# 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:

FBA Wealth Management, LLC, CRD 146390 and Adi Benyishay, CRD 2183586

Order Number S-18-2487-18-SC01

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE REGISTRATIONS, IMPOSE A FINE, AND CHARGE COSTS

Respondents.

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO:

FBA WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC CRD 281662 ADI BENYISHAY, CRD 2183586

## INTRODUCTION

Please take note that the Securities Administrator of the state of Washington has reason to believe that Respondents, FBA Wealth Management and Adi Benyishay, have violated the Securities Act of Washington. The Securities Administrator believes those violations justify the entry of an order against the Respondents revoking their registrations, imposing a fine, and charging costs. The Securities Administrator finds as follows:

#### TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT

## Respondents

1. FBA Wealth Management, LLC, (FBA) is an investment adviser located in South Hampton, Pennsylvania. FBA has been registered as an investment adviser with the Washington State Securities Division since 2014. The investment adviser's Central Registration Depository ("CRD") number is 146390. The Securities Division file number is 30003520.

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Adi Benyishay is an investment adviser representative and the president of FBA.
 Beyishay's CRD number is 218586.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

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#### **Nature of the Conduct**

- 3. Investment advisers registered in Pennsylvania must keep financial statements and net worth computations relating to the business of the investment adviser.
- 4. In addition, each investment adviser registered with the Washington Securities Division must, under WAC 460-24A-060, file with the Securities Division a fiscal year-end balance sheet within 120 days following the end of the investment adviser's fiscal year-end. The Securities Division reviews these balance sheets to determine whether the investment adviser meets the minimum financial requirements as set forth in WAC 460-24A-170. The minimum financial requirement ensures that investment advisers are able to meet their financial obligations as they come due.
  - 5. As of January 5, 2018, FBA managed \$25,000,000 in 500 accounts.
- 6. FBA has a fiscal year-end of December 31. FBA's 2016 year-end balance sheet was due by April 30, 2017. The Securities Division sent FBA several reminders to fine its year-end balance sheet. However, FBA did not file its 2016 year-end balance until June 6, 2017. On June 21, 2017, the Securities Division issued a Warning Letter to Respondents stating that future violations of WAC 460-24A-060 could result in a revocation, fines, and costs. Respondents acknowledged receipt of the letter.
  - 7. FBA's 2017 year-end balance sheet was due by April 30, 2018.
- 8. The Securities Division sent Respondents at least seven reminders by electronic mail, four reminders by regular mail, and called Respondents to remind them to file a balance sheet. On May 31, 2018, in response to a telephone call from the Securities Division, Respondents stated they would withdraw their Washington registrations by June 8, 2018. As of the date of this Statement of Charges, Respondents failed to withdraw their registrations and have not filed a balance sheet.

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

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

 Respondent FBA Wealth Management willfully violated WAC 460-24A-060 by failing to timely file a 2016 fiscal year-end balance sheet.

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- 2. Respondent FBA Wealth Management willfully violated WAC 460-24A-060 by failing to file a 2017 fiscal year-end balance sheet.
- 3. The willful violations of WAC 460-24A-060 each constitute a ground for the entry of an order to revoke registration under RCW 21.20.110(1)(b), imposing fines under RCW 21.20.110(1), and charging costs under RCW 21.20.110(7).
- 4. Respondent Adi Benyishay as the person who controls FBA Wealth Management is responsible for FBA Wealth Management's violations of WAC 460-24A-060 and is the basis for an order to revoke an investment adviser representative registration under RCW 21.20.110(6).

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE REGISTRATION

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1)(b) and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order the investment adviser registration for FBA Wealth Management be revoked.

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(6) and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order the investment adviser representative registration of Adi Benyishay be revoked.

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1) and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that Respondent FBA Wealth Management shall be liable for and pay a fine of not less than \$1,000.

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHARGE COSTS

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1) and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that Respondent FBA Wealth Management shall be liable for and pay the costs fees, and other expenses incurred by the Securities Division in an amount not less than \$500.

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## **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 RCW 21.20.120 and Chapter 34.05 RCW. The Respondents may make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing accompanying this Statement of Charges. 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 enter a permanent order to revoke registrations, impose any fines sought, and charge the costs sought.

SIGNED and ENTERED this 27th day of June, 2018.

Millian Seats

William M. Beatty Securities Administrator

Approved by:

An Elm

Suzanne E. Sarason Chief of Enforcement Presented by:

Kriskn-Standifor

Kristen Standifer Compliance Legal Examiner

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