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Attorneys for Court-Appointed Receiver R. Wayne Klein

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH CENTRAL DIVISION

R. WAYNE KLEIN, as Receiver,	
Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT
v.  BRUCE S. TAYLOR, a Utah resident d/b/a REAL PROPERTY SOLUTIONS, and JOHN DOES NOS. 1-5,	(Ancillary to Case No. 2:12-cv-00591)  Civil No.
Defendants.	

R. Wayne Klein, the Court-Appointed Receiver (the "Receiver" or "Plaintiff") of National Note of Utah, LC ("National Note"), its subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively, unless otherwise stated, National Note and all subsidiaries and affiliated entities are referred to herein as "NNU"), and the assets of Wayne LaMar Palmer ("Palmer"), in the case styled as Securities and Exchange Commission v. National Note of Utah, LC et al., Case No. 2:12-cv-00591 (D. Utah) (Jenkins, J.) (the "SEC Civil Enforcement Case"), hereby files this Complaint against Bruce S.

Taylor d/b/a Real Property Solutions ("<u>Taylor</u>") and John Does Nos. 1-5 ("<u>Defendant Does</u>") (collectively, "Defendants") and states, alleges and avers as follows:

#### **STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

1. NNU was operated as an enterprise with all of the characteristics of a Ponzi scheme through which money was solicited from investors. Upon information and belief, Taylor obtained funds from NNU, and has not returned those funds to NNU. The Receiver seeks to recover those funds for the benefit of the receivership estate established in the SEC Civil Enforcement Case discussed in greater detail below.

### **PARTIES**

- 2. Pursuant to an Order Appointing Receiver and Staying Litigation entered on June 25, 2012 in the SEC Civil Enforcement Case (the "Receivership Order"),<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff is the duly-appointed Receiver for National Note and Palmer "together with any and all subsidiaries and affiliated entities of National Note and Palmer. . . ."<sup>3</sup>
- 3. Upon information and belief, Bruce S. Taylor d/b/a Real Property Solutions is a resident of or is domiciled in in the State of Utah.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Defendant Does are currently unknown parties who received loan proceeds from NNU, or are persons to whom Taylor has transferred monies received from NNU.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See SEC Civil Enforcement Case, Docket No. 1 (Complaint).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> SEC Civil Enforcement Case, Docket No. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Id.* (Receivership Order, pp. 1-2).

#### **JURSIDICTION AND VENUE**

- 5. Subject matter jurisdiction is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
- 6. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants.
- 7. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 754.

## **FACTS**

#### The Ponzi Scheme

- 8. Since at least 1994 until the commencement of the SEC Civil Enforcement Case, NNU raised capital by soliciting investors to purchase promissory notes, which typically promised to pay interest at a rate of interest above market rates.
- 9. Upon information and belief, investors understood that they were investing in an enterprise that, among other things, bought and sold mortgage notes, underwrote and made loans, or bought and sold real estate assets through National Note, or one of many affiliated entities subject to the Receivership Order, all of which are referred to herein collectively as "NNU."
- 10. Typically, investment funds were deposited in a commingled bank account controlled by NNU. NNU would then transfer such investor funds to another bank account (the "Investor Account").
- 11. Monies on deposit in the Investor Account were commingled, and transfers to investors by NNU were made from the commingled funds on deposit in that Investor Account.
  - 12. NNU paid monies to persons for bringing investors to NNU.
  - 13. At all times relevant hereto, NNU was insolvent.

#### **The Amounts Transferred to Taylor**

- 14. Taylor received \$17,500.00 from NNU (the "Transfers").
- 15. On information and belief, NNU received nothing in return for the Transfers.
- 16. Taylor has not repaid the Transfers to NNU.
- 17. In total, Taylor owes NNU \$17,500.00.

## The SEC Civil Case and the Receiver's Appointment

- 18. On June 25, 2012, the SEC Civil Enforcement Case was filed, alleging that NNU is a Ponzi scheme, and seeking, among other things, orders (a) restraining and enjoining NNU and Palmer from continuing to violate federal securities laws, (b) freezing assets and prohibiting NNU from transferring, changing, wasting, dissipating, converting, concealing, or otherwise disposing of assets, (c) prohibiting NNU from destroying, mutilating, concealing, transferring, altering, or otherwise disposing of NNU's books and records, (d) imposing civil money penalties against NNU and Palmer, and (e) requiring the disgorgement by NNU and Palmer of all illgotten gains received by them pursuant to the scheme.
- 19. Also on June 25, 2012, as a result of the filing of the SEC Civil Enforcement Action, the Court entered a Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause against the defendants<sup>5</sup> and the Receivership Order appointing the Receiver.<sup>6</sup> Since that time, both National

4

4814-1084-7764\1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> SEC Civil Enforcement Case, Docket No. 1 (Complaint).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *Id.*, Docket No. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *Id.*, Docket No. 9.

Note and Palmer have stipulated to a Preliminary Injunction Order that prohibits National Note and Palmer from committing any further acts in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme and that prohibits National Note and Palmer from withdrawing, transferring, selling, buying, pledging, encumbering, assigning, dissipating, concealing, or otherwise disposing of any of their assets.<sup>7</sup>

20. On or about May 21, 2013, the Court entered an Order authorizing the Receiver to commence legal proceedings for the benefit of and on behalf of the receivership estate.<sup>8</sup>

#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Avoidance of Fraudulent Transfers Under Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-5(1)(a) and 25-6-8)

- 21. The Receiver realleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.
- 22. NNU was engaged in an enterprise with all of the characteristics of a Ponzi scheme.
  - 23. NNU made the Transfers to Taylor in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.
  - 24. At all relevant times hereto, NNU had at least one creditor.
- 25. The Transfers were paid and any obligations to Taylor incurred with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud a creditor of NNU.
- 26. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-5(1)(a) and 25-6-8, the Receiver may avoid and recover the Transfers paid to Taylor or, in the event such Transfers were transferred, from the Defendant Does.

4814-1084-7764\1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> *Id.*, Docket Nos. 45 and 46.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> *Id.*, Docket No. 315.

#### **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

(Avoidance of Fraudulent Transfers Under Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-5(1)(b) and 25-6-8)

- 27. The Receiver realleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.
- 28. NNU was engaged in an enterprise that has all of the characteristics of a Ponzi scheme.
  - 29. NNU paid the Transfers to Taylor in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.
  - 30. At all relevant times hereto, NNU had at least one creditor.
- 31. The Transfers were paid or the obligations to Taylor were incurred by NNU without receiving a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers or obligations.
- 32. At the time the Transfers were paid, NNU (a) was engaged or was about to be engaged in a business or transaction for which the remaining assets of NNU were unreasonably small in relation to the business or transaction; or (b) intended to incur, or believed or reasonably should have believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay as such debts became due.
- 33. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-5(1)(b) and 25-6-8, the Receiver may avoid and recover the Transfers paid to Taylor or, in the event such Transfers were transferred, from the Defendant Does.

#### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Avoidance of Fraudulent Transfers Under Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-6(1) and 25-6-8)

- 34. The Receiver realleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.
  - 35. NNU was engaged in a Ponzi scheme.

- 36. NNU paid the Transfers to Taylor in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.
- 37. NNU had at least one creditor at the time that the Transfers were made or the obligation to Taylor was incurred.
- 38. The Transfers were paid or the obligation to Taylor was incurred by NNU without NNU receiving a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers or obligation.
- 39. NNU was insolvent at the time the Transfers were paid or the obligation was incurred, or became insolvent as a result of the Transfers or the obligation incurred.
- 40. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-6(1) and 25-6-8, the Receiver may avoid and recover the Transfers to Taylor or, in the event such Transfers were transferred, from the Defendant Does.

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

(Constructive Trust)

- 41. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.
- 42. The Transfers paid were comprised of property of NNU and were made by NNU in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.
- 43. Allowing Defendants to retain the Transfers would unjustly enrich Defendants and would be inequitable.
  - 44. The Transfers can be traced to wrongful behavior.
  - 45. An injustice would result if Defendants were allowed to keep the Transfers.
- 46. A constructive trust for the benefit of the receivership estate must be imposed for the benefit of the receivership estate in the amount of the Transfers paid by NNU to Defendants.

## FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(*Unjust Enrichment*)

- 47. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.
- 48. The Transfers were comprised of property of NNU and were made by NNU in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.
  - 49. The Transfers conferred a benefit upon Defendants.
  - 50. The Defendants knowingly benefitted from the Transfers.
- 51. Allowing Defendants to retain the Transfers would unjustly enrich Defendants and would be inequitable.
- 52. Absent return of the Transfers, the receivership estate will be damaged by Defendants' unjust enrichment and may have no adequate remedy at law.
  - 53. Defendants must disgorge the amount of the Transfers.

## SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Disgorgement)

- 54. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.
  - 55. The Transfers were paid as part of and in furtherance of a Ponzi scheme.
  - 56. The Transfers were ill-gotten by Defendants.
- 57. Defendants have no claim to the Transfers paid by NNU, or derivatively, from NNU's investors.
- 58. The Transfers should be disgorged to the Receiver for the benefit of the receivership estate.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Receiver prays for Judgment against Defendants as follows:

- B. Pursuant to the Receiver's First Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendants avoiding the Transfers under Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-5(a)(1) and 25-6-8, and permitting Plaintiff's recovery of the value of the Transfers in the total amount of \$17,500.
- C. Pursuant to the Receiver's Second Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendants avoiding the Transfers under Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-5(a)(2) and 25-6-8, and permitting Plaintiff's recovery of the value of the Transfers in the total amount of \$17,500.
- D. Pursuant to the Receiver's Third Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendants avoiding the Transfers under Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-6(1) and 25-6-8, and permitting Plaintiff's recovery of the value of the Transfers in the total amount of \$17,500.
- E. Pursuant to the Receiver's Fourth Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendants imposing a constructive trust for the benefit of the receivership estate on any and all Transfers.
- F. Pursuant to the Receiver's Fifth Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendants for unjust enrichment, and requiring Defendants to disgorge the Transfers in the total amount of \$17,500.
- G. Pursuant to the Receiver's Sixth Claim for Relief, entry of an Order requiring Defendants to disgorge the Transfers in the total amount of \$17,500.
- H. Judgment for pre-judgment interest, costs, and fees, including reasonable attorney's fees, as may be allowed by law.

I. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED this 21st day of June, 2013.

## **DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP**

/s/ Peggy Hunt

Peggy Hunt Chris Martinez Jeffrey M. Armington Attorneys for Receiver JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS R. Wayne Klein, as Receiver				DEFENDANTS BRUCE S. TAYLOR, a Utah resident d/b/a REAL PROPERTY SOLUTIONS, and JOHN DOES NOS. 1-5,						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Salt Lake (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			· · · · · ·	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Salt Lake  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Peggy Hunt Dorsey & Whitney, LLP 136 South Main Street #	•	,		Attorneys (If Know	vn)					
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☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	□ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability	☐ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability ☐ 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY		of Property 21 USC 88 0 Other LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards	0 8 0 8 0 8	PROPE 20 Copy 30 Pater 40 Trad OCIAL 61 HIA	RTY RIGHTS  wrights at emark  SECURITY (1395ff)	□ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration		
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☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/ Accommodations ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Habeas Corpus:  463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General		Income Security Act	<b>-</b> 8	B70 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) B71 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609		□ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
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VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE Jenkins			D	OCKE	T NUMBER 2:1	2-cv-00591		
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