# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING whether there has been a violation of the Securities Act of Washington by:

MICHAEL PALOMA; PINE CANYON ENTERPRISES, INC.; KEITH ROBERTSON,

Respondents.

Order Number S-05-008-07-SC01

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER AN ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY FUTURE REGISTRATION, IMPOSE FINES, AND RECOVER COSTS

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO:

Michael Paloma Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. Keith Robertson, CRD # 2644885

#### STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Please take notice that the Securities Administrator of the State of Washington has reason to believe that the Respondents, Michael Paloma; Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc.; and Keith Robertson have violated the Securities Act of Washington and that their violations justify the entry of an order of the Securities Administrator against each to cease and desist from such violations under RCW 21.20.390, to deny future registration pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1), to impose fines pursuant to RCW 21.20.395, and to charge costs pursuant to RCW 21.20.390(5). The Securities Administrator finds as follows:

### TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT

#### **Respondents**

1. Michael Paloma ("Paloma") is a resident of Mesa, Arizona. Paloma is an entertainer and owner of Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc., a Nevada corporation.

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- 2. Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. ("Pine Canyon") was a Nevada corporation with its principal place of business at 2550 N Thunderbird Circle, Suite 211, Mesa, Arizona 85215. Pine Canyon's corporate status was revoked as of May 1, 2007 by the Nevada Secretary of State.
- 3. Keith Robertson ("Robertson") is a resident of Colbert, Washington. Robertson owns a sole proprietorship called C3 Consultants. As a consultant, Robertson advises companies on business development, raising capital, and going public. Robertson was registered as a securities salesperson for a registered broker-dealer in the State of Washington from October 23, 1995 to March 31, 2004. His CRD number is 2644885.

## **Nature of the Conduct**

- 4. Courtside Products, Inc. ("Courtside") is a Washington corporation with its principal place of business at 111 N. Vista Road, Suite 1-E, Spokane Valley, WA 99212. Courtside does business as Sport Saq. Courtside designs, produces, and sells athletic bags tailored for specific sports. Lola Emter ("Emter") is president and CEO of Courtside.
- 5. In early 2004, Emter consulted Merrill Lynch in Spokane about locating private investors for Courtside. Emter was contacted by Keith Robertson, who represented that he was a consultant with C3 Consultants who could help Courtside find private investors. Robertson had been employed by Merrill Lynch from October 2003 to March 2004.
- 6. Robertson asked Emter whether she had considered taking Courtside public. Going public would mean that the stock could be freely traded in a public market, such as the over-the-counter dealer market or a stock exchange. Emter responded that she did not know anything about taking a company public and wanted to locate private investors. Robertson and Emter had a second conversation on or after May 10, 2004. Robertson stated he had been having a difficult time finding private investors for Courtside.

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Robertson had met with Michael Paloma who had indicated to Robertson that he could raise \$1 million for Courtside through a public offering. At the conclusion of her conversation with Robertson, Emter agreed that Courtside should go public in order to raise money.

- 7. Robertson did not inform Emter of either the steps of going public or the pros and cons of going public. Robertson suggested doing a Regulation D Rule 504 offering and listing the stock on the Pink Sheets. Emter did not know what the Pink Sheets were and assumed Courtside would trade on the New York Stock Exchange. The Pink Sheets is not an exchange, but a publication which provides bid and ask prices for over-the-counter stocks. Robertson did not adequately inform Emter of the nature of a Regulation D, Rule 504 offering. Under Regulation D, Rule 504, a company is exempt from federal securities registration requirements for offerings up to \$1 million in any 12-month period. However, under Rule 504 a company may not advertise or publicly offer its securities to investors unless the security is registered in the state where it is offered, or qualifies for an exemption from registration which allows for public solicitation. In Texas, where the Courtside stock was initially sold, the shares were not registered. Advertising and general solicitation were not allowed under a Texas exemption, so any unregistered shares offered pursuant to the Rule 504 exemption had to be restricted. Purchasers of restricted stock can sell their shares only under limited circumstances. Essentially, restricted stock could not be traded in the over-the-counter market. By offering its securities under Rule 504, Courtside would not have a resale market available to it for at least several years.
- 8. Robertson and Emter orally agreed that Robertson would act as a consultant who would hire the people who would take Courtside public. Robertson and Emter signed a fee agreement on May 26, 2004 stating that Robertson would receive a 10% commission on all funds C3 Consultants provided for Courtside up to \$2 million, a 5% commission on funds raised between \$2 and \$5 million, and a 2% commission on any

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funds raised in excess of \$5 million. Robertson received 1 million shares of Courtside stock directly from Courtside as payment for his consultant services for the "Rule 504" offering.

- 9. In his role as consultant, Robertson arranged for Michael Paloma and his company Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. ("Pine Canyon") to help Courtside make its public offering. On August 16, 2004, an agreement was signed between Courtside and Pine Canyon. Under the agreement, Pine Canyon would file the paperwork to list Courtside in the Pink Sheets. Courtside agreed to issue five percent of its shares to Pine Canyon or its designees as payment for services. Two and a half percent of Courtside's stock would be made available for a sale under Regulation D, Rule 504 in which Pine Canyon promised at least \$250,000 would be raised for Courtside.
- 10. Pine Canyon and its attorney Ken Christison drafted the documents necessary for Emter to sign to create the offering. Pine Canyon hired First American Stock Transfer as the transfer agent. Robertson remained involved throughout the offering process as a middleman or "conduit" between the parties. Robertson helped explain the transaction and the documents which needed to be completed. Emter never met Paloma.
- 11. On September 17, 2004, Courtside issued 18.25 million shares under Regulation D, Rule 504. At the direction of Paloma, these shares were issued equally to three different companies owned by Paloma and all located at the same address in Texas: Great Northern Equity, Inc., SS Viking Group, and Estrella Mountain Express, Inc. Paloma did not inform Emter why she needed to issue the stock to these companies. Emter issued the stocks as directed and believed that these shares would be publicly traded through the companies. The forms prepared by Paloma and signed by Emter denoted that the stock being transferred was "Rule 504 Regulation D No Restrictions." The transfer forms were misleading because Rule 504 stock

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is restricted under Texas law. Emter believed that because the form denoted the stock had no restrictions, Courtside stock could be freely traded.

- 12. Robertson received a referral fee from Paloma for referring Courtside to Pine Canyon. The referral fee consisted of 2 million shares of Courtside stock that had originally been issued to the companies designated by Paloma.
- 13. Courtside was quoted in the Pink Sheets October 11, 2004. A Form D was never filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), which is required within fifteen days of the first sale made in reliance of Rule 504.
- 14. Paloma hired promoters in Florida who sent out "blast" faxes and emails to promote the stock. Thousands of unsolicited faxes and emails were sent, often as serial transmissions to the same recipient. These faxes and emails were titled "Market Adviser Report" or "Emerging Equity Alert." They promoted Courtside stock as a "top pick" and "strong buy" and stated that Courtside was a prime target for takeover by Nike or Reebok. The statements that Courtside was a prime target for a takeover had no factual basis. The faxes and emails were sent to recipients in numerous states. The blasts continued from October 2004 to January 2005. The blasts led the SEC to issue an Order on January 28, 2005 (File No. 500-1), which suspended trading of Courtside stock until February 10, 2005 for failing to comply with the restrictions of Regulation D, Rule 504. Paloma failed to inform Emter that the stock would be advertised with blast faxes and emails in violation of the advertising and solicitation restrictions of Rule 504 under which it was purportedly offered. The use of the blast faxes meant that Courtside did not qualify for the Rule 504 exemption and was therefore offering unregistered securities. Moreover, the suspension of trading and bad press limited Courtside's ability to find investors and raise funds.

15. Prior to the suspension of trading, Robertson sold 300,000 shares of the Courtside stock he received as a referral fee for a profit. Robertson did not inform Emter of the sale. To date, Courtside has received only \$75,000 of the \$250,000 in capital promised by Paloma in exchange for giving up 7.5% of its stock.

16. The SEC filed a civil complaint in an unrelated matter against Michael Paloma in *Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Paloma, Bardasian & Desert Winds Ent. Corp.*, No. 1:02CV00645 (D. D.C.). The complaint alleged violations of the registration and anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws. On April 8, 2002, Paloma consented to entry of a final judgment requiring him to pay \$442,319 in disgorgement, \$27,070 in prejudgment interest, and a \$65,000 civil fine. The judgment permanently enjoined Paloma from violating Sections 5(a), 5(c), and 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 10(b) and Rule 10b-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These provisions make the sale of unregistered securities unlawful, and prohibit any acts or omissions that result in fraud or deceit in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of securities. Neither Robertson nor Paloma informed Emter of Paloma's previous securities violations prior to Courtside signing the agreement to give 7.5% of its stock to Paloma and Pine Canyon.

17. At approximately the same time that Robertson was assisting Courtside with its Rule 504 offering, he was also providing equity consulting services to Xtreme Technologies, Inc. ("Xtreme"), a Washington corporation and telecommunications company doing business at 14004 E. Arrowleaf, Spokane, Washington 99206 (now known as Xtreme Oil and Gas, Inc.). Robertson advised Xtreme that it could raise up to \$1 million through a public offering with Paloma. Robertson connected Xtreme with Paloma and Pine Canyon to do a Regulation D Rule 504 offering on the Pink Sheets. Robertson remained involved as a middleman. Xtreme signed an agreement on August 16, 2004 with Pine Canyon which, like the Courtside

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agreement signed the same day, stated that Xtreme agreed to issue five percent of its shares to Pine Canyon or its designees as payment for services. Two and a half percent of Xtreme's stock would be made available for a sale under Regulation D, Rule 504 in which Pine Canyon promised to raise at least \$250,000 for Xtreme. Shares of Xtreme were issued to Paloma's companies Great North Equity, Inc. and SS Viking Group. Robertson received 4.5 million shares of Xtreme stock as payment for consultant services directly from Xtreme. Robertson also received a referral fee of 2 million shares of Xtreme stock from Paloma and Pine Canyon. As with Courtside, Xtreme stock was advertised with spam faxes and emails. Xtreme did not receive the \$250,000 promised by Paloma and Pine Canyon. Robertson sold all 2 million shares of Xtreme stock that he received from Paloma for a profit. A Form D was never filed with the SEC for the Washington corporation Xtreme Technologies, Inc., which is required within fifteen days of the first sale made in reliance on Regulation D, Rule 504.

18. Keith Robertson, while employed in 2003 as securities salesperson at Alliant Securities, Inc. ("Alliant"), made an unauthorized sale of restricted stock to a client. Robertson solicited the sale, touted the stock as a safe investment, failed to explain the nature of restricted stock, and completed a direct sale transaction without the knowledge or authorization of Alliant. Robertson made a second unauthorized sale of the same restricted stock to a relative. Alliant discovered the sales after Robertson had left its employment. Alliant filed an amended Form U-5 in 2005 reporting the occurrences.

## **Registration Status**

19. Michael Paloma is not currently registered as a broker-dealer, investment adviser, investment adviser representative, or securities salesperson in the State of Washington and has not previously been registered.

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- 20. Keith Robertson was registered as a securities salesperson for several registered broker-dealers in the State of Washington from October 23, 1995 to March 31, 2004. Robertson is not currently registered as a securities salesperson in the State of Washington. Robertson is not currently registered as a broker-dealer, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative in the State of Washington and has not previously been so registered.
- 21. Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. is not currently registered as broker-dealer or investment adviser in the State of Washington and has not previously been registered.
- 22. Neither Courtside Products, Inc. nor Xtreme Technologies, Inc. is registered to sell its securities in Washington and neither has been previously so registered.

Based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact, the following Conclusions of Law are made:

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The offer or sale of the Courtside securities constitutes the offer or sale of a security as defined in RCW 21.20.005(10) and (12).
- 2. The offer or sale of securities was made in violation of RCW 21.20.010, the anti-fraud provision of the Securities Act, because respondents, Michael Paloma, Pine Canyon Enterprises, and Keith Robertson, in connection with the transactions in which they obtained Courtside stock as payment for services, made misleading statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts, which tended to work a fraud on Courtside. These representations included that Courtside stock would be freely traded even though the offering was not registered or otherwise in compliance with Regulation D, Rule 504. Robertson and Paloma also misrepresented themselves in undertaking to take Courtside public even though neither was registered as a broker-dealer and therefore could not legally engage in the business of effecting transactions in securities. Further, Robertson and Paloma omitted to inform Courtside of Paloma's settlement with the

SEC for securities fraud prior to Courtside agreeing to do business with Pine Canyon. Robertson and Paloma failed to file a Form D with the SEC following the first sale of securities made in reliance on Regulation D Rule 504.

- 3. Keith Robertson dba C3 Consultants acted as an investment adviser as defined in RCW 21.20.005(6) because C3 Consultants was in the business of providing advice, in exchange for compensation, on the sale of securities. By receiving shares of Courtside and Xtreme stock, Robertson received compensation, and by advising Courtside and Xtreme to make Regulation D, Rule 504 offerings through Pine Canyon, Robertson engaged in the business of advising others on selling securities.
- 4. Keith Robertson and Michael Paloma each acted as a broker-dealer or salesperson as defined in RCW 21.20.005(2) and (3) when they arranged for the sale of Courtside and Xtreme stock.
- 5. Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. acted as a broker-dealer as defined in RCW 21.20.005(3) in connection with the sale of Courtside and Xtreme stock.
- 6. Keith Robertson violated RCW 21.20.040, the section of the Securities Act requiring registration of broker-dealers, securities salespersons, and investment advisers, because he aided, made recommendations or otherwise rendered advice regarding the sale of securities while not registered as a broker-dealer, securities salesperson, investment adviser or investment adviser representative in the State of Washington when he effected transactions in the stock of Courtside and Xtreme.
- 7. Michael Paloma violated RCW 21.20.040, the section of the Securities Act requiring registration of broker-dealers, securities salespersons, and investment advisers, because Michael Paloma acted as a broker-dealer or securities salesperson in connection with the sale of Courtside and Xtreme stock while not being registered as a broker-dealer or securities salesperson in the State of Washington.

- 8. Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. violated RCW 21.20.040, the section of the Securities Act requiring registration of broker-dealers, securities salespersons, and investment advisers, because Pine Canyon acted as a broker-dealer in connection with the sale of Courtside and Xtreme stock while not being registered as a broker-dealer in the State of Washington.
- 9. Keith Robertson violated RCW 21.20.020, the investment adviser anti-fraud provision of the Securities Act, by receiving shares of Courtside stock as compensation for consulting services which tended to operate as a fraud or deceit upon Courtside.

# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ORDER RESPONDENT TO CEASE AND DESIST

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.390, and based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that Respondents Keith Robertson, Michael Paloma, and Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. each permanently cease and desist from violations of RCW 21.20.010 and RCW 21.20.040, and that Respondent Keith Robertson permanently cease and desist from violations of RCW 21.20.020.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY FUTURE APPLICATION

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1), and based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that any future broker-dealer, securities salesperson, investment adviser and/or investment adviser representative application of Keith Robertson be denied.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.395 and based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that:

a. Respondents Michael Paloma shall be liable for and pay a fine of \$10,000;

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- b. Respondent Keith Robertson shall be liable for and pay a fine of \$10,000.
- Respondent Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. shall be liable for and pay a fine of \$10,000. c.

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO RECOVER COSTS

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.390(5), and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that the Respondents Michael Paloma, Keith Robertson, and Pine Canyon Enterprises, Inc. shall be jointly liable for and pay the Securities Division not less than \$8,500 in costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the conduct of the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter.

## **AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE**

This Statement of Charges is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 21.20.110, RCW 21.20.390, and RCW 21.20.395 and is subject to the provisions of RCW 21.20.120, RCW 21.20.440, and Chapter 34.05 RCW. The Respondent may make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING accompanying this Order. If a Respondent does not request a hearing, the Securities Administrator intends to adopt the foregoing Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as final, and enter a permanent cease and desist order against that Respondent, the and imposing the fines and recovering costs sought, and, if applicable, taking action to deny future registration as to that Respondent.

DATED and ENTERED this 29th day of June, 2007.

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MICHAEL E. STEVENSON Securities Administrator

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