	Case 2:15-cv-09331-R-DTB Document 1	Filed 12/02/15	Page 1 of 15	Page ID #:1	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	LYNN M. DEAN, Cal. Bar No. 205562 Email: deanl@sec.gov TAMAR BRAZ, Cal. Bar No. 264080 Email: brazt@sec.gov Attorneys for Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission Michele Wein Layne, Regional Director Lorraine B. Echavarria, Associate Regior John W. Berry, Regional Trial Counsel 444 S. Flower Street, Suite 900 Los Angeles, California 90071 Telephone: (323) 965-3998 Facsimile: (213) 443-1904 <b>UNITED STATES</b>		OURT		
10	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				
11	WESTERN DIVISION				
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13	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE	Case No.			
14	COMMISSION,	COMPLA	INT		
15	Plaintiff,				
16	VS.				
17	ROBERT SEIBERT, a.k.a. JOHN GREY,				
18	Defendant.				
19		]			
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21	Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") alleges:				
22	JURISDICTION AND VENUE				
23	1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 20(b),				
24	20(d)(1) and 22(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§				
25	77t(b), 77t(d)(1) and 77v(a) and Sections 21(d)(1), 21(d)(3)(A), 21(e) and 27 of the				
26	Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d)(1),				
27	78u(d)(3)(A), 78u(e), and 78aa.				
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	COMPLAINT	1			

2. Defendant has, directly or indirectly, made use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce or of the mails, in connection with the transactions, acts, practices and courses of business alleged in this complaint.

3. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a) and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because certain of the transactions, acts, practices and courses of conduct constituting violations of the federal securities laws occurred within this district.

### **SUMMARY**

4. This matter concerns an offering fraud perpetrated by Defendant Robert
Mark Seibert, a securities fraud recidivist who owned and managed a Nevada limited
liability company called Universal Stock Transfer ("UST") out of Palm Desert, CA.
UST is now defunct.

5. Seibert and sales agents for UST cold-called vulnerable, elderly investors and encouraged them to purchase a variety of stocks quoted on the "OTC Link," an inter-dealer quotation system for over-the-counter securities. Seibert and the UST sales agents induced investors to invest by falsely guaranteeing varying returns of up to double their investment and holding himself out as an experienced broker and affiliate of the issuers.

6. Upon information and belief, Seibert used "John Grey" as an alias in carrying out this fraud. In doing so, he concealed his true name and his extensive civil and criminal disciplinary record.

7. Between January 2013 and February 2015, UST, through Seibert and its sales agents, raised roughly \$513,810 from at least 41 people residing in several states, including California. But instead of using the investors' money to purchase securities, Seibert misappropriated the entirety of the funds, spending it for his personal benefit, including paying for travel, purchasing merchandise and meals, and making payments on his outstanding child support obligations.

By engaging in this conduct, Seibert violated, and unless enjoined, will
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continue to violate the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws. Therefore,
the SEC seeks permanent injunctions, disgorgement with prejudgment interest and
civil penalties, and a conduct-based injunction that prohibits Seibert from
participating in the issuance, purchase, offer, or sale of any security (with a carve-out
for his personal accounts).

#### **DEFENDANT**

9. **<u>Robert Mark Seibert</u>**, a.k.a. "John Grey," age 62, current residence and employment are unknown. He was the owner and manager of UST. Seibert has never been registered with the SEC, although he took and passed the Series 1 exam in 1976.

10. Seibert has an extensive criminal and regulatory disciplinary record, including a 1993 complaint filed by the SEC which resulted in the entry of an injunction and monetary relief, *SEC v. Mitchell Communications Corp. et al.* (N.D. Ga. Dec. 21, 1993), Lit. Rel. No. 13950; two separate convictions for wire fraud and conspiracy to commit securities fraud in 2000; a 2005 conviction for grand theft and fraud in the offer of securities in Orange County, California; and 2008 and 2013 Desist and Refrain Orders entered against him by the California Department of Business Oversight related to fraud in connection with his sale of securities in California.

**RELATED PARTIES** 

11. <u>Universal Stock Transfer, Ltd.</u> is a Nevada domestic limited liability company, with its principal place of business in Palm Desert, California. UST was formed by Seibert and its Articles of Incorporation list him as its "Manager." UST's business license expired on December 31, 2013, and the entity is now defunct and has no assets. UST has never been registered with the SEC in any capacity.

12. "John Grey," age, residence, current employment, registration history,
and disciplinary history unknown. Upon information and belief, the person calling
himself "John Grey" was Seibert.

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13. "<u>Ron Woods</u>", age, residence, current employment, registration history, and disciplinary history are unknown. It is likely that "Ron Woods" is an alias.
Upon information and belief, the person calling himself "Ron Woods" was at all relevant times controlled by Seibert, or was the alter-ego of Seibert.

14. "<u>Sebastian Wilson</u>", age, residence, current employment, registration history, and disciplinary history are unknown. It is likely that "Sebastian Wilson" is an alias. Upon information and belief, the person calling himself "Sebastian Wilson" was at all relevant times controlled by Seibert, or was the alter-ego of Seibert.

## THE ALLEGATIONS

## A. UST's Operations

15. In December 2012, Seibert formed UST. He rented a mail box at The Mail Bag, Inc., a private mail processor in Palm Desert, CA, in his own name; he filed UST's Articles of Organization with the Nevada Secretary of State, listing himself as the manager; he prepared corporate resolutions naming himself as the Operating Manager and Secretary; and he opened a business checking account for UST at the Palm Desert branch of BBVA Compass, where he was the sole signatory.

16. Shortly after UST's formation, sales agents acting on behalf of UST began soliciting investments from elderly, vulnerable investors, who ranged in age from 56 to 95. They did so by cold-calling these potential investors.

17. According to UST investors, UST's solicitation efforts followed a typical pattern. First, someone claiming to be "Ron Woods" or "Sebastian Wilson" (the "Sales Agents") called the potential investor, following up with multiple calls. The Sales Agents said they worked for UST and were calling on behalf of UST.

18. In these calls, the Sales Agents would try and befriend the investors.They called multiple times and on weekends, they chatted about personal matters, and they offered advice relating to their lives.

19. Then, according to UST investors, after these series of calls, a different man claiming to be "John Grey" would typically call the investor to close the deal.

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"Ron Woods" and "John Grey" described Grey as the "boss" or the "owner," and the investors understood that "Ron Woods" and "Sebastian Wilson" worked for "John Grey."

The man claiming to be "John Grey" typically spoke to investors after 20. "Ron Woods" and "Sebastian Wilson" talked to the investors. But in some instances, "John Grey" initiated contact with the investors.

The man claiming to be "John Grey" ratified the prior representations 21. made by "Ron Woods" and "Sebastian Wilson."

According to UST investors, they spoke to one or a combination of 22. people with the names "Ron Woods," "Sebastian Wilson" or "John Grey." The investors believed these men to be separate people based on what they were told.

Upon information and belief, "John Grey" is an alias for Seibert. Seibert 23. was the owner of UST, and investors were told "John Grey" was the owner. The phone number provided to investors by "John Grey" is registered to Seibert. Seibert also used the alias "John Gray" in connection with the securities offering that was the subject of the December 16, 2013 cease and desist order by the California Department of Business Oversight.

24. Eventually, according to UST investors, the UST Sales Agents and/or "John Grey" (i.e., Seibert) encouraged investors to purchase over-the-counter stock offered on OTC Link.

The particular stock touted by the Sales Agents and "John Grey" (i.e., 25. Seibert) varied by investor. In some instances, the Sales Agents recommended shares in New Global Energy, Inc. ("NGEY"), and in other instances, they recommended shares in Intertech Solutions, Inc. ("ITEC"), RadioShack Corp. ("RSCHQ"), SnackHealthy, Inc., and Cytta Corp.

The Sales Agents and "John Grey" (i.e., Seibert) told several investors 26. that the stocks they were selling would increase in value shortly after purchase. For example, "John Grey" (i.e., Seibert), "Ron Woods" and "Sebastian Wilson" all told COMPLAINT

potential investors that NGEY was a pre-IPO stock that UST could sell for between \$.26 and \$.33 per share, but that it would soon increase in value to between \$5 and \$7 per share. In reality, NGEY was already publicly traded at the time UST claimed to have pre-IPO shares.

27. Similarly, "Ron Woods" and "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) offered shares of ITEC to an investor at \$0.15 per share, even though it was trading for about \$0.50 at that time. The man claiming to be "John Grey" verbally guaranteed a profit to the investor, stating that the investor would double or triple his money within 30 days or receive his money back. This guarantee was documented in an e-mail from "Ron Woods," stating "[a]s per your conversation with John Grey this is to inform you that you have a 30 day guarantee if you don't make money with ITEC Universal Stock Transfer will refund your \$10,000 back to you." UST followed this with a written guarantee to the investor, signed by both "John Grey" and Defendant Seibert. Another ITEC investor was also promised a profit or his money back in a Stock Purchase Agreement that was signed by Seibert.

28. "Ron Woods" and "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) made similar assurances as to the safety and profitability of an investment in RSCHQ. For example, at least one investor was promised that if he did not profit within two months, then he would receive his money back, together with an additional \$5,000.

29. When investors agreed to purchase stock, UST, through its Sales Agents and/or "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert), sent them a two-page document entitled "Stock Purchase Agreement," which set forth the terms of the sale. For many investors, they also provided a prepaid FedEx envelope with this document. The investor then returned the envelope, together with a check and signed agreement, to UST.

# **B.** Misappropriation of Investor Funds

30. UST had accounts with three different banks between 2012 and 2015.

31. Seibert was the sole signatory on each of the three bank accounts.

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32. Deposits of \$513,810 in cash and checks were made to these accounts 1 2 from at least 41 people between January 2013 and February 2015. 3 33. Investors never received any of the stock UST promised to sell them. None of the investors received either the guaranteed profits or their 34. 4 money back. 5 In fact, the money raised from investors was never used to purchase any 35. 6 7 stock on their behalf. 8 36. Instead, Seibert misappropriated the money raised from investors. 9 UST bank records show that, of the \$513,810 deposited by investors, 37. 10 \$473,595.75 was withdrawn either via cash withdrawals or checks payable to cash, 11 many of which appear to have been endorsed by Seibert. The remainder of the funds was used for the following personal 12 38. 13 expenses: 14 restaurant, gas, and hotel expenses (the restaurant expenses included 15 meals at high end restaurants like Mastro's Steakhouse); retail purchases at stores like Macy's, Nordstrom's, Costco, and 16 17 PetSmart; and bills for DirecTV, Time Warner Cable, T-Mobile, car insurance, and 18 19 utilities. Upon information and belief, because Seibert was the sole signatory on 20 39. all of the UST bank accounts, these were personal expenses of Seibert being funded 21 with investor money. 22 23 40. Investor funds from the UST bank accounts were also used to pay the court-ordered garnishments resulting from Seibert's outstanding child support 24 obligations. 25 26 C. **Misleading Statements about the Purported Stock Transactions** 27 41. Seibert, through his alias "John Grey" and the Sales Agents working for 28 his company, UST, made false statements to investors concerning their investments. COMPLAINT 7

42. Although "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) and the Sales Agents claimed that UST was a brokerage firm acting on behalf of specific issuers, UST is not registered with the SEC. Moreover, the issuers whose stock was touted by UST have disclaimed any knowledge of or relationship with UST, Seibert, "John Grey," "Ron Woods," or "Sebastian Wilson."

43. There is no record that UST owned any of the shares of stock that "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) and the Sales Agents claimed to be selling, nor are any UST investors identified as shareholders.

44. Investors never received any stock certificates or proof of ownership about their alleged investments from UST.

45. When investors pressed "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) and the Sales Agents for stock certificates, they assured the investors that they would receive the certificates soon, but they never did. Eventually, "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) and the Sales Agents ceased responding to investors' calls and letters.

46. The false statements made by Seibert through his alias "John Grey," or the Sales Agents, were made to induce investors into investing. Investors would not have invested with UST had they known that their returns were not assured or that their funds would not be used to purchase stock.

**D**.

# Misleading Statements about UST and Seibert

47. In their discussions with investors, "Ron Woods" and "Sebastian Wilson" falsely described "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) as a wealthy and experienced stock trader. They told at least one investor that "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) was a knowledgeable and experienced broker worth millions of dollars and that he held an "enormous amount" of ITEC stock. They told other investors that "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) personally owned a million shares in NGEY.

48. These statements were false. Neither Seibert nor "John Grey" have ever
been registered with the SEC as a broker or associated with a registered broker and
neither "John Grey" nor Seibert held any of the stocks touted by UST.

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49. In addition, although "John Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert) and "Ron Woods" assured at least one investor that UST was trustworthy, and that the investor need only "give 1% of his trust, and UST would earn the other 99%," they failed to disclose that UST was controlled by Seibert.

50. They also failed to disclose Seibert's disciplinary history to investors. Specifically, they failed to disclose the 1993 complaint filed by the SEC which resulted in the entry of a permanent injunction and monetary relief as to Seibert, *SEC v. Mitchell Communications Corp. et al.* (N.D. Ga. Dec. 21, 1993), Lit. Rel. No. 13950; two separate convictions for wire fraud and conspiracy to commit securities fraud in 2000; a 2005 conviction for grand theft and fraud in the offer of securities in Orange County, California; and 2008 and 2013 cease and desist Orders entered against him by the California Department of Business Oversight related to fraud in connection with his sale of securities in California.

51. Seibert, through his alias "John Grey," and/or through "Ron Woods" and "Sebastian Wilson," also falsely told investors that UST was a brokerage firm effecting transactions in stock. They told investors that UST "dealt in stock," was "in the business of selling stocks," and was able to sell stock at cheaper prices because it obtained stock directly from the companies. One investor was told by Seibert or Woods that UST helped companies to go public by selling their stock.

52. These statements were all false. UST had no relationship with any of the issuers whose stock was touted by UST. UST, Seibert, "John Grey," "Ron Woods," Sebastian Wilson" have never been registered with the SEC as brokers or been associated with a registered broker and none of them held any of the stocks touted by "John Grey" or UST's Sales Agents.

53. All of these false statements were intended to induce investors into
investing. The investors relied on the purported expertise and experience of "John
Grey" (*i.e.*, Seibert), and would not have invested had they known about Seibert's
disciplinary history or that he was not registered as a broker or associated with a

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registered broker. Nor would they have invested with UST had they known that the
 company had no relationship with the issuers whose stock it touted and did not own
 their securities.

4 54. These misrepresentations and omissions are material, as they are central
5 to investors' decisions to invest, and to their decisions to keep their money invested
6 with UST.

55. Seibert knew, or was reckless or negligent in not knowing, that these misrepresentations and omissions were false and misleading when made.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF** 

# Fraud in the Offer or Sale of Securities

Violations of Section 17(a)(1) and (3) of the Securities Act

56. The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 55 above.

57. Seibert, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails:

1718 defraud; or

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with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to

(b) engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser.

58. By engaging in the conduct described above, Seibert violated, and unless
restrained and enjoined, will continue to violate, Section 17(a)(1) and (3) of the
Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)(1) and (3).

# **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

# Fraud in the Offer or Sale of Securities

**Violations of Section 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act** 

59. The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 55 above.

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60. Seibert, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or 1 indirectly, in the offer or sale of securities by the use of means or instruments of 2 transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, to 3 obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact 4 5 necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. 6

By engaging in the conduct described above, Seibert violated, and unless 61. restrained and enjoined, will continue to violate, Section 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)(2).

# **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

# Fraud in Connection with the Purchase or Sale of Securities Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rules 10b-5(a) and (c) thereunder

14 62. The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 55 above.

Seibert, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or 63. indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities or interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:

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(a) employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; or

(b) engaged in acts, practices or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.

64. By engaging in the conduct described above, Seibert violated, and unless restrained and enjoined, will continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5(a) and (c) thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5(a) and (c).

### FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# Fraud in Connection with the Purchase or Sale of Securities Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rules 10b-5(b) thereunder

65. The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 55 above.

66. Seibert, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities or interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

67. By engaging in the conduct described above, Seibert violated, and unless restrained and enjoined, will continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5(b) thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5(b).

#### FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

#### **Unregistered Broker Dealer**

#### Violations of Section 15(a) of the Exchange Act

68. The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through55 above.

69. Seibert, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities or interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, effected transactions in, or induced or attempted to induce the purchase or sale of, securities without being registered with the SEC, or affiliated with a broker-dealer registered with the SEC.

70. By engaging in the conduct described above, Seibert violated, and unless
restrained and enjoined, will continue to violate, Section 15(a) of the Exchange Act,
15 U.S.C. § 780.

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## SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

### **Control Person Liability**

## Violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act

The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 71. 55 above.

Universal Stock Transfer, by engaging in the conduct described above, 72. violated one or more of the federal securities laws.

73. Defendant Seibert, by engaging in the conduct described above, is, or was at the time the acts and conduct set forth herein were committed, directly or indirectly, a person who controlled and exercised actual power over Universal Stock Transfer.

74. By engaging in the conduct described above, under Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(a), Seibert is jointly and severally liable with, and to the same extent as, Universal Stock Transfer for its violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), Rule 10b-5(a-c) thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5, 16 and Section 15(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 780.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the SEC respectfully requests that the Court:

## I.

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that Defendant committed the alleged violations.

## II.

Issue orders, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining Seibert and his agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the judgment by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a), and Section 10(b) of the

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Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. §§ 240.10b-5, and Section 15(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 780. 2

#### III.

Issue orders, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), temporarily, preliminarily, and permanently enjoining Seibert and his agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the judgment by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from participating in the issuance, purchase, offer, or sale of any security pursuant to Section 20(b) of the Securities Act and Section 21(d) of the Exchange Act; provided, however, that such injunction shall not prevent Seibert from purchasing or selling securities listed on a national securities exchange for his personal account.

#### IV.

Order Seibert to disgorge all ill-gotten gains from his illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon.

#### V.

Order Seibert to pay civil penalties under Section 20(d) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77t(d) and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3).

#### VI.

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.

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1	NAM			
1 2	VII.			
2	Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and necessary.			
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5	Dated: December 2, 2015			
6	/s/ Lynn M. Dean Lynn M. Dean			
7	Tamar Braz Attorneys for Plaintiff			
8	Securities and Exchange Commission			
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