



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING)	DFI No.: S-18-2523-20-FO01
Whether there has been a violation of the)	OAH No.: 07-2020-DFI-00107
Securities Act of Washington by:)	
)	FINAL DECISION & ORDER AS TO Geoffrey Wescott
Geoffrey Wescott James a.k.a. Geoff James or)	James a.k.a. Geoff James or Geoff Wescott, d.b.a. Veritas
Geoff Wescott, d.b.a. Veritas International Limited,)	International Limited
d.b.a. Veritas Incorporated, d.b.a. Veritas Capital)	
Partners, d.b.a. Aquila LTD Malta, and Wescott)	
Special Projects,)	
)	
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 May 1, 2020, 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-18-2523-20-SC01, (“Statement of Charges”) against Geoffrey Wescott James a.k.a. Geoff James or Geoff Wescott, d.b.a. Veritas International Limited, d.b.a. Veritas Incorporated, d.b.a. Veritas Capital Partners, d.b.a. Aquila LTD Malta, and Wescott Special Projects. 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 Geoffrey James by mail on May 2, 2020. Respondent Geoffrey James, on May 29, 2020, submitted a request for an Adjudicative Hearing. On June 2, 2020, the Department made a request to the Office of Administrative Hearings (“OAH”) to assign an Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) to schedule and conduct a hearing on the Statement of Charges.

On July 7, 2020, OAH issued a Notice of Prehearing Conference from ALJ Micah Larripa. The Notice of Prehearing Conference contained the following language: **You must call in to the conference. If you fail to call in, the administrative law judge may hold you in default and dismiss your appeal. RCW 34.05.440(2).**

1 On July 23, 2020, the Department's representative, Assistant Attorney General Jong Lee attended the
2 prehearing conference by telephone, but Respondent Geoffrey Wescott James failed to appear or otherwise contact
3 OAH. On July 27, 2020, ALJ Micah Larripa issued an Order Dismissing Appeal-Default against Respondent Geoffrey
4 Wescott James and dismissed the Respondent's appeal.

5 Pursuant to RCW 34.05.464 and WAC 10-08-211, Respondent Geoffrey Wescott James had twenty (20) days
6 from the date of service of the Order of Default to file a Petition for Review. Respondent Geoffrey Wescott James did
7 not file a Petition for Review during the statutory period.

8 2.0 RECORD ON REVIEW

9 The record presented to the Director for his review and for entry of a Final Decision & Order included the
10 following:

- 11 2.1 Statement of Charges, with documentation of service;
- 12 2.2 Request for Adjudicative Hearing for Geoffrey Wescott James;
- 13 2.3 Request to OAH for Assignment of Administrative Law Judge;
- 14 2.4 Notice of Prehearing Conference, dated July 7, 2020, with certificate of service; and
- 15 2.5 Order of Default, dated July 27, 2020, with certificate of service.

16 3.0 FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

18 4.0 FINAL DECISION & ORDER

19 Based upon the foregoing, and the Director having considered the record and being otherwise fully advised,
20 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

21 4.1 Respondent, Geoffrey Wescott James, shall cease and desist from any further violations of RCW
22 21.20.010 and RCW 21.20.140

23 4.2 Respondent, Geoffrey Wescott James, shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$30,000.

24 4.3 Respondent, Geoffrey Wescott James, shall be liable for and shall pay costs of \$8,000 for the
25 investigation of their violations of the Securities Act of Washington, chapter 21.20. RCW.

1 5.0 RECONSIDERATION

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

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

11 6.0 STAY OF ORDER

12 The Director has determined not to consider a Petition to Stay the effectiveness of this order. Any such
13 requests should be made in connection with a Petition for Judicial Review made under chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW
14 34.05.550.

15 7.0 JUDICIAL REVIEW

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

19 8.0 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER

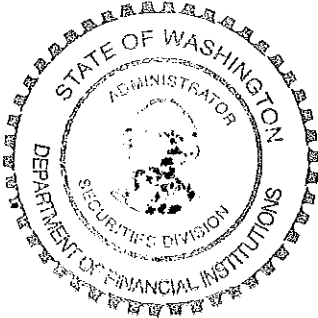
20 If Respondents do not comply with the terms of this order, the Department may seek its enforcement by the
21 Office of Attorney General to include the collection of fines and fees imposed herein. Failure to comply with this
22 Final Decision & Order may also prompt additional actions against Respondents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

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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 with a declaration of service attached hereto.

DATED this 24th day of September, 2020.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS


CHARLES E. CLARK, Director
Washington State Department of Financial Institutions