

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 70492 / September 24, 2013

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING ENFORCEMENT
Release No. 3491 / September 24, 2013

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-15521

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In the Matter of	:	ORDER INSTITUTING ADMINISTRATIVE
	:	PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO RULE
OWEN MARK	:	102(e) OF THE COMMISSION’S RULES OF
WILLIAMS, CPA	:	PRACTICE, MAKING FINDINGS, AND
Respondent.	:	IMPOSING REMEDIAL SANCTIONS
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	:	
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I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) deems it appropriate and in the public interest that public administrative proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted against Owen Mark Williams (“Respondent” or “Williams”) pursuant to Rule 102(e)(3)(i) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.¹

¹ Rule 102(e)(3)(i) provides, in relevant part, that:

The Commission, with due regard to the public interest and without preliminary hearing, may, by order, . . . suspend from appearing or practicing before it any . . . accountant . . . who has been by name . . . permanently enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction, by reason of his or her misconduct in an action brought by the Commission, from violating or aiding and abetting the violation of any provision of the Federal securities laws or of the rules and regulations thereunder.

II.

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, Respondent has submitted an Offer of Settlement (the “Offer”) which the Commission has determined to accept. Solely for the purpose of these proceedings and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Commission, or to which the Commission is a party and without admitting or denying the findings herein, except as to the Commission’s jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of these proceedings and the findings contained in Section III.3 below, which are admitted, Respondent consents to the entry of this Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Rule 102(e) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions (“Order”), as set forth below.

III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondent’s Offer, the Commission finds that:

1. Williams, age 55, is and has been a certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State of California. He served as Chief Financial Officer of True North Finance Corporation (“True North”), f/k/a CS Financing Corporation, from 2007 until 2010.
2. True North was, at all relevant times, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Corte Madera, California. True North was engaged in the business of real estate finance. At all relevant times, True North issued notes registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 6 of the Securities Act of 1933 (“Securities Act”).
3. On September 21, 2010, the Commission filed a complaint against Williams in SEC v. True North Finance Corp., et al., Civil Action Number 10-cv-3995, in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. On September 11, 2013, the court entered an order permanently enjoining Williams, by consent, from future violations of Section 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act, Section 13(b)(5) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rules 13b2-1, 13b2-2, and 15d-14 thereunder. Williams was also ordered to pay a \$40,000 civil money penalty.
4. The Commission’s complaint alleged, among other things, that Williams caused True North to improperly recognize revenue on interest from borrowers where the borrowers were not paying True North and where the borrowers’ impaired financial condition meant that collectability was not reasonably assured. The complaint alleged that this recognition of revenue departed from generally accepted accounting principles and also departed from True North’s revenue recognition policy, which stated that the company would not recognize revenue when the payment of interest was 90 days past due.

IV.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanction agreed to in Respondent Williams' Offer.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED, effective immediately, that:

A. Williams is suspended from appearing or practicing before the Commission as an accountant.

B. After three years from the date of this order, Respondent may request that the Commission consider his reinstatement by submitting an application (attention: Office of the Chief Accountant) to resume appearing or practicing before the Commission as:

1. a preparer or reviewer, or a person responsible for the preparation or review, of any public company's financial statements that are filed with the Commission. Such an application must satisfy the Commission that Respondent's work in his practice before the Commission will be reviewed either by the independent audit committee of the public company for which he works or in some other acceptable manner, as long as he practices before the Commission in this capacity; and/or

2. an independent accountant. Such an application must satisfy the Commission that:

(a) Respondent, or the public accounting firm with which he is associated, is registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("Board") in accordance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and such registration continues to be effective;

(b) Respondent, or the registered public accounting firm with which he is associated, has been inspected by the Board and that inspection did not identify any criticisms of or potential defects in the Respondent's or the firm's quality control system that would indicate that the Respondent will not receive appropriate supervision;

(c) Respondent has resolved all disciplinary issues with the Board, and has complied with all terms and conditions of any sanctions imposed by the Board (other than reinstatement by the Commission); and

(d) Respondent acknowledges his responsibility, as long as Respondent appears or practices before the Commission as an independent accountant, to comply with all requirements of the Commission and the Board, including, but not limited to, all requirements relating to registration, inspections, concurring partner reviews and quality control standards.

C. The Commission will consider an application by Respondent to resume appearing or practicing before the Commission provided that his state CPA license is current and he has resolved all other disciplinary issues with the applicable state boards of

accountancy. However, if state licensure is dependent on reinstatement by the Commission, the Commission will consider an application on its other merits. The Commission's review may include consideration of, in addition to the matters referenced above, any other matters relating to Respondent's character, integrity, professional conduct, or qualifications to appear or practice before the Commission.

By the Commission.

Elizabeth M. Murphy
Secretary