UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 Release No. 100699 / August 14, 2024

INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940 Release No. 6650 / August 14, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-21995

In the Matter of

Cetera Advisor Networks LLC and Cetera Investment Services LLC,

Respondents.

ORDER INSTITUTING ADMINISTRATIVE AND CEASE-AND-DESIST PROCEEDINGS, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 15(b) AND 21C OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AND SECTIONS 203(e) AND 203(k) OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940, MAKING FINDINGS, AND IMPOSING REMEDIAL SANCTIONS AND A CEASE-AND-DESIST ORDER

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") deems it appropriate and in the public interest that public administrative and cease-and-desist proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted pursuant to Sections 15(b) and 21C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") against Cetera Advisor Networks LLC ("CANL") and Cetera Investment Services LLC ("CISL") (collectively, "Respondents" or "Cetera") and Sections 203(e) and 203(k) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") against CANL.

II.

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, Respondents have submitted Offers of Settlement ("Offers") that the Commission has determined to accept. Respondents admit the facts set forth in Section III below, acknowledge that their conduct violated the federal securities laws, admit the Commission's jurisdiction over them and the subject matter of these proceedings, and consent to the entry of this Order Instituting Administrative and Cease-and-Desist Proceedings, Pursuant to Sections 15(b) and 21C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Sections 203(e) and 203(k) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions and a Cease-and-Desist Order ("Order"), as set forth below.

III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondents' Offers, the Commission finds¹ that:

Summary

- 1. The federal securities laws impose recordkeeping requirements on broker-dealers and registered investment advisers to ensure that they responsibly discharge their crucial role in our markets. The Commission has long said that compliance with these requirements is essential to investor protection and the Commission's efforts to further its mandate of protecting investors, maintaining fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitating capital formation. These proceedings arise out of Cetera's identification—and self-report—of widespread failures of certain Cetera employees throughout the firms, including at senior levels, to adhere to certain of these essential requirements and Cetera's own policies. Using their personal devices, these employees communicated both internally and externally by text messages, which were not an approved written communications platform ("off-channel communications").
- 2. After Cetera's compliance staff identified business-related electronic communications on a non-approved platform on personal devices, Cetera conducted an internal investigation and self-reported the facts to Commission staff. Respondents proactively identified key documents and facts, which assisted the Commission staff in efficiently investigating the conduct. Prior to contacting the Division of Enforcement, Respondents also undertook significant remedial measures relating to their recordkeeping practices, policies and procedures, and related supervisory practices.
- 3. From at least August 2019, Cetera employees sent and received off-channel communications that related to CANL's and CISL's broker-dealer businesses and with respect to CANL's investment advisory business, off-channel communications related to recommendations made or proposed to be made and advice given or proposed to be given. Respondents did not maintain or preserve the substantial majority of these written communications. Respondents' failures were firm-wide and involved employees at various levels of authority. As a result, Respondents violated Section 17(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-4(b)(4) thereunder and CANL violated Section 204 of the Advisers Act and Rule 204-2(a)(7) thereunder.
- 4. Cetera's supervisors, who were responsible for supervising junior employees, routinely communicated off-channel using their personal devices. In fact, senior leaders and officers responsible for supervising junior employees themselves failed to comply with CANL's and CISL's policies by communicating using non-firm approved methods on their personal devices about CANL's and CISL's broker-dealers and CANL's investment adviser business.
- 5. CANL's and CISL's widespread failure to implement their policies and procedures that prohibit such communications led to their failure reasonably to supervise their

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The findings herein are made pursuant to Respondents' Offers of Settlement and are not binding on any other person or entity in this or any other proceeding.

employees within the meaning of Section 15(b)(4)(E) of the Exchange Act as to each of the Respondents, as well as Section 203(e)(6) of the Advisers Act as to CANL.

- 6. During the time period that CANL and CISL failed to maintain and preserve off-channel communications that their employees sent and received related to their broker-dealer businesses and CANL's investment adviser business, CANL and CISL received and responded to Commission subpoenas for documents and/or records requests in numerous Commission investigations. As a result, CANL's and CISL's recordkeeping failures likely impacted the Commission's ability to carry out its regulatory functions and investigate violations of the federal securities laws across these investigations.
- 7. After Cetera initiated a review of their recordkeeping efforts, CANL and CISL identified failures and self-reported their conduct, and further enhanced their ongoing programs of remediation. As set forth in the Undertakings below, CANL and CISL will retain an independent compliance consultant to review and assess CANL's and CISL's remedial steps relating to CANL's and CISL's recordkeeping practices, policies and procedures, related supervisory practices, and employment actions.

Respondents

- 8. **Cetera Advisor Networks LLC ("CANL")** is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal office in El Segundo, California and is registered with the Commission as a broker-dealer. CANL also was previously registered with the Commission as an investment adviser from February 2001 until July 6, 2023, when its withdrawal of its registration on Form ADV-W became effective. CANL is a subsidiary of Cetera Financial Group, Inc.
- 9. **Cetera Investment Services LLC ("CISL")** is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal office in St. Cloud, Minnesota and is registered with the Commission as a broker-dealer. CISL is a subsidiary of Cetera Financial Group, Inc.

Recordkeeping Requirements under the Exchange and Advisers Acts

- 10. Section 17(a)(1) of the Exchange Act and Section 204 of the Advisers Act authorize the Commission to issue rules requiring, respectively, broker-dealers and investment advisers to make and keep for prescribed periods, and furnish copies of, such records as necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors or, with respect to the Exchange Act, otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Exchange Act.
- 11. The Commission adopted Rule 17a-4 under the Exchange Act and Rule 204-2 under the Advisers Act pursuant to this authority. These rules specify the manner and length of time that the records created in accordance with Commission rules, and certain other records produced by broker-dealers or investment advisers, must be maintained and produced promptly to Commission representatives.
- 12. The rules adopted under Section 17(a)(1) of the Exchange Act, including Rule 17a-4(b)(4), require that broker-dealers preserve in an easily accessible place originals of all

communications received and copies of all communications sent relating to a firm's business as such. These rules impose minimum recordkeeping requirements that are based on standards a prudent broker-dealer should follow in the normal course of business.

- 13. The Commission previously has stated that these and other recordkeeping requirements "are an integral part of the investor protection function of the Commission, and other securities regulators, in that the preserved records are the primary means of monitoring compliance with applicable securities laws, including antifraud provisions and financial responsibility standards." Commission Guidance to Broker-Dealers on the Use of Electronic Storage Media under the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act of 2000 with Respect to Rule 17a-4(f), 17 C.F.R. Part 241, Exchange Act Rel. No. 44238 (May 1, 2001).
- 14. The rules adopted under Advisers Act Section 204, including Advisers Act Rule 204-2(a)(7), require that investment advisers preserve in an easily accessible place originals of all communications received and copies of all written communications sent relating to: (a) any recommendation made or proposed to be made and any advice given or proposed to be given; (b) any receipt, disbursement or delivery of funds or securities; (c) the placing or execution of any order to purchase or sell any security; or (d) predecessor performance and the performance or rate of return of any or all managed accounts, portfolios, or securities recommendations.

CANL's and CISL's Policies and Procedures

- 15. CANL and CISL maintained certain policies and procedures designed to ensure the retention of business-related records, including electronic communications, in compliance with the relevant recordkeeping provisions.
- 16. CANL and CISL employees were advised that the use of unapproved electronic communications methods, including on their personal devices, was not permitted, and they should not use personal email, chats or text messaging applications for business purposes, or forward work-related communications to their personal devices.
- 17. Messages sent through firm-approved communications methods were monitored, subject to review, and, when appropriate, archived. Messages sent through unapproved communications methods, such as unapproved applications on personal devices, were not monitored, subject to review or archived.
- 18. CANL's and CISL's policies were designed to address supervisors' supervision of employees' training in CANL's and CISL's communications policies and adherence to CANL's and CISL's books and recordkeeping requirements. Supervisory policies notified employees that electronic communications were subject to surveillance by CANL and CISL. CANL and CISL had procedures for all employees, including supervisors, requiring annual self-attestations of compliance.
- 19. CANL and CISL, however, failed to implement systems to determine that all personnel, including supervisors, were reasonably following CANL's and CISL's policies. While permitting employees to use approved communications methods, including on personal

phones, for business communications, CANL and CISL failed to implement sufficient monitoring to ensure that their recordkeeping and communications policies were being followed.

CANL's and CISL's Recordkeeping Failures Across Their Businesses

- 20. In September 2021, the Commission staff commenced a risk-based initiative to investigate whether broker-dealers were properly retaining business-related messages sent and received on personal devices. In January 2024, Cetera voluntarily contacted the staff regarding certain off-channel communications that they had identified related to the businesses of CANL and CISL. Cetera cooperated with the staff's investigation by proactively gathering communications from the personal devices of their personnel and responding to the staff's requests for additional information. As reported to the Commission staff, Cetera personnel who had engaged in the use of off-channel communications included senior leaders and officers across each firm.
- 21. Cetera alerted the Commission staff to numerous off-channel communications at various seniority levels of Cetera's broker-dealer businesses. In addition, CANL's investigation uncovered the use of off-channel communications at various seniority levels within CANL's investment advisory business. Respondents collected data from a sampling of broker-dealer and investment adviser personnel and found that some had engaged in at least some level of off-channel communications since August 2019. Overall, these personnel sent and received numerous off-channel communications, involving other Cetera personnel and external contacts in the securities industry. As disclosed to the Commission staff, within Cetera, a number of senior leaders participated in off-channel communications.
- 22. From at least August 2019, CANL and CISL personnel sent and received off-channel communications that concerned the businesses of the broker-dealers.
- 23. For example, between August 2019 and the present, a senior leader at CANL exchanged numerous off-channel communications with external contacts in the securities industry. These communications related to CANL's broker-dealer business as such.
- 24. In addition, from May 2022 to March 2023, two CISL vice presidents exchanged numerous off-channel communications with their colleagues, including junior employees under their supervision. These communications related to CISL's broker-dealer business as such.
- 25. From at least August 2019, CANL investment adviser personnel sent and received off-channel communications subject to the record-keeping requirements of Advisers Act Rule 204-2.
- 26. For example, in May 2020, investment adviser personnel at CANL exchanged off-channel communications related to advice about investment recommendations made or proposed to be made for advisory client accounts.

CANL's and CISL's Failures to Preserve Required Records Potentially Compromised and Delayed Commission Matters

27. Between August 2019 and the present, CANL and CISL received and responded to subpoenas for documents and/or records requests in Commission investigations. By failing to maintain and preserve required records relating to their businesses, CANL and CISL likely deprived the Commission of off-channel communications in various investigations.

CANL's and CISL's Violations and Failure to Supervise

- 28. As a result of the conduct described above, from at least August 2019 through the date of this Order, CANL and CISL willfully² violated Section 17(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-4(b)(4) thereunder.
- 29. As a result of the conduct described above, from at least August 2019 through the date of this Order, CANL willfully violated Section 204 of the Advisers Act and Rule 204-2(a)(7) thereunder.
- 30. As a result of the conduct described above, CANL and CISL failed reasonably to supervise their employees with a view to preventing or detecting certain of their employees' aiding and abetting violations of Section 17(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-4(b)(4) thereunder, within the meaning of Section 15(b)(4)(E) of the Exchange Act.
- 31. As a result of the conduct described above, CANL failed reasonably to supervise its employees with a view to preventing or detecting certain of its employees' aiding and abetting violations of Section 204 of the Advisers Act and Rule 204-2(a)(7) thereunder, within the meaning of Section 203(e)(6) of the Advisers Act.

CANL's and CISL's Remedial and Cooperation Efforts

32. In determining to accept the Offers, the Commission considered CANL's and CISL's self-report, cooperation afforded to Commission staff, and remediation. After identifying off-channel communications, Respondents conducted an internal investigation and self-reported the facts to Commission staff. Prior to approaching Commission staff, CANL and CISL had begun a program of remediation, which included strengthening their policies and procedures by making investments in new technologies to improve surveillance and retention efforts, including

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[&]quot;Willfully," for purposes of imposing relief under Section 15(b) of the Exchange Act and Section 203(e) of the Advisers Act "means no more than that the person charged with the duty knows what he is doing." See Wonsover v. SEC, 205 F.3d 408, 414 (D.C. Cir 2000) (quoting Hughes v. SEC, 174 F.2d 969, 977 (D.C. Cir. 1949)). There is no requirement that the actor "also be aware that he is violating one of the Rules or Acts." Tager v. SEC, 344 F.2d 5, 8 (2d Cir. 1965). The decision in The Robare Group, Ltd. v. SEC, which construed the term "willfully" for purposes of a differently structured statutory provision, does not alter that standard. 922 F.3d 468, 478-79 (D.C. Cir. 2019) (setting forth the showing required to establish that a person has "willfully omit[ted]" material information from a required disclosure in violation of Section 207 of the Advisers Act).

rolling out an on-channel messaging application to their employees in September 2020, increasing the number of trainings, and sending firm-wide reminders that emphasized the importance of complying with recordkeeping obligations.

Undertakings

33. Prior to this action, CANL and CISL enhanced their policies and procedures, and increased training concerning the use of approved communications methods, including on personal devices, and began implementing significant changes to the technology available to employees. In addition, CANL and CISL have undertaken to:

34. Independent Compliance Consultant.

- a. CANL and CISL shall each retain, within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Order, the services of an independent compliance consultant ("Compliance Consultant") that is not unacceptable to the Commission staff. The Compliance Consultant's compensation and expenses shall be borne exclusively by CANL and CISL.
 - b. CANL and CISL will oversee the work of the Compliance Consultant.
- c. CANL and CISL shall provide to the Commission staff, within sixty (60) days of the entry of this Order, a copy of the engagement letter detailing the Compliance Consultant's responsibilities, which shall include a comprehensive compliance review as described below. CANL and CISL shall require that, within ninety (90) days of the date of the engagement letter, the Compliance Consultant conduct:
 - i. A comprehensive review of CANL's and CISL's supervisory, compliance, and other policies and procedures designed to ensure that CANL's and CISL's electronic communications, including those found on personal electronic devices, including without limitation, cellular phones ("Personal Devices"), are preserved in accordance with the requirements of the federal securities laws.
 - ii. A comprehensive review of training conducted by CANL and CISL to ensure personnel are complying with the requirements regarding the preservation of electronic communications, including those found on Personal Devices, in accordance with the requirements of the federal securities laws, including by ensuring that CANL and CISL personnel certify in writing on a quarterly basis that they are complying with preservation requirements.
 - iii. An assessment of the surveillance program measures implemented by CANL and CISL to ensure compliance, on an ongoing basis, with the requirements found in the federal securities laws to preserve electronic communications, including those found on Personal Devices.
 - iv. An assessment of the technological solutions that CANL and CISL have begun implementing to meet the record retention requirements of the federal

securities laws, including an assessment of the likelihood that CANL and CISL personnel will use the technological solutions going forward and a review of the measures employed by CANL and CISL to track employee usage of new technological solutions.

- v. An assessment of the measures used by CANL and CISL to prevent the use of unauthorized communications methods for business communications by employees. This assessment should include, but not be limited to, a review of CANL's and CISL's policies and procedures to ascertain if they provide for any significant technology and/or behavioral restrictions that help prevent the risk of the use of unapproved communications methods on Personal Devices (e.g., trading floor restrictions).
- vi. A review of CANL's and CISL's electronic communications surveillance routines to ensure that electronic communications through approved communications methods found on Personal Devices are incorporated into CANL's and CISL's overall communications surveillance program.
- vii. A comprehensive review of the framework adopted by CANL and CISL to address instances of non-compliance by CANL and CISL employees with CANL's and CISL's policies and procedures concerning the use of Personal Devices to communicate about CANL and CISL business in the past. This review shall include a survey of how CANL and CISL determined which employees failed to comply with CANL's and CISL's policies and procedures, the corrective action carried out, an evaluation of who violated policies and why, what penalties were imposed, and whether penalties were handed out consistently across business lines and seniority levels.
- d. CANL and CISL shall require that, within forty-five (45) days after completion of the review set forth in sub-paragraphs 34.c.i. through c.vii. above, the Compliance Consultant shall submit a detailed written report of its findings to CANL and CISL, and to the Commission staff (the "Report"). CANL and CISL shall require that the Report include a description of the review performed, the names of the individuals who performed the review, the conclusions reached, the Compliance Consultant's recommendations for changes in or improvements to CANL's and CISL's policies and procedures, and a summary of the plan for implementing the recommended changes in or improvements to CANL's and CISL's policies and procedures.
- e. CANL and CISL shall adopt all recommendations contained in the Report within ninety (90) days of the date of the Report; provided, however, that within forty-five (45) days after the date of the Report, CANL and CISL shall advise the Compliance Consultant and the Commission staff in writing of any recommendations that CANL and/or CISL considers to be unduly burdensome, impractical, or inappropriate. With respect to any recommendation that CANL and/or CISL considers unduly burdensome, impractical, or inappropriate, CANL and/or CISL need not adopt such recommendation

at that time, but shall propose in writing an alternative policy, procedure, or disclosure designed to achieve the same objective or purpose.

- f. As to any recommendation concerning CANL's and CISL's policies or procedures on which CANL and CISL and the Compliance Consultant do not agree, CANL and CISL and the Compliance Consultant shall attempt in good faith to reach an agreement within sixty (60) days after the date of the Report. Within fifteen (15) days after the conclusion of the discussion and evaluation by CANL and CISL and the Compliance Consultant, CANL and CISL shall require that the Compliance Consultant inform CANL and CISL and the Commission staff in writing of the Compliance Consultant's final determination concerning any recommendation that CANL and/or CISL consider to be unduly burdensome, impractical, or inappropriate. CANL and CISL shall abide by the determinations of the Compliance Consultant and, within sixty (60) days after final agreement between CANL and CISL and the Compliance Consultant or final determination by the Compliance Consultant, whichever occurs first, CANL and CISL shall adopt and implement all of the recommendations that the Compliance Consultant deems appropriate.
- g. CANL and CISL shall cooperate fully with the Compliance Consultant and shall provide the Compliance Consultant with access to such of CANL's and CISL's files, books, records, and personnel as are reasonably requested by the Compliance Consultant for review.
- h. CANL and CISL shall not have the authority to terminate the Compliance Consultant or substitute another compliance consultant for the initial Compliance Consultant, without the prior written approval of the Commission staff. CANL and CISL shall compensate the Compliance Consultant and persons engaged to assist the Compliance Consultant for services rendered under this Order at their reasonable and customary rates.
- i. For the period of engagement and for a period of two years from completion of the engagement, CANL and CISL shall not (i) retain the Compliance Consultant for any other professional services outside of the services described in this Order; (ii) enter into any other professional relationship with the Compliance Consultant, including any employment, consultant, attorney-client, auditing or other professional relationship; or (iii) enter, without prior written consent of the Commission staff, into any such professional relationship with any of the Compliance Consultant's present or former affiliates, employers, directors, officers, employees, or agents acting in their capacity as such.
- j. The Report by the Compliance Consultant will likely include confidential financial, proprietary, competitive business or commercial information. Public disclosure of the Report could discourage cooperation, impede pending or potential government investigations or undermine the objectives of the reporting requirement. For these reasons, among others, the Report and the contents thereof are intended to remain and shall remain non-public, except (1) pursuant to court order, (2) as agreed to by the parties

in writing, (3) to the extent that the Commission determines in its sole discretion that disclosure would be in furtherance of the Commission's discharge of its duties and responsibilities, or (4) as otherwise required by law.

- One-Year Evaluation. CANL and CISL shall each require the Compliance Consultant to assess CANL's and CISL's program for the preservation, as required under the federal securities laws, of electronic communications, including those found on Personal Devices, commencing one year after submitting the Report required by Paragraph 34.d above. CANL and CISL shall require this review to evaluate CANL's and CISL's progress in the areas described in Paragraphs 34.c.i through 34.c.vii above. After this review, CANL and CISL shall require the Compliance Consultant to submit a report (the "One Year Report") to each of CANL and CISL, and the Commission staff and shall ensure that the One Year Report includes an updated assessment of CANL's and CISL's policies and procedures with regard to the preservation of electronic communications (including those found on Personal Devices), training, surveillance programs, and technological solutions implemented in the prior year period.
- 36. Reporting Discipline Imposed. For two years following the entry of this Order, CANL and CISL shall notify the Commission staff as follows upon the imposition of any discipline imposed by CANL and CISL, including, but not limited to, written warnings, loss of any pay, bonus, or incentive compensation, or the termination of employment, with respect to any employee found to have violated CANL's and CISL's policies and procedures concerning the preservation of electronic communications, including those found on Personal Devices: at least 48 hours before the filing of a Form U-5, or within ten (10) days of the imposition of other discipline.
- 37. <u>Internal Audit</u>. In addition to the Compliance Consultant's review and issuance of the One Year Report, CANL and CISL will each also have its respective Internal Audit function conduct a separate audit(s) to assess CANL's and CISL's progress in the areas described in Paragraphs 34.c.i through 34.c.vii above. After completion of this audit(s), CANL and CISL shall ensure that Internal Audit submits a report to each of CANL and CISL, and to the Commission staff.
- 38. Recordkeeping. CANL and CISL shall each preserve, for a period of not less than six (6) years from the end of the fiscal year last used, the first two (2) years in an easily accessible place, any record of compliance with these undertakings. CANL shall also preserve any record of compliance with these undertakings in an easily accessible place for a period of not less than five (5) years from the end of the fiscal year during which the entry was made on such record, the first two (2) years in an appropriate office of CANL.
- 39. <u>Deadlines</u>. For good cause shown, the Commission staff may extend any of the procedural dates relating to the undertakings. Deadlines for procedural dates shall be counted in calendar days, except that if the last day falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the next business day shall be considered to be the last day.
- 40. <u>Certification</u>. CANL and CISL shall each certify, in writing, compliance with the undertakings set forth above. The certification shall identify the undertakings, provide written evidence of compliance in the form of a narrative, and be supported by exhibits sufficient to demonstrate compliance. The Commission staff may make reasonable requests for further

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evidence of compliance, and Respondents agree to provide such evidence. The certification and supporting material shall be submitted to Anne C. McKinley, Assistant Regional Director, Division of Enforcement, Chicago Regional Office, 175 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1450, Chicago, Illinois 60604, or such other person as the Commission staff may request, with a copy to the Office of Chief Counsel of the Enforcement Division, no later than sixty (60) days from the date of the completion of the undertakings.

IV.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanctions agreed to in Respondents' Offers.

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 15(b) and 21C of the Exchange Act as to CANL and CISL and Sections 203(e) and 203(k) of the Advisers Act as to CANL, it is hereby ORDERED that:

- A. CANL and CISL cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 17(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-4 thereunder.
- B. CANL cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 204 of the Advisers Act and Rule 204-2 thereunder.
 - C. Respondents are censured.
- D. Respondents shall comply with the undertakings enumerated in paragraphs 33 to 40 above.
- E. Respondents shall, jointly and severally, within 14 days of the entry of this Order, pay a civil money penalty in the amount of \$4,500,000 to the Securities and Exchange Commission for transfer to the general fund of the United States Treasury, subject to Exchange Act Section 21F(g)(3). If timely payment is not made, additional interest shall accrue pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717.

Payment must be made in one of the following ways:

- (1) Respondents may transmit payment electronically to the Commission, which will provide detailed ACH transfer/Fedwire instructions upon request;
- (2) Respondents may make direct payment from a bank account via Pay.gov through the SEC website at http://www.sec.gov/about/offices/ofm.htm; or
- (3) Respondents may pay by certified check, bank cashier's check, or United States postal money order, made payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission and hand-delivered or mailed to:

Enterprise Services Center Accounts Receivable Branch HQ Bldg., Room 181, AMZ-341 6500 South MacArthur Boulevard Oklahoma City, OK 73169

Payments by check or money order must be accompanied by a cover letter identifying CANL and CISL as the Respondents in these proceedings, and the file number of these proceedings; a copy of the cover letter and check or money order must be sent to Anne C. McKinley, Assistant Regional Director, Division of Enforcement, Chicago Regional Office, 175 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1450, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

F. Amounts ordered to be paid as civil money penalties pursuant to this Order shall be treated as penalties paid to the government for all purposes, including all tax purposes. To preserve the deterrent effect of the civil penalty, Respondents agree that in any Related Investor Action, they shall not argue that they are entitled to, nor shall they benefit by, offset or reduction of any award of compensatory damages by the amount of any part of Respondents' payment of a civil penalty in this action ("Penalty Offset"). If the court in any Related Investor Action grants such a Penalty Offset, Respondents agree that they shall, within 30 days after entry of a final order granting the Penalty Offset, notify the Commission's counsel in this action and pay the amount of the Penalty Offset to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Such a payment shall not be deemed an additional civil penalty and shall not be deemed to change the amount of the civil penalty imposed in this proceeding. For purposes of this paragraph, a "Related Investor Action" means a private damages action brought against Respondents by or on behalf of one or more investors based on substantially the same facts as alleged in the Order instituted by the Commission in this proceeding.

By the Commission.

Vanessa A. Countryman Secretary