

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING	
Whether there has been a violation of the	DFI No.: S-14-1415-17-FO05
Securities Act of Washington by:	OAH No.: 07-2016-DFI-00013
)	
Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.;	FINAL ORDER AS TO DEAN SPROLES
Dean Sproles; James Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller;)	•
Frederick J. Birks; Dean A. Esposito;	
Joseph DeVito; Viper Asset Management, LLC;)	
Gryphon Asset Management, LLC; and	
DJC Consulting, LLC;)	
)	
Respondents.	

THIS MATTER has come before the Director ("Director") of the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions ("Department") for entry of the Director's Final Decision & Order pursuant to RCW 34.05.464.

1.0 PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 26, 2016, the Director, through Securities Administrator, William M. Beatty, entered a Statement of Charges and Notice of Intent to Issue Order to Cease and Desist, to Impose Fines and to Charge Costs, S-14-1415-15-SC01 ("Statement of Charges") against Dean Sproles ("Respondent") and other named parties. The Statement of Charges, together with a Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, and an Application for Adjudicative Hearing, were served on Respondent Sproles, by certified mail on May 3, 2016. Respondent Sproles, on May 16, 2016, submitted an Application for Adjudicative Hearing.

On July 28, 2016, OAH held a prehearing conference with Administrative Law Judge Terry A. Schuh ("ALJ Schuh") presiding. The Department's representative, Assistant Attorney General Jong Lee ("AAG Lee"), and the Respondent attended the prehearing conference. On August 2, 2016, ALJ Schuh issued a Prehearing Conference Order and Notice of Hearing ("Prehearing Conference Order") that set the hearing for February 13-16, 2017. The

FINAL ORDER AS TO DEAN SPROLES In re: Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.

OAH No.: 07-2016-DFI-00013 DFI No.: S-14-1415-17-F005

Prehearing Conference Order stated, "DEFAULT: If you do not participate in any stage of the proceedings or if you fail to appear at your hearing, you may be held in default. This means you lose the right to a hearing and your appeal will be dismissed. RCW 34.05.440." The Prehearing Conference Order was mailed to Respondent's address of record at that time.

On November 30, 2016, ALJ Schuh presided over a Hearing on Department of Financial Institutions' Motion for Continuance ("Continuance Hearing"). AAG Lee and Respondent attended the Continuance Hearing. On December 2, 2016, ALJ Schuh issued an Order Granting the Continuance and Notice of Hearing and of Amended Case Schedule ("Amended Case Schedule Order"). The Amended Case Schedule Order set the hearing for April 17-20, 2017. The Amended Case Schedule Order also set a hearing date for oral arguments on dispositive motions for February 14, 2017. The Amended Case Schedule Order stated, "You must call in or appear, as directed, at each scheduled event. If you fail to do so, the administrative law judge may hold you in default and dismiss your appeal. RCW 34.05.440(2). If you are unable to call in or appear, you may request a continuance of the hearing." The Amended Case Schedule Order was mailed to Respondent's address of record at that time.

On December 29, 2016, Respondent mailed a change of mailing address to OAH and the Department, along with a discovery request.

On January 17, 2017, AAG Lee filed a Motion for Summary Judgment with OAH. Respondent later contacted AAG Lee to discuss a continuance for filing dispositive motions. AAG Lee submitted a request to OAH seeking an extension of the briefing schedule on February 10, 2017. ALJ Schuh did not grant the motion, intending to hear the motion at the hearing scheduled for February 14, 2017.

On February 14, 2017, ALJ Schuh convened the scheduled motion hearing. AAG Lee and Financial Legal Examiner Jack McClellan attended the motion hearing for the Department. Respondent did not appear for the motion hearing. AAG Lee moved for an order of default against Respondent. On February 21, 2017, ALJ Schuh issued an Order Dismissing Appeal, which found the Respondent in default under RCW 34.05.440 and dismissed his appeal. The Order Dismissing Appeal notified Respondent of his rights to file a request to vacate the order, and provided

FINAL ORDER AS TO DEAN SPROLES In re: Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.

OAH No.: 07-2016-DFI-00013 DFI No.: S-14-1415-17-FO05

24

instructions for doing so. The Order Dismissing Appeal further notified Respondent that such a request must be received by OAH within seven days from the date of service of the order. The Order Dismissing Appeal was mailed to Respondent's new address of record.

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.440(3), Respondent Sproles had seven (7) days from the date of service of the Order Dismissing Appeal to file a written request to vacate the default. Respondent Sproles did not file a request to vacate the Order Dismissing Appeal during the statutory period.

2.0 RECORD ON REVIEW

The record presented to the Director for her review and for entry of a final decision included the following:

- 2.1 Statement of Charges, with documentation of service;
- 2.2 Application for Adjudicative Hearing for Dean Sproles;
- 2.3 Notice of Prehearing Conference, dated July 8, 2016, with certificate of service;
- 2.4 Prehearing Conference Order and Notice of Hearing, dated August 2, 2016, with certificate of service;
- 2.5 Order Granting the Continuance and Notice of Hearing and of Amended Case Schedule, dated December 2, 2016, with certificate of service;
- 2.6 Change of address request from Dean Sproles, dated December 29, 2016;
- 2.7 Division's Motion for Summary Judgment, dated January 17, 2017;
- 2.8 Division's Request for Continuance, dated February 10, 2017;
- 2.9 Order Dismissing Appeal, dated February 21, 2017, with certificate of service.

3.0 FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.461, the Director hereby adopts the Statement of Charges, which is attached hereto.

4.0 FINAL DECISION & ORDER

Based upon the foregoing, and the Director having considered the record and being otherwise fully advised,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

FINAL ORDER AS TO DEAN SPROLES In re: Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.

OAH No.: 07-2016-DFI-00013 DFI No.: S-14-1415-17-F005

- 4.1 Respondent, Dean Sproles, shall cease and desist from any further violations of RCW 21.20.140, RCW 21.20.040, and RCW 21.20.010.
- 4.2 Respondent, Dean Sproles, shall be liable for and shall pay a fine to the order of Washington State Department of Financial Institutions of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00).
- 4.3 Respondent, Dean Sproles, shall be liable for and shall pay costs of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to the order of Washington State Department of Financial Institutions for the investigation of his violations of the Securities Act of Washington, chapter 21.20. RCW.

5.0 RECONSIDERATION

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.470, the Respondent has the right to file a Petition for Reconsideration stating the specific grounds upon which relief is requested. The Petition must be filed in the Office of the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions by courier at 150 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, Washington 98501, or by U.S. Mail at P.O. Box 41200, Olympia, Washington 98504-1200, within ten (10) days of service of the Final Order upon Respondents. The Petition for Reconsideration shall not stay the effectiveness of this order nor is a Petition for Reconsideration a prerequisite for seeking judicial review in this matter.

A timely Petition for Reconsideration is deemed denied if, within twenty (20) days from the date the petition is filed, the agency does not (a) dispose of the petition or (b) serve the parties with a written notice specifying the date by which it will act on a petition.

6.0 STAY OF ORDER

The Director has determined not to consider a Petition to Stay the effectiveness of this order. Any such requests should be made in connection with a Petition for Judicial Review made under chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 34.05.550.

7.0 JUDICIAL REVIEW

FINAL ORDER AS TO DEAN SPROLES In re: Iyerson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.

OAH No.: 07-2016-DFI-00013 DFI No.: S-14-1415-17-FO05

Respondent has the right to petition the superior court for judicial review of this agency action under the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. For the requirements for filing a Petition for Judicial Review, see RCW 34.050.510 and sections following.

8.0 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER

If Respondent does not comply with the terms of this order, the Department may seek its enforcement by the Office of Attorney General to include the collection of fines and fees imposed herein. Failure to comply with this Final Decision & Order may also prompt additional actions against Respondent by the Department as permitted by the Securities Act of Washington, Chapter 21.20 RCW, for failure to comply with a lawful order of the Department.

9.0 SERVICE

For purposes of filing a Petition for Reconsideration or a Petition for Judicial Review, service is effective upon deposit of this order in the U.S. mail, declaration of service attached hereto.

DATED this 6 day of March 2017.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

GEORIA PAPIEZ Acting Director

Washington State Department of Financial Institutions

FINAL ORDER AS TO DEAN SPROLES In re: Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.

OAH No.: 07-2016-DFI-00013 DFI No.: S-14-1415-17-F005

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING)	Order No.: S-14-1415-15-SC01
Whether there has been a violation of the)	
Securities Act of Washington by:)	STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENT
)	TO ENTER ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, TO
Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.; Dean Sproles;)	IMPOSE FINES AND TO CHARGE COSTS
James Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller; Frederick J.)	
Birks; Dean A. Esposito; Joseph DeVito; Viper)	
Asset Management, LLC; Gryphon Asset)	
Management LLC; DJC Consulting LLC;)	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,)	
Respondents.)	

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO:

1.5

Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.
Dean Sproles
James Lisowsky
Gregory Groeller
Frederick J. Birks
Dean A. Esposito
Joseph DeVito
Viper Asset Management, LLC
Gryphon Asset Management LLC
DJC Consulting LLC

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Please take notice that the Securities Administrator of the state of Washington has reason to believe that Respondents, Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.; Dean Sproles; James Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller; Frederick J. Birks; Dean A. Esposito; Joseph DeVito; Viper Asset Management, LLC; Gryphon Asset Management LLC; and DJC Consulting LLC, have each violated the Securities Act of Washington. The Securities Administrator believes those violations justify the entry of an order against the Respondents to cease and desist from such violations and to charge costs pursuant to RCW 21.20.390, and under RCW 21.20.395 to impose fines. The Securities Administrator finds as follows:

TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondents

- 1. Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc. ("Iverson") is a Nevada corporation formed on or about March 7, 2007 with its headquarters located in Seattle, Washington. Iverson offers genetic testing services to help health care providers detect diseases and determine proper dosing for medication.
- 2. Dean Sproles ("Sproles") resides in South Carolina. Sproles resided in Seattle and acted as the Chief Executive Officer of Iverson from the company's inception until approximately April, 2014.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE
OF INTENT TO ENTER ORDER TO
CEASE AND DESIST AND TO IMPOSE FINES
AND TO CHARGE COSTS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Securities Division
PO Box 9033
Olympia WA 98507-9033
360-902-8760

3.

4

11

13

18

20

24

Gregory Groeller ("Groeller") is believed to reside in New Jersey. Groeller solicited investments on behalf of Iverson. Groeller has a Central Registration Depository ("CRD") number of 2768372. Groeller has not been registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer since 2000.

James Lisowsky ("Lisowsky") is believed to reside in Burkeville, Texas. Lisowsky solicited

- 5. Dean A. Esposito ("Esposito") is believed to reside in Boca Raton, Florida. Esposito solicited investments on behalf of Iverson while working for Viper Asset Management, LLC. Esposito has a CRD number of 2303699. Esposito has not been registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer since 2005.
- Joseph DeVito ("DeVito") is believed to reside in Brooklyn, New York. DeVito solicited investments on behalf of Iverson while working for Viper Asset Management, LLC. DeVito has a CRD number of 3034780. DeVito has not been registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer since 2001.
- Frederick J. Birks ("Birks") resides in Orlando, Florida. Birks solicited investments on behalf of 7. Iverson while working for Viper Asset Management, LLC and Iverson later hired Birks to work directly for Iverson. Iverson also paid Birks through an entity he controlled called Gryphon Asset Management LLC. Birks has a CRD number of 243962. Birks has not been registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer since 2005.
- 8. Viper Asset Management, LLC ("Viper") was a Florida entity formed on or about November 10, 2010. Esposito and DeVito acted as the managers of Viper. Viper earned commissions for sales of Iverson securities by Esposito, DeVito, and Birks. Viper dissolved in October 2014.
- Gryphon Asset Management LLC ("Gryphon") is a Florida entity formed on or about March 18, 2004. Birks manages Gryphon. Iverson paid commissions to Gryphon for sales of Iverson securities by Birks.
- DJC Consulting LLC ("DJC") was a Florida entity formed on or about February 12, 2008. Esposito and DeVito acted as the managers of DJC. DJC earned commissions for selling Iverson securities. DJC dissolved in September 2009.

Nature of the Offering

- 11. Between 2007 and 2015, Iverson raised in excess of \$19.5 million from over 400 investors by selling debentures, stock, warrants, and convertible promissory notes. Iverson paid large commissions to unregistered salespersons to sell Iverson investments to investors across the United States. The unregistered salespersons Iverson used to solicit its investments typically had prior administrative orders for violating securities laws, and in some cases, criminal records involving theft or fraud.
- 12. The salespersons for Iverson typically told potential investors that within 6 to 24 months the company would be going public through an initial public offering. Salespersons also encouraged investors to purchase stock before the price for shares increased in the next few months.

2

360-902-8760

24

25

13. Iverson stock never traded on a public exchange. In 2015, Iverson petitioned for chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Iverson Securities Offerings

14. Iverson, while headquartered in Washington State, offered investments in the form of debentures, convertible promissory notes, common stock, and warrants. Iverson sold most investors common stock or converted investors to stock at the maturity of their note or debenture.

Debentures / Convertible Promissory Notes

- 15. Between 2007 and 2015, Iverson conducted multiple offers of what it called convertible debentures and convertible promissory notes. The convertible debentures and convertible note offerings had similar investment terms. Iverson typically offered an interest rate of 10% per year on the debentures and notes. The length of time that Iverson offered for repayment differed slightly in the various debenture and note offerings. Initially Iverson offered a debenture that called for repayment in 18 months. In later debenture and note offerings, Iverson offered repayment periods of 12 or 24 months. Typically, but not always, Iverson offered debenture and note investors the option to convert the debt into Iverson common stock at the end of the repayment term.
- 16. Iverson failed to repay at least one 2007 Iverson debenture investor at the maturity of the debenture agreement in 2009. Iverson failed to disclose this failure to comply with repayment terms in its later debenture and convertible promissory note offerings.

Stock & Warrants

- 17. Between 2007 and 2015, Iverson conducted multiple offers of its common stock. Initially, Iverson offered shares at a price of \$0.20 per share. Over time Iverson also offered shares at \$0.35 per share, \$1.00 per share, \$2.50 per share, and \$5.00 per share. Some Iverson stock offerings also included warrants for the purchase of additional stock in the future.
- 18. Regardless of the time period in which Iverson sold stock, the sales method generally remained the same. Iverson salespersons told potential investors that Iverson stock would be offered on a public exchange within 6-24 months and that the value of the stock would increase significantly when that happened.
- 19. In 2009, when Iverson sold shares at a price of \$0.20 per share, Lisowsky represented to at least one investor that the price would be \$2 per share when Iverson conducted an initial public offering within 24 months. In 2011, DeVito represented to at least one investor that Iverson shares selling at \$0.35 per share would be worth \$7 per share when Iverson conducted an initial public offering in 18 months. In 2011, Esposito represented to at least one investor that Iverson shares selling for \$0.35 per share would be worth \$8 to \$12 per share when the company went public in 18 to 24 months. Groeller represented to at least one investor that Iverson stock selling for \$1 per share would be worth \$5 to \$7 per share when Iverson went public in 6 to 12 months. In 2013, Birks represented to at least one investor that Iverson stock selling for \$2.50 per share would be worth \$10 per share at an initial public offering.

public offering.

10

12

18

20

25

OF INTENT TO ENTER ORDER TO

The Respondents failed to provide a reasonable basis for these projected share prices and projected dates for an initial

Revised Investment Offers

- 20. In 2007, Iverson offered convertible debentures bearing an interest rate of 10% which matured in 18 months. At the end of the 18 months the investor had the option of repayment or conversion to Iverson common stock at a price of \$1 per share. In 2008, Iverson conducted an offering of common stock at \$0.20 per share. As Iverson's initial debentures approached maturity, debenture purchasers faced the option of seeking repayment or paying \$1 per share for common stock that Iverson concurrently offered at a price of \$0.20 per share. Because of the higher stock conversion price, Iverson likely faced a situation where most, if not all, of the debenture holders would seek repayment of principal in or around the same time period. In mid-2008, Iverson sought to amend the terms of the debenture offering to equalize its stock conversion price to the price of current common stock offering. Iverson sent out "Revised Investment Terms" to both the existing convertible debenture purchasers and the existing \$0.20 per share common stock purchasers. The "Revised Investment Terms" sent to the debenture purchasers differed slightly to the "Revised Investment Terms" sent to the stock purchasers.
- 21. In or about August 2008, Iverson sent debenture purchasers the offer for "Revised Investment Terms." In the debenture version of Iverson's "Revised Investment Terms" offer, Iverson asked the investor to choose between two options. In one option, Iverson asked the investor to accept the "Revised Investment Terms" that would convert the investment to Iverson common stock at a price of \$0.20 per share. The other option that Iverson provided to the investor was to decline the "Revised Investment Terms" and request return of the original investment funds.
- 22. In or about November 2008, Iverson sent stock purchasers an offer for "Revised Investment Terms." In this version of Iverson's "Revised Investment Terms" offer, Iverson also asked investors to choose between two options. In the first option, Iverson asked the investor to accept to continue to participate in the stock offering, which had been modified to allow for additional investment funds from debenture conversions. The other option that Iverson provided to the investor was to decline the "Revised Investment Terms" and request return of investment funds.
- 23. At least one Iverson debenture investor opted to request a return of his original principal in August 2008. Iverson did not repay the investor until September 2009, over a year after requesting the return of principal, and five months after the terms of the original debenture contract called for repayment.
- 24. At least one Iverson stock investor opted to request a return of his original principal amount in November 2008. Sproles told the investor that the cash that Iverson had raised had all been allocated and Iverson would not be returning the investor's funds.
- In its "Revised Investment Terms" offerings, Iverson failed to disclose financial information about its 25. ability to repay investors who chose to request a return of their original investment. Iverson failed to disclose in later

4

Terms" offerings.

5

11

20

24

debenture and promissory note offerings that it had failed to comply with repayment terms in its "Revised Investment

Private Sales of Iverson Stock

- 26. While Iverson never successfully launched an initial public offering of Iverson stock, Esposito, DeVito, and Birks ("Viper Salespersons") facilitated a private market for investors to sell their Iverson stock. The Viper Salespersons kept large portions of the purchase price when they facilitated these transactions. Iverson and Sproles knew of the private market transactions. Iverson, Sproles, and the Viper Salespersons failed to disclose the amount of money that the Viper Salespersons retained when facilitating these private transactions, Iverson, Sproles, and the Viper Salespersons also failed to disclose that while Iverson and the Viper Salespersons conducted an offering for Iverson stock at one price, the Viper Salespersons simultaneously brokered a private market for Iverson shares at lower prices.
- 27. Viper Salespersons facilitated the private sale of several Iverson investors' shares to multiple buyers. The sellers and buyers typically did not know the identity of one another. Buyers of the stock in private sales transactions entered into a 'Stock Purchase Agreement' with DJC in which DJC represented that it was selling its own shares to the buyer. However, DJC seldom owned the shares and instead facilitated the sales from a seller to multiple buyers. Buyers in the private sale transactions made payments to DJC c/o Viper in Florida. Because the buyers and sellers never communicated with one another, and Viper Salespersons handled all of the funds, the buyers and sellers did not know that Viper Salespersons retained 30% or more of the purchase price in these private sale transactions.
- 28. A private sale conducted by Esposito and Birks illustrates how these transactions worked. In early 2012, when Iverson offered shares at \$1 per share, Birks told a potential investor that Birks could acquire 35,000 shares of Iverson common stock for the potential investor at a price of \$0.60 per share from an existing shareholder. Meanwhile, Esposito told the seller of those shares that Esposito could sell the investor's shares at price of \$0.40 per share. The buyer, through Birks, sent \$21,000 to DJC c/o Viper in Florida to acquire the shares. DJC kept \$7,000 of the buyer's funds and Esposito transferred \$14,000 to the seller for his 35,000 shares. The buyer and seller never communicated with one another and neither knew the price at which the other had agreed upon for the sale. The Viper Salespersons failed to disclose to the buyer and seller the \$7,000 they retained for facilitating the private sale, amounting to over 30% of the purchase price.
- 29. Sproles, while acting as Iverson's CEO, sold some of his own personal shares in Iverson through private sales transactions. In or about April 2013, when Iverson offered shares at \$2.50 per share, Sproles sold 59,000 of his personal Iverson shares to an investor for \$1 per share. In or about June 2013, Sproles sold 35,000 of his personal Iverson shares to another investor for \$1 per share.

11

21

30. Iverson, Sproles, and the Viper Salespersons failed to disclose to Iverson investors that while Iverson and the Viper Salespersons conducted an offering of shares from the company at one price, Sproles and the Viper Salespersons facilitated a private market for shares at a lower price.

Iverson's Salespersons

- 31. Iverson paid over \$1.3 million in commissions to the unregistered salespersons it used to solicit its investment offerings. Iverson paid at least one salesperson a salary, but paid most salespersons commissions of 20% of the amount raised. Additionally, Iverson also compensated some salespersons with shares of Iverson stock. The Respondents failed to disclose the compensation paid by Iverson for the sale of its securities.
- 32. Iverson sold a majority of its stock through Viper. Esposito, DeVito, and Birks sold Iverson stock while working for Viper. Iverson had no written contract with Viper for the sale of securities, but generally paid Viper 20% of the amount Viper raised, plus stock compensation equal to 3% of all shares issued through Viper. Between January 2011 and August 2013, Viper charged Iverson over \$1.3 million in cash commissions.
- 33. In or about October 2013, Sproles hired Birks to work directly for Iverson. Iverson contracted to pay Birks a salary of \$50,000 per year plus a 10% cash commission for all proceeds raised by Birks. Iverson also granted Birks 15,000 shares of Iverson stock per year. Iverson paid Birks' commissions, over \$43,000 between October 2013 and February 2014, to Gryphon.
- 34. A number of the unregistered salespersons that Iverson paid to sell its investments had previously been found to have violated securities laws. Two of the salespersons had previously filed for bankruptcy. Two of the salespersons had criminal records. Iverson, Sproles, and Iverson's salespersons failed to disclose this information to investors.

James Lisowsky

- 35. Beginning in approximately 2007 and continuing until at least early 2010, Lisowsky solicited multiple investors to invest in Iverson securities. Lisowsky, Sproles, and Iverson failed to disclose material information about Lisowsky to Iverson investors.
- 36. In January 1997, Grand Jurors for Travis County, Texas presented an indictment against Lisowsky for theft over \$1,500. In June 1997, the District Clerk for Travis County issued an arrest warrant for Lisowsky on the charge. According to Travis County, that warrant is still outstanding.
- 37. In December 2000, Grand Jurors for Jefferson County, Texas presented an indictment against Lisowsky for felony theft in the second degree. The indictment alleged that Lisowsky stole at least \$100,000, but less than \$200,000 from an individual. In August 2001, Lisowsky entered into a plea admonishment with the Jefferson County District Court in which Lisowsky pled guilty to the charge of felony theft in the second degree. In May 2002 the 252nd District Court of Jefferson County entered a Deferred Adjudication Order in the matter which placed Lisowsky under community supervision and ordered him to pay restitution to his victim through installments totaling

10

14

17

19

\$147,512.62. In 2005 and 2007, the District Court discharged Lisowsky from his community supervision and dismissed the cause.

- 38. Iverson, Sproles, and Lisowsky failed to disclose Lisowsky's criminal record to investors. Lisowsky instructed at least one Iverson investor wire funds to his personal bank account. In March 2009, a Washington investor wired \$2,500 to Lisowsky. At the time of her investment through Lisowsky, Iverson did not provide any confirmation of her investment. Lisowsky eventually stopped communicating with the investor. In or around October 2010 the investor contacted Sproles about her Iverson investment. Sproles told the investor that he would have to consult with attorneys and get back to her. Sproles told the investor that Liswosky had gotten into some trouble, but did not elaborate. Sproles never disclosed what happened to the investor's funds, but Iverson did issue 12,500 shares of stock in late 2010, over a year after the investor sent funds to Lisowsky.
- Iverson awarded some investors additional shares on instructions from Lisowsky. Iverson, Sproles, and Lisowsky failed to disclose the criteria used for determining when Lisowsky could grant additional shares to investors.
- 40. Iverson sent a rescission offer to at least one investor who purchased through Lisowsky, because Lisowsky did not have authority to sell the shares. Iverson failed to disclose to later Iverson investors that it had issued unauthorized securities and the possible risks associated with the unauthorized sale.

Gregory Groeller

- 41. From approximately September 2011 through 2012, Groeller solicited individuals to invest in Iverson securities. Groeller sold Iverson stock to at least two individuals. Groeller, Sproles, and Iverson failed to disclose material information about Groeller to Iverson investors.
- 42. In or about May 2001, Groeller entered into an Acceptance, Waiver & Consent with the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") to settle charges that Groeller violated NASD rule 2110 by engaging in transactions in client accounts without the consent or authorization of clients. Groeller agreed to pay a fine of \$10,000, to pay restitution in the amount of \$18,174.15, and to a suspension from association with any NASD member for 30 business days.
- 43. In or about March 2002, Groeller petitioned for chapter 7 bankruptcy and was granted a standard discharge in approximately August 2002.
- 44. In or about October 2003, Groeller pled guilty to a felony charge of conspiracy to defraud the United States and was sentenced to three years of probation, including 300 hours of community service. Groeller was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$500,000.
- Iverson, Sproles, and Groeller failed to disclose Groeller's NASD action, bankruptcy, and felony 45. conviction to investors.

7

10

14

12

Dean Esposito

- 46. From approximately January 2011 through August 2013, Esposito solicited individuals to invest in Iverson stock. Esposito sold Iverson stock to at least one investor. Esposito, Sproles, and Iverson failed to disclose material information about Esposito to Iverson investors.
- 47. In or about October 2005, Esposito entered into an Offer of Settlement with the NASD to settle charges that Esposito violated NASD rules 2110 and 8210 when he falsified or forged the signature of another registered representative on client forms without their consent. Esposito also failed to respond truthfully during testimony with the NASD. As a part of the settlement Esposito agreed to be barred from association with any NASD member in any capacity.
- 48. In or about February 2008, the SEC filed a civil action against Esposito and others in which the SEC alleged that Esposito acted as an unregistered broker and sold unregistered securities. The SEC further alleged that Esposito participated in the manipulation of the stock price of Weida Communications, Inc. in private sales transactions. In connection with the private sale of the stock, Esposito collected excessive, undisclosed commissions of between 10%-20% of the sale price.
- 49. In or about August 2010, Esposito settled the 2008 civil action filed by the SEC and the SEC ordered Esposito barred from association with any broker or dealer.
- 50. Iverson, Sproles, Viper, and Esposito failed to disclose Esposito's NASD action and SEC actions to Iverson investors.

Joseph DeVito

- 51. From approximately January 2011 through August 2013, DeVito solicited individuals to invest in Iverson stock. DeVito sold Iverson stock to at least one investor. DeVito, Sproles, and Iverson failed to disclose material information about DeVito to Iverson investors.
- 52. In or about February 2008, the SEC filed a civil action against DeVito and others in which the SEC alleged that Esposito acted as an unregistered broker and sold unregistered securities. The SEC further alleged that DeVito collected excessive, undisclosed commissions of between 10%-20% on the sale of the securities.
- 53. In or about August 2010, DeVito settled the 2008 civil action filed by the SEC and the SEC barred DeVito from participating in the offer a penny stock for 18 months.
 - 54. Iverson, Sproles, Viper, and DeVito failed to disclose DeVito's SEC actions to Iverson investors.

Frederick Birks

55. From approximately January 2011 through January 2014, Birks sold Iverson stock to investors across the United States. Birks initially sold Iverson stock through Viper. Later Birks sold Iverson stock through Gryphon and as an employee of Iverson. Birks, Sproles, and Iverson failed to disclose material information about Birks to Iverson investors.

- 56. In or about February 2008, the SEC filed a civil action against Birks and others in which the SEC alleged that Birks acted as an unregistered broker and sold unregistered securities. The SEC further alleged that Birks collected excessive, undisclosed commissions of between 10%-20% on the sale of the securities. The SEC further alleged that Birks participated in the manipulation of the market price of a stock for the sale of stock in private transactions facilitated by Birks and others.
- 57. In or about December 2008, Birks petitioned for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy and was granted a standard discharge in approximately June 2009.
- 58. In or about August 2010, Birks settled the 2008 civil action filed by the SEC and the SEC enjoined Birks from future violations of the Securities Act and Exchange Act. The SEC also barred Birks from participating in the offering of a penny stock.
- Iverson, Sproles, Viper, Gryphon, and Birks failed to disclose Birks' SEC actions and bankruptcy to 59. investors.

Registration Status

- 60. Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc. is not currently registered to sell its securities in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered. On or about the following dates, Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc. filed a claim of exemption from registration under Regulation D, Rule 506 with the Securities and Exchange Commission: 11/2/2007; 12/15/2008; 2/2/2010; 3/30/2010; 5/14/2010; 7/22/2011; 12/2/2011; 12/5/2011; 11/26/2012; 12/16/2013; 10/9/2014 (notice filed with DFI on 12/15/2008; 7/21/2010; 12/8/2011; 12/31/2012; 2/14/2014; 10/29/2014). Pursuant to WAC 406-44A-506, Respondents were required to comply with the conditions of Regulation D. At the time of the offerings, Regulation D, Rule 506 prohibited an issuer or any person acting on behalf of an issuer from offering or selling securities by any form of general solicitation. Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc. and their agents offered and sold investments by cold-calling prospective investors, which violated the general solicitation prohibitions of Regulation D, Rule 506.
- 61. Dean Sproles is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.
- 62. James Lisowsky is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.
- 63. Gregory Groeller is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington and was not so registered during the sales alleged above. Groeller was last registered with the state of Washington in September 2000 as a securities salesperson for D.L. Cromwell Investments, Inc.
- Dean A. Esposito is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of 64. Washington and was not so registered during the sales alleged above. Esposito's last registration with the state of Washington expired in May 2005 as a securities salesperson for GLB Trading, Inc.

7

19

21

- 65. Joseph DeVito is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.
- 66. Frederick J. Birks is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington and was not so registered during the sales alleged above. Birks' last registration with the state of Washington expired in November 2000 as a securities salesperson for Mason Hill & Co., Inc.
- 67. Viper Asset Management, LLC is not currently registered as a broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.
- 68. Gryphon Asset Management LLC is not currently registered as a broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.
- 69. DJC Consulting LLC is not currently registered as a broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The offer and/or sale of the debentures, stock, and warrants described above constitute the offer and/or sale of a security as defined in RCW 21.20.005(14) and (17).
- 2. Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.; Dean Sproles; James Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller; Dean A. Esposito; Joseph DeVito; Frederick J. Birks; Viper Asset Management, LLC; Gryphon Asset Management LLC; and DJC Consulting LLC have each violated RCW 21.20.140, because, as set forth in the Tentative Findings of Fact, Respondents offered and/or sold securities for which no registration was on file with the Securities Administrator and no valid claim of exemption under WAC 460-44A-506 exists.
- 3. Dean Sproles; James Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller; Dean A. Esposito; Joseph DeVito; Frederick J. Birks; Viper Asset Management, LLC; Gryphon Asset Management LLC; and DJC Consulting have each violated RCW 21.20.040 by offering and/or selling said securities while not being registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington.
- 4. Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.; Dean Sproles; James Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller; Dean A. Esposito; Joseph DeVito; Frederick J. Birks; Viper Asset Management, LLC; Gryphon Asset Management LLC; and DJC Consulting LLC have each violated RCW 21.20.010, because, as set forth in the Tentative Findings of Fact, Respondents made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ORDER THE RESPONDENTS TO CEASE AND DESIST

Based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order, pursuant to RCW 21.20.390(1), that Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.; Dean Sproles; James

19

17

21

Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller; Dean A. Esposito; Joseph DeVito; Frederick J. Birks; Viper Asset Management, LLC; Gryphon Asset Management LLC; and DJC Consulting LLC, their agents and employees each shall cease and desist from violations of RCW 21.20.010 and RCW 21.20.140, and that Dean Sproles; James Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller; Dean A. Esposito; Joseph DeVito; Frederick J. Birks; Viper Asset Management, LLC; Gryphon Asset Management LLC; and DJC Consulting LLC, their agents and employees each shall cease and desist from violations of RCW 21.20.040.

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. Respondent Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc. shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$60,000;
- b. Respondent Dean Sproles shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$60,000;
- c. Respondent James Lisowsky shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$20,000;
- d. Respondent Gregory Groeller shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$10,000
- e. Respondent Dean A. Esposito shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$30,000;
- f. Respondent Joseph DeVito shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$30,000.
- g. Respondent Frederick J. Birks shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$40,000.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHARGE COSTS

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.390, and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that:

- a. Respondent Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc. shall be liable for and shall pay the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$10,000;
- b. Respondent Dean Sproles shall be liable for and shall pay the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$10,000;
- c. Respondent James Lisowsky shall be liable for and shall pay the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$1,000;
- d. Respondent Gregory Groeller shall be liable for and shall pay the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$500;
- e. Respondent Dean A. Esposito shall be liable for and shall pay the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$1,000;
- f. Respondent Joseph DeVito shall be liable for and shall pay the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$1,000;

11

g. Respondent Frederick J. Birks shall be liable for and shall pay the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$1,000.

AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

This Statement of Charges is entered pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 21.20 RCW and is subject to the provisions of Chapter 34.05 RCW. The Respondents, Iverson Genetic Diagnostics, Inc.; Dean Sproles; James Lisowsky; Gregory Groeller; Dean A. Esposito; Joseph DeVito; Frederick J. Birks; Viper Asset Management, LLC; Gryphon Asset Management LLC; and DJC Consulting LLC, may each 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 make a hearing request in the time allowed, the Securities Administrator intends to adopt the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as final and to enter a permanent order to cease and desist as to that Respondent, to impose any fines sought against that Respondent, and to charge any costs sought against that Respondent.

Signed and Entered this <u>26th</u> day of <u>April 2016</u>

William M. Beatty Securities Administrator

Approved by: Presented by:

An Elm

Suzanne Sarason Jack McClellan
Chief of Enforcement Financial Legal Examiner

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST AND TO IMPOSE FINES

AND TO CHARGE COSTS