### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

UNITED STATES SECURITIES
AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

V.

CIVIL ACTION
FILE NO.

Plaintiff Securities And Exchange Commission's Complaint For Preliminary and Permanent Injunction and other Securities Ancillary Relief

Plaintiff, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), alleges as follows:

- 1. From in or about January 1999 through at least October 2000, Defendant Richard T. Hammack ("Hammack"), a registered representative at a securities brokerage firm, misappropriated more than \$1,923,000 given to him by at least 56 of his customers for reinvestment into their variable annuity accounts.
- 2. Hammack, directly and indirectly, has engaged in transactions, acts, 000 of 2000 practices and courses of business which constitute violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. §77(q)(a)], Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. §§78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §§240.10b-5] promulgated thereunder.

3. The SEC brings this action to enjoin such transactions, acts, practices, and course of business pursuant to Section 20(b) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77t(b)] and Sections 21(d) and 21(e) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§78u(d) and 78u(e)].

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77v(a)], Section 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78aa] and 28 U.S.C. §1331. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78aa].
- 5. Hammack resides in Oakbrook, Illinois, located in the Northern District of Illinois. The transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business constituting the violations alleged herein have occurred within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and elsewhere.
- 6. Hammack, directly and indirectly, has made use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce and of the mails in connection with the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business alleged herein in the Northern District of Illinois and elsewhere.
- 7. There is a reasonable likelihood that Hammack will, unless enjoined, continue to engage in the transactions, acts, practices and courses of business set forth in this complaint, and transactions, acts, practices and courses of business of similar purport and object.

### **BACKGROUND**

8. Defendant Hammack is 58 years of age and resides in Oakbrook, Illinois. Hammack passed his Series 7 examination in 1983. He has been employed as a

registered representative by several securities brokerage firms, including Prudential Securities, Inc., Smith Barney, Inc. and Lehman Brothers, Inc. Most recently, Hammack worked as a registered representative for Dreher & Associates, Inc. ("Dreher"). Dreher employed Hammack from December 1995 through November 9, 2000. Hammack is not currently employed.

- 9. Dreher is a broker-dealer registered with the SEC. Dreher's headquarters are located in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. It employs approximately 178 registered representatives and has 4 additional branch offices.
- 10. At all times relevant, Hammack was employed by Dreher as a registered representative in Dreher's headquarters located at One Oakbrook Terrace in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.
- 11. Dreher terminated Hammack's employment on November 9, 2000 because Hammack misappropriated customer funds, as alleged in this complaint.

### THE FRAUDULENT SCHEME

- 12. From approximately January 1999 to at least October 2000, while an employee and associated person of Dreher, Hammack forged at least 56 of his customers' names on variable annuity distribution request forms, without the customers' knowledge or consent, and forwarded those requests to insurance companies maintaining the customers' variable annuity accounts. As a result, the insurance companies liquidated portions of the customers' interests in mutual funds underlying the variable annuities and mailed distribution checks to the customers.
- 13. In furtherance of his scheme, Hammack telephoned his customers and represented to them that they would soon be receiving variable annuity distribution

checks and that these checks were mistakenly issued by the insurance companies. During these telephone conversations, Hammack insisted that he personally pick up the checks from customers at their homes so that he could reinvest the funds for them in their variable annuity accounts, even though some customers offered to return the checks to the insurance companies directly.

- 14. Once at their homes, Hammack persuaded his customers to endorse the distribution checks "for deposit only," and also directed them to write their account numbers on the checks. Hammack's customers then gave him their distribution checks for reinvestment into their variable annuity accounts.
- 15. Hammack did not reinvest the distribution checks as promised. Instead, Hammack endorsed the checks and deposited them into an account under his control at the Northern Trust Bank in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.
- 16. As of October 19, 2000, Hammack misappropriated more than \$1,923,000 from at least 56 of his Dreher customers.

### THE COVER UP

17. In an effort conceal his fraudulent activities, Hammack drafted and mailed letters to customers falsely stating that the variable annuity distribution checks had been returned to the insurance companies. Hammack drafted these letters on either Dreher letterhead or fake insurance company stationary that he created to appear as though the insurance companies drafted and sent the letters.

### HAMMACK GETS CAUGHT

18. On or about November 7, 2000, Dreher received a letter from one of Hammack's defrauded customers outlining Hammack's scheme. On the same date,

James Dreher, President of the firm, telephoned Hammack. Hammack did not have a discussion with Mr. Dreher, but referred Mr. Dreher to his attorney.

- 19. Next, Mr. Dreher telephoned Hammack's attorney, Mr. Michael Monaco. During this telephone conversation, Mr. Monaco indicated to Mr. Dreher that Hammack had misappropriated funds from Dreher customers. Mr. Monaco further indicated that he had not yet determined the names of the customers or the amounts misappropriated from them, but that he would forward a list to Mr. Dreher summarizing this information.
  - 20. Dreher fired Hammack on November 9, 2000.
- 21. On or about November 17, 2000, Mr. Dreher received a list from Mr. Monaco. The list identified 55 of Hammack's customers and listed dollar figures for each customer.
- 22. On or about November 21, 2000, Mr. Dreher received a second, revised list from Mr. Monaco. This list was identical to the first except that it identified an additional investor, for a total of 56 customers. The November 21, 2000 list shows a total of \$1,923,157.77 at the bottom of the page.

### <u>COUNT I</u> Violations of Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act

- 23. Paragraphs 1 through 22 are realleged and incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.
- 24. From in or about January 1999 through at least October 2000, Hammack, in the offer and sale of securities, by the use of the means and instruments of transportation and communication in interstate commerce and by the use of the mails, directly and indirectly, has employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud.

- 25. Hammack knew or was reckless in not knowing of the activities described in paragraphs 23 and 24 above.
- 26. By reason of the activities described in paragraphs 23 through 25 above, Hammack has violated Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(1)].

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

- 27. Paragraphs 1 through 22 are realleged and incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.
- 28. From in or about January 1999 through at least October 2000, Hammack, in the offer and sale of securities, by the use of the means and instruments of transportation and communication in interstate commerce and by the use of the mails, directly and indirectly, has obtained money and property by means of untrue statements of material fact or omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, and has engaged in transactions, practices or courses of business which have operated as a fraud and deceit upon purchasers of securities.
- 29. By reason of the activities described in paragraphs 27 and 28 above, Hammack has violated Sections 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77q(a)(2) and §77q(a)(3)].

# COUNT III Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder

30. Paragraphs 1 through 22 are realleged and incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

- 31. From in or about January 1999 through at least October 2000, Hammack, in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, directly and indirectly, by the use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce and of the mails, has employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud; has made untrue statements of material fact and has omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and has engaged in acts, practices and courses of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon the customers discussed in paragraphs 12 through 22, above.
- 32. Hammack knew or was reckless in not knowing of the activities described in paragraphs 30 and 31 above.
- 33. By reason of the activities described in paragraphs 30 through 32 above, Hammack has violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5] promulgated thereunder.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the SEC requests that the Court:

I.

Find that Defendant Hammack committed the violations charged and alleged herein.

II.

Grant Orders of Preliminary and Permanent Injunction, in a form consistent with Rule 65(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, permanently restraining and enjoining Defendant Hammack, his officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the

Order, by personal service or otherwise, and each of them from, directly or indirectly, engaging in the transactions, acts, practices or courses of business described above, or in conduct of similar purport and object, in violation of Sections 17(a)(1), 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§77q(a)(1), 77q(a)(2), and 77q(a)(3)], Sections 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§78j(b)] and Rules 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §§240.10b-5] promulgated thereunder.

III.

Issue an Order requiring Defendant Hammack to disgorge the ill-gotten gains that he received as a result of his wrongful conduct, including prejudgment interest.

IV.

With regard to the Defendant Hammack's violative acts, practices and courses of business set forth herein issue an Order imposing upon him appropriate civil penalties pursuant to Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§78u(d)(3)].

V.

Grant an Order for any other relief this Court deems appropriate.

VI.

Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principals 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.

VII.

Grant appropriate emergency relief to prevent further secretion or dissipation of assets purchased with investor funds.

VIII.

Grant Orders for such further relief as the Court may deem appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy E. Gibson Lym, IL Bar No. 6237158 Peter K.M. Chan, IL Bar No. 6206718

Attorneys for Plaintiff

U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission

500 West Madison Street Suite 1400 Chicago, Illinois 60601-2511

(312) 353-0512

Dated: December 5, 2000

JS 44 (Rev. 12/96)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of

Richard T. Hammack

00C 7623

Case Number:

JUDGE CASTILLO

### APPEARANCES ARE HEREBY FILED BY THE UNDERSIGNED AS ATTORNEY(S) FOR:

United States Securities and Exchange C	Commission MAGISTRA	TE JUDGE	BOBRICK	
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MEMBER OF TRIAL BAR? YES NO [X]	MEMBER OF TRIAL BAR?	YES	NO X	
TRIAL ATTORNEY? YES NO X	TRIAL ATTORNEY?	YES	NO 🛛	
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PLEASE COMPLETE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE.

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