

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940
Release No. 5620 / October 26, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-20139

In the Matter of

MOHAMMED ALI RASHID,

Respondent.

ORDER INSTITUTING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 203(f) OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940 AND NOTICE OF HEARING

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) deems it appropriate and in the public interest that public administrative proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted pursuant to Section 203(f) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”) against Mohammed Ali Rashid (“Respondent” or “Rashid”).

II.

After an investigation, the Division of Enforcement alleges that:

A. RESPONDENT

1. Rashid was employed at Apollo Management, L.P. (“Apollo”) from 2004 until February 2014, during which time he was promoted to the job titles of partner and senior partner. Apollo was and is a private equity firm registered as an investment adviser with the SEC. Rashid was a member of Apollo’s private equity group and advised Apollo’s private equity funds. Specifically, Rashid evaluated and recommended investments to Apollo’s private equity funds,

monitored investment performances, and received compensation for his services. Rashid, age 44, currently resides in Miami Beach, Florida.

B. ENTRY OF THE INJUNCTION

2. On October 14, 2020, a final judgment was entered against Rashid, permanently enjoining him from future violations of Section 206(2) of the Advisers Act, in the civil action entitled Securities and Exchange Commission v. Mohammed Ali Rashid, Civil Action Number 17-cv-8223 (PKC) in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

3. The Commission's complaint alleged that, from at least January 2010 until June 2013, Rashid violated Section 206(1) and 206(2) of the Advisers Act by fraudulently claiming that his personal expenses were legitimate business expenses, and those expenses were thereafter paid by private equity funds advised by Apollo and Rashid. The Commission further alleged that Rashid was reimbursed for approximately \$290,000 in personal expenses fraudulently disguised as legitimate business expenses, including a New Year's trip to Brazil, a friend's bachelor party and wedding, a flight to the Super Bowl, and numerous dinners with friends and family at high-end Manhattan restaurants.

4. On September 23, 2020, after a nine-day bench trial at which 33 witnesses testified, the district court issued Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law which found that Rashid had violated Section 206(2) of the Adviser Act by virtue of: (1) Rashid knowingly, repeatedly and falsely claiming that personal expenses were business expenses; (2) Rashid, as a senior partner of Apollo, acting with reckless indifference in failing to ensure that none of these false business expenses were charged to the funds he advised; and (3) the false business expenses, in fact, were charged to the funds, thereby operating as a fraud upon them. The court's October 14, 2020 judgment enjoined Rashid from committing future violations of Section 206(2) of the Advisers Act, and ordered him to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$240,000. The Commission had not sought disgorgement because Rashid had already repaid Apollo for his ill-gotten gains, and Apollo had already reimbursed the affected funds.

III.

In view of the allegations made by the Division of Enforcement, the Commission deems it necessary and appropriate in the public interest that public administrative proceedings be instituted to determine:

A. Whether the allegations set forth in Section II hereof are true and, in connection therewith, to afford Respondent an opportunity to establish any defenses to such allegations;

B. What, if any, remedial action is appropriate in the public interest against Respondent pursuant to Section 203(f) of the Advisers Act; and

IV.

IT IS ORDERED that a public hearing before the Commission for the purpose of taking evidence on the questions set forth in Section III hereof shall be convened at a time and place to be fixed by further order of the Commission, pursuant to Rule 110 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.110.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall file an Answer to the allegations contained in this Order within twenty (20) days after service of this Order, as provided by Rule 220(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.220(b).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Division of Enforcement and Respondent shall conduct a prehearing conference pursuant to Rule 221 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.221, within fourteen (14) days of service of the Answer. The parties may meet in person or participate by telephone or other remote means; following the conference, they shall file a statement with the Office of the Secretary advising the Commission of any agreements reached at said conference. If a prehearing conference was not held, a statement shall be filed with the Office of the Secretary advising the Commission of that fact and of the efforts made to meet and confer.

If Respondent fails to file the directed Answer, or fails to appear at a hearing or conference after being duly notified, the Respondent may be deemed in default and the proceedings may be determined against him upon consideration of this Order, the allegations of which may be deemed to be true as provided by Rules 155(a), 220(f), 221(f) and 310 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.155(a), 201.220(f), 201.221(f), and 201.310.

This Order shall be served forthwith upon Rashid by any means permitted by the Commission's Rules of Practice. This Order shall be served upon Rashid as provided for in Rule 141(a)(2)(iv) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.141(a)(2)(iv).

The Commission finds that it would serve the interests of justice and not result in prejudice to any party to provide, pursuant to Rule 100(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.100(c), that notwithstanding any contrary reference in the Rules of Practice to service of paper copies, service to the Division of Enforcement of all opinions, orders, and decisions described in Rule 141, 17 C.F.R. § 201.141, and all papers described in Rule 150(a), 17 C.F.R. § 201.150(a), in these proceedings shall be by email to the attorneys who enter an appearance on behalf of the Division, and not by paper service.

Attention is called to Rule 151(b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.151(b) and (c), providing that when, as here, a proceeding is set before the Commission, all

papers (including those listed in the following paragraph) shall be filed with the Office of the Secretary and all motions, objections, or applications will be decided by the Commission. The Commission requests that an electronic courtesy copy of each filing should be emailed to APFilings@sec.gov in PDF text-searchable format. Any exhibits should be sent as separate attachments, not a combined PDF.

The Commission finds that it would serve the interests of justice and not result in prejudice to any party to provide, pursuant to Rule 100(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.100(c), that notwithstanding any contrary reference in the Rules of Practice to filing with or disposition by a hearing officer, all filings, including those under Rules 210, 221, 222, 230, 231, 232, 233, and 250 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.210, 221, 222, 230, 231, 232, 233, and 250, shall be directed to and, as appropriate, decided by the Commission. This proceeding shall be deemed to be one under the 75-day timeframe specified in Rule of Practice 360(a)(2)(i), 17 C.F.R. § 201.360(a)(2)(i), for the purposes of applying Rules of Practice 233 and 250, 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.233 and 250.

The Commission finds that it would serve the interests of justice and not result in prejudice to any party to provide, pursuant to Rule 100(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.100(c), that the Commission shall issue a decision on the basis of the record in this proceeding, which shall consist of the items listed at Rule 350(a) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.350(a), and any other document or item filed with the Office of the Secretary and accepted into the record by the Commission. The provisions of Rule 351 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.351, relating to preparation and certification of a record index by the Office of the Secretary or the hearing officer are not applicable to this proceeding.

The Commission will issue a final order resolving the proceeding after one of the following: (A) The completion of post-hearing briefing in a proceeding where the public hearing has been completed; (B) The completion of briefing on a motion for a ruling on the pleadings or a motion for summary disposition pursuant to Rule 250 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.250, where the Commission has determined that no public hearing is necessary; or (C) The determination that a party is deemed to be in default under Rule 155 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 C.F.R. § 201.155, and no public hearing is necessary.

In the absence of an appropriate waiver, no officer or employee of the Commission engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecuting functions in this or any factually related proceeding will be permitted to participate or advise in the decision of this matter, except as witness or counsel in proceedings held pursuant to notice. Since this proceeding is not “rule making” within the meaning of Section 551 of the Administrative Procedure Act, it is not deemed subject to the provisions of Section 553 delaying the effective date of any final Commission action.

For the Commission, by its Secretary, pursuant to delegated authority.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary