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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10  
11 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 ABRAHAM SHAFI,

15 Defendant,

16 and

17 BARBARA WOORTMANN,

18 Relief Defendant.

Case No.

COMPLAINT

19  
20 Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) alleges:

21 **SUMMARY OF THE ACTION**

22 1. From at least March through June of 2021, Abraham Shafi (“Shafi”) engaged in a  
23 fraudulent scheme to mislead investors and sell about \$170 million of preferred stock in Get  
24 Together, Inc. (more commonly known as “IRL”), a social media platform that he co-founded and  
25 then led as its Chief Executive Officer until April 2023.

26 2. Shafi described IRL as an app that had attracted 12 million purported users and  
27 achieved a high rank in the Apple App Store based on viral popularity and organic growth. This  
28 description misleadingly omitted the significant role that advertising played in Shafi’s growth

1 strategy for IRL. Since the fall of 2019, Shafi had promoted IRL and boosted its perceived  
2 popularity by spending millions of dollars on “incent” advertisements—advertisements that  
3 offered users incentives to download the app.

4 3. Moreover, Shafi did not simply fail to disclose IRL’s use of incent advertisements.  
5 He also made false statements about IRL’s advertising expenditures, providing prospective  
6 investors with offering materials that significantly understated the amount of money that IRL had  
7 spent on marketing-related expenses. Shafi also routed payments to IRL’s largest incent  
8 advertising platform through third parties, in an apparent effort to conceal the true nature of those  
9 payments.

10 4. Shafi’s deception had another dimension as well. He hid from investors that, prior  
11 to the 2021 offering, he and his then-fiancée, Barbara Woortmann (“Woortmann”), who was never  
12 employed by IRL, had charged at least hundreds of thousands of dollars in personal expenses to  
13 IRL business credit cards they possessed. These charges covered items such as clothing, home  
14 furnishings, travel, and everyday living expenses. Shafi used IRL’s bank account to pay the  
15 monthly balances on these credit cards.

16 5. Investors, unaware that IRL had spent millions of dollars on incent advertisements  
17 and ignorant of Shafi and Woortmann’s misuse of IRL’s credit cards, purchased a total of about  
18 \$170 million in IRL preferred stock in connection with IRL’s “Series C” private offering. The lead  
19 investor, “VC1,” a venture capital fund, purchased about \$125 million worth of IRL securities  
20 from IRL and about \$7.5 million worth of IRL securities directly from Shafi. Another venture  
21 capital fund, “VC2,” purchased about \$10 million worth of IRL securities from IRL.

22 6. After the Series C offering closed, Shafi continued to deceive investors, whose  
23 representatives held seats on IRL’s Board of Directors. He orchestrated a scheme to continue  
24 hiding IRL’s large advertising expenditures—including its expenditures on incent ads—by  
25 directing one of IRL’s vendors to submit invoices that underreported IRL’s advertising-related  
26 costs. Shafi and Woortmann also continued charging what ultimately amounted to millions of  
27 dollars in personal expenses to IRL’s business credit cards. Among other things, Shafi used his  
28

1 IRL credit card to pay for hundreds of thousands of dollars of expenses related to his April 2022  
2 wedding to Woortmann, including wedding guests' airfare and luxury hotel accommodations.

3 7. A Special Committee of IRL's Board of Directors removed Shafi as IRL's CEO in  
4 late April 2023, after discovering Shafi and Woortmann's practice of charging personal expenses  
5 to their IRL business credit cards. Shortly afterwards, IRL's reported user population collapsed. A  
6 forensic analysis undertaken at the direction of the Special Committee determined that, prior to the  
7 collapse, a substantial percentage of IRL's users were likely bots. IRL's Board of Directors  
8 subsequently decided to wind down the company.

9 8. Shafi violated the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws. Specifically,  
10 Shafi violated Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)]  
11 and Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)]  
12 and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5]. Woortmann was unjustly enriched by Shafi's  
13 violations.

#### 14 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

15 9. The SEC brings this action pursuant to Sections 20(b), 20(d), and 22(a) of the  
16 Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b), 77t(d), and 77v(a)], and Sections 21(d), 21(e), and 27 of the  
17 Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d), 78u(e), and 78aa].

18 10. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 20(b), 20(d)(1),  
19 and 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b), 77t(d)(1), and 77v(a)], and Sections 21(d),  
20 21(e), and 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d), 78u(e), and 78aa].

21 11. Shafi, directly or indirectly, made use of the means and instrumentalities of  
22 interstate commerce or of the mails in connection with the acts, transactions, practices, and courses  
23 of business alleged in this complaint.

24 12. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act [15  
25 U.S.C. § 77v(a)], and Section 27(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78aa(a)]. Acts, transactions,  
26 practices, and courses of business that form the basis for the violations alleged in this complaint  
27 occurred in this District. For example, IRL's principal place of business during all relevant times  
28 was located in Berkeley, CA.



1           20.     In September 2019, Shafi began using incent advertising platforms to promote IRL.  
2 He told representatives of these platforms that his goal was to drive large download volumes and  
3 thereby achieve a high rank in the Apple App Store.

4           21.     Between September 2019 and April 2021, Shafi caused IRL to spend about \$5.7  
5 million on incent advertisements. This spending had the desired effect: IRL became an app that  
6 regularly ranked in the top 20, and sometimes in the top 10, of social media apps in the Apple App  
7 Store.

8           **B.     Shafi Routed IRL’s Payments To Its Principal Incent Advertising Platform**  
9           **Through Intermediaries.**

10          22.     Soon after IRL started using incent advertisements, Shafi asked one of his  
11 acquaintances, “Individual 1,” to handle IRL’s payments to IRL’s principal incent advertising  
12 platform (the “Incent Ad Platform”). Every two weeks, the Incent Ad Platform would send an  
13 invoice for IRL’s incent advertisements to Individual 1. Individual 1 would then ask Shafi to send  
14 him enough money to pay the invoice, and IRL would transfer money to pay the invoice to an  
15 entity controlled by Individual 1. That entity would then pay the Incent Ad Platform on IRL’s  
16 behalf.

17          23.     In October 2020, Shafi hired a business entity (the “Agency”) owned and managed  
18 by another one of his acquaintances, “Individual 2,” to assist with IRL’s marketing and advertising  
19 efforts. The Agency then took over the payment-intermediary role from Individual 1, following the  
20 same general procedure to pay the Incent Ad Platform’s invoices for IRL.

21           **C.     Shafi and Woortmann Used IRL Credit Cards and Bank Accounts To Pay For**  
22           **Personal Expenses.**

23          24.     In 2017, Shafi obtained a business credit card account for “GATHERAPP INC.,” a  
24 predecessor business to IRL. No later than January 2019, Shafi had obtained a second credit card  
25 on the same account for Woortmann. Around the beginning of 2020, the business associated with  
26 the account formally changed from GATHERAPP INC. to Get Together, Inc. Woortmann was  
27 never an employee or contractor of IRL.  
28

1           25.     Beginning no later than January 2019 and continuing until at least September 2022,  
2 Shafi and Woortmann used these credit cards to pay for millions of dollars in personal expenses.  
3 These expenses included: purchases from home improvement and home furnishing retailers;  
4 purchases from clothing and jewelry retailers; airfare; stays at luxury hotels in Hawaii and  
5 elsewhere; everyday expenses from restaurants, grocery stores, food delivery apps, and rideshare  
6 apps; and PayPal and Venmo payments that appear to be of a personal nature, including payments  
7 to Woortmann's family and friends.

8           26.     From at least January 2019 until September 2022, Shafi typically paid the monthly  
9 bills on the IRL business credit cards, which included these millions of dollars in personal  
10 expenses, using funds from IRL's bank account. During that three-and-a-half-year period, it  
11 appears that Shafi made only one payment against the IRL business credit card account balance  
12 using funds from his own personal bank account: a \$150,000 payment in April 2021.

13           **D.     Shafi and IRL Sold About \$170 Million Worth of IRL Securities While**  
14           **Concealing IRL's Reliance On Incent Advertisements And Shafi and**  
15           **Woortmann's Use of IRL's Credit Card Account To Pay For Personal Expenses.**

16           27.     From at least March through June of 2021, IRL solicited VC1, VC2, and other  
17 entities for investments in IRL. As IRL's CEO, Shafi had ultimate authority over the offering  
18 documents that he shared with prospective investors.

19           28.     During the offering process, Shafi presented IRL as an app that had achieved  
20 impressive growth organically—meaning from users who did not sign up via a paid  
21 advertisement—and thereby achieved a high rank in the Apple App Store. He misleadingly  
22 omitted any reference to incent ads from the materials he shared with investors. He also provided  
23 investors with documents that significantly underreported IRL's advertising expenses.

24           29.     For example, Shafi provided prospective investors with a "Spend Summary" that  
25 purported to break down IRL's operating expenses into several categories on a month-by-month  
26 basis from January 2020 to February 2021. This document reported that IRL's total PR/marketing  
27 expenses averaged out to less than \$40,000 per month. In reality, from January 2020 to February  
28 2021, IRL spent, on average, more than \$200,000 per month on the Incent Ad Platform alone. In

1 March and April 2021, IRL’s spending on the Incent Ad Platform increased to about \$500,000 per  
2 month.

3 30. During a March 16, 2021 text message conversation between Shafi and the  
4 Managing Partner of VC2, Shafi sent the Managing Partner text messages with excerpts from the  
5 “Spend Summary.” The Managing Partner remarked that another prospective investor would  
6 “love” that IRL “spent virtually zero on marketing.” Shafi misleadingly replied, “That’s us! Real  
7 social.”

8 31. On April 19, 2021, Shafi sent VC1 a question-and-answer (“Q&A”) document  
9 claiming that IRL spent about \$50,000 per month on advertising. The same document misleadingly  
10 attributed IRL’s high rank in the Apple App Store to “organic channels,” without mentioning  
11 IRL’s use of incent advertisements. Shafi reviewed the Q&A document before he sent it to VC1.  
12 Shafi shared the Q&A document with other investors as well.

13 32. Shafi knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that IRL’s true advertising  
14 expenditures were much higher than \$50,000 per month. Shafi was aware of the true magnitude of  
15 IRL’s expenditures on the Incent Ad Platform from his communications with Individual 1 and  
16 from his communications with a representative of that platform. For example, during a December  
17 1, 2020 chat discussion with a representative of the Incent Ad Platform, Shafi wrote, “I spend  
18 millions with you. I expect some basic treatment.” In an April 9, 2021 chat discussion, the same  
19 representative informed Shafi that IRL’s spending on incent advertisements had increased to  
20 between \$15,000 and \$17,000 *per day*.

21 33. On April 13, 2021, Shafi sent VC1 a slide presentation. Shafi included information  
22 in this slide presentation touting that IRL was highly ranked in the Apple App Store. But again, the  
23 presentation made no mention of the fact that IRL had used incent advertising to achieve this rank.  
24 Shafi reviewed the slide presentation before sending it to VC1. Shafi shared the slide presentation  
25 with other investors as well.

26 34. Additionally, on or around April 21, 2021, Shafi sent emails to VC1 and other  
27 investors attributing a surge in downloads of the IRL app that had occurred in the fall of 2019 to  
28 “seasonality around the holidays.” As Shafi knew, or was reckless in not knowing, these emails

1 were misleading because they omitted that the surge occurred around the same time IRL started  
2 spending heavily on incent advertising.

3 35. IRL investors considered these false and misleading statements to be important to  
4 their decisions to invest in IRL. Investors viewed IRL's high app store rank as evidence of the  
5 app's popularity and success in acquiring customers. Investors considered the amount of money  
6 IRL spent on marketing and advertising to be important because, for example, the false lower  
7 figures presented to investors by Shafi suggested that the app was growing efficiently and could  
8 eventually become profitable. VC1 considered information about IRL's user acquisition channels  
9 to be important because such information was relevant to understanding IRL's popularity as well  
10 as its cost structure.

11 36. On April 23, 2021, shortly before VC1 provided Shafi with a term sheet outlining a  
12 potential investment deal, Shafi told a representative of VC1 that IRL had received multiple term  
13 sheets from other prospective investors valuing IRL at \$1 billion. As Shafi knew, or was reckless  
14 in not knowing, this was false. At that time, IRL had received only one tentative term sheet from a  
15 prospective investor, and that investor had withdrawn the term sheet a month earlier, on March 23,  
16 just one day after sending it.

17 37. On May 18, 2021, VC1, VC2, and other investors entered into a Preferred Stock  
18 Purchase Agreement ("PSPA") with IRL. Shafi signed the PSPA on behalf of IRL.

19 38. In the PSPA, Shafi and IRL represented that IRL would use the proceeds from the  
20 Series C offering "for general corporate and working capital purposes." As Shafi knew, or was  
21 reckless in not knowing, this statement was misleading because the PSPA failed to disclose that  
22 Shafi and Woortmann regularly used IRL's business credit cards to pay for their personal  
23 expenses, and used IRL's funds to pay the monthly credit card bills. As Shafi knew, or was  
24 reckless in not knowing, this statement was also misleading because the PSPA did not disclose that  
25 Shafi and Woortmann would continue charging personal expenses to IRL's business credit cards,  
26 and that they would use proceeds from the Series C offering to pay the monthly credit card bills.

27 39. In the PSPA, Shafi and IRL also represented that "none of [IRL's] directors,  
28 officers or employees, or any members of their immediate families . . . are, directly or indirectly,

1 indebted to [IRL].” As Shafi knew, or was reckless in not knowing, this statement was false and  
2 misleading because, by charging personal expenses to IRL business credit cards, Shafi and  
3 Woortmann were incurring at least hundreds of thousands of dollars in liability to IRL for  
4 misappropriating IRL’s funds.

5 40. In the PSPA, Shafi and IRL also represented that there were “no agreements,  
6 understandings, or proposed transactions (in any case oral or written) between [IRL] and any of its  
7 officers” other than (i) “standard employee benefits generally made available to all employees . . .,”  
8 (ii) “standard director and officer indemnification agreements approved by the Board of  
9 Directors,” (iii) “inventions assignment agreements . . .,” and (iv) “the purchase of shares . . . and  
10 the issuance of options . . . in each instance, approved in the written minutes of the Board of  
11 Directors.” As Shafi knew, or was reckless in not knowing, this statement was misleading because  
12 it did not disclose Shafi’s practice of charging personal expenses to his IRL business credit card.

13 41. Neither Shafi nor IRL disclosed that Shafi and Woortmann had a longstanding  
14 practice of paying for personal expenses using IRL’s business credit cards and had, by May 2021,  
15 already charged at least hundreds of thousands of dollars in personal expenses to those credit cards.

16 42. Had they known about it, IRL’s investors would have considered information about  
17 Shafi’s use of an IRL business credit card to pay for personal expenses to be important to their  
18 investment decisions because such use called into question Shafi’s judgment as a CEO. When a  
19 Special Committee of IRL’s Board of Directors, which included representatives from VC1 and  
20 VC2, eventually learned that Shafi and Woortmann had been using their IRL business credit cards  
21 to pay for personal expenses, the committee removed Shafi as IRL’s CEO.

22 43. Pursuant to the May 18, 2021 PSPA, VC1 purchased about \$125 million of IRL  
23 preferred stock directly from IRL, and VC2 purchased about \$10 million of IRL preferred stock  
24 from IRL. In total, IRL sold about \$145 million of preferred stock to investors in connection with  
25 the Series C offering, which had closing dates on May 18, 2021, June 1, 2021, June 14, 2021, and  
26 June 17, 2021.

27 44. At the same time, VC1 also purchased about \$25 million of IRL securities from  
28 existing IRL employees, including about \$7.5 million directly from Shafi.

1           45.     After the Series C offering closed, Shafi unilaterally raised his own salary from  
2 about \$400,000 to about \$1 million per year. He did not inform IRL investors or IRL’s Board of  
3 Directors about this raise until more than a year later, in October 2022.

4           **E.     After the 2021 Securities Offering, Shafi Continued To Conceal From Investors**  
5           **IRL’s Reliance On Incent Advertising By Directing A Scheme To Falsify The**  
6           **Company’s Financial Statements.**

7           46.     On May 19, 2021, Shafi hired Individual 2 as IRL’s “Director of Growth.” In this  
8 role, Individual 2 was responsible for managing IRL’s paid media and growing IRL’s user base.  
9 Individual 2 also continued to manage the Agency, and the Agency continued to pay IRL’s  
10 invoices from the Incent Ad Platform. Over time, the Agency came to manage and pay some of  
11 IRL’s other marketing and advertising vendors as well.

12           47.     In August 2021, IRL hired its first Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”). In order to  
13 better track IRL’s expenses and to prepare quarterly financial reports for IRL’s Board of Directors  
14 (which included representatives from VC1 and VC2), IRL’s CFO asked Individual 2 to create  
15 monthly invoices describing the services that the Agency was providing to IRL. IRL’s CFO asked  
16 Individual 2 to create invoices both on a going-forward basis and for the work that the Agency had  
17 done for IRL in the past.

18           48.     Shafi directed Individual 2 to create invoices that did not accurately reflect the  
19 work that the Agency had performed, and was continuing to perform, for IRL. Specifically, Shafi  
20 directed that on each of the Agency’s monthly invoices, the Agency should allocate 90% of its  
21 charges to a line item titled “Infra Cost,” regardless of the true nature of the Agency’s work for  
22 IRL or expenditures on behalf of IRL. Shafi directed that only a small portion of each invoice be  
23 allocated to a line item called “Growth Cost.” Shafi further directed that the invoices should state,  
24 “Infra cost relates to Amazon Web Services, SMS, Google Cloud costs.” Individual 2 prepared  
25 Agency invoices pursuant to Shafi’s directions and provided those invoices to IRL’s CFO.

26           49.     As Shafi knew, or was reckless in not knowing, these invoices were false and  
27 misleading. Most of the money that IRL paid the Agency each month—both before and after the  
28 Series C offering—was used to pay IRL’s marketing and advertising vendors, including the Incent

1 Ad Platform. Relatively little of the money that the Agency paid on IRL’s behalf went to actual  
2 infrastructure providers like Amazon Web Services or Google Cloud, or to SMS messaging  
3 services.

4 50. IRL’s financial employees and contractors relied on the Agency’s invoices in  
5 preparing quarterly financial reports for IRL’s Board of Directors. Because the Agency’s invoices  
6 falsely allocated the majority of the Agency’s charges to “Infra Cost,” those financial reports  
7 significantly overstated the amount of money IRL was spending on infrastructure expenses and  
8 significantly understated the amount of money IRL was spending on marketing and advertising  
9 expenses.

10 51. For example, the financial reports prepared for the Board of Directors showed that,  
11 in 2021, IRL had about \$4.2 million in “growth” expenses and about \$13.5 million in infrastructure  
12 expenses. IRL’s true 2021 expenses were the reverse of this: more than \$14.2 million in growth  
13 expenses, and only about \$3.4 million in infrastructure expenses.

14 **F. After the Series C Offering, Shafi and Woortmann Continued To Use IRL’s**  
15 **Business Credit Cards To Pay For Personal Expenses.**

16 52. After the Series C offering closed, Shafi and Woortmann continued to use IRL’s  
17 business credit cards to pay for millions of dollars in additional personal expenses, including  
18 clothing and jewelry expenses, travel expenses, everyday living expenses, and home improvement  
19 and home furnishing expenses. Among other things, Shafi and Woortmann used the IRL credit  
20 cards to pay for hundreds of thousands of dollars in airfare and luxury hotel expenses for guests at  
21 their April 2022 wedding.

22 53. In late 2021, IRL’s CFO discovered that Shafi and Woortmann had been charging  
23 what appeared to be personal expenses to IRL’s business credit cards. After the CFO confronted  
24 Shafi about these expenses, Shafi admitted that he and Woortmann had been charging personal  
25 expenses to their IRL credit cards. Shafi also agreed to pay back the expenses that he admitted  
26 were personal in nature.

1           54. But Shafi maintained that some of the expenses the CFO asked about were genuine  
2 business expenses. The CFO asked Shafi to provide receipts documenting these purported business  
3 expenses, but Shafi provided the CFO with relatively few such receipts.

4           55. After Shafi admitted to the CFO that he and Woortmann had been charging  
5 personal expenses to their IRL business credit cards, the couple continued to charge additional  
6 personal expenses to those credit cards. Shafi never did anything to memorialize  
7 contemporaneously which expenses on his IRL business credit card were business expenses and  
8 which ones were personal expenses.

9           56. Between December 2021 and January 2023, Shafi reimbursed IRL for about \$2.5  
10 million of his and Woortmann's personal expenses. But Shafi did not reimburse IRL for other  
11 expenses that, based on available credit card and digital payment platform records, appear to be  
12 personal in nature. Examples of charges that appear to be personal in nature and not yet reimbursed  
13 include the following:

- 14           a. Two June 21, 2021 charges on Woortmann's IRL credit card, of \$12,074.92 and  
15           \$4,100.90, at a merchant that appears to provide goods and services related to  
16           spirituality and alternative medicine;
- 17           b. An October 3, 2021 charge on Shafi's IRL credit card of \$34,714.75, identified on  
18           the credit card statement as a luxury resort hotel on the island of Hawaii;
- 19           c. A December 23, 2021 charge on Woortmann's IRL credit card of \$21,712.25,  
20           identified on the credit card statement as a luxury resort hotel on the island of  
21           Hawaii; and
- 22           d. A May 15, 2022 charge on Shafi's IRL credit card of \$4,367.88, identified on the  
23           credit card statement as a luxury resort hotel on the island of Lanai.

24           **G. A Special Committee of IRL's Board of Directors Removed Shafi As CEO And**  
25           **Determined That a Substantial Percentage Of IRL's Users Were Likely Bots.**

26           57. IRL's Board of Directors did not learn about Shafi and Woortmann's use of IRL  
27 credit cards for personal expenses until April 2023. At that point, a Special Committee of IRL's  
28 Board of Directors removed Shafi as IRL's CEO.

1 58. Shortly after the Special Committee removed Shafi from the CEO role, IRL's  
2 purported number of users plummeted. A forensic analysis undertaken at the direction of the  
3 Special Committee determined that, prior to the collapse, a substantial percentage of IRL's users  
4 were likely bots. More specifically, the analysis determined that 95% of users for which detailed  
5 usage data were available were likely bots, and that the accounts for which such data were not  
6 available were also unlikely to be representative of human activity.

7 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Shafi Only)**

8 *Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder*

9 59. The SEC re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraph Nos. 1 through 58.

10 60. Shafi, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in  
11 connection with the purchase or sale of securities, by use of means or instrumentalities of interstate  
12 commerce, or of the mails, with scienter:

- 13 a. Employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- 14 b. Made untrue statements of material facts or omitted to state material facts  
15 necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the  
16 circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and
- 17 c. Engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated or would  
18 operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons, including purchasers of  
19 securities.

20 61. By reason of the foregoing, Shafi violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will  
21 continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5  
22 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

23 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Shafi Only)**

24 *Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act*

25 62. The SEC re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraph Nos. 1 through 58.

26 63. Shafi, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in the  
27 offer or sale of securities, by use of the means or instruments of transportation or communication  
28 in interstate commerce or by use of the mails:

- a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of material fact or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and
- c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon purchasers.

64. By reason of the foregoing, Shafi violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)].

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Woortmann Only)**

*Relief Defendant – Unjust Enrichment*

65. The SEC re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 58.

66. Woortmann, through her use of an IRL business credit card to pay for personal expenses, has been unjustly enriched under circumstances in which it is not just, equitable, or conscionable for her to retain such funds.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the SEC respectfully requests that the Court:

**I.**

Permanently enjoin Shafi from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5] thereunder, and Section 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)].

**II.**

Permanently enjoin Shafi from directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, through any entity owned or controlled by him, participating in the issuance, purchase, offer, or sale of any securities, provided however, that such injunction shall not prevent Shafi from purchasing or selling securities for his own personal accounts.

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**III.**

Permanently bar Shafi from serving as an officer or director of any issuer having a class of securities registered with the SEC pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78l] or that is required to file reports pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78o(d)], pursuant to Section 20(e) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(e)] and Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2)].

**IV.**

Order Shafi to disgorge all ill-gotten gains received as a result of his unlawful conduct plus prejudgment interest thereon pursuant to Sections 21(d)(3), 21(d)(5), and 21(d)(7) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d)(3), 78u(d)(5), and 78u(d)(7)].

**V.**

Order Shafi to pay a civil monetary penalty pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)], and Section 21(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)].

**VI.**

Order Woortmann to disgorge the ill-gotten gains or unjust enrichment she obtained or derived from Shafi's unlawful conduct, together with prejudgment interest on all such amounts.

**VII.**

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.

**VIII.**

Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just, equitable, and necessary.

Dated: July 31, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Matthew Meyerhofer

Matthew Meyerhofer

Attorney for Plaintiff

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

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