Peggy Hunt (Utah State Bar No. 6060) Chris Martinez (Utah State Bar No. 11152) Nathan S. Seim (Utah State Bar No. 12654) **DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP** 136 South Main Street, Suite 1000 Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1685 Telephone: (801) 933-7360 Facsimile: (801) 933-7373 Email: <u>hunt.peggy@dorsey.com</u> <u>martinez.chris@dorsey.com</u> <u>seim.nathan@dorsey.com</u>

Attorneys for Court-Appointed Receiver R. Wayne Klein

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

R. WAYNE KLEIN, as Receiver,

v.

Plaintiff,

R.C. WILLEY HOME FURNISHINGS AND R.C. WILLEY FINANCIAL SERVICES, COMPLAINT

(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 ("<u>National Note</u>"), its subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively, unless

otherwise stated, National Note and all subsidiaries and affiliated entities are referred to herein as

"<u>NNU</u>"), and the assets of Wayne LaMar Palmer ("<u>Palmer</u>"), 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 R.C.

Willey Home Furnishings and R.C. Willey Financial Services (together, "Defendant"), 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.<sup>1</sup> Upon information and belief, Defendant is an entity that received funds from NNU, and the Receiver seeks to avoid the transfers and/or recover the value of the transfers from Defendant for the benefit of the receivership estate established in the SEC Civil Enforcement Case discussed below.

#### PARTIES

2. Pursuant to an Order Appointing Receiver and Staying Litigation entered on June 25, 2012 in the SEC Civil Enforcement Case (the "<u>Receivership Order</u>"),<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff is the duly-appointed Receiver for National Note and the assets of Palmer "together with any and all subsidiaries and affiliated entities of National Note and Palmer...."<sup>3</sup>

3. Upon information and belief, R.C. Willey Home Furnishings is an entity incorporated in the State of Utah and which conducts business in the State of Utah.

Upon information and belief, R.C. Willey Financial Services is a DBA of R.C.
 Willey Home Furnishings.

#### 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 Defendant.
- 7. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 754.

<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).

#### **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 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 "<u>NNU</u>."

10. Typically, investment funds were deposited in a commingled bank account controlled by NNU.

11. At all times relevant hereto, NNU was insolvent.

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

12. 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

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against NNU and Palmer, and (e) requiring the disgorgement by NNU and Palmer of all illgotten gains received by them pursuant to the scheme.<sup>4</sup>

13. Also on June 25, 2012, as a result of the filing of the SEC Civil Enforcement Case, 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 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>

14. 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>

#### **The Fraudulent Transfers**

15. Upon information and belief, prior to the filing of the SEC Civil Enforcement Case, funds from NNU's comingled accounts in at least the amount of \$41,273.77 were transferred to Defendant relating to outstanding account balances (all transfers to Defendant, including additional transfers that may be found through discovery or otherwise, are referred herein as the "<u>Transfers</u>"). The Transfers to the Defendant from January 1, 2007 forward are itemized in the schedule attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>, which schedule is incorporated herein by

<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.

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

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

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reference. To the extent additional transfers are found through discovery or otherwise, the Receiver will seek recovery of those transfers as well.

16. Upon information and belief, funds were also transferred to insiders of NNU, who used the funds to make payments to Defendant related to outstanding account balances. To the extent that these transfers exit, they are included in the "<u>Transfers</u>" definition set forth above, and this Complaint may be amended to seek avoidance of such Transfers at a later date after further information is obtained.

#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

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

17. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.

- 18. NNU was engaged in an enterprise with all the characteristics of a Ponzi scheme.
- 19. The Transfers constitute an interest of NNU in property.
- 20. NNU made the Transfers to Defendant in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.
- 21. At all relevant times hereto, NNU had at least one creditor.
- 22. The Transfers were made and any obligations to Defendant were incurred with

actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud a creditor of NNU.

23. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-5(1)(a) and 25-6-8, the Receiver may avoid and recover the Transfers to Defendant for the benefit of the receivership estate.

#### SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

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

24. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.

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25. NNU was engaged in an enterprise with all the characteristics of a Ponzi scheme.

26. NNU made the Transfers to Defendant in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.

27. At all relevant times hereto, NNU had at least one creditor.

28. The Transfers were made or the obligations to Defendant were incurred by NNU without receiving a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers or obligations.

29. At the time the Transfers were made, 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.

30. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-5(1)(b) and 25-6-8, the Receiver may avoid and recover the Transfers to Defendant for the benefit of the receivership estate.

#### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

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

31. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.

32. NNU was engaged in a Ponzi scheme.

33. NNU made the Transfers to Defendant in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.

34. NNU had at least one creditor at the time that the Transfers were made or the obligations to Defendant were incurred.

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35. The Transfers were made or the obligations to Defendant were incurred by NNU without NNU receiving a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers or obligations.

36. NNU was insolvent at the time the Transfers were made or the obligations were incurred, or became insolvent as a result of the Transfers or the obligations incurred.

37. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 25-6-6(1) and 25-6-8, the Receiver may avoid and recover the Transfers to Defendant for the benefit of the receivership estate.

#### FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Constructive Trust)

38. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.

39. The Transfers to Defendant were comprised of property of NNU and were made by NNU in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.

40. Allowing Defendant to retain the Transfers would unjustly enrich Defendant and would be inequitable.

41. The Transfers can be traced to wrongful behavior.

42. An injustice would result if Defendant was allowed to keep the Transfers.

43. 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 made by NNU to Defendant.

#### FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Unjust Enrichment)

44. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.

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45. The Transfers to Defendant were comprised of property of NNU and were made by NNU in furtherance of the Ponzi scheme.

46. The Transfers conferred a benefit upon Defendant.

47. Upon information and belief, the Defendant knowingly benefitted from the Transfers.

48. Allowing Defendant to retain the Transfers would unjustly enrich Defendant and would be inequitable.

49. Absent return of the Transfers, the receivership estate will be damaged by Defendant's unjust enrichment and may have no adequate remedy at law.

50. Defendant must disgorge the amount of the Transfers for the benefit of the receivership estate.

# SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Disgorgement)

51. The Receiver re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the preceding allegations as if set forth completely herein.

52. The Transfers were made as part of and in furtherance of a Ponzi scheme.

53. The Transfers were ill-gotten by Defendant.

54. Defendant has no claim to the Transfers made by NNU, or derivatively, from NNU's investors.

55. All Transfers made to Defendant should be disgorged to the Receiver for the benefit of the receivership estate.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

A. Pursuant to the Receiver's First Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendant 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.

B. Pursuant to the Receiver's Second Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendant 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.

C. Pursuant to the Receiver's Third Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendant 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.

D. Pursuant to the Receiver's Fourth Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendant imposing a constructive trust for the benefit of the receivership estate on any and all Transfers.

E. Pursuant to the Receiver's Fifth Claim for Relief, judgment against Defendant for unjust enrichment, and requiring Defendant to disgorge the Transfers.

F. Pursuant to the Receiver's Sixth Claim for Relief, entry of an Order requiring Defendant to disgorge the Transfers.

G. Judgment for pre-judgment interest, costs, and fees, including reasonable attorney's fees, as may be allowed by law.

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

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DATED this 24th day of June, 2013.

### **DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP**

/s/ Peggy Hunt

Peggy Hunt Chris Martinez Nathan S. Seim Attorneys for Receiver

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JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and provided by local rules of court purpose of initiating the civil do	. This form, approved by the	ne Judicial Conference of	t the Unit	ed States in September I	of pleadings or other papers a 974, is required for the use of	as required by law, except as the Clerk of Court for the					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS R. Wayne Klein, as Rece	iver			DEFENDANTS R.C. WILLEY HOME FURNISHINGS AND R.C. WILLEY FINANCIAL SERVICES,							
(b) County of Residence of (E.	First Listed Plaintiff <b>S</b> CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	alt Lake sesy		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>Salt Lake</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.							
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Peggy Hunt Dorsey & Whitney, LLP 136 South Main Street #*				Attorneys (If Known)							
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)			RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff					
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Proceeding Sta	moved from □ 3 te Court □ 3 Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 28 U.S.C. § 754	Appellate Court	<b>1</b> 4 Rein: Reop e filing <i>(I</i>		r District Litigation						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	DN Brief description of ca	use: alue of transfers fro	m Defe	ndant for the benefit	of the receivership esta	te.					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION	D	EMAND \$ 41,273.77	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND:						
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE Jenkins			DOCKET NUMBER 2:1	2-cv-00591					
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