or misleading statements or (ii) omitted to state, | | |
| 9 | or caused others to omit to state, material facts necessary in order to make statements | | |
| 10 | made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, to an | | |
| 11 | accountant in connection with an audit, review or examination of financial statements | | |
| 12 | or the preparation or filing of a document or report required to be filed with the | | |
| 13 | Commission. | | |
| 14 | 101. By engaging in the conduct alleged above, defendants Fraser, Watson, | | |
| 15 | and O'Brien violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, | | |
| 16 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2. | | |
| 17 | EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 18 | CERTIFICATION VIOLATIONS | | |
| 19 | Violations of Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act | | |
| 20 | (Against Defendant Watson) | | |
| 21 | 102. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 22 | above. | | |
| 23 | 103. Watson violated Rule 13a-14 by signing the certifications included with | | |
| 24 | CSK fiscal year 2002, 2003, and 2004 Forms 10-K, certifying, among other things, that | | |
| 25 | the forms fully complied with the requirements of the Exchange Act and fairly | | |
| 26 | presented, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of | | |
| 27 | the company, when, in fact, the reports contained untrue statements of material fact and | | |
| 28 | omitted material information necessary to make the reports not misleading. | | |

104. By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant Watson violated Exchange Act Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14. Unless restrained and enjoined, defendant Watson will continue to violate Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

I

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendants committed the alleged violations.

II

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Fraser and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

III

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Watson and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13a-14, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

IV

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant O'Brien and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

 \mathbf{V}

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5 and 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder. Or, in the alternative, issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

VI

Enter an order, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2), prohibiting defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from acting as officers

| 1 | or directors of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 | |
|----|---|--|
| 2 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 781, or that is required to file reports pursuant to | |
| 3 | Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78o(d). | |
| 4 | VII | |
| 5 | Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to disgorge all ill-gotten | |
| 6 | gains from their illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon. | |
| 7 | VIII | |
| 8 | Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to pay civil penalties | |
| 9 | under Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3). | |
| 10 | IX | |
| 11 | Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and | |
| 12 | the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of | |
| 13 | all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or | |
| 14 | motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court. | |
| 15 | $\ $ \mathbf{X} | |
| 16 | Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and | |
| 17 | necessary. | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | DATED: March 5, 2009 Respectfully submitted, | |
| 20 | a when O'X in al and | |
| 21 | C. DABNEY O'RIORDAN | |
| 22 | Attorney for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission | |
| 23 | Securities and Exchange Commission | |
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| 11 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT | | | | |
| 12 | DISTRICT OF | ARIZONA | | | |
| 13 | SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, | Case No. | | | |
| 14 | COMMISSION, | COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OI | | | |
| 15 | Plaintiff, vs. | THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS | | | |
| 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | MARTIN G. FRASER; DON W. WATSON; EDWARD W. O'BRIEN; and | | | | |
| 18 | GARY M. OPPER, | | | | |
| 19 | Defendants. | | | | |
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Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") alleges as follows:

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SUMMARY

- 1. CSK Auto Corporation ("CSK") was one of the largest specialty retailers of automotive parts and accessories in the United States. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, CSK became a publicly traded company in March 1999. As of January 30, 2005, CSK operated 1,134 stores in nineteen states under three brand names: Checker Auto Parts, Schucks Auto Supply, and Kragen Auto Parts. In 2008, after the conduct alleged in this Complaint, CSK became a wholly-owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.
- 2. As a retailer of automotive products, CSK purchased products from vendors that manufacture automotive parts and accessories. From at least fiscal years 2002 through 2004, a significant portion of CSK's income was derived from allowances it received from its vendors. Vendor allowances are used to provide retailers, such as CSK, with financial support to market the vendor's products. In general, CSK accounted for vendor allowances by reducing its costs of goods sold. Thus, the more vendor allowances CSK earned, the lower its costs of goods sold, resulting in greater reported pre-tax income. During the years at issue, vendor allowances were vital to CSK's financials, increasing its reported pre-tax income by tens of millions of dollars each fiscal year.
- 3. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK knew that there were millions of dollars of vendor allowances that were recognized on its books but were not collectible. Rather than write off the uncollectible receivables, as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), CSK and its senior management engaged in a scheme to hide the uncollectible receivables through various accounting tricks. In addition, during fiscal year 2003, CSK over recognized millions of dollars of vendor allowances. To perpetuate the fraudulent scheme, CSK's senior management lied to the company's independent auditors and audit committee.

- 4. If CSK had written off the uncollectible vendor allowances, it would have increased the company's expenses and decreased its income. Because CSK concealed its uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK's annual reports filed with the Commission for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 materially overstated the company's financial results in violation of GAAP and misled the public about the company's financial performance.
- 5. During the relevant time period, defendant Martin G. Fraser ("Fraser") served as CSK's chief operating officer and president, defendant Don W. Watson ("Watson") served as its chief financial officer, defendant Edward W. O'Brien ("O'Brien") served as a vice president and controller, and defendant Gary M. Opper ("Opper") served as its director of credits and receivables (Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants"). Because of Fraser's and Watson's conduct, CSK filed with the Commission a false annual report for fiscal year 2002 that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for that year by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. In addition, because of Defendants' conduct, CSK filed false annual reports with the Commission that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss, and for fiscal year 2004 by approximately 65%, or \$21 million.
- 6. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent conduct, CSK restated its financial statements as part of its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004 (the "First Restatement"). As part of the First Restatement, CSK reduced its previously recognized vendor allowances for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and the first three quarters of fiscal year 2004. Defendants, however, continued to conceal known, significant uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. The First Restatement also falsely attributed the vendor allowance adjustments to mere errors in estimates and bookkeeping mistakes rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct.

- 7. As a result of Defendants' failure to acknowledge and write off the magnitude of CSK's uncollectible vendor allowance receivables in the First Restatement, CSK still had approximately \$15 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, which, under GAAP, should have been written off. Defendants made a final attempt to collect that \$15 million deficit by intentionally over billing its vendors. When the vendors complained about being double billed, CSK paid back the amounts it had wrongfully collected, but incorrectly accounted for some of those paybacks and mischaracterized the reasons for other paybacks to avoid detection that the company had over collected vendor allowances.
- 8. Each of the Defendants knew CSK was not writing off uncollectible vendor allowances receivables and was over recognizing vendor allowances resulting in CSK's financial statements for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 being materially misstated. Defendants Fraser and Watson substantially participated in the preparation of CSK's 2002, 2003, and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant O'Brien substantially participated in the preparation of the 2003 and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant Opper substantially participated in, or provided substantial assistance to, the preparation of the false 2003 and 2004 financial statements.
- 9. Based on their conduct, Defendants, among other things, violated the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws, falsified CSK's books and records, circumvented CSK's internal controls, and lied to CSK's independent auditors. The Commission seeks an order enjoining Defendants from future violations of the securities laws, requiring Defendants to disgorge ill-gotten gains with prejudgment interest, ordering Defendants to pay civil monetary penalties, requiring Watson to reimburse stock profits pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, barring Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from serving as officers or directors of a public company, and providing other appropriate relief.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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10. 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) & 78aa. Defendants have 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.

11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because defendants reside and transact business within this district and certain of the transactions, acts, practices and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws alleged in this Complaint occurred within this district.

THE DEFENDANTS

- 12. Martin G. Fraser (53) is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, and was CSK's chief operating officer and president from 2000 until September 2006, when he resigned at CSK's request.
- 13. **Don W. Watson** (53) is a resident of Gilbert, Arizona. From January 1998 to September 2005, Watson was CSK's chief financial officer, senior vice president, and treasurer. Watson served as CSK's chief administrative officer and senior vice president from September 2005 to his termination in October 2006.
- 14. Edward W. O'Brien (46) is a resident of Cave Creek, Arizona. O'Brien was CSK's controller and vice president from March 2003 until his termination in September 2006.
- 15. Gary M. Opper (56) is a resident of Mesa Arizona. Opper was CSK's director of credit and receivables, reporting to O'Brien, from March 17, 2003 until he was terminated in September 2006.

RELATED PARTY

16. **CSK Auto Corporation** is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices in Phoenix, Arizona. CSK's common stock was registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. On July 11, 2008, CSK became a wholly owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.

BACKGROUND

I. CSK's "Let's Work Together" Program

- 17. Each year, most of CSK's vendors agreed to pay vendor allowances. Although CSK had various vendor allowance programs, its largest was its "Let's Work Together" program ("LWT"). Typically, LWT agreements covered a one-year period, which CSK referred to as the "program year." Although the LWT agreements varied, CSK generally earned LWT allowances at a set dollar amount, as a percentage of the amount CSK spent to purchase the vendor's product, or as a certain number of cents per item CSK purchased from the vendor.
- 18. CSK recognized LWT allowances ratably, on a monthly basis, based on its estimate of the total allowances it expected to earn for the entire program year. Thus, CSK did not recognize LWT allowances as they were actually earned or collected. In theory, CSK's estimate was based on the LWT agreement and CSK's expected purchases from its vendors. In general, CSK recognized LWT allowances as a reduction to costs of sales (an expense), thereby increasing the company's pre-tax income.
- 19. As CSK recognized LWT allowances for a given program year, it increased the LWT account receivable for that program year. Each LWT program year had its own account receivable. As CSK collected LWT allowances for a particular program year, GAAP required that CSK reduce the outstanding receivable for that same LWT program year.

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In general, CSK collected LWT allowances by issuing a debit memo to the vendor, which notified the vendor that CSK was deducting the amount of the LWT allowance from the amount CSK owed the vendor. If CSK collected too much, it generally paid back the vendor by issuing a credit memo, notifying the vendor that CSK was adding the amount back to the overall amount it owed the vendor.

Defendants' Fraudulent Scheme

The Fraudulent Scheme To Avoid Vendor Allowance Write Offs

- 21. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK was unable to collect all of the vendor allowances it had recognized. As a result, large accounts receivable built up for each LWT program year.
- 22. GAAP required that CSK write off the uncollectible LWT accounts receivable. Specifically, under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5 ("SFAS No. 5"), Accounting for Contingencies Paragraph 8, an estimated loss from a loss contingency shall be accrued by a charge to income if: (i) information available prior to issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that an asset had been impaired at the date of the financial statements; and (ii) the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 3 defines "probable" to mean that the future event or events are likely to occur. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 4 states that examples of loss contingencies include collectibility of receivables. A write off of the uncollectible LWT allowance receivables would have increased CSK's expenses during the fiscal year the write off was made, resulting in a decrease in pre-tax income.
- 23. Instead of writing off CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and taking the requisite reduction to pre-tax income, Fraser and Watson, for fiscal year 2002, and Defendants, for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, concealed CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable by: (i) applying tens of millions of dollars of LWT allowances earned and collected for later LWT program years to prior LWT program year accounts receivable (referred to within CSK as "filling the bucket"); and (ii) incorrectly accounting for millions of dollars of LWT allowances it paid back to

vendors. Through this scheme, CSK avoided writing off tens of millions of dollars in uncollectible LWT receivables, which it had previously recognized.

- 24. CSK "filled the bucket" by taking LWT allowances collected for later program years and applying them to reduce an earlier LWT program year's account receivable. Specifically, CSK: (i) made baseless journal entries reducing the account receivable for a prior LWT program year with an offsetting increase to the account receivable for a later LWT program year; and (ii) applied LWT allowance collections for a later LWT program year to an earlier program year's LWT account receivable.
- 25. CSK also failed to write off LWT allowances it had over collected for prior LWT program years and ultimately paid back to its vendors. Instead of writing off amounts CSK paid back, which would reduce its pre-tax income, CSK increased a later LWT program year's account receivable, making it appear that it had collected an older account receivable when all CSK had done was move the outstanding receivable balance to a more recent year. This accounting treatment was contrary to GAAP because by paying an amount back to a vendor for a prior LWT program year, CSK acknowledged its uncollectibility and should have written off the amount.

A. <u>During CSK's 2002 Fiscal Year, The Company Concealed</u> <u>Approximately \$11 Million Of Uncollectible Vendor Allowances</u>

26. During its 2002 fiscal year, CSK failed to write off approximately \$11 million of uncollectible vendor allowances it had recognized in previous years, most significantly as part of the 2001 LWT program year. Instead of writing off the uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK: (i) made improper journal entries moving approximately \$6 million of collections for the 2002 LWT program to the 2001 LWT account receivable; (ii) misapplied paybacks of approximately \$3 million to the 2002 LWT receivable; and (iii) reached an agreement whereby a vendor agreed to accept an invalid \$2 million debit memo for the 2001 LWT program year in exchange for CSK not collecting \$2 million in allowances earned as part of the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 5, 2003, CSK overstated its

pre-tax income by approximately \$11 million, or 47%.

- 27. Throughout fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew of CSK's numerous efforts to hide uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 28. During fiscal year 2001, the company's controller at the time informed Fraser and Watson that CSK was recognizing more LWT allowances for the 2001 program year than it was actually earning or likely to earn during that program year.
- 29. The 2001 LWT program year ended in September 2001. CSK tried to collect the outstanding 2001 LWT account receivable throughout fiscal year 2002.
- 30. During fiscal year 2002, CSK issued a \$2 million debit memo to a vendor to collect LWT allowances recognized as part of the 2001 LWT program year. The vendor vigorously disputed the debit memo claiming that CSK had not purchased enough products from the vendor to have earned the \$2 million. Fraser negotiated the dispute. By the middle of the 2002 fiscal year, CSK agreed to forego collecting \$2 million worth of LWT allowances it expected to earn on purchases during the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years in exchange for the vendor accepting the \$2 million debit memo. Both Fraser and Watson knew that the vendor had agreed to accept the already-issued \$2 million debit memo only in exchange for CSK's agreement not to collect \$2 million in LWT for the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. Since the vendor only accepted the debit memo in exchange for future benefits from CSK, *i.e.*, future purchases of product from the vendor, GAAP required that CSK immediately write off the \$2 million because it was not collectible as part of the 2001 LWT program year.
- 31. During fiscal year 2002, CSK had to make various paybacks to vendors for vendor allowances it had recognized during prior fiscal years. Instead of correctly accounting for those paybacks by writing them off and increasing CSK's expenses, the company increased the 2002 LWT program year's account receivable. Watson instructed CSK employees that they would have to raise additional allowances to cover for those amounts paid back because CSK "could not afford a charge for any

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paybacks." Fraser knew of Watson's instruction and CSK's failure to write off vendor allowances paid back to vendors.

- 32. In October 2002, Fraser, Watson, and others met to discuss the collectibility of the 2001 LWT account receivable, which had been outstanding for approximately one year. At that time, of the remaining outstanding balance for the 2001 LWT account receivable, \$3.2 million was known to be uncollectible and \$4.5 million was "questionable." These amounts did not include either the \$2 million Fraser and Watson already knew was uncollectible or the paybacks.
- 33. Rather than write off these uncollectible amounts, as required by GAAP, in October and November 2002, CSK devised a plan to move collections for the 2002 LWT program year to cover the 2001 LWT account receivable. As part of that plan, in or about November 2002, Watson instructed a CSK employee to identify collections for the 2002 LWT program year to move to the 2001 LWT program year account receivable to cover 2001 shortfalls.
 - B. During Fiscal Year 2003, CSK Concealed Approximately \$24 Million In Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances And Improperly Recognized Approximately \$10 Million In Vendor Allowances
- During its 2003 fiscal year, CSK used various tactics to fraudulently 34. conceal, rather than properly write off, approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowances recognized during previous LWT program years, primarily as part of the 2002 LWT program year. Moreover, CSK improperly and prematurely recognized \$6 million in vendor allowances and improperly recognized an additional \$4 million of LWT allowances. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on April 15, 2004, CSK overstated its 2003 pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, turning its actual pre-tax loss of approximately \$18 million into purported pre-tax income of \$16 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and over recognized allowances, and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 35. During fiscal year 2003, CSK hid approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. First, CSK applied approximately \$10 million in 2003 LWT program year collections to the 2002 LWT program year receivable. Second, CSK failed to write off approximately \$5 million in vendor allowances CSK had over collected during prior LWT program years but had to pay back during fiscal year 2003. Third, CSK made a baseless journal entry decreasing the 2002 LWT receivable by \$9 million and increasing the 2003 LWT receivable by the same amount, which reduced the 2002 LWT receivable to zero.
- 36. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew CSK was failing to write of uncollectible LWT allowances. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants regularly received information regarding CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. For example, on or about September 9, 2003, Opper sent an email to Fraser, Watson, O'Brien and others discussing the collection of the 2002 LWT account receivable, which was then approximately one-year old. The email stated that: (i) "approximately \$9.6mm in 2003 collections . . . were moved to 2002 to cover short falls from prior periods;" and (ii) the outstanding 2002 LWT program year receivable balance did not include \$5.4 million in 2002 paybacks. Defendant Opper referenced in the email a chart he had attached that explained the "\$24.2 million in LWT exposure from 2002 and prior." That chart included detailed explanations regarding millions of dollars of uncollectible LWT allowances for prior years, including the 2002 LWT program year.
- 37. Defendants also met to discuss the uncollectible LWT receivables during fiscal year 2003. For example, Defendants attended a meeting on or about September 17, 2003 to discuss the "2002 Outstanding LWT status" where Opper provided copies of the chart attached to his September 9, 2003 email.
- 38. During the fourth quarter of 2003, CSK prematurely recognized approximately \$6 million in additional vendor allowances, which would not be earned, if at all, until fiscal year 2004, in order to meet its earnings numbers. On December 23, 2003, Defendants and others met with CSK's independent auditor in Fraser's office to

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39. At the end of fiscal 2003, CSK obtained approximately \$4 million of additional warranty allowances from two vendors. At that same time, CSK had a warranty deficit of approximately \$13 million, which represented returns from customers covered by warranties in excess of the warranty accrual recorded by CSK. Under GAAP, a warranty deficit should be written off unless additional warranty allowances are obtained to cover the deficit. However, instead of applying the \$4 million of additional warranty allowances to offset a portion of its warranty deficit balance, CSK improperly recognized those warranty allowances as additional LWT allowances. Thus, the warranty deficit included in CSK's inventory balance remained \$13 million, and CSK improperly inflated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$4 million.

C. <u>During Fiscal Year 2004, CSK Failed To Write Off Approximately</u> \$21 Million Of Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances

40. During fiscal year 2004, CSK concealed that it could not collect vendor allowances totaling approximately \$21 million. Specifically, CSK applied:

(i) approximately \$11 million in 2004 LWT program year collections to the 2003 LWT account receivable; (ii) approximately \$4 million CSK paid back to vendors for the 2003 and 2002 LWT program years to the 2004 LWT receivable; and

(iii) approximately \$6 million via baseless journal entries to the 2003 LWT receivable from other vendor allowance receivables in other time periods. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 2, 2005, CSK overstated pre-tax income for fiscal year 2004 by

approximately 65%, or \$21 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and that, as a result, the company's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 41. CSK's 2004 Form 10-K included CSK's First Restatement, which partially restated CSK's vendor allowances recognized during prior years. Specifically, CSK restated because it could not collect all of the 2003 LWT receivable. In addition, CSK restated for vendor allowances paid back during fiscal year 2003 that CSK failed to properly write off during the 2003 fiscal year. CSK's restatement regarding vendor allowances resulted in CSK adjusting its costs of sales upward and its pre-tax income downward, for the first three quarters of 2004, and the 2003, 2002, and 2001 fiscal years by \$1.9 million, \$7.1 million, \$9.0 million, and \$0.5 million, respectively.
- 42. The First Restatement, however, falsely attributed the vendor allowance restatement to "errors in estimation in earlier periods" and "vendor allowances recorded in improper periods" due to "imprecise estimates, bookkeeping errors and recording allowances in the incorrect periods." Defendants knew the reasons stated for the vendor allowance restatement were false because the First Restatement resulted from Defendants' fraudulent scheme.
- 43. The First Restatement also failed to: (i) write off all known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables; (ii) disclose the full extent of CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible receivables from its independent auditors; and (iii) disclose CSK's over recognition of vendor allowances during fiscal 2003. Defendants knew about these misstatements contained in the First Restatement.
- 44. While preparing the First Restatement, Defendants hid the full extent of their fraudulent conduct from CSK's independent auditor. For example, despite the independent auditor's request for a list of all paybacks CSK had made to its vendors, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided an incomplete list. As a result, CSK failed to write off \$4 million in paybacks it had made during 2004 and applied to the 2003 LWT receivable. Similarly, Fraser and Watson negotiated agreements with

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falsify documents to make it appear that CSK had entered into separate, seemingly unrelated agreements, containing different dates, in order to hide from CSK's independent auditor that CSK's receipt of additional LWT allowances were contingent upon CSK's willingness to grant price increases offsetting the LWT amounts the vendors purportedly agreed to pay. Thus, Defendants knew they were hiding material information from CSK's independent auditor and excluding from the restatement. intentional accounting errors regarding vendor allowances.

D. To Further Cover Up Its Fraud In The Wake Of The First Restatement, CSK Debited Its Vendors For Amounts It Knew They **Did Not Owe**

- 45. After filing its First Restatement in May 2005, CSK's outstanding 2004 LWT account receivable still contained approximately \$15 million that was not collectible. In an effort to conceal that uncollectible receivable, CSK issued debit memos to the vendors for the \$15 million at the end of July 2005.
- 46. As of July 15, 2005, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knew that \$15 million of the outstanding 2004 LWT receivable was not uncollectible because it had previously been collected and had been applied to prior LWT program year receivables as part of CSK's fraudulent scheme.
- 47. In July 2005, CSK issued debit memos totaling approximately \$31 million, including the \$15 million that CSK had previously collected. Opper instructed employees to prepare the debit memos to collect the entire \$31 million even though \$15 million of the allowances had already been collected. When the debit memos were issued, Fraser met with Watson, O'Brien, Opper, and other CSK employees. Fraser told the group that CSK needed to make the debit memos "stick" and that, when it had sent out debit memos in the past, CSK paid back only about ten percent of the debits.

- 48. In late July 2005 or early August 2005, Fraser was told that many of the buyers saw errors in the proposed debits. Fraser responded that probably 70% of the debits would "stick" and that many of the vendors would not even notice them. At least as early as September 2005, Fraser knew that a substantial amount CSK had debited was at risk of having to be paid back to its vendors.
- 49. After the vendors complained about the debit memos, CSK continued to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. First, CSK negotiated deals with vendors for future vendor allowances that CSK offset against the already-issued 2004 LWT debit memos. Second, CSK falsified its books and records to conceal that it was paying back portions of the debit memos. For example, CSK issued to certain vendors credit memos, which O'Brien created or caused to be created, that falsely described the paybacks as being related to "costing," "pricing increases—steel surcharge," or "warranty." In fact, the credit memos paid back LWT amounts that CSK had improperly debited.

II. <u>CSK's Forms 10-K For Fiscal Years 2002, 2003, And 2004 Contained</u> <u>Materially False Information</u>

- 50. CSK filed annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.
- 51. The notes to the financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 falsely stated that "Specific accounts are written off against the allowance when management determines the account is uncollectible." In fact, CSK did not write off known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, but rather engaged in a scheme to avoid and hide such write offs, as set forth above.

52. In all, CSK understated its costs of goods sold during fiscal years 2002 through 2004 as follows:

| FY | Concealed Receivables From Prior Years | | Over | Total | |
|------|--|------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| | Unsupported Journal Entries | Misapplied Debit Memos | Misapplied Paybacks | Recognized Allowances / Other Uncollectible Receivables | |
| 2002 | \$6M | | \$3 M | \$2 M | \$11 M |
| 2003 | \$9 M | \$10 M | \$5 M | \$10 M | \$34 M |
| 2004 | \$6 M | \$11 M | \$4 M | | \$21 M |

- 53. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002 falsely overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew that the company's financial statement were materially misstated.
- 54. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003 overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew that the company's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 55. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, which also contained the First Restatement, overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 65%, or \$21 million. In addition, it falsely attributed the need for the vendor allowance restatement to estimation errors, imprecise estimates, and bookkeeping errors, rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Defendants knew the company's financial statements were materially misstated and mischaracterized the reasons for the vendor allowance restatement.
- 56. Watson, as CSK's CFO, signed CSK's annual reports and the accompanying Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In connection with each of the Forms 10-K filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Watson certified he had no knowledge of

any untrue statement of material fact in the report, the annual report "fairly presents in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows . . .," and that he had disclosed to CSK's independent auditors and audit committee "any fraud, whether or not material, that involved management or any other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal controls." At the time he made those certifications, Watson knew that each of those statements was false.

- 57. On March 27, 2006, CSK announced that it was conducting an internal investigation relating to, among other things, accounting irregularities regarding vendor allowances. CSK's stock price immediately dropped 8% and dropped a total of 13% for the week.
- 58. On May 1, 2007, CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2005 restating, for the second time, its financial statements for 2002, 2003, and 2004 due, in part, to the fraudulent scheme relating to CSK's failure to write off uncollectible vendor allowances.

III. <u>Defendants Substantially Participated In Making CSK's Misleading Annual</u> Reports

- 59. Fraser substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well to review and discuss related accounting and disclosure issues, such as collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (ii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, Fraser falsely represented that to his

knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those representations were false;

- (iii) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, falsely certifying that: (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading; (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report;" and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those statements were false; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Fraser "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 60. Watson substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith by among other things:
 - (i) signing the Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;

- (ii) signing the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications filed with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;
- (iii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Watson "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 61. O'Brien substantially participated, and had intricate involvement, in the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being CSK's controller, whose responsibilities included reviewing CSK's financial statements for accuracy;
 - (ii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (iii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, O'Brien falsely represented that to his knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility;"

- (iv) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, certifying that (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading, (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report," and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, O'Brien knew that those statements were false; and
- (vi) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. In those management representation letters, O'Brien "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 62. Opper substantially participated in Defendants' fraudulent scheme to avoid writing off uncollectible vendor allowance amounts in CSK's annual reports, or, in the alternative, provided substantial assistance to CSK in carrying out the fraudulent scheme. Rather than sound the alarm on CSK's improper accounting, Opper chose to become an essential participant in CSK's fraudulent scheme by among other things:
- (i) using his position in charge of the day-to-day management of CSK's vendor accounts receivable department, particularly CSK's LWT operations, to instruct employees to make accounting entries to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. For example, on October 10, 2003, Opper instructed a CSK employee to

make an improper journal entry moving an outstanding 2002 LWT receivable to the 2003 LWT receivable.

- (ii) approving the misapplication of paybacks to vendors and the misapplication of those paybacks to later year LWT receivables;
- (iii) tracking CSK's movement of funds to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables and periodically providing this information to senior management, including Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien; and
- (iv) providing to CSK's independent auditor false documents and explanations in order to hide that CSK could not collect a material portion of its vendor allowance receivables. For example, in a November 24, 2003 memo to CSK's independent auditor, Opper provided false information and documentation regarding collections for the 2003 LWT program that were improperly applied to the 2002 LWT program.

IV. In Carrying Out And Covering Up The Fraud, Defendants Repeatedly Lied To CSK's Independent Auditor

- 63. Defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and CSK's independent auditor regularly attended audit committee meetings and frequently and at length discussed the collectibility of the outstanding LWT receivables. Defendants Fraser and Watson often led the discussion regarding LWT collections, and regularly stated that the outstanding LWT receivables were collectible.
- 64. To avoid detection of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants regularly lied to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its reviews and audits of CSK's financial statements.
- 65. In connection with the Forms 10-K CSK filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Fraser, Watson, and (starting in fiscal year 2003) O'Brien, signed management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor. Specifically, in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson signed a management letter dated May 2, 2003; in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year

2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated April 14, 2004; and in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated May 2, 2005. In each of those management representation letters, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien falsely representing that: (i) the receivables were collectible; (ii) the company's financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP; and (iii) they had no knowledge of any fraud involving management or employees with a significant role in internal controls, or any other fraud that could have a material effect on the company's consolidated financial statements. For fiscal years 2002 and 2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien also falsely represented that CSK had adequate internal controls. All of those representations were false for the reasons set forth above. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew that these representations were false when they signed the letters.

66. Defendant Opper gave CSK's independent auditor modified schedules that omitted the columns showing the uncollectible amounts and memoranda containing false information.

V. <u>Defendants Circumvented CSK's Internal Controls</u>

- 67. During 2002, 2003, and part of 2004, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper circumvented CSK's internal controls by, among other things, instructing or approving the entry of false journal entries.
- 68. In 2004, CSK developed various policies regarding vendor allowances, one of which disallowed side letters with terms that differed from the LWT agreements. Contrary to this policy, however, Fraser directed that a vendor agreement relating to LWT allowances be split into two, with one agreement backdated.

VI. Offerings While The False Financial Information Was Outstanding

69. While the false financial statements were outstanding, CSK engaged in several private debt offerings. In January 2004, CSK issued \$225 million of 7% Senior Subordinated Notes. In August 2005, CSK completed a \$125 million issuance of 3 3/8% senior exchangeable notes. In December 2005, CSK issued \$100 million of 4

5/8% senior exchangeable notes. CSK's materially false financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

- 70. With respect to the 2004 debt offering, on May 20, 2004 Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter to CSK's independent auditor confirming their prior representations contained in the April 14, 2004 management representation letter provided with the fiscal year 2003 Form 10-K. The April 14 management representation letter stated that the 2003 LWT receivable reflected amounts owed CSK for the 2003 LWT program year. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew this representation was false when they signed both the April 14 and May 20, 2004 letters.
- 71. CSK's materially false and misleading disclosures and financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the various Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal year 2002, 2004 and 2005. Defendants knew that these registration statements were false and misleading when filed because they incorporated misstatements from CSK's Forms 10-K.

VII. <u>Defendants Received Bonuses And Sold Stock During The</u> <u>Fraudulent Scheme</u>

- 72. For the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years, Fraser and Watson each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 73. For the 2003 fiscal year, O'Brien and Opper each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 74. Fraser, Watson, and Opper sold CSK stock in 2003, 2004, and 2005, during the period of the fraud. Their net profits were \$195,419, \$155,122, and \$28,078.20, respectively.

| 1 | | FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
|----|--|---|--|--|
| 2 | FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES | | | |
| 3 | | Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act | | |
| 4 | 75. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 5 | above. | | | |
| 6 | 76. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | | |
| 7 | above, direc | etly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or | | |
| 8 | instruments | of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of | | |
| 9 | the mails: | | | |
| 10 | | a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; | | |
| 11 | | b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of a | | |
| 12 | | material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in | | |
| 13 | | order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances | | |
| 14 | | under which they were made, not misleading; or | | |
| 15 | | c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which | | |
| 16 | | operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser. | | |
| 17 | 77. | By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated, and | | |
| 18 | unless restra | ained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities | | |
| 19 | Act, 15 U.S | .C. § 77q(a). | | |
| 20 | | SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 21 | | FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE | | |
| 22 | | PURCHASE OR SALE OF SECURITIES | | |
| 23 | | Violations and Aiding and Abetting Violations of | | |
| 24 | | Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act | | |
| 25 | | and Rule 10b-5 thereunder | | |
| 26 | 78. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 27 | above. | | | |
| 28 | 79. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | | |

above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:

- a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- b. made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated c. or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- 80. Alternatively, Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in its violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5 in connection with CSK's annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004.
- 81. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants 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 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.
- 82. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder.

| 1 | THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
|----|--|
| 2 | VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION PERIODIC |
| 3 | REPORTING REQUIREMENTS |
| 4 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 5 | Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder |
| 6 | 83. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 7 | above. |
| 8 | 84. CSK violated Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and |
| 9 | 13a-13 thereunder, by filing with the Commission annual reports on Form 10-K for |
| .0 | fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 that were materially false and failed to include |
| .1 | material information necessary to make the required statements, in light of the |
| .2 | circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. |
| .3 | 85. Fraser and Watson knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in |
| .4 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 |
| .5 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and |
| .6 | 2004. |
| 7 | 86. O'Brien and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in |
| .8 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 |
| .9 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. |
| 20 | 87. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) |
| 21 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Defendants aided and abetted CSK's |
| 22 | violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, |
| 23 | of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder. |
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| 1 | FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
|----|--|
| 2 | RECORD-KEEPING VIOLATIONS |
| 3 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 4 | Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act and Violations of |
| 5 | Rule 13b2-1 thereunder |
| 6 | 88. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 7 | above. |
| 8 | 89. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § |
| 9 | 78m(b)(2)(A), by failing to make or keep books, records, and accounts, which, in |
| 10 | reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflected its transactions and disposition of its |
| 11 | assets. |
| 12 | 90. Defendants knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation |
| 13 | of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(A). |
| 14 | 91. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) |
| 15 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and |
| 16 | Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will |
| 17 | continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. |
| 18 | 92. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated |
| 19 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-1 by, directly or indirectly, falsifying or causing to be falsified |
| 20 | CSK's books, records, or accounts subject to Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. |
| 21 | Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Rule 13b2-1, 17 |
| 22 | C.F.R. § 240.13b2-1. |
| 23 | FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
| 24 | INTERNAL CONTROLS VIOLATIONS |
| 25 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 26 | Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act |
| 27 | 93. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 28 | above. |

- 94. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B), by failing to devise and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that transactions were recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statement in conformity with GAAP and to maintain the accountability for assets.
- 95. Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).
- 96. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

CIRCUMVENTION OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS

Violations of Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange

- 97. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 above.
- 98. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5), by knowingly circumventing or failing to implement a system of internal accounting controls, or, directly or indirectly, by knowingly falsifying or causing to be falsified any CSK books, records, or accounts described in Section 13(b)(2) of the Exchange Act. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5).

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| 1 | SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
| 2 | FALSE STATEMENT TO ACCOUNTANTS |
| 3 | Violations of Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2 |
| 4 | (Against Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien) |
| 5 | 99. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 6 | above. |
| 7 | 100. Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien, directly or indirectly, (i) made, |
| 8 | or caused to be made, materially false or misleading statements or (ii) omitted to state, |
| 9 | or caused others to omit to state, material facts necessary in order to make statements |
| 10 | made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, to an |
| 11 | accountant in connection with an audit, review or examination of financial statements |
| 12 | or the preparation or filing of a document or report required to be filed with the |
| 13 | Commission. |
| 14 | 101. By engaging in the conduct alleged above, defendants Fraser, Watson, |
| 15 | and O'Brien violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, |
| 16 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2. |
| 17 | EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
| 18 | CERTIFICATION VIOLATIONS |
| 19 | Violations of Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act |
| 20 | (Against Defendant Watson) |
| 21 | 102. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 22 | above. |
| 23 | 103. Watson violated Rule 13a-14 by signing the certifications included with |
| 24 | CSK fiscal year 2002, 2003, and 2004 Forms 10-K, certifying, among other things, that |
| 25 | the forms fully complied with the requirements of the Exchange Act and fairly |
| 26 | presented, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of |
| 27 | the company, when, in fact, the reports contained untrue statements of material fact and |
| 28 | omitted material information necessary to make the reports not misleading. |

104. By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant Watson violated Exchange Act Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14. Unless restrained and enjoined, defendant Watson will continue to violate Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

I

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendants committed the alleged violations.

II

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Fraser and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

III

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Watson and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13a-14, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

IV

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant O'Brien and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

 \mathbf{V}

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5 and 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder. Or, in the alternative, issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

VI

Enter an order, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2), prohibiting defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from acting as officers

| or directors of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 | | |
|---|--|--|
| of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 781, or that is required to file reports pursuant to | | |
| Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78o(d). | | |
| VII | | |
| Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to disgorge all ill-gotten | | |
| gains from their illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon. | | |
| VIII | | |
| Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to pay civil penalties | | |
| under Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3). | | |
| IX | | |
| 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. | | |
| \mathbf{X} | | |
| Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and | | |
| necessary. | | |
| | | |
| DATED: March 5, 2009 Respectfully submitted, | | |
| a Wahren O'Ken of and | | |
| C. DABNEY O'RIORDAN | | |
| Attorney for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission | | |
| Securities and Exchange Commission | | |
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| 10 | | |
| 11 | UNITED STATES DIS | |
| 12 | DISTRICT OF | ARIZONA |
| 13 | SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, | Case No. |
| 14 | COMMISSION, | COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OI |
| 15 | Plaintiff, vs. | THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | MARTIN G. FRASER; DON W. WATSON; EDWARD W. O'BRIEN; and | |
| 18 | GARY M. OPPER, | |
| 19 | Defendants. | |
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Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") alleges as follows:

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SUMMARY

- 1. CSK Auto Corporation ("CSK") was one of the largest specialty retailers of automotive parts and accessories in the United States. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, CSK became a publicly traded company in March 1999. As of January 30, 2005, CSK operated 1,134 stores in nineteen states under three brand names: Checker Auto Parts, Schucks Auto Supply, and Kragen Auto Parts. In 2008, after the conduct alleged in this Complaint, CSK became a wholly-owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.
- 2. As a retailer of automotive products, CSK purchased products from vendors that manufacture automotive parts and accessories. From at least fiscal years 2002 through 2004, a significant portion of CSK's income was derived from allowances it received from its vendors. Vendor allowances are used to provide retailers, such as CSK, with financial support to market the vendor's products. In general, CSK accounted for vendor allowances by reducing its costs of goods sold. Thus, the more vendor allowances CSK earned, the lower its costs of goods sold, resulting in greater reported pre-tax income. During the years at issue, vendor allowances were vital to CSK's financials, increasing its reported pre-tax income by tens of millions of dollars each fiscal year.
- 3. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK knew that there were millions of dollars of vendor allowances that were recognized on its books but were not collectible. Rather than write off the uncollectible receivables, as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), CSK and its senior management engaged in a scheme to hide the uncollectible receivables through various accounting tricks. In addition, during fiscal year 2003, CSK over recognized millions of dollars of vendor allowances. To perpetuate the fraudulent scheme, CSK's senior management lied to the company's independent auditors and audit committee.

- 4. If CSK had written off the uncollectible vendor allowances, it would have increased the company's expenses and decreased its income. Because CSK concealed its uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK's annual reports filed with the Commission for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 materially overstated the company's financial results in violation of GAAP and misled the public about the company's financial performance.
- 5. During the relevant time period, defendant Martin G. Fraser ("Fraser") served as CSK's chief operating officer and president, defendant Don W. Watson ("Watson") served as its chief financial officer, defendant Edward W. O'Brien ("O'Brien") served as a vice president and controller, and defendant Gary M. Opper ("Opper") served as its director of credits and receivables (Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants"). Because of Fraser's and Watson's conduct, CSK filed with the Commission a false annual report for fiscal year 2002 that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for that year by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. In addition, because of Defendants' conduct, CSK filed false annual reports with the Commission that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss, and for fiscal year 2004 by approximately 65%, or \$21 million.
- 6. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent conduct, CSK restated its financial statements as part of its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004 (the "First Restatement"). As part of the First Restatement, CSK reduced its previously recognized vendor allowances for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and the first three quarters of fiscal year 2004. Defendants, however, continued to conceal known, significant uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. The First Restatement also falsely attributed the vendor allowance adjustments to mere errors in estimates and bookkeeping mistakes rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct.

- 7. As a result of Defendants' failure to acknowledge and write off the magnitude of CSK's uncollectible vendor allowance receivables in the First Restatement, CSK still had approximately \$15 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, which, under GAAP, should have been written off. Defendants made a final attempt to collect that \$15 million deficit by intentionally over billing its vendors. When the vendors complained about being double billed, CSK paid back the amounts it had wrongfully collected, but incorrectly accounted for some of those paybacks and mischaracterized the reasons for other paybacks to avoid detection that the company had over collected vendor allowances.
- 8. Each of the Defendants knew CSK was not writing off uncollectible vendor allowances receivables and was over recognizing vendor allowances resulting in CSK's financial statements for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 being materially misstated. Defendants Fraser and Watson substantially participated in the preparation of CSK's 2002, 2003, and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant O'Brien substantially participated in the preparation of the 2003 and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant Opper substantially participated in, or provided substantial assistance to, the preparation of the false 2003 and 2004 financial statements.
- 9. Based on their conduct, Defendants, among other things, violated the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws, falsified CSK's books and records, circumvented CSK's internal controls, and lied to CSK's independent auditors. The Commission seeks an order enjoining Defendants from future violations of the securities laws, requiring Defendants to disgorge ill-gotten gains with prejudgment interest, ordering Defendants to pay civil monetary penalties, requiring Watson to reimburse stock profits pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, barring Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from serving as officers or directors of a public company, and providing other appropriate relief.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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10. 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) & 78aa. Defendants have 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.

11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because defendants reside and transact business within this district and certain of the transactions, acts, practices and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws alleged in this Complaint occurred within this district.

THE DEFENDANTS

- 12. Martin G. Fraser (53) is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, and was CSK's chief operating officer and president from 2000 until September 2006, when he resigned at CSK's request.
- 13. **Don W. Watson** (53) is a resident of Gilbert, Arizona. From January 1998 to September 2005, Watson was CSK's chief financial officer, senior vice president, and treasurer. Watson served as CSK's chief administrative officer and senior vice president from September 2005 to his termination in October 2006.
- 14. Edward W. O'Brien (46) is a resident of Cave Creek, Arizona. O'Brien was CSK's controller and vice president from March 2003 until his termination in September 2006.
- 15. Gary M. Opper (56) is a resident of Mesa Arizona. Opper was CSK's director of credit and receivables, reporting to O'Brien, from March 17, 2003 until he was terminated in September 2006.

RELATED PARTY

16. **CSK Auto Corporation** is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices in Phoenix, Arizona. CSK's common stock was registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. On July 11, 2008, CSK became a wholly owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.

BACKGROUND

I. CSK's "Let's Work Together" Program

- 17. Each year, most of CSK's vendors agreed to pay vendor allowances. Although CSK had various vendor allowance programs, its largest was its "Let's Work Together" program ("LWT"). Typically, LWT agreements covered a one-year period, which CSK referred to as the "program year." Although the LWT agreements varied, CSK generally earned LWT allowances at a set dollar amount, as a percentage of the amount CSK spent to purchase the vendor's product, or as a certain number of cents per item CSK purchased from the vendor.
- 18. CSK recognized LWT allowances ratably, on a monthly basis, based on its estimate of the total allowances it expected to earn for the entire program year. Thus, CSK did not recognize LWT allowances as they were actually earned or collected. In theory, CSK's estimate was based on the LWT agreement and CSK's expected purchases from its vendors. In general, CSK recognized LWT allowances as a reduction to costs of sales (an expense), thereby increasing the company's pre-tax income.
- 19. As CSK recognized LWT allowances for a given program year, it increased the LWT account receivable for that program year. Each LWT program year had its own account receivable. As CSK collected LWT allowances for a particular program year, GAAP required that CSK reduce the outstanding receivable for that same LWT program year.

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In general, CSK collected LWT allowances by issuing a debit memo to the vendor, which notified the vendor that CSK was deducting the amount of the LWT allowance from the amount CSK owed the vendor. If CSK collected too much, it generally paid back the vendor by issuing a credit memo, notifying the vendor that CSK was adding the amount back to the overall amount it owed the vendor.

Defendants' Fraudulent Scheme

The Fraudulent Scheme To Avoid Vendor Allowance Write Offs

- 21. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK was unable to collect all of the vendor allowances it had recognized. As a result, large accounts receivable built up for each LWT program year.
- 22. GAAP required that CSK write off the uncollectible LWT accounts receivable. Specifically, under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5 ("SFAS No. 5"), Accounting for Contingencies Paragraph 8, an estimated loss from a loss contingency shall be accrued by a charge to income if: (i) information available prior to issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that an asset had been impaired at the date of the financial statements; and (ii) the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 3 defines "probable" to mean that the future event or events are likely to occur. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 4 states that examples of loss contingencies include collectibility of receivables. A write off of the uncollectible LWT allowance receivables would have increased CSK's expenses during the fiscal year the write off was made, resulting in a decrease in pre-tax income.
- 23. Instead of writing off CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and taking the requisite reduction to pre-tax income, Fraser and Watson, for fiscal year 2002, and Defendants, for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, concealed CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable by: (i) applying tens of millions of dollars of LWT allowances earned and collected for later LWT program years to prior LWT program year accounts receivable (referred to within CSK as "filling the bucket"); and (ii) incorrectly accounting for millions of dollars of LWT allowances it paid back to

vendors. Through this scheme, CSK avoided writing off tens of millions of dollars in uncollectible LWT receivables, which it had previously recognized.

- 24. CSK "filled the bucket" by taking LWT allowances collected for later program years and applying them to reduce an earlier LWT program year's account receivable. Specifically, CSK: (i) made baseless journal entries reducing the account receivable for a prior LWT program year with an offsetting increase to the account receivable for a later LWT program year; and (ii) applied LWT allowance collections for a later LWT program year to an earlier program year's LWT account receivable.
- 25. CSK also failed to write off LWT allowances it had over collected for prior LWT program years and ultimately paid back to its vendors. Instead of writing off amounts CSK paid back, which would reduce its pre-tax income, CSK increased a later LWT program year's account receivable, making it appear that it had collected an older account receivable when all CSK had done was move the outstanding receivable balance to a more recent year. This accounting treatment was contrary to GAAP because by paying an amount back to a vendor for a prior LWT program year, CSK acknowledged its uncollectibility and should have written off the amount.

A. <u>During CSK's 2002 Fiscal Year, The Company Concealed</u> <u>Approximately \$11 Million Of Uncollectible Vendor Allowances</u>

26. During its 2002 fiscal year, CSK failed to write off approximately \$11 million of uncollectible vendor allowances it had recognized in previous years, most significantly as part of the 2001 LWT program year. Instead of writing off the uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK: (i) made improper journal entries moving approximately \$6 million of collections for the 2002 LWT program to the 2001 LWT account receivable; (ii) misapplied paybacks of approximately \$3 million to the 2002 LWT receivable; and (iii) reached an agreement whereby a vendor agreed to accept an invalid \$2 million debit memo for the 2001 LWT program year in exchange for CSK not collecting \$2 million in allowances earned as part of the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 5, 2003, CSK overstated its

pre-tax income by approximately \$11 million, or 47%.

- 27. Throughout fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew of CSK's numerous efforts to hide uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 28. During fiscal year 2001, the company's controller at the time informed Fraser and Watson that CSK was recognizing more LWT allowances for the 2001 program year than it was actually earning or likely to earn during that program year.
- 29. The 2001 LWT program year ended in September 2001. CSK tried to collect the outstanding 2001 LWT account receivable throughout fiscal year 2002.
- 30. During fiscal year 2002, CSK issued a \$2 million debit memo to a vendor to collect LWT allowances recognized as part of the 2001 LWT program year. The vendor vigorously disputed the debit memo claiming that CSK had not purchased enough products from the vendor to have earned the \$2 million. Fraser negotiated the dispute. By the middle of the 2002 fiscal year, CSK agreed to forego collecting \$2 million worth of LWT allowances it expected to earn on purchases during the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years in exchange for the vendor accepting the \$2 million debit memo. Both Fraser and Watson knew that the vendor had agreed to accept the already-issued \$2 million debit memo only in exchange for CSK's agreement not to collect \$2 million in LWT for the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. Since the vendor only accepted the debit memo in exchange for future benefits from CSK, *i.e.*, future purchases of product from the vendor, GAAP required that CSK immediately write off the \$2 million because it was not collectible as part of the 2001 LWT program year.
- 31. During fiscal year 2002, CSK had to make various paybacks to vendors for vendor allowances it had recognized during prior fiscal years. Instead of correctly accounting for those paybacks by writing them off and increasing CSK's expenses, the company increased the 2002 LWT program year's account receivable. Watson instructed CSK employees that they would have to raise additional allowances to cover for those amounts paid back because CSK "could not afford a charge for any

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paybacks." Fraser knew of Watson's instruction and CSK's failure to write off vendor allowances paid back to vendors.

- 32. In October 2002, Fraser, Watson, and others met to discuss the collectibility of the 2001 LWT account receivable, which had been outstanding for approximately one year. At that time, of the remaining outstanding balance for the 2001 LWT account receivable, \$3.2 million was known to be uncollectible and \$4.5 million was "questionable." These amounts did not include either the \$2 million Fraser and Watson already knew was uncollectible or the paybacks.
- 33. Rather than write off these uncollectible amounts, as required by GAAP, in October and November 2002, CSK devised a plan to move collections for the 2002 LWT program year to cover the 2001 LWT account receivable. As part of that plan, in or about November 2002, Watson instructed a CSK employee to identify collections for the 2002 LWT program year to move to the 2001 LWT program year account receivable to cover 2001 shortfalls.
 - B. During Fiscal Year 2003, CSK Concealed Approximately \$24 Million In Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances And Improperly Recognized Approximately \$10 Million In Vendor Allowances
- During its 2003 fiscal year, CSK used various tactics to fraudulently 34. conceal, rather than properly write off, approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowances recognized during previous LWT program years, primarily as part of the 2002 LWT program year. Moreover, CSK improperly and prematurely recognized \$6 million in vendor allowances and improperly recognized an additional \$4 million of LWT allowances. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on April 15, 2004, CSK overstated its 2003 pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, turning its actual pre-tax loss of approximately \$18 million into purported pre-tax income of \$16 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and over recognized allowances, and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 35. During fiscal year 2003, CSK hid approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. First, CSK applied approximately \$10 million in 2003 LWT program year collections to the 2002 LWT program year receivable. Second, CSK failed to write off approximately \$5 million in vendor allowances CSK had over collected during prior LWT program years but had to pay back during fiscal year 2003. Third, CSK made a baseless journal entry decreasing the 2002 LWT receivable by \$9 million and increasing the 2003 LWT receivable by the same amount, which reduced the 2002 LWT receivable to zero.
- 36. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew CSK was failing to write of uncollectible LWT allowances. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants regularly received information regarding CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. For example, on or about September 9, 2003, Opper sent an email to Fraser, Watson, O'Brien and others discussing the collection of the 2002 LWT account receivable, which was then approximately one-year old. The email stated that: (i) "approximately \$9.6mm in 2003 collections . . . were moved to 2002 to cover short falls from prior periods;" and (ii) the outstanding 2002 LWT program year receivable balance did not include \$5.4 million in 2002 paybacks. Defendant Opper referenced in the email a chart he had attached that explained the "\$24.2 million in LWT exposure from 2002 and prior." That chart included detailed explanations regarding millions of dollars of uncollectible LWT allowances for prior years, including the 2002 LWT program year.
- 37. Defendants also met to discuss the uncollectible LWT receivables during fiscal year 2003. For example, Defendants attended a meeting on or about September 17, 2003 to discuss the "2002 Outstanding LWT status" where Opper provided copies of the chart attached to his September 9, 2003 email.
- 38. During the fourth quarter of 2003, CSK prematurely recognized approximately \$6 million in additional vendor allowances, which would not be earned, if at all, until fiscal year 2004, in order to meet its earnings numbers. On December 23, 2003, Defendants and others met with CSK's independent auditor in Fraser's office to

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39. At the end of fiscal 2003, CSK obtained approximately \$4 million of additional warranty allowances from two vendors. At that same time, CSK had a warranty deficit of approximately \$13 million, which represented returns from customers covered by warranties in excess of the warranty accrual recorded by CSK. Under GAAP, a warranty deficit should be written off unless additional warranty allowances are obtained to cover the deficit. However, instead of applying the \$4 million of additional warranty allowances to offset a portion of its warranty deficit balance, CSK improperly recognized those warranty allowances as additional LWT allowances. Thus, the warranty deficit included in CSK's inventory balance remained \$13 million, and CSK improperly inflated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$4 million.

C. <u>During Fiscal Year 2004, CSK Failed To Write Off Approximately</u> \$21 Million Of Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances

40. During fiscal year 2004, CSK concealed that it could not collect vendor allowances totaling approximately \$21 million. Specifically, CSK applied:

(i) approximately \$11 million in 2004 LWT program year collections to the 2003 LWT account receivable; (ii) approximately \$4 million CSK paid back to vendors for the 2003 and 2002 LWT program years to the 2004 LWT receivable; and

(iii) approximately \$6 million via baseless journal entries to the 2003 LWT receivable from other vendor allowance receivables in other time periods. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 2, 2005, CSK overstated pre-tax income for fiscal year 2004 by

approximately 65%, or \$21 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and that, as a result, the company's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 41. CSK's 2004 Form 10-K included CSK's First Restatement, which partially restated CSK's vendor allowances recognized during prior years. Specifically, CSK restated because it could not collect all of the 2003 LWT receivable. In addition, CSK restated for vendor allowances paid back during fiscal year 2003 that CSK failed to properly write off during the 2003 fiscal year. CSK's restatement regarding vendor allowances resulted in CSK adjusting its costs of sales upward and its pre-tax income downward, for the first three quarters of 2004, and the 2003, 2002, and 2001 fiscal years by \$1.9 million, \$7.1 million, \$9.0 million, and \$0.5 million, respectively.
- 42. The First Restatement, however, falsely attributed the vendor allowance restatement to "errors in estimation in earlier periods" and "vendor allowances recorded in improper periods" due to "imprecise estimates, bookkeeping errors and recording allowances in the incorrect periods." Defendants knew the reasons stated for the vendor allowance restatement were false because the First Restatement resulted from Defendants' fraudulent scheme.
- 43. The First Restatement also failed to: (i) write off all known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables; (ii) disclose the full extent of CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible receivables from its independent auditors; and (iii) disclose CSK's over recognition of vendor allowances during fiscal 2003. Defendants knew about these misstatements contained in the First Restatement.
- 44. While preparing the First Restatement, Defendants hid the full extent of their fraudulent conduct from CSK's independent auditor. For example, despite the independent auditor's request for a list of all paybacks CSK had made to its vendors, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided an incomplete list. As a result, CSK failed to write off \$4 million in paybacks it had made during 2004 and applied to the 2003 LWT receivable. Similarly, Fraser and Watson negotiated agreements with

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falsify documents to make it appear that CSK had entered into separate, seemingly unrelated agreements, containing different dates, in order to hide from CSK's independent auditor that CSK's receipt of additional LWT allowances were contingent upon CSK's willingness to grant price increases offsetting the LWT amounts the vendors purportedly agreed to pay. Thus, Defendants knew they were hiding material information from CSK's independent auditor and excluding from the restatement. intentional accounting errors regarding vendor allowances.

D. To Further Cover Up Its Fraud In The Wake Of The First Restatement, CSK Debited Its Vendors For Amounts It Knew They **Did Not Owe**

- 45. After filing its First Restatement in May 2005, CSK's outstanding 2004 LWT account receivable still contained approximately \$15 million that was not collectible. In an effort to conceal that uncollectible receivable, CSK issued debit memos to the vendors for the \$15 million at the end of July 2005.
- 46. As of July 15, 2005, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knew that \$15 million of the outstanding 2004 LWT receivable was not uncollectible because it had previously been collected and had been applied to prior LWT program year receivables as part of CSK's fraudulent scheme.
- 47. In July 2005, CSK issued debit memos totaling approximately \$31 million, including the \$15 million that CSK had previously collected. Opper instructed employees to prepare the debit memos to collect the entire \$31 million even though \$15 million of the allowances had already been collected. When the debit memos were issued, Fraser met with Watson, O'Brien, Opper, and other CSK employees. Fraser told the group that CSK needed to make the debit memos "stick" and that, when it had sent out debit memos in the past, CSK paid back only about ten percent of the debits.

- 48. In late July 2005 or early August 2005, Fraser was told that many of the buyers saw errors in the proposed debits. Fraser responded that probably 70% of the debits would "stick" and that many of the vendors would not even notice them. At least as early as September 2005, Fraser knew that a substantial amount CSK had debited was at risk of having to be paid back to its vendors.
- 49. After the vendors complained about the debit memos, CSK continued to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. First, CSK negotiated deals with vendors for future vendor allowances that CSK offset against the already-issued 2004 LWT debit memos. Second, CSK falsified its books and records to conceal that it was paying back portions of the debit memos. For example, CSK issued to certain vendors credit memos, which O'Brien created or caused to be created, that falsely described the paybacks as being related to "costing," "pricing increases—steel surcharge," or "warranty." In fact, the credit memos paid back LWT amounts that CSK had improperly debited.

II. <u>CSK's Forms 10-K For Fiscal Years 2002, 2003, And 2004 Contained</u> <u>Materially False Information</u>

- 50. CSK filed annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.
- 51. The notes to the financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 falsely stated that "Specific accounts are written off against the allowance when management determines the account is uncollectible." In fact, CSK did not write off known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, but rather engaged in a scheme to avoid and hide such write offs, as set forth above.

52. In all, CSK understated its costs of goods sold during fiscal years 2002 through 2004 as follows:

| FY | Concealed Receivables From Prior Years | | Over | Total | |
|------|--|------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| | Unsupported Journal Entries | Misapplied Debit Memos | Misapplied Paybacks | Recognized Allowances / Other Uncollectible Receivables | |
| 2002 | \$6M | | \$3 M | \$2 M | \$11 M |
| 2003 | \$9 M | \$10 M | \$5 M | \$10 M | \$34 M |
| 2004 | \$6 M | \$11 M | \$4 M | | \$21 M |

- 53. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002 falsely overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew that the company's financial statement were materially misstated.
- 54. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003 overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew that the company's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 55. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, which also contained the First Restatement, overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 65%, or \$21 million. In addition, it falsely attributed the need for the vendor allowance restatement to estimation errors, imprecise estimates, and bookkeeping errors, rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Defendants knew the company's financial statements were materially misstated and mischaracterized the reasons for the vendor allowance restatement.
- 56. Watson, as CSK's CFO, signed CSK's annual reports and the accompanying Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In connection with each of the Forms 10-K filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Watson certified he had no knowledge of

any untrue statement of material fact in the report, the annual report "fairly presents in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows . . .," and that he had disclosed to CSK's independent auditors and audit committee "any fraud, whether or not material, that involved management or any other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal controls." At the time he made those certifications, Watson knew that each of those statements was false.

- 57. On March 27, 2006, CSK announced that it was conducting an internal investigation relating to, among other things, accounting irregularities regarding vendor allowances. CSK's stock price immediately dropped 8% and dropped a total of 13% for the week.
- 58. On May 1, 2007, CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2005 restating, for the second time, its financial statements for 2002, 2003, and 2004 due, in part, to the fraudulent scheme relating to CSK's failure to write off uncollectible vendor allowances.

III. <u>Defendants Substantially Participated In Making CSK's Misleading Annual</u> Reports

- 59. Fraser substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well to review and discuss related accounting and disclosure issues, such as collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (ii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, Fraser falsely represented that to his

knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those representations were false;

- (iii) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, falsely certifying that: (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading; (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report;" and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those statements were false; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Fraser "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 60. Watson substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith by among other things:
 - (i) signing the Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;

- (ii) signing the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications filed with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;
- (iii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Watson "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 61. O'Brien substantially participated, and had intricate involvement, in the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being CSK's controller, whose responsibilities included reviewing CSK's financial statements for accuracy;
 - (ii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (iii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, O'Brien falsely represented that to his knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility;"

- (iv) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, certifying that (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading, (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report," and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, O'Brien knew that those statements were false; and
- (vi) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. In those management representation letters, O'Brien "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 62. Opper substantially participated in Defendants' fraudulent scheme to avoid writing off uncollectible vendor allowance amounts in CSK's annual reports, or, in the alternative, provided substantial assistance to CSK in carrying out the fraudulent scheme. Rather than sound the alarm on CSK's improper accounting, Opper chose to become an essential participant in CSK's fraudulent scheme by among other things:
- (i) using his position in charge of the day-to-day management of CSK's vendor accounts receivable department, particularly CSK's LWT operations, to instruct employees to make accounting entries to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. For example, on October 10, 2003, Opper instructed a CSK employee to

make an improper journal entry moving an outstanding 2002 LWT receivable to the 2003 LWT receivable.

- (ii) approving the misapplication of paybacks to vendors and the misapplication of those paybacks to later year LWT receivables;
- (iii) tracking CSK's movement of funds to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables and periodically providing this information to senior management, including Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien; and
- (iv) providing to CSK's independent auditor false documents and explanations in order to hide that CSK could not collect a material portion of its vendor allowance receivables. For example, in a November 24, 2003 memo to CSK's independent auditor, Opper provided false information and documentation regarding collections for the 2003 LWT program that were improperly applied to the 2002 LWT program.

IV. In Carrying Out And Covering Up The Fraud, Defendants Repeatedly Lied To CSK's Independent Auditor

- 63. Defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and CSK's independent auditor regularly attended audit committee meetings and frequently and at length discussed the collectibility of the outstanding LWT receivables. Defendants Fraser and Watson often led the discussion regarding LWT collections, and regularly stated that the outstanding LWT receivables were collectible.
- 64. To avoid detection of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants regularly lied to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its reviews and audits of CSK's financial statements.
- 65. In connection with the Forms 10-K CSK filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Fraser, Watson, and (starting in fiscal year 2003) O'Brien, signed management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor. Specifically, in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson signed a management letter dated May 2, 2003; in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year

2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated April 14, 2004; and in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated May 2, 2005. In each of those management representation letters, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien falsely representing that: (i) the receivables were collectible; (ii) the company's financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP; and (iii) they had no knowledge of any fraud involving management or employees with a significant role in internal controls, or any other fraud that could have a material effect on the company's consolidated financial statements. For fiscal years 2002 and 2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien also falsely represented that CSK had adequate internal controls. All of those representations were false for the reasons set forth above. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew that these representations were false when they signed the letters.

66. Defendant Opper gave CSK's independent auditor modified schedules that omitted the columns showing the uncollectible amounts and memoranda containing false information.

V. <u>Defendants Circumvented CSK's Internal Controls</u>

- 67. During 2002, 2003, and part of 2004, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper circumvented CSK's internal controls by, among other things, instructing or approving the entry of false journal entries.
- 68. In 2004, CSK developed various policies regarding vendor allowances, one of which disallowed side letters with terms that differed from the LWT agreements. Contrary to this policy, however, Fraser directed that a vendor agreement relating to LWT allowances be split into two, with one agreement backdated.

VI. Offerings While The False Financial Information Was Outstanding

69. While the false financial statements were outstanding, CSK engaged in several private debt offerings. In January 2004, CSK issued \$225 million of 7% Senior Subordinated Notes. In August 2005, CSK completed a \$125 million issuance of 3 3/8% senior exchangeable notes. In December 2005, CSK issued \$100 million of 4

5/8% senior exchangeable notes. CSK's materially false financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

- 70. With respect to the 2004 debt offering, on May 20, 2004 Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter to CSK's independent auditor confirming their prior representations contained in the April 14, 2004 management representation letter provided with the fiscal year 2003 Form 10-K. The April 14 management representation letter stated that the 2003 LWT receivable reflected amounts owed CSK for the 2003 LWT program year. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew this representation was false when they signed both the April 14 and May 20, 2004 letters.
- 71. CSK's materially false and misleading disclosures and financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the various Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal year 2002, 2004 and 2005. Defendants knew that these registration statements were false and misleading when filed because they incorporated misstatements from CSK's Forms 10-K.

VII. <u>Defendants Received Bonuses And Sold Stock During The</u> <u>Fraudulent Scheme</u>

- 72. For the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years, Fraser and Watson each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 73. For the 2003 fiscal year, O'Brien and Opper each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 74. Fraser, Watson, and Opper sold CSK stock in 2003, 2004, and 2005, during the period of the fraud. Their net profits were \$195,419, \$155,122, and \$28,078.20, respectively.

| 1 | | FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
|----|---|---|--|
| 2 | FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES | | |
| 3 | Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act | | |
| 4 | 75. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 5 | above. | | |
| 6 | 76. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | |
| 7 | above, direc | etly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or | |
| 8 | instruments | of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of | |
| 9 | the mails: | | |
| 10 | | a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; | |
| 11 | | b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of a | |
| 12 | | material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in | |
| 13 | | order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances | |
| 14 | | under which they were made, not misleading; or | |
| 15 | | c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which | |
| 16 | | operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser. | |
| 17 | 77. | By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated, and | |
| 18 | unless restra | ained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities | |
| 19 | Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77q(a). | | |
| 20 | | SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
| 21 | | FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE | |
| 22 | | PURCHASE OR SALE OF SECURITIES | |
| 23 | | Violations and Aiding and Abetting Violations of | |
| 24 | | Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act | |
| 25 | | and Rule 10b-5 thereunder | |
| 26 | 78. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 27 | above. | | |
| 28 | 79. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described | |

above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:

- a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- b. made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated c. or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- 80. Alternatively, Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in its violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5 in connection with CSK's annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004.
- 81. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants 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 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.
- 82. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder.

| 1 | THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
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| 2 | VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION PERIODIC |
| 3 | REPORTING REQUIREMENTS |
| 4 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 5 | Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder |
| 6 | 83. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 7 | above. |
| 8 | 84. CSK violated Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and |
| 9 | 13a-13 thereunder, by filing with the Commission annual reports on Form 10-K for |
| .0 | fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 that were materially false and failed to include |
| .1 | material information necessary to make the required statements, in light of the |
| .2 | circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. |
| .3 | 85. Fraser and Watson knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in |
| .4 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 |
| .5 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and |
| .6 | 2004. |
| .7 | 86. O'Brien and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in |
| .8 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 |
| .9 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. |
| 20 | 87. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) |
| 21 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Defendants aided and abetted CSK's |
| 22 | violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, |
| 23 | of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder. |
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| 1 | FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
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| 2 | RECORD-KEEPING VIOLATIONS |
| 3 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 4 | Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act and Violations of |
| 5 | Rule 13b2-1 thereunder |
| 6 | 88. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 7 | above. |
| 8 | 89. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § |
| 9 | 78m(b)(2)(A), by failing to make or keep books, records, and accounts, which, in |
| 10 | reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflected its transactions and disposition of its |
| 11 | assets. |
| 12 | 90. Defendants knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation |
| 13 | of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(A). |
| 14 | 91. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) |
| 15 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and |
| 16 | Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will |
| 17 | continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. |
| 18 | 92. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated |
| 19 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-1 by, directly or indirectly, falsifying or causing to be falsified |
| 20 | CSK's books, records, or accounts subject to Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. |
| 21 | Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Rule 13b2-1, 17 |
| 22 | C.F.R. § 240.13b2-1. |
| 23 | FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
| 24 | INTERNAL CONTROLS VIOLATIONS |
| 25 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 26 | Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act |
| 27 | 93. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 28 | above. |

- 94. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B), by failing to devise and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that transactions were recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statement in conformity with GAAP and to maintain the accountability for assets.
- 95. Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).
- 96. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

CIRCUMVENTION OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS

Violations of Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange

- 97. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 above.
- 98. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5), by knowingly circumventing or failing to implement a system of internal accounting controls, or, directly or indirectly, by knowingly falsifying or causing to be falsified any CSK books, records, or accounts described in Section 13(b)(2) of the Exchange Act. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5).

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| 1 | SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
| 2 | FALSE STATEMENT TO ACCOUNTANTS | |
| 3 | Violations of Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2 | |
| 4 | (Against Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien) | |
| 5 | 99. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 6 | above. | |
| 7 | 100. Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien, directly or indirectly, (i) made, | |
| 8 | or caused to be made, materially false or misleading statements or (ii) omitted to state, | |
| 9 | or caused others to omit to state, material facts necessary in order to make statements | |
| 10 | made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, to an | |
| 11 | accountant in connection with an audit, review or examination of financial statements | |
| 12 | or the preparation or filing of a document or report required to be filed with the | |
| 13 | Commission. | |
| 14 | 101. By engaging in the conduct alleged above, defendants Fraser, Watson, | |
| 15 | and O'Brien violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, | |
| 16 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2. | |
| 17 | EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
| 18 | CERTIFICATION VIOLATIONS | |
| 19 | Violations of Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act | |
| 20 | (Against Defendant Watson) | |
| 21 | 102. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 22 | above. | |
| 23 | 103. Watson violated Rule 13a-14 by signing the certifications included with | |
| 24 | CSK fiscal year 2002, 2003, and 2004 Forms 10-K, certifying, among other things, that | |
| 25 | the forms fully complied with the requirements of the Exchange Act and fairly | |
| 26 | presented, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of | |
| 27 | the company, when, in fact, the reports contained untrue statements of material fact and | |
| 28 | omitted material information necessary to make the reports not misleading. | |

104. By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant Watson violated Exchange Act Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14. Unless restrained and enjoined, defendant Watson will continue to violate Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

I

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendants committed the alleged violations.

II

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Fraser and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

III

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Watson and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13a-14, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

IV

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant O'Brien and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

 \mathbf{V}

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5 and 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder. Or, in the alternative, issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

VI

Enter an order, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2), prohibiting defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from acting as officers

| 1 | or directors of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 |
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| 2 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 781, or that is required to file reports pursuant to |
| 3 | Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78o(d). |
| 4 | VII |
| 5 | Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to disgorge all ill-gotten |
| 6 | gains from their illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon. |
| 7 | VIII |
| 8 | Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to pay civil penalties |
| 9 | under Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3). |
| 10 | IX |
| 11 | Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and |
| 12 | the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of |
| 13 | all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or |
| 14 | motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court. |
| 15 | \mathbf{X} |
| 16 | Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and |
| 17 | necessary. |
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| 19 | DATED: March 5, 2009 Respectfully submitted, |
| 20 | a when O'X in al and |
| 21 | C. DABNEY O'RIORDAN |
| 22 | Attorney for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission |
| 23 | Securities and Exchange Commission |
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| 10 | | |
| 11 | UNITED STATES DIS | |
| 12 | DISTRICT OF | ARIZONA |
| 13 | SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, | Case No. |
| 14 | COMMISSION, | COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OI |
| 15 | Plaintiff, vs. | THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | MARTIN G. FRASER; DON W. WATSON; EDWARD W. O'BRIEN; and | |
| 18 | GARY M. OPPER, | |
| 19 | Defendants. | |
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Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") alleges as follows:

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SUMMARY

- 1. CSK Auto Corporation ("CSK") was one of the largest specialty retailers of automotive parts and accessories in the United States. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, CSK became a publicly traded company in March 1999. As of January 30, 2005, CSK operated 1,134 stores in nineteen states under three brand names: Checker Auto Parts, Schucks Auto Supply, and Kragen Auto Parts. In 2008, after the conduct alleged in this Complaint, CSK became a wholly-owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.
- 2. As a retailer of automotive products, CSK purchased products from vendors that manufacture automotive parts and accessories. From at least fiscal years 2002 through 2004, a significant portion of CSK's income was derived from allowances it received from its vendors. Vendor allowances are used to provide retailers, such as CSK, with financial support to market the vendor's products. In general, CSK accounted for vendor allowances by reducing its costs of goods sold. Thus, the more vendor allowances CSK earned, the lower its costs of goods sold, resulting in greater reported pre-tax income. During the years at issue, vendor allowances were vital to CSK's financials, increasing its reported pre-tax income by tens of millions of dollars each fiscal year.
- 3. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK knew that there were millions of dollars of vendor allowances that were recognized on its books but were not collectible. Rather than write off the uncollectible receivables, as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), CSK and its senior management engaged in a scheme to hide the uncollectible receivables through various accounting tricks. In addition, during fiscal year 2003, CSK over recognized millions of dollars of vendor allowances. To perpetuate the fraudulent scheme, CSK's senior management lied to the company's independent auditors and audit committee.

- 4. If CSK had written off the uncollectible vendor allowances, it would have increased the company's expenses and decreased its income. Because CSK concealed its uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK's annual reports filed with the Commission for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 materially overstated the company's financial results in violation of GAAP and misled the public about the company's financial performance.
- 5. During the relevant time period, defendant Martin G. Fraser ("Fraser") served as CSK's chief operating officer and president, defendant Don W. Watson ("Watson") served as its chief financial officer, defendant Edward W. O'Brien ("O'Brien") served as a vice president and controller, and defendant Gary M. Opper ("Opper") served as its director of credits and receivables (Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants"). Because of Fraser's and Watson's conduct, CSK filed with the Commission a false annual report for fiscal year 2002 that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for that year by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. In addition, because of Defendants' conduct, CSK filed false annual reports with the Commission that fraudulently overstated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss, and for fiscal year 2004 by approximately 65%, or \$21 million.
- 6. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent conduct, CSK restated its financial statements as part of its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004 (the "First Restatement"). As part of the First Restatement, CSK reduced its previously recognized vendor allowances for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and the first three quarters of fiscal year 2004. Defendants, however, continued to conceal known, significant uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. The First Restatement also falsely attributed the vendor allowance adjustments to mere errors in estimates and bookkeeping mistakes rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct.

- 7. As a result of Defendants' failure to acknowledge and write off the magnitude of CSK's uncollectible vendor allowance receivables in the First Restatement, CSK still had approximately \$15 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, which, under GAAP, should have been written off. Defendants made a final attempt to collect that \$15 million deficit by intentionally over billing its vendors. When the vendors complained about being double billed, CSK paid back the amounts it had wrongfully collected, but incorrectly accounted for some of those paybacks and mischaracterized the reasons for other paybacks to avoid detection that the company had over collected vendor allowances.
- 8. Each of the Defendants knew CSK was not writing off uncollectible vendor allowances receivables and was over recognizing vendor allowances resulting in CSK's financial statements for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 being materially misstated. Defendants Fraser and Watson substantially participated in the preparation of CSK's 2002, 2003, and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant O'Brien substantially participated in the preparation of the 2003 and 2004 false financial statements. Defendant Opper substantially participated in, or provided substantial assistance to, the preparation of the false 2003 and 2004 financial statements.
- 9. Based on their conduct, Defendants, among other things, violated the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws, falsified CSK's books and records, circumvented CSK's internal controls, and lied to CSK's independent auditors. The Commission seeks an order enjoining Defendants from future violations of the securities laws, requiring Defendants to disgorge ill-gotten gains with prejudgment interest, ordering Defendants to pay civil monetary penalties, requiring Watson to reimburse stock profits pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, barring Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from serving as officers or directors of a public company, and providing other appropriate relief.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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10. 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) & 78aa. Defendants have 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.

11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because defendants reside and transact business within this district and certain of the transactions, acts, practices and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws alleged in this Complaint occurred within this district.

THE DEFENDANTS

- 12. Martin G. Fraser (53) is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, and was CSK's chief operating officer and president from 2000 until September 2006, when he resigned at CSK's request.
- 13. **Don W. Watson** (53) is a resident of Gilbert, Arizona. From January 1998 to September 2005, Watson was CSK's chief financial officer, senior vice president, and treasurer. Watson served as CSK's chief administrative officer and senior vice president from September 2005 to his termination in October 2006.
- 14. Edward W. O'Brien (46) is a resident of Cave Creek, Arizona. O'Brien was CSK's controller and vice president from March 2003 until his termination in September 2006.
- 15. Gary M. Opper (56) is a resident of Mesa Arizona. Opper was CSK's director of credit and receivables, reporting to O'Brien, from March 17, 2003 until he was terminated in September 2006.

RELATED PARTY

16. **CSK Auto Corporation** is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices in Phoenix, Arizona. CSK's common stock was registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. On July 11, 2008, CSK became a wholly owned subsidiary of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.

BACKGROUND

I. CSK's "Let's Work Together" Program

- 17. Each year, most of CSK's vendors agreed to pay vendor allowances. Although CSK had various vendor allowance programs, its largest was its "Let's Work Together" program ("LWT"). Typically, LWT agreements covered a one-year period, which CSK referred to as the "program year." Although the LWT agreements varied, CSK generally earned LWT allowances at a set dollar amount, as a percentage of the amount CSK spent to purchase the vendor's product, or as a certain number of cents per item CSK purchased from the vendor.
- 18. CSK recognized LWT allowances ratably, on a monthly basis, based on its estimate of the total allowances it expected to earn for the entire program year. Thus, CSK did not recognize LWT allowances as they were actually earned or collected. In theory, CSK's estimate was based on the LWT agreement and CSK's expected purchases from its vendors. In general, CSK recognized LWT allowances as a reduction to costs of sales (an expense), thereby increasing the company's pre-tax income.
- 19. As CSK recognized LWT allowances for a given program year, it increased the LWT account receivable for that program year. Each LWT program year had its own account receivable. As CSK collected LWT allowances for a particular program year, GAAP required that CSK reduce the outstanding receivable for that same LWT program year.

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In general, CSK collected LWT allowances by issuing a debit memo to the vendor, which notified the vendor that CSK was deducting the amount of the LWT allowance from the amount CSK owed the vendor. If CSK collected too much, it generally paid back the vendor by issuing a credit memo, notifying the vendor that CSK was adding the amount back to the overall amount it owed the vendor.

Defendants' Fraudulent Scheme

The Fraudulent Scheme To Avoid Vendor Allowance Write Offs

- 21. During fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, CSK was unable to collect all of the vendor allowances it had recognized. As a result, large accounts receivable built up for each LWT program year.
- 22. GAAP required that CSK write off the uncollectible LWT accounts receivable. Specifically, under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5 ("SFAS No. 5"), Accounting for Contingencies Paragraph 8, an estimated loss from a loss contingency shall be accrued by a charge to income if: (i) information available prior to issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that an asset had been impaired at the date of the financial statements; and (ii) the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 3 defines "probable" to mean that the future event or events are likely to occur. SFAS No. 5, Paragraph 4 states that examples of loss contingencies include collectibility of receivables. A write off of the uncollectible LWT allowance receivables would have increased CSK's expenses during the fiscal year the write off was made, resulting in a decrease in pre-tax income.
- 23. Instead of writing off CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and taking the requisite reduction to pre-tax income, Fraser and Watson, for fiscal year 2002, and Defendants, for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, concealed CSK's uncollectible LWT accounts receivable by: (i) applying tens of millions of dollars of LWT allowances earned and collected for later LWT program years to prior LWT program year accounts receivable (referred to within CSK as "filling the bucket"); and (ii) incorrectly accounting for millions of dollars of LWT allowances it paid back to

vendors. Through this scheme, CSK avoided writing off tens of millions of dollars in uncollectible LWT receivables, which it had previously recognized.

- 24. CSK "filled the bucket" by taking LWT allowances collected for later program years and applying them to reduce an earlier LWT program year's account receivable. Specifically, CSK: (i) made baseless journal entries reducing the account receivable for a prior LWT program year with an offsetting increase to the account receivable for a later LWT program year; and (ii) applied LWT allowance collections for a later LWT program year to an earlier program year's LWT account receivable.
- 25. CSK also failed to write off LWT allowances it had over collected for prior LWT program years and ultimately paid back to its vendors. Instead of writing off amounts CSK paid back, which would reduce its pre-tax income, CSK increased a later LWT program year's account receivable, making it appear that it had collected an older account receivable when all CSK had done was move the outstanding receivable balance to a more recent year. This accounting treatment was contrary to GAAP because by paying an amount back to a vendor for a prior LWT program year, CSK acknowledged its uncollectibility and should have written off the amount.

A. <u>During CSK's 2002 Fiscal Year, The Company Concealed</u> <u>Approximately \$11 Million Of Uncollectible Vendor Allowances</u>

26. During its 2002 fiscal year, CSK failed to write off approximately \$11 million of uncollectible vendor allowances it had recognized in previous years, most significantly as part of the 2001 LWT program year. Instead of writing off the uncollectible vendor allowances, CSK: (i) made improper journal entries moving approximately \$6 million of collections for the 2002 LWT program to the 2001 LWT account receivable; (ii) misapplied paybacks of approximately \$3 million to the 2002 LWT receivable; and (iii) reached an agreement whereby a vendor agreed to accept an invalid \$2 million debit memo for the 2001 LWT program year in exchange for CSK not collecting \$2 million in allowances earned as part of the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 5, 2003, CSK overstated its

pre-tax income by approximately \$11 million, or 47%.

- 27. Throughout fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew of CSK's numerous efforts to hide uncollectible LWT accounts receivable and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 28. During fiscal year 2001, the company's controller at the time informed Fraser and Watson that CSK was recognizing more LWT allowances for the 2001 program year than it was actually earning or likely to earn during that program year.
- 29. The 2001 LWT program year ended in September 2001. CSK tried to collect the outstanding 2001 LWT account receivable throughout fiscal year 2002.
- 30. During fiscal year 2002, CSK issued a \$2 million debit memo to a vendor to collect LWT allowances recognized as part of the 2001 LWT program year. The vendor vigorously disputed the debit memo claiming that CSK had not purchased enough products from the vendor to have earned the \$2 million. Fraser negotiated the dispute. By the middle of the 2002 fiscal year, CSK agreed to forego collecting \$2 million worth of LWT allowances it expected to earn on purchases during the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years in exchange for the vendor accepting the \$2 million debit memo. Both Fraser and Watson knew that the vendor had agreed to accept the already-issued \$2 million debit memo only in exchange for CSK's agreement not to collect \$2 million in LWT for the 2002 and 2003 LWT program years. Since the vendor only accepted the debit memo in exchange for future benefits from CSK, *i.e.*, future purchases of product from the vendor, GAAP required that CSK immediately write off the \$2 million because it was not collectible as part of the 2001 LWT program year.
- 31. During fiscal year 2002, CSK had to make various paybacks to vendors for vendor allowances it had recognized during prior fiscal years. Instead of correctly accounting for those paybacks by writing them off and increasing CSK's expenses, the company increased the 2002 LWT program year's account receivable. Watson instructed CSK employees that they would have to raise additional allowances to cover for those amounts paid back because CSK "could not afford a charge for any

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paybacks." Fraser knew of Watson's instruction and CSK's failure to write off vendor allowances paid back to vendors.

- 32. In October 2002, Fraser, Watson, and others met to discuss the collectibility of the 2001 LWT account receivable, which had been outstanding for approximately one year. At that time, of the remaining outstanding balance for the 2001 LWT account receivable, \$3.2 million was known to be uncollectible and \$4.5 million was "questionable." These amounts did not include either the \$2 million Fraser and Watson already knew was uncollectible or the paybacks.
- 33. Rather than write off these uncollectible amounts, as required by GAAP, in October and November 2002, CSK devised a plan to move collections for the 2002 LWT program year to cover the 2001 LWT account receivable. As part of that plan, in or about November 2002, Watson instructed a CSK employee to identify collections for the 2002 LWT program year to move to the 2001 LWT program year account receivable to cover 2001 shortfalls.
 - B. During Fiscal Year 2003, CSK Concealed Approximately \$24 Million In Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances And Improperly Recognized Approximately \$10 Million In Vendor Allowances
- During its 2003 fiscal year, CSK used various tactics to fraudulently 34. conceal, rather than properly write off, approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowances recognized during previous LWT program years, primarily as part of the 2002 LWT program year. Moreover, CSK improperly and prematurely recognized \$6 million in vendor allowances and improperly recognized an additional \$4 million of LWT allowances. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on April 15, 2004, CSK overstated its 2003 pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, turning its actual pre-tax loss of approximately \$18 million into purported pre-tax income of \$16 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and over recognized allowances, and that, as a result, CSK's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 35. During fiscal year 2003, CSK hid approximately \$24 million in uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. First, CSK applied approximately \$10 million in 2003 LWT program year collections to the 2002 LWT program year receivable. Second, CSK failed to write off approximately \$5 million in vendor allowances CSK had over collected during prior LWT program years but had to pay back during fiscal year 2003. Third, CSK made a baseless journal entry decreasing the 2002 LWT receivable by \$9 million and increasing the 2003 LWT receivable by the same amount, which reduced the 2002 LWT receivable to zero.
- 36. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew CSK was failing to write of uncollectible LWT allowances. During fiscal year 2003, Defendants regularly received information regarding CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. For example, on or about September 9, 2003, Opper sent an email to Fraser, Watson, O'Brien and others discussing the collection of the 2002 LWT account receivable, which was then approximately one-year old. The email stated that: (i) "approximately \$9.6mm in 2003 collections . . . were moved to 2002 to cover short falls from prior periods;" and (ii) the outstanding 2002 LWT program year receivable balance did not include \$5.4 million in 2002 paybacks. Defendant Opper referenced in the email a chart he had attached that explained the "\$24.2 million in LWT exposure from 2002 and prior." That chart included detailed explanations regarding millions of dollars of uncollectible LWT allowances for prior years, including the 2002 LWT program year.
- 37. Defendants also met to discuss the uncollectible LWT receivables during fiscal year 2003. For example, Defendants attended a meeting on or about September 17, 2003 to discuss the "2002 Outstanding LWT status" where Opper provided copies of the chart attached to his September 9, 2003 email.
- 38. During the fourth quarter of 2003, CSK prematurely recognized approximately \$6 million in additional vendor allowances, which would not be earned, if at all, until fiscal year 2004, in order to meet its earnings numbers. On December 23, 2003, Defendants and others met with CSK's independent auditor in Fraser's office to

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39. At the end of fiscal 2003, CSK obtained approximately \$4 million of additional warranty allowances from two vendors. At that same time, CSK had a warranty deficit of approximately \$13 million, which represented returns from customers covered by warranties in excess of the warranty accrual recorded by CSK. Under GAAP, a warranty deficit should be written off unless additional warranty allowances are obtained to cover the deficit. However, instead of applying the \$4 million of additional warranty allowances to offset a portion of its warranty deficit balance, CSK improperly recognized those warranty allowances as additional LWT allowances. Thus, the warranty deficit included in CSK's inventory balance remained \$13 million, and CSK improperly inflated its pre-tax income for fiscal year 2003 by approximately \$4 million.

C. <u>During Fiscal Year 2004, CSK Failed To Write Off Approximately</u> \$21 Million Of Known, Uncollectible Vendor Allowances

40. During fiscal year 2004, CSK concealed that it could not collect vendor allowances totaling approximately \$21 million. Specifically, CSK applied:

(i) approximately \$11 million in 2004 LWT program year collections to the 2003 LWT account receivable; (ii) approximately \$4 million CSK paid back to vendors for the 2003 and 2002 LWT program years to the 2004 LWT receivable; and

(iii) approximately \$6 million via baseless journal entries to the 2003 LWT receivable from other vendor allowance receivables in other time periods. As a result, in its Form 10-K filed on May 2, 2005, CSK overstated pre-tax income for fiscal year 2004 by

approximately 65%, or \$21 million. At the time of that filing, Defendants knew CSK had failed to write off uncollectible vendor allowances and that, as a result, the company's financial statements were materially misstated.

- 41. CSK's 2004 Form 10-K included CSK's First Restatement, which partially restated CSK's vendor allowances recognized during prior years. Specifically, CSK restated because it could not collect all of the 2003 LWT receivable. In addition, CSK restated for vendor allowances paid back during fiscal year 2003 that CSK failed to properly write off during the 2003 fiscal year. CSK's restatement regarding vendor allowances resulted in CSK adjusting its costs of sales upward and its pre-tax income downward, for the first three quarters of 2004, and the 2003, 2002, and 2001 fiscal years by \$1.9 million, \$7.1 million, \$9.0 million, and \$0.5 million, respectively.
- 42. The First Restatement, however, falsely attributed the vendor allowance restatement to "errors in estimation in earlier periods" and "vendor allowances recorded in improper periods" due to "imprecise estimates, bookkeeping errors and recording allowances in the incorrect periods." Defendants knew the reasons stated for the vendor allowance restatement were false because the First Restatement resulted from Defendants' fraudulent scheme.
- 43. The First Restatement also failed to: (i) write off all known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables; (ii) disclose the full extent of CSK's efforts to hide the uncollectible receivables from its independent auditors; and (iii) disclose CSK's over recognition of vendor allowances during fiscal 2003. Defendants knew about these misstatements contained in the First Restatement.
- 44. While preparing the First Restatement, Defendants hid the full extent of their fraudulent conduct from CSK's independent auditor. For example, despite the independent auditor's request for a list of all paybacks CSK had made to its vendors, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided an incomplete list. As a result, CSK failed to write off \$4 million in paybacks it had made during 2004 and applied to the 2003 LWT receivable. Similarly, Fraser and Watson negotiated agreements with

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falsify documents to make it appear that CSK had entered into separate, seemingly unrelated agreements, containing different dates, in order to hide from CSK's independent auditor that CSK's receipt of additional LWT allowances were contingent upon CSK's willingness to grant price increases offsetting the LWT amounts the vendors purportedly agreed to pay. Thus, Defendants knew they were hiding material information from CSK's independent auditor and excluding from the restatement. intentional accounting errors regarding vendor allowances.

D. To Further Cover Up Its Fraud In The Wake Of The First Restatement, CSK Debited Its Vendors For Amounts It Knew They **Did Not Owe**

- 45. After filing its First Restatement in May 2005, CSK's outstanding 2004 LWT account receivable still contained approximately \$15 million that was not collectible. In an effort to conceal that uncollectible receivable, CSK issued debit memos to the vendors for the \$15 million at the end of July 2005.
- 46. As of July 15, 2005, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knew that \$15 million of the outstanding 2004 LWT receivable was not uncollectible because it had previously been collected and had been applied to prior LWT program year receivables as part of CSK's fraudulent scheme.
- 47. In July 2005, CSK issued debit memos totaling approximately \$31 million, including the \$15 million that CSK had previously collected. Opper instructed employees to prepare the debit memos to collect the entire \$31 million even though \$15 million of the allowances had already been collected. When the debit memos were issued, Fraser met with Watson, O'Brien, Opper, and other CSK employees. Fraser told the group that CSK needed to make the debit memos "stick" and that, when it had sent out debit memos in the past, CSK paid back only about ten percent of the debits.

- 48. In late July 2005 or early August 2005, Fraser was told that many of the buyers saw errors in the proposed debits. Fraser responded that probably 70% of the debits would "stick" and that many of the vendors would not even notice them. At least as early as September 2005, Fraser knew that a substantial amount CSK had debited was at risk of having to be paid back to its vendors.
- 49. After the vendors complained about the debit memos, CSK continued to hide the uncollectible LWT allowances. First, CSK negotiated deals with vendors for future vendor allowances that CSK offset against the already-issued 2004 LWT debit memos. Second, CSK falsified its books and records to conceal that it was paying back portions of the debit memos. For example, CSK issued to certain vendors credit memos, which O'Brien created or caused to be created, that falsely described the paybacks as being related to "costing," "pricing increases—steel surcharge," or "warranty." In fact, the credit memos paid back LWT amounts that CSK had improperly debited.

II. <u>CSK's Forms 10-K For Fiscal Years 2002, 2003, And 2004 Contained</u> <u>Materially False Information</u>

- 50. CSK filed annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.
- 51. The notes to the financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 falsely stated that "Specific accounts are written off against the allowance when management determines the account is uncollectible." In fact, CSK did not write off known, uncollectible vendor allowance receivables, but rather engaged in a scheme to avoid and hide such write offs, as set forth above.

52. In all, CSK understated its costs of goods sold during fiscal years 2002 through 2004 as follows:

| FY | Concealed Receivables From Prior Years | | Over | Total | |
|------|--|------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| | Unsupported Journal Entries | Misapplied Debit Memos | Misapplied Paybacks | Recognized Allowances / Other Uncollectible Receivables | |
| 2002 | \$6M | | \$3 M | \$2 M | \$11 M |
| 2003 | \$9 M | \$10 M | \$5 M | \$10 M | \$34 M |
| 2004 | \$6 M | \$11 M | \$4 M | | \$21 M |

- 53. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002 falsely overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 47%, or \$11 million. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson knew that the company's financial statement were materially misstated.
- 54. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003 overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately \$34 million, thereby reporting pre-tax income instead of a pre-tax loss. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003, Defendants knew that the company's financial statements were materially misstated.
- 55. CSK's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, which also contained the First Restatement, overstated CSK's pre-tax income by approximately 65%, or \$21 million. In addition, it falsely attributed the need for the vendor allowance restatement to estimation errors, imprecise estimates, and bookkeeping errors, rather than to Defendants' fraudulent conduct. When CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Defendants knew the company's financial statements were materially misstated and mischaracterized the reasons for the vendor allowance restatement.
- 56. Watson, as CSK's CFO, signed CSK's annual reports and the accompanying Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In connection with each of the Forms 10-K filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Watson certified he had no knowledge of

any untrue statement of material fact in the report, the annual report "fairly presents in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows . . .," and that he had disclosed to CSK's independent auditors and audit committee "any fraud, whether or not material, that involved management or any other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal controls." At the time he made those certifications, Watson knew that each of those statements was false.

- 57. On March 27, 2006, CSK announced that it was conducting an internal investigation relating to, among other things, accounting irregularities regarding vendor allowances. CSK's stock price immediately dropped 8% and dropped a total of 13% for the week.
- 58. On May 1, 2007, CSK filed its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2005 restating, for the second time, its financial statements for 2002, 2003, and 2004 due, in part, to the fraudulent scheme relating to CSK's failure to write off uncollectible vendor allowances.

III. <u>Defendants Substantially Participated In Making CSK's Misleading Annual</u> Reports

- 59. Fraser substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well to review and discuss related accounting and disclosure issues, such as collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (ii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, Fraser falsely represented that to his

knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those representations were false;

- (iii) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, falsely certifying that: (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading; (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report;" and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, Fraser knew those statements were false; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Fraser "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 60. Watson substantially participated in, and had intricate involvement with, the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith by among other things:
 - (i) signing the Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;

- (ii) signing the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications filed with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004;
- (iii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances; and
- (iv) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. In those management representation letters, Watson "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 61. O'Brien substantially participated, and had intricate involvement, in the preparation of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, including the financial statement filed therewith, by among other things:
 - (i) being CSK's controller, whose responsibilities included reviewing CSK's financial statements for accuracy;
 - (ii) being a member of and participating in CSK's disclosure team meetings to review and discuss CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 before they were filed with the Commission as well as related accounting and disclosure issues, such as the collectibility of LWT allowances;
 - (iii) signing sub-certifications in advance of the filing of CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, on which CSK's CEO and Watson relied upon to make their own representations in the Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. In those sub-certifications, O'Brien falsely represented that to his knowledge the Forms 10-K did not "contain any material inaccuracies or omissions involving or relating to the matters with respect to which I have knowledge or responsibility;"

- (iv) signing due diligence certifications in connection with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, certifying that (a) based on his knowledge of the company's operations, the Forms 10-K did not contain or omit any material facts that would make the statements contained therein inaccurate or misleading, (b) to the best of his knowledge "the financial statements and other accompanying financial information fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company for the period presented in such report," and (c) he had "not made any false statements to any senior management or the Company's internal auditors or independent outside auditors that would affect the Company's financial statements and disclosures." At the time he made those certifications, O'Brien knew that those statements were false; and
- (vi) signing management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its audit of CSK's consolidated financial statements included with CSK's Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. In those management representation letters, O'Brien "confirm[ed]" that he was "responsible for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."
- 62. Opper substantially participated in Defendants' fraudulent scheme to avoid writing off uncollectible vendor allowance amounts in CSK's annual reports, or, in the alternative, provided substantial assistance to CSK in carrying out the fraudulent scheme. Rather than sound the alarm on CSK's improper accounting, Opper chose to become an essential participant in CSK's fraudulent scheme by among other things:
- (i) using his position in charge of the day-to-day management of CSK's vendor accounts receivable department, particularly CSK's LWT operations, to instruct employees to make accounting entries to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables. For example, on October 10, 2003, Opper instructed a CSK employee to

make an improper journal entry moving an outstanding 2002 LWT receivable to the 2003 LWT receivable.

- (ii) approving the misapplication of paybacks to vendors and the misapplication of those paybacks to later year LWT receivables;
- (iii) tracking CSK's movement of funds to hide uncollectible vendor allowance receivables and periodically providing this information to senior management, including Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien; and
- (iv) providing to CSK's independent auditor false documents and explanations in order to hide that CSK could not collect a material portion of its vendor allowance receivables. For example, in a November 24, 2003 memo to CSK's independent auditor, Opper provided false information and documentation regarding collections for the 2003 LWT program that were improperly applied to the 2002 LWT program.

IV. In Carrying Out And Covering Up The Fraud, Defendants Repeatedly Lied To CSK's Independent Auditor

- 63. Defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and CSK's independent auditor regularly attended audit committee meetings and frequently and at length discussed the collectibility of the outstanding LWT receivables. Defendants Fraser and Watson often led the discussion regarding LWT collections, and regularly stated that the outstanding LWT receivables were collectible.
- 64. To avoid detection of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants regularly lied to CSK's independent auditor in connection with its reviews and audits of CSK's financial statements.
- 65. In connection with the Forms 10-K CSK filed for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, Fraser, Watson, and (starting in fiscal year 2003) O'Brien, signed management representation letters to CSK's independent auditor. Specifically, in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002, Fraser and Watson signed a management letter dated May 2, 2003; in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year

2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated April 14, 2004; and in connection with the Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter dated May 2, 2005. In each of those management representation letters, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien falsely representing that: (i) the receivables were collectible; (ii) the company's financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP; and (iii) they had no knowledge of any fraud involving management or employees with a significant role in internal controls, or any other fraud that could have a material effect on the company's consolidated financial statements. For fiscal years 2002 and 2003, Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien also falsely represented that CSK had adequate internal controls. All of those representations were false for the reasons set forth above. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew that these representations were false when they signed the letters.

66. Defendant Opper gave CSK's independent auditor modified schedules that omitted the columns showing the uncollectible amounts and memoranda containing false information.

V. <u>Defendants Circumvented CSK's Internal Controls</u>

- 67. During 2002, 2003, and part of 2004, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper circumvented CSK's internal controls by, among other things, instructing or approving the entry of false journal entries.
- 68. In 2004, CSK developed various policies regarding vendor allowances, one of which disallowed side letters with terms that differed from the LWT agreements. Contrary to this policy, however, Fraser directed that a vendor agreement relating to LWT allowances be split into two, with one agreement backdated.

VI. Offerings While The False Financial Information Was Outstanding

69. While the false financial statements were outstanding, CSK engaged in several private debt offerings. In January 2004, CSK issued \$225 million of 7% Senior Subordinated Notes. In August 2005, CSK completed a \$125 million issuance of 3 3/8% senior exchangeable notes. In December 2005, CSK issued \$100 million of 4

5/8% senior exchangeable notes. CSK's materially false financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

- 70. With respect to the 2004 debt offering, on May 20, 2004 Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien signed a management representation letter to CSK's independent auditor confirming their prior representations contained in the April 14, 2004 management representation letter provided with the fiscal year 2003 Form 10-K. The April 14 management representation letter stated that the 2003 LWT receivable reflected amounts owed CSK for the 2003 LWT program year. Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien knew this representation was false when they signed both the April 14 and May 20, 2004 letters.
- 71. CSK's materially false and misleading disclosures and financial statements filed with its Forms 10-K for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 were incorporated by reference in the various Form S-3 and Form S-4 Registration Statements filed with the Commission during fiscal year 2002, 2004 and 2005. Defendants knew that these registration statements were false and misleading when filed because they incorporated misstatements from CSK's Forms 10-K.

VII. <u>Defendants Received Bonuses And Sold Stock During The</u> <u>Fraudulent Scheme</u>

- 72. For the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years, Fraser and Watson each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 73. For the 2003 fiscal year, O'Brien and Opper each received a bonus based, in part, on CSK's financial performance.
- 74. Fraser, Watson, and Opper sold CSK stock in 2003, 2004, and 2005, during the period of the fraud. Their net profits were \$195,419, \$155,122, and \$28,078.20, respectively.

| 1 | | FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
|----|---------------|---|
| 2 | | FRAUD IN THE OFFER OR SALE OF SECURITIES |
| 3 | | Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act |
| 4 | 75. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 5 | above. | |
| 6 | 76. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described |
| 7 | above, direc | etly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or |
| 8 | instruments | of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of |
| 9 | the mails: | |
| 10 | | a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; |
| 11 | | b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of a |
| 12 | | material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in |
| 13 | | order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances |
| 14 | | under which they were made, not misleading; or |
| 15 | | c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which |
| 16 | | operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser. |
| 17 | 77. | By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated, and |
| 18 | unless restra | ained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities |
| 19 | Act, 15 U.S | .C. § 77q(a). |
| 20 | | SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF |
| 21 | | FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE |
| 22 | | PURCHASE OR SALE OF SECURITIES |
| 23 | | Violations and Aiding and Abetting Violations of |
| 24 | | Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act |
| 25 | | and Rule 10b-5 thereunder |
| 26 | 78. | The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 |
| 27 | above. | |
| 28 | 79. | Defendants, and each of them, by engaging in the conduct described |

above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:

- a. employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- b. made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated c. or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.
- 80. Alternatively, Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in its violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5 in connection with CSK's annual reports on Form 10-K for fiscal years 2003 and 2004.
- 81. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants 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 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.
- 82. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder.

| 1 | THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
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| 2 | VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION PERIODIC | |
| 3 | REPORTING REQUIREMENTS | |
| 4 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | |
| 5 | Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder | |
| 6 | 83. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 7 | above. | |
| 8 | 84. CSK violated Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and | |
| 9 | 13a-13 thereunder, by filing with the Commission annual reports on Form 10-K for | |
| .0 | fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004 that were materially false and failed to include | |
| .1 | material information necessary to make the required statements, in light of the | |
| .2 | circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. | |
| .3 | 85. Fraser and Watson knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in | |
| .4 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 | |
| .5 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and | |
| .6 | 2004. | |
| 7 | 86. O'Brien and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK in | |
| .8 | its violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 | |
| .9 | thereunder in connection with CSK's annual reports for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. | |
| 20 | 87. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) | |
| 21 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), Defendants aided and abetted CSK's | |
| 22 | violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations, | |
| 23 | of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-13 thereunder. | |
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| 1 | FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
|----|--|--|
| 2 | RECORD-KEEPING VIOLATIONS | |
| 3 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | |
| 4 | Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act and Violations of | |
| 5 | Rule 13b2-1 thereunder | |
| 6 | 88. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 7 | above. | |
| 8 | 89. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § | |
| 9 | 78m(b)(2)(A), by failing to make or keep books, records, and accounts, which, in | |
| 10 | reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflected its transactions and disposition of its | |
| 11 | assets. | |
| 12 | 90. Defendants knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation | |
| 13 | of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(A). | |
| 14 | 91. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) | |
| 15 | of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and | |
| 16 | Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will | |
| 17 | continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. | |
| 18 | 92. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated | |
| 19 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-1 by, directly or indirectly, falsifying or causing to be falsified | |
| 20 | CSK's books, records, or accounts subject to Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act. | |
| 21 | Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Rule 13b2-1, 17 | |
| 22 | C.F.R. § 240.13b2-1. | |
| 23 | FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | |
| 24 | INTERNAL CONTROLS VIOLATIONS | |
| 25 | Aiding and Abetting Violations of | |
| 26 | Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act | |
| 27 | 93. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | |
| 28 | above. | |

- 94. CSK violated Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B), by failing to devise and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that transactions were recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statement in conformity with GAAP and to maintain the accountability for assets.
- 95. Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper knowingly provided substantial assistance to CSK's violation of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).
- 96. By engaging in the conduct described above and pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(e), defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper aided and abetted CSK's violations, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to aid and abet violations of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B).

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

CIRCUMVENTION OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS

Violations of Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange

- 97. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 above.
- 98. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants violated Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5), by knowingly circumventing or failing to implement a system of internal accounting controls, or, directly or indirectly, by knowingly falsifying or causing to be falsified any CSK books, records, or accounts described in Section 13(b)(2) of the Exchange Act. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to violate Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(b)(5).

| - 1 | | | |
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| 1 | SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 2 | FALSE STATEMENT TO ACCOUNTANTS | | |
| 3 | Violations of Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2 | | |
| 4 | (Against Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien) | | |
| 5 | 99. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 6 | above. | | |
| 7 | 100. Defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien, directly or indirectly, (i) made, | | |
| 8 | or caused to be made, materially false or misleading statements or (ii) omitted to state, | | |
| 9 | or caused others to omit to state, material facts necessary in order to make statements | | |
| 10 | made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, to an | | |
| 11 | accountant in connection with an audit, review or examination of financial statements | | |
| 12 | or the preparation or filing of a document or report required to be filed with the | | |
| 13 | Commission. | | |
| 14 | 101. By engaging in the conduct alleged above, defendants Fraser, Watson, | | |
| 15 | and O'Brien violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, | | |
| 16 | Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2. | | |
| 17 | EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF | | |
| 18 | CERTIFICATION VIOLATIONS | | |
| 19 | Violations of Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act | | |
| 20 | (Against Defendant Watson) | | |
| 21 | 102. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference ¶¶ 1 through 74 | | |
| 22 | above. | | |
| 23 | 103. Watson violated Rule 13a-14 by signing the certifications included with | | |
| 24 | CSK fiscal year 2002, 2003, and 2004 Forms 10-K, certifying, among other things, that | | |
| 25 | the forms fully complied with the requirements of the Exchange Act and fairly | | |
| 26 | presented, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of | | |
| 27 | the company, when, in fact, the reports contained untrue statements of material fact and | | |
| 28 | omitted material information necessary to make the reports not misleading. | | |

104. By engaging in the conduct described above, defendant Watson violated Exchange Act Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14. Unless restrained and enjoined, defendant Watson will continue to violate Rule 13a-14, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

I

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendants committed the alleged violations.

II

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Fraser and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

III

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Watson and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13a-14, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

IV

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant O'Brien and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 13b2-1, and 13b2-2 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

 \mathbf{V}

Issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Sections 10(b) and 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5 and 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder. Or, in the alternative, issue judgments, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Defendant Opper and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, and Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 13b2-1 thereunder, and from aiding and abetting violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A), and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 10b-5, 12b-20 and 13a-1 thereunder.

VI

Enter an order, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2), prohibiting defendants Fraser, Watson, and O'Brien from acting as officers

| or directors of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 1 | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 781, or that is required to file reports pursuant to | | | |
| Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78o(d). | | | |
| VII | | | |
| Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to disgorge all ill-gotten | | | |
| gains from their illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon. | | | |
| VIII | | | |
| Order defendants Fraser, Watson, O'Brien, and Opper to pay civil penalties | | | |
| under Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3). | | | |
| IX | | | |
| 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. | | | |
| \mathbf{X} | | | |
| Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and | | | |
| necessary. | | | |
| | | | |
| DATED: March 5, 2009 Respectfully submitted, | | | |
| a Wahren O'Ken of and | | | |
| C. DABNEY O'RIORDAN | | | |
| Attorney for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission | | | |
| Securities and Exchange Commission | | | |
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