### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No. 0:19-cv-62532

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

VS.

Richard Andrew Mallion, an individual;

Defendant.

#### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), alleges as follows:

#### **SUMMARY OF THE ACTION**

- 1. From at least May 2016 through at least October 2018, Richard Andrew Mallion ("Defendant") actively solicited individuals throughout the United States to invest in the securities of microcap issuers Virtual MediClinic USA LLC and US Lighting Group, Inc (f/k/a The Luxurious Travel Corporation).
- 2. In connection with his solicitation efforts, Mallion made material misstatements to investors concerning matters such as the use of investor funds and the future public-trading status and price of the solicited security.
- 3. Defendant earned transaction-based compensation for his solicitation activities, which generally amounted to 40% of investment proceeds.
- 4. While Mallion engaged in these solicitations, he was neither registered with the Commission as a broker or dealer nor associated with a broker or dealer registered with the Commission.

- 5. Mallion also participated in a fraudulent scheme involving the use of securities-solicitation call centers to effect coordinated trades.
- 6. By engaging in this conduct, as further described herein, Defendant violated and, unless restrained and enjoined by this Court, may continue to violate Sections 5(a), 5(c), and 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 [15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a), (c), 77q(a)], Sections 10(b) and 15(a)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b), 78o(a)(1)], and Exchange Act Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 7. The Commission brings this action pursuant to Sections 20(b) and 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(b), (g)] and Sections 21(d) and (e) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d) and (e)] to enjoin such acts, practices, and courses of business, and to obtain disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil money penalties, and such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and appropriate.
- 8. Defendant was involved in the offer and sale of the common stock of two microcap companies, which are each a "security" as that term is defined under Section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77b(a)(1)] and Section 3(a)(10) of the Exchange Act [5 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(10)].
- 9. Defendant, directly or indirectly, made use of the mails or the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce in connection with the conduct alleged in this Complaint.
- 10. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 22 of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77v], Sections 21(d) and 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d) and 78aa], and 28 U.S.C. 1331.

11. Venue in this District is proper because Defendant is found, inhabits, and/or transacted business in the Southern District of Florida and/or because one or more acts or transactions constituting the violations occurred in the Southern District of Florida.

#### **DEFENDANT**

12. **Richard Andrew Mallion**, age 54, is last known to reside in Davie, Florida. Mallion has been self-employed in promoting and selling shares of microcap issuers.

#### **FACTS**

#### Virtual MediClinic USA LLC

- 13. At some point between late 2016 and early 2017, Mallion became involved in the sale of the securities of Virtual MediClinic USA LLC ("Virtual MediClinic").
- 14. Mallion would call prospective investors and tell them that their investment funds would be used to fund Virtual MediClinic's plans to go public and that Virtual MediClinic's shares would soon be publicly trading under the symbol VMCO.
- 15. Mallion told prospective investors that once Virtual MediClinic was public, investors would be able to sell their shares for \$2.00 to \$3.00 per share.
- 16. Mallion had no reasonable basis for stating that Virtual MediClinic's shares would trade at that price.
- 17. One such investor who Mallion solicited, D.H., purchased 100,000 shares of Virtual MediClinic in March 2017 for \$10,045.00, which D.H. wired to a company controlled by Mallion.
- 18. After D.H. made his investment, he had subsequent conversations with Mallion, during which Mallion would repeatedly extend the date by which Virtual MediClinic would begin publicly trading.

- 19. At or around November 2017, Mallion informed D.H. that Mallion was no longer affiliated with Virtual MediClinic and that he had no intention of taking it public.
- 20. D.H. requested the return of his investment funds, but Mallion informed D.H. that he could not repay D.H. because he had already spent D.H.'s investment on business and personal expenses.

#### The Luxurious Travel Corp./US Lighting Group, Inc

- 21. Mallion was also involved with The Luxurious Travel Corp., which after a July 2016 merger became known as US Lighting Group, Inc ("LXRT/USLG").
- 22. Mallion helped facilitate the LXRT/USLG merger by identifying a public shell company (LXRT) with which USLG could merge and acquiring some of the LXRT shares at the time of the merger.
- 23. Specifically, Mallion purchased a total of 1.5 million purportedly unrestricted shares of LXRT from LXRT's undisclosed control person, M.B., on or around July 26, 2016.
- 24. Mallion purchased these shares at the advice of M.B.'s attorney, who explained that if USLG's control person, P.S., took control of them, they would then become restricted.
- 25. After purchasing the unrestricted shares, Mallion was to sell them and use the sale proceeds to (a) pay some of USLG's legal fees arising from the merger with LXRT, (b) purchase the remaining unrestricted shares, and (c) purchase restricted LXRT/USLG shares from the issuer via one or more subscription agreements.
- 26. Of the initial 1.5 million ostensibly unrestricted shares that Mallion purchased, he sold 1 million to investors via direct transactions in which Mallion would instruct the transfer agent to issue new certificates to the purchaser after Mallion received payment.

- 28. To create a ready market in which to sell these shares, Mallion hired a call-center operator who was engaged in securities solicitations.
- 29. At Mallion's direction, the call-center operator engaged in a scheme that operated as follows:
  - a. Solicitors employed at the call center used purchased lead lists to call prospective investors throughout the United States and inquired whether the prospect had an active brokerage account with online order-entry functionality.
  - If the prospective investor had such a brokerage account, the solicitors would pitch LXRT/USLG to the prospect.
  - c. Once a prospective investor was persuaded to purchase LXRT/USLG and determined how much money he or she would like to invest, the solicitor would tell the investor that a "market maker" needed to be contacted to determine the appropriate share price.
  - d. Instead of contacting a market maker, the solicitor would pass this information on to the call-center operator, who would contact Mallion.
  - e. Mallion would then check the current level II quotation (which shows the offers on the ask and bid) for LXRT/USLG and provide the call center-operator with a limit order price.
  - f. The call-center operator would communicate that price to the solicitor, who would pass the information along to the investor.

- g. The solicitor would instruct the investor to enter a purchase limit order online in the investor's brokerage account at the coordinated price. At the same time, Mallion would place a sell limit order for the same amount of shares at the same price.
- h. Through these means, the investor's buy order and Mallion's sell order were likely to match, thus enabling Mallion to liquidate his position in LXRT/USLG piecemeal into a market with ready purchasers.
- i. The call-center operators and Mallion would discuss how many shares of the investor's order were "captured" (i.e., matched between the investor and Mallion), and Mallion would pay the call-center operator a commission.
- 30. In addition to the above-discussed conduct, after the completion of the LXRT/USLG merger, Mallion was also involved in soliciting prospective investors to purchase restricted shares of USLG via subscription agreements.
- 31. Mallion used lead lists to engage in cold-call solicitations of prospective investors throughout the United States and distributed subscription agreements to interested prospects.
- 32. When soliciting prospective investors, Mallion used the alias Richard Burnstein in order to conceal his true identity from the prospects.
  - 33. Through this offering, USLG raised over \$6 million.
  - 34. USLG did not register its securities offerings with the Commission.

## FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF Violations of Section 15(a)(1) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78o(a)(1)]

- 35. The Commission re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation in paragraphs 1–34, inclusive, as if they were fully set forth herein.
  - 36. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendant:

- a. engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for the account of others; and
- b. directly or indirectly, made use of the mails or the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce to effect transactions in, or to induce or attempt to induce the purchase or sale of, securities without being registered as a broker or dealer with the Commission or associated with a broker or dealer registered with the Commission.
- 37. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants violated and, unless enjoined, will continue to violate Section 15(a)(1) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78o(a)(1)].

#### SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)]

- 38. The Commission re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation in paragraphs 1–34, inclusive, as if they were fully set forth herein.
- 39. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendant, directly or indirectly, individually or in concert with others, in the offer and sale of securities, by use of the means and instruments of transportation and communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails has (1) employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; (2) obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of material fact or omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and (3) engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit.
- 40. With respect to violations of Sections 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act, Defendant was at least negligent in his conduct and in the untrue and misleading statements alleged herein.

- 41. With respect to violations of Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act, Defendant engaged in the above-referenced conduct knowingly or with sever recklessness.
- 42. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant violated and, unless enjoined, will continue to violate Section 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)].

#### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Exchange Act Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5]

- 43. The Commission re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation in paragraphs 1–34, inclusive, as if they were fully set forth herein.
- 44. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendant, directly or indirectly, individually or in concert with others, in connection with the purchase or sale of securities, by use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce or by use of the mails has (a) employed devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud; (b) made untrue statements of material facts or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and (c) engaged in acts, practices, and course of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon purchasers, prospective purchasers, and other persons.
- 45. Defendant engaged in the above-referenced conduct and made the above-referenced untrue and misleading statements knowingly or with severe recklessness.
- 46. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant violated and, unless enjoined, will continue to violate Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Exchange Act Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

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#### **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

Violations of Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77e(a), 77e(c)]

- 47. The Commission re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation in paragraphs 1–34, inclusive, as if they were fully set forth herein.
  - 48. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendant, directly or indirectly:
- a. made use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or of the mails to sell securities, as to which no registration statement was in effect, through the use or medium of any prospectus or otherwise;
- b. carried or caused to be carried through the mails or in interstate commerce, by any means or instrument of transportation, securities, as to which no registration statement was in effect, for the purpose of sale or for delivery after sale; and,
- c. made use of any means or instruments of transportation or communications in interstate commerce or of the mails to offer to sell or offer to buy through the use or medium of any prospectus or otherwise securities as to which no registration statement had been filed.
- 49. In regard to the sale of securities described herein, no exemption validly applied to the registration requirements described above.
- 50. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant violated and, unless enjoined, will continue to violate Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77e(a), 77e(c)].

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court enter a final judgment:

I.

Permanently restraining and enjoining Defendant from, directly or indirectly, engaging in conduct in violation of Sections 5(a), 5(c), and 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a), 77e(c), 77q(a)], Sections 10(b) and 15(a)(1) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b), 78o(a)(1)], and Exchange Act Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5];

II.

Permanently restraining and enjoining Defendant from directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, through any entity owned or controlled him, soliciting any person or entity to purchase or sell any security;

III.

Ordering Defendant to disgorge all ill-gotten gains or unjust enrichment derived from the activities set forth in this Complaint, together with prejudgment interest thereon;

IV.

Ordering Defendant to pay a civil penalty pursuant to 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)];

V.

Retaining 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; and,

VI. 1 Granting such other and further relief as this Court may deem just, equitable, or necessary 2 3 in connection with the enforcement of the federal securities laws and for the protection of 4 investors. 5 DATED: October 10, 2019. Respectfully submitted, 6 7 Taviel D. Whipple 8 9 10 David D. Whipple Florida Special Bar No. A5502589 11 Direct Dial: (801) 524-4112 12 Email: whippleda@sec.gov Lead Attorney 13 **Attorney To Be Noticed** 14 Amy J. Oliver 15 Florida Special Bar No. A5502307 Direct Dial: (801) 524-6748 16 Email: olivera@sec.gov 17 **Attorney To Be Noticed** 18 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION** 19 351 South West Temple, Suite 6.100 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1950 20 Tel.: (801) 524-5796 21 Fax: (801) 524-3558 22 23 24 25 26 27 28