TC Ellis XRef: 1758455 KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California TJ Ellis XRef: 3813544 RONALD D. SMETANA Senior Assistant Attorney General 3 CAROLINE CHEN Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 213051 1300 I Street, Suite 125 5 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 AHG 1.4 2012 6 Z. MORTON .7 E-mail: Attorneys for People of the State of California 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO 10 11 12 12705271 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF Case No. CALIFORNIA, 13 FELONY COMPLAINT Plaintiff. 14 v. 15 TAZE CLAIBORNE ELLIS, 16 TAZE JORDAN ELLIS. 17 Defendants, 18 The People of the State of California upon oath of the undersigned, upon information and 19 belief complain against the defendants above named for the crimes as follows: 20 21 **COUNT ONE** On or about and between May 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, at and in the County of 22 Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a 23 violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did 24 25 unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of 26 /// 27 28--

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Felony Complaint

# **COUNT TWO**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charge set forth in Count One hereof: On or about and between May 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Sections 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt to

# COUNT THREE

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One and Two hereof: On or about and between May 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Sections 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

# **COUNT FOUR**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Three hereof: On or about and between May 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

#### COUNT FIVE

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Four hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and May 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of

# **COUNT SIX**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Five hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and May 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt to

#### **COUNT SEVEN**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Six hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and May 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

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# **COUNT EIGHT**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Seven hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and May 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

# **COUNT NINE**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Eight hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and March 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of

# **COUNT TEN**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Nine hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and March 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt to

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#### COUNT ELEVEN

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Ten hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and March 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

#### COUNT TWELVE

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Eleven hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and March 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

# COUNT THIRTEEN

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twelve hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and December 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of

# **COUNT FOURTEEN**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Thirteen hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and December 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt to

#### **COUNT FIFTEEN**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Fourteen hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and December 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

# **COUNT SIXTEEN**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Fifteen hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and December 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

# **COUNT SEVENTEEN**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Sixteen hereof: On or about and between July 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of

# COUNT EIGHTEEN

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Seventeen hereof: On or about and between July 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt

# **COUNT NINETEEN**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Eighteen hereof: On or about and between July 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

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#### **COUNT TWENTY**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Nineteen hereof: On or about and between July 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

# **COUNT TWENTY-ONE**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty hereof: On or about and between June 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of

# **COUNT TWENTY-TWO**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-One hereof: On or about and between June 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt to

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# **COUNT TWENTY-THREE**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-Two hereof: On or about and between June 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

**COUNT TWENTY-FOUR** 

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-Three hereof: On or about and between June 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

# **COUNT TWENTY-FIVE**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-Four hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and September 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of

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#### COUNT TWENTY-SIX

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-Five hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and September 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt to

# **COUNT TWENTY-SEVEN**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-Six hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and September 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

# **COUNT TWENTY-EIGHT**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-Seven hereof: On or about and between August 1, 2008, and September 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

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# **COUNT TWENTY-NINE**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-Eight hereof: On or about and between December 1, 2009, and December 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of

# **COUNT THIRTY**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Twenty-Nine hereof: On or about and between December 1, 2009, and December 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt to

# **COUNT THIRTY-ONE**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Thirty hereof: On or about and between December 1, 2009, and December 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

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#### **COUNT THIRTY-TWO**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Thirty-One hereof: On or about and between December 1, 2009, and December 30, 2009, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

# **COUNT THIRTY-THREE**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Thirty-Two hereof: On or about and between October 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Jordan Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did unlawfully take money and personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), to wit, money, the property of

# **COUNT THIRTY-FOUR**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Thirty-Three hereof: On or about and between October 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Jordan Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25110/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state in an issuer transaction that has not been qualified and is not exempt to

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# COUNT THIRTY-FIVE

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Thirty-Four hereof: On or about and between October 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Jordan Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25401/25540 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did offer or sell a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to

# **COUNT THIRTY-SIX**

For a further and separate cause of action, being a different offense from but connected in its commission as the charges set forth in Counts One through Thirty-Five hereof: On or about and between October 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, at and in the County of Sacramento, State of California, defendant Taze Jordan Ellis did commit a felony namely: a violation of Section 25541 of the Corporations Code of the State of California, in that said defendant did willfully employ, directly or indirectly, any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or did willfully engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security to

# SPECIAL ALLEGATION -EXCESSIVE TAKING

It is further alleged as to Counts One, Five, Nine, Thirteen, Seventeen, Twenty-One, Twenty-Five, and Twenty-Nine that in the commission of the above offenses the said defendant, Taze Claiborne Ellis, with the intent to do so, took, damaged and destroyed property of a value exceeding \$3,200,000, within the meaning of Penal Code Sections 12022.6(a)(4).

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# SPECIAL ALLEGATION -WHITE COLLAR CRIME ENHANCEMENT

It is further alleged, pursuant to Penal Code 186.11(a), that the offenses set forth in Counts One, Five, Nine, Thirteen, Seventeen, Twenty-One, Twenty-Five, and Twenty-Nine are related felonies, a material element of which is fraud and embezzlement, which involve a pattern of related felony conduct, and the pattern of related felony conduct involves the taking of more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

# SPECIAL ALLEGATION - LIMITATION ON GRANT OF PROBATION

It is further alleged as to Counts One, Five, Nine, Thirteen, Seventeen, Twenty-One, Twenty-Five, and Twenty-Nine that the theft was of an amount exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), within the meaning of section 1203.045(a) of the Penal Code.

# JURISDICTIONAL CLAUSE

It is further alleged as to Counts One through Thirty-Two, pursuant to Penal Code Section 778a, that defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis with the intent to commit crimes, did acts in Sacramento County in execution of that intent, culminating in the commission of crimes, within and without the State of California.

# STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ALLEGATIONS

It is further alleged that the above violations as charged in Counts One through Twenty-Eight were not discovered until on or about May 2009, when defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis ceased making interest payments, and that no victim of said violation and no law enforcement agency chargeable with the investigation and prosecution of said violation had actual and constructive knowledge of said violation prior to said date because of active concealment, within the meaning of Penal Code Section 803(c).

It is further alleged that the above violations as charged in Counts Twenty-Nine through Thirty-Two were not discovered until on or about December 2009, when defendant Taze Claiborne Ellis failed to provide information regarding the victim's investment money, and that no victim of said violation and no law enforcement agency chargeable with the investigation and prosecution of said violation had actual and constructive knowledge of said violation prior to said date because of active concealment, within the meaning of Penal Code Section 803(c).

It is further alleged that the above violations as charged in Counts Thirty-Three through Thirty-Six were not discovered until on or about March 2009, when defendant Taze Jordan Ellis had ceased making interest payments, and that no victim of said violation and no law enforcement agency chargeable with the investigation and prosecution of said violation had actual and constructive knowledge of said violation prior to said date because of active concealment, within the meaning of Penal Code Section 803(c).

Pursuant to Penal Code section 1054.5(b), the People are hereby informally requesting that defense counsel provide discovery to the people as required by Penal Code section 1054.3.

Dated: August 13, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California

CAROLINE CHEN

Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for People of the State of

California

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TC Ellis XRef: 1758455 KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California RONALD D. SMETANA TJ Ellis XRef: Senior Assistant Attorney General 3 CAROLINE CHEN Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 213051 1300 I Street, Suite 125 5 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 6 Telephone: Fax: 7 E-mail: Attorneys for People of the State of California 8 9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO 11 12 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF Case No. CALIFORNIA, 13 Plaintiff. DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF 14 ISSUANCE OF ARREST WARRANTS 15 TAZE CLAIBORNE ELLIS, 16 TAZE JORDAN ELLIS, 17 Defendants. 18 19 I, Jason Nichols, declare: 20 I have been employed as a Special Agent with the California Department of Justice (CA 21 DOJ) since November of 1999. As of March 1, 2012, I was assigned to work for the CA DOJ, 22 Bureau of Investigation (BI), eCrime Unit (eCU) in Sacramento, CA. Prior to my current 23 assignment, I worked for the Professional Standards Group (PSG) and Special Crimes Unit 24 (SCU), Sacramento, CA, the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, Fresno Regional Office and the 25 CA DOJ Advanced Training Center (ATC), Sacramento, CA. 26 I graduated from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), Murfreesboro, TN, in 1998. 27 I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology with minors in Criminal Justice 28

Declaration In Support of Issuance of Arrest Warrants

Administration, and Sociology. I completed a Commission on Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST) certified Specialized Basic Investigator Course academy hosted by the CA DOJ/ATC in Sacramento, CA, in February 2000. Since then, I have earned my POST Specialized Law Enforcement Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Certificates.

While assigned to the CA DOJ/SCU from November 2006 through August 2010 and since being assigned to the eCU, I have investigated a wide variety of complex criminal securities frauds, including the marketing of securities over the Internet in addition to grand theft, mortgage fraud, investment fraud as well as identity theft. I have been involved with no less than 25 cases related to the preceding and have been the lead or case agent on no less than 10 cases. I have authored and served no less than 30 search warrants for the preceding crimes for residences, banks and third party record holding companies.

I have maintained on-going training with an emphasis on financial and internet crimes over the past six years. I have received in excess of 70 hours in computer crimes investigations, attended specialized training related to the following; fraud investigations, identity theft, financial crimes investigations, and computer forensic investigations. I have conducted computer forensic examinations, and have assisted sworn personnel in the Sacramento Valley High Tech Crimes and the Napa County Computer Crimes task forces with computer crimes investigations. I am aware of fraud schemes perpetrated via the Internet, and have conducted investigations involving various Internet scams.

# **SUMMARY**

In January of 2010, I began an investigation into the activities of Taze Claiborne Ellis (TC Ellis) after being contacted by the Law Offices of K. Greg Peterson in Sacramento, California. By way of letter dated January 19, 2010, and during an in person meeting, attorney Greg Peterson (Peterson) informed me that his office had filed a civil lawsuit against TC Ellis, Joy Renee Ellis (JR Ellis), Taze Jordan Ellis (TJ Ellis), FOREX Knowledge Brokers, Inc. (FXKB, Inc.), Blacksand, Inc., and Blacksand Enterprises, Inc., *Mirrow, et al. v. Taze C. Ellis, et al.*,

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Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2009-00063061, on behalf of individuals alleging they had been scammed out of money by the fraudulent activities of the named civil defendants.

I interviewed victims of TC Ellis' fraudulent activities and searched the bank records of TC Ellis, JR Elis, TJ Ellis, FXKB, Inc. and Blacksand, Inc. This investigation has revealed that since 2007, TC Ellis and TJ Ellis have unlawfully taken at least \$7,091,625 with a total loss of approximately \$3,429,800 from multiple investors who believed TC Ellis was investing their money in real estate foreclosures or in the foreign currency market. For most of his victims, TC Ellis presented what he purported to be as investment opportunities in real estate under foreclosure. He instructed his victims to wire their monies to the business accounts of Blacksand, Inc. and FXKB, Inc. When his victims wired their monies to these accounts, the money was not spent on the purchase of foreclosed homes or otherwise in real estate investments. Rather, the victims' monies were spent on what appears to be TC Ellis' personal expenses, to pay unrelated third parties, or transferred to FOREX Capital Markets (FXCM) or MB Trading Futures, both foreign currency trading platforms.

For one victim TC Ellis offered services in foreign currency trading through what he represented as his investment brokerage business, FXKB, Inc. However, after the money was wired to the business account of FXKB, Inc., it was spent on the TC Ellis' personal expenses or to pay unrelated third parties. There is no indication in the bank records of the Ellis', FXKB, Inc., or Blacksand, Inc., that the victim's money was used to open a foreign currency trading account.

TC Ellis did not disclose to his real estate or foreign currency investors the material fact that he has felony convictions from 2002 for violating Penal Code section 487(a) (grand theft), Penal Code section 182(a)(4) (conspiracy to defraud), and a felony conviction for willful intent to defraud tax return, and was sentenced to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for four (4) years. To keep up the façade that the investors' money had been invested, TC Ellis made payments to them that he represented as investment returns. In fact, the "returns" came from money TC Ellis received from other, unrelated third parties or the

investors were paid with their own money. TC Ellis never provided full disclosure to his investors regarding how or where their money was spent or invested. TC Ellis' schemes began falling apart in 2009 when he stopped making "returns" to his victim investors.

The California Department of Corporations (DOC) has not issued a permit or other form of qualification authorizing any person to offer or sell in this State these investment opportunities in foreclosed real estate. Neither TC Ellis, TJ Ellis, FXKB, Inc., Blacksand, Inc. nor JR Ellis is registered to sell any securities in California. For the schemes perpetrated on each victim, I believe that TC Ellis is guilty of violating Penal Code section 487(a) (grand theft), Corporations Code section 25110 (qualification of securities), Corporations Code section 25401 (false statement or omission in sale of securities), and Corporations Code section 25541 (fraudulent practices.

This investigation also has revealed that in late 2008, TC Ellis' son, TJ Ellis, promised to invest \$40,000 of the money in the foreign currency market and instead, used at least half of the money for his own personal expenses. In effecting his scheme, TJ Ellis visited at his home where he prepared and executed a promissory note for promising 60% annual return on the principle in monthly payments for five years. Based on his actions, I believe that TJ Ellis is guilty of violating Penal Code section 487(a) (grand theft), Corporations Code section 25110 (qualification of securities), Corporations Code section 25401 (false statement or omission in sale of securities), and Corporations Code section 25541 (fraudulent practices).

# CALIFORNIA SECURITIES LAW

The sale of investment opportunities to the public is subject to California's Corporate Securities Law. The statutory scheme covers more than stocks; it exists to protect the public against the imposition of unsubstantial, unlawful and fraudulent investment schemes (*People v. Syde* (1951) 37 Cal.2d 765-766) and to promote the full and fair disclosure of all information necessary to make informed and intelligent investment decisions. *People v. Park* (1978) 87 Cal.App.3d 550, 565; see also *Silver Hills Country Club v. Sobieski* (1961) 55 Cal.2d 811.

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Corporations Code section 25019 defines a security to include any "...note; ... evidence of indebtedness... participation in any profit-sharing agreement... investment contract; ... or in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a 'security' .... " This definition is expansive and is designed to insure that the regulatory purpose of the law will meet "... the countless and variable schemes devised by those who seek the use of the money of others on the promise of profits." SEC v. Howey Co. (1946) 328 U.S. 293, 299; see also Silver Hills Country Club v. Sobieski, supra, 55 Cal.2d at p. 814. Keeping this purpose in mind, courts have "adhered to the principal that substance governs over form." People v. Figueroa (1986) 41 Cal.3d 714, 734.

The primary test in California to determine whether an offering is a security is the "risk capital" analysis developed in *Silver Hills Country Club v. Sobieski, supra*. By that test, an offering is a security where there is " . . . an attempt by an issuer to raise funds for a business venture or enterprise; an indiscriminate offering to the public at large where the persons solicited are selected at random; a passive position on part on the investor; and the conduct of the enterprise by the issuer with other people's money." 55 Cal.2d at 815. The basic test for distinguishing a security from other commercial dealings is whether the scheme involves an investment of money in a common enterprise with profits to come solely from the efforts of others. *People v. Smith* (1989) 215 Cal.App.3d 230, 237, relying on *SEC v. Howey Co., supra*; see also *People v. Figueroa, supra*, 41 Cal.3d at p. 734. *Reiswig v. Department of Corporations* (2006) 144 Cal. App.4th. 327, 334, says that the test for determining whether a transaction is a security:

"... requires a consideration of the following factors: (1) whether funds are being raised for a business venture or enterprise; (2) whether the transaction is offered indiscriminately to the public at large; (3) whether the investors are substantially powerless to effect the success of the enterprise; and (4) whether the investors' money is substantially at risk because it is inadequately secured." (Citing Moreland v. Department of Corporations (1987) 194 Cal.App.3d 506, 519.)

Case law demonstrates that the most important risk capital factor is collateralization, or adequate security. If the investor is adequately protected, the courts are less likely to consider the

note a security. In Hamilton Jewelers v. Department of Corporations (1974) 37 Cal. App.3d 330, the court found the investors fully secured and the investments not a security because the investors received diamonds that had a market value equal to what they paid for them. Contrast that with two cases, cited with approval in Figueroa (41 Cal.3d at p. 736). In People v. Leach (1930) 106 Cal.App. 442, unsecured promissory notes on real property were held to be securities. In People v. Walberg (1968) 263 Cal.App.2d 286, unsecured, interest bearing promissory notes were held to be securities despite the appearance of a loan transaction. In another case, People v. Schock (1984) 152 Cal.App.3d 379, the court found that inadequately collateralized fractional interests in promissory notes secured by deeds of trust were securities per se under the risk-capital test. See also People v. Corey (1995) 35 Cal.App.4th 717 [interests in a Michael Jackson board game]; People v. Miller (1987) 192 Cal.App.3d 1505 [funds borrowed for investment purposes]. More recently, in People v. Simon (1995) 9 Cal. 4th 494, 497 fn.4, the court stated "unsecured promissory notes are securities if the investor relies on the skill, services, solvency, success, and services of the issuer to ensure payment."

From May 2008 through at least April 2009, TC Ellis, residing in Sacramento, County of Sacramento, State of California, offered and sold securities in the State of California in the form of investment contracts to California and non-California investors. The investment contracts involved TC Ellis' offers to invest in the purchase and resale of foreclosed real estate.

The victim investors played a passive role limited to giving monies to TC Ellis for the purchase and resale of real estate. TC Ellis represented that he could purchase foreclosed homes or lots at a cheap price, refurbish them, and resell them at a profit to be split with the investors.

In its Desist and Resist Order issued on August 11, 2011, against TC Ellis, TJ Ellis, JR Ellis, and FXKB, Inc., the DOC determined these investment contracts to be securities offered or sold in the State of California in issuer transactions. The DOC has not issued a permit or other form of qualification authorizing any person to offer or sell these securities in this State. Neither TC Ellis, TJ Ellis, FXKB, Inc., Blacksand, Inc. nor JR Ellis is registered to sell any securities in California.

(Based on the foregoing, pursuant to Corporations Code section 25532, the DOC issued the Desist and Refrain Order on TC Ellis, TJ Ellis, JR Ellis and FXKB, Inc. to desist and refrain from the offer and sale of securities in California including investment contracts until qualification has been made under the law or unless exempt. TC Ellis and TJ Ellis have been personally served with the order. JR Ellis has yet to be served. The California Corporations Commissioner is of the opinion that TC Ellis, TJ Ellis, JR Ellis and FXKB, Inc. violated Corporations Code section 25401).

In connection with the offer and sale of these investment contracts, TC Ellis misrepresented or failed to disclose to the victim investors some or all of the following material facts: a) failed to disclose that in 2002, TC Ellis received felony convictions for violating Penal Code section 487(a) (grand theft), Penal Code section 182(a)(4) (conspiracy to defraud), and a felony conviction for willful intent to defraud tax return, and was sentenced to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for four (4) years; b) misrepresented that the investors' money would be invested in purchasing foreclosed real estate to resell. In connection with the offer and sale of these investment contracts, TC Ellis willfuly employed a scheme to defraud the victims.

In 2007, was contacted by a relative about an investment opportunity in foreign currency trading involving a person named TC Ellis. Through that contact, came to know TC Ellis and eventually gave TC Ellis money to invest in foreign currency trading for him. After some time and relative lack of success in foreign currency trading, in mid

2008, TC Ellis introduced to investment opportunities in foreclosed real estate in and

around the greater Sacramento area.

who was located in Grand Junction, Colorado, flew to Sacramento, California, to meet TC Ellis. During the visit, TC Ellis welcomed to what he, TC Ellis, represented was his home, drove by a number of houses that TC Ellis claimed he owned as rental properties or potential properties for purchase. TC Ellis was aware that

1	buying and selling foreclosed properties in Colorado.
2_	Ellis was saying about the foreclosure market in Sacramento. TC Ellis told he owned a
3	remodeling company and hired crews to cheaply refurbish the foreclosed properties and turned
4	around and sold the properties for a profit. TC Ellis said he would purchase the properties under
5	the name of his business, FXKB, Inc. TC Ellis did not disclose his felony convictions to
6	For First investment with TC Ellis in foreclosed real estate, TC Ellis provided
. 7	documentation regarding the property they were allegedly purchasing to fix up and resell. TC
8	Ellis promised a return of up to 40%. After received the promised return on the initial
9	investment on a timely basis, trusted TC Ellis and invested some more money with TC
10	Ellis in real estate without requiring that documentation for the investment be produced to him.
11	After received timely returns from TC Ellis as promised, began introducing TC
12	Ellis to his family and friends. family and friends were interested in investing their
13	money and were aware that was having success with TC Ellis.
14	Some of friends spoke directly with TC Ellis over the telephone or through email
15	Some of friends relied on to communicate with TC Ellis. Some of
16	friends met TC Ellis in person in New York while they were all in town for a conference. At
17	times, friends asked if there were any good investment opportunities and
18.	let TC Ellis know of his friends' interest. TC Ellis would email what he
19	represented as an investment opportunity in certain homes in foreclosure and for sale, and
20	would forward that information including promised rates of return by email to his friends. TC
21	Ellis represented that he could purchase bundled lots of houses in foreclosure at a reduced rate
.22	from banks and that he could refurbish the houses and sell them for a profit. TC Ellis also
23	informed the investors he had buyers already lined up so the purchase would be quick and the
24	transaction would be smooth. TC Ellis represented that the investment returns TC Ellis paid his
25	investors came from that profit. If friends were interested in investing, it was agreed
26	among TC Ellis and the friend that would share with the friend 50% of the
27	return, and TC Ellis would recover the other 50% of the return, or a similar apportionment of the
-28	

1	profit believed TC Ellis was sharing genuine investment opportunities with himself and
2_	his friends.
3	Up until about April 2009, TC Ellis was producing the promised returns to and his
4	friends on a timely basis. Knowing from his real estate background that escrow often did not
5	close on time asked TC Ellis how the real estate deals were closing on every date
6	specified by TC Ellis. At that point, TC Ellis told that not all of the foreclosures had
7	closed on the date indicated and that when they were expected to be delayed, TC Ellis had fronted
8	the money to and his friends until the actual closing dates.
9	did not have to keep fronting the money and that he and his friends understood that the real estate
0	market could be delayed at times. From that point in time, Ellis delayed his payments to
1	and his friends further and further. When this occurred, suspected that TC Ellis had been
2	defrauding himself and his friends of their investment monies.
3	TC Ellis had directed and the other victim investors to wire their money to Union
4	Bank of California (Union Bank) held in the name of FXKB, Inc. or Union Bank of
5	California held in the name of Blacksand, Inc. FXKB, Inc is a California
6	Corporation and TJ Ellis is listed as the President. JR Ellis is listed as an authorized agent for
7	FXKB, Inc. According to Department of Corporations, TC Ellis was an officer and authorized
8	agent involved in the management of FXKB, Inc. Blacksand, Inc. is registered as a Nevada
9	Corporation, doing business as (dba) Blacksand Enterprises, Inc. JR Ellis is listed as the
.0	President of Blacksand, Inc.
.1	A search warrant for the known bank accounts of TC Ellis and FXKB, Inc. including Union
2	Bank of California account and and produced bank records, which were
.3	reviewed by California Department of Justice, Investigative Auditor (IA) Robert Smith.
4	According to IA Smith, the signatories to Union Bank of California account
.5	to be TC Ellis and TJ Ellis. The signatories to Union Bank of California account
.6	appear to be TC Ellis and TJ Ellis.
7	111
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1	Mirrow wired money to Union Bank of California Blacksand, Inc. account number
2	in 2008 on May 23, June 10, June 18, July 8, July 9, July 23, July 25, July 28.
3	Mirrow wired money to invest to FXKB's Union Bank of California account, number
4	in 2008 on August 28, September 19, September 26, October 14, Oct 23, Oct 24,
5	Nov 20, Dec 12, Dec 30; and in 2009 on Jan 6, Feb 27, and April 17. Prior to mid 2009,
6	was repaid what he believed to be principle plus interest at least three times and on a timely basis
7	gave Ellis a total of \$2,761,125 to invest in foreclosed houses.
8	According to IA Smith, the bank records show the transfer of money by wire into
9	FXKB's Union Bank account and show that the funds subsequently were spent on personal
10	expenses, payment to third parties for unknown reasons, transferred to foreign currency trading
11	platforms FXCM and MB Trading and not used toward purchasing or refurbishing foreclosed
12	homes. From approximately May 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, TC Ellis unlawfully took a tota
13	of \$2,761,125 from total loss is \$1,347,000.
14	
15	resides in Fresno, CA. In the spring of 2008, introduced
16	to TC Ellis. In the summer of 2008, meet TC Ellis at TC Ellis' residence in
17	Sacramento County. TC Ellis told that he, TC Ellis, was seeking investment money to
18	purchase foreclosed houses in and around Sacramento County. TC Ellis told that since he
19	TC Ellis, had large sums of money flow through certain banks, the banks approach him and offer
20	"a lot" or a number of houses to be purchased together in a bundle. TC Ellis told
21	houses needed modest refurbishment and could then be flipped and sold for a profit. TC Ellis
22	told that he and his wife, JR Ellis, owned and operated FXKB, Inc. and that TC Ellis
23	purchased all of the houses under the business name of FXKB, Inc. TC Ellis did not disclose his
24	felony convictions to Based on TC Ellis' representations and directions, on or about the
25	following dates, wired or deposited the amounts set forth below to FXKB's Union Bank
26	account to invest in foreclosed houses:
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1	August 26, 2008	\$25,000 (On October 16, 2008, TC Ellis wired from FXKB
2		Union Bank account to \$75,000.00 plus \$12,500.00
3		for a total of \$87,500.00).
4	October 17, 2008	\$75,000.
5	December 22, 2008	\$250,000.
6	January 15, 2009	\$ 90,000.00.
7	January 21, 2009	\$140,000.00 (On or about January 26, 2009, TC Ellis wired to
8		the principle \$140,000.00 plus \$18,200.00 for a total
9		of \$158,200).
10	January 30, 2009	\$156,000.
11	TC Ellis promised a return on the .	January 30, 2009 investment to by April 15, 2009. TC
12	Ellis did not make any payments to	in return for this investment. In May 2009,
13	emailed TC Ellis asking him when	he could expect the repayment and TC Ellis gave excuses and
14	did not explain where mor	ney went. gave TC Ellis the \$156,000 to invest in
15	foreclosed houses and not for any	other purpose and not to invest in foreign currency trading.
16	The bank records showed the	e deposit of money into FXKB's Union Bank account
17	and show that the funds were spen	t by TC Ellis on personal expenses and payment to third parties
18	for unknown reasons and not used	toward purchasing or refurbishing foreclosed homes. From
19	approximately August 1, 2008 thro	ough May 30, 2009, TC Ellis unlawfully took a total of
20	\$736,000 from to	tal loss is \$27,800.
21		
22	resides	s in Canyon Lake, TX. In the summer of 2008, learned
23	from of TC Ellis' purporte	ed real estate investment opportunities.
24	that TC Ellis was offering s	hort term investments in foreclosed real estate in Sacramento,
25	CA. told that TC E	Illis had been prompt in paying returns on the investments and
26	that he, and other investor	rs at the time, summer 2008, had not experienced any problems
27	with TC Ellis. never spoke	with TC Ellis directly.
.28		11

1	approximately August 1, 2008 through March 30, 2009, TC Ellis unlawfully took a total of
_2_	\$417,500 from total loss is \$337,500.
3	
4	resides in Grand Junction, Colorado. In 2008, introduced Hasty to TC
5	Ellis. In August 2008, spoke with TC Ellis over the telephone with present on the
6	call. During the phone conversation, TC Ellis presented to an investment opportunity in
7	the foreclosure housing market in the greater Sacramento area. TC Ellis told that he would
8	use money to purchase foreclosed houses, which he would resell at a profit to buyers he,
9	TC Ellis, already had. In the phone conversation, TC Ellis described the real estate investment
10	and the expected investment return.
11	IA Smith created a spreadsheet summarizing bank records of TC Ellis obtained on search
12	warrant. I reviewed the spreadsheet with invested \$75,000 and \$150,000, via wire
13	transfer on or about August 28, 2008, into FXKB's Union Bank account.
14	additional \$160,000 on or about October 29, 2008, into the same account. Lastly, invested
15	\$350,000 on or about November 25, 2008, into the same account for a grand total of \$735,000.
16	According to the spreadsheet created by IA Smith, TC Ellis invested \$500,000 on August
17	28, 2008, and an additional \$250,000 on October 31, 2008, into FXCM, a foreign currency
18	trading platform. Neither investment would have been possible if TC Ellis had not received
19	investment money. Of \$350,000 wired on or about November 25, 2008,
20	\$225,000 was used to purchase a cashier's check on November 28, 2008, made payable to "Big S
21	LLC." According to IA Smith the cashier's check was not used. The cashier's check was re-
22	deposited into FXKB's Union Bank account on or about December 4, 2008, and the money was
23	withdrawn in cash.
24	From approximately August 1, 2008 through December 30, 2008, TC Ellis unlawfully took
25	a total of \$735,000 from total loss is \$700,000.
26	
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20 l	

met TC Ellis in New York City in or about early 2008. TC Ellis presen	met TC Ellis ir	ı New York	City in	or about early	7 2008.	TC Ellis	presente
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with an investment opportunity in purchasing foreclosed houses in and around the area of Sacramento, CA. TC Ellis told he could invest money to purchase a certain number of houses which he, TC Ellis, could purchase from the bank for a low price. TC Ellis said he would perform necessary repairs on the houses and turn around and sell them for an approximate 30 to 40 percent return profit within a short period of time. TC Ellis told that the return profit would be split among TC Ellis and Mirrow. TC Ellis informed the reason for the short turn around time on the sale of the houses was because they were "pre-sold" to buyers known to TC Ellis. The never authorized TC Ellis to invest his money in the foreign currency market or to use the money to pay for personal expenses. TC Ellis communicated this investment opportunity to the person in New York City and subsequently on the telephone and through email correspondence.

TC Ellis sent an email correspondence dated July 13, 2008, addressed to setting forth one purported real estate investment. TC Ellis's email stated that would receive 50% of the profit and the other 50% would be split between TC Ellis and The email provided wiring instructions for money to be wired to Blacksand's Union Bank of California account TC Ellis initially sent the email to then forwarded the email to said he wired all of his funds for investment with TC Ellis to FXKB's bank accounts.

IA Smith created a spreadsheet summarizing the bank records related to investments. The spreadsheet showed the money invested by and how his money was spent by TC Ellis. I reviewed those figures with agreed he initially invested \$135,000 on or about July 14, 2008 with TC Ellis for the purchase of foreclosed houses. This money was wired to Blacksand's Union Bank account. According to the spreadsheet created by IA Smith, the \$135,000 was subsequently spent on a personal mortgage payment, an AT&T Wireless bill, and a credit card bill. Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of the money was withdrawn

1	in cash; \$32,000 of it was paid to three individuals for unknown reason; and \$10,000 of it was
2_	invested with Forex Capital Markets, LLC, (FXCM) a foreign currency trading company.
3	According to IA Smith's spreadsheet, on July 24, 2008, TC Ellis wired co-mingled funds
4	from different people totaling \$140,000 to his Wells Fargo Bank (WFB) account
5	This money was added to other funds in TC Ellis' WFB account and used to pay back
6	other individuals.
7	On or about July 24, 2008, Tylich wired another \$220,000 investment to Unio
8	Bank account for the purchase of more foreclosed houses in and around Sacramento, CA. One
9	hundred, sixty-five thousand dollars (\$165,000) of the wire transfer was paid to another investor,
10	on July 25, 2008. TC Ellis used the balance of the funds to make credit card
11	payments, a house payment and pay for multiple meals.
12	On or about August 25, 2008, wired another \$252,000 investment to
13	Union Bank account for the purchase of foreclosed homes. On or about September 19, 2008,
14	wired another investment of \$225,000 for the purchase of more foreclosed houses in and
15	around Sacramento, CA. This money was wired to FXKB's Union Bank account. An unknown
16	person by the name was paid \$92,500 on the same date, September 19, 2008, from
17	this account. Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) was sent to FXCM, LLC, on
18	September 22, 2008, from this account.
19	On or about October 17, 2008, wired another investment of \$300,000 for the
20	purchase of foreclosed houses in and around Sacramento, CA, to FXKB's Union Bank account.
21	An \$87,500 wire transfer was sent from that account to a person named on October
.22 .	20, 2008. A \$175,000 wire transfer was sent from that account to investor
23	brother, on October 21, 2008. The remaining amounts of funds were spent on
24	TC Ellis' credit card bills, fuel, food and other miscellaneous expenses.
25	According to IA Smith, overall dollar loss is estimated to be \$385,000. From
26	approximately July 1, 2008 and November 30, 2008, TC Ellis unlawfully took from
27	total of \$ 1,132,000.
-28	

1	received \$15,000 from TC Ellis from FXKB's Union Bank account. To date,
2_	estimated to be \$225,000.
3	During the time when invested with TC Ellis, FXKB, Inc., and Blacksand, Inc.,
4	name was never placed on title of the house or houses of which his money was used
5	to purchase nor was any of money used to purchase foreclosed homes.
6	said he gained confidence in TC Ellis because of the consistent positive return on his first couple
7	of investments. did not authorize TC Ellis to invest his money in the foreign currency
8	market, to use for personal expenses or to invest in a nightclub.
9	From approximately June 1, 2008 through November 30, 2008, Ellis unlawfully took a total
.0	of \$610,000 from total loss is \$225,000.
1	
2	In July 2008, learned about TC Ellis and his real estate investment opportunities from
.3	received email correspondence from TC Ellis written to him about particular
.4	foreclosed real estate investment opportunities. TC Ellis' emails to were sent to
.5	who forwarded them to In his emails, TC Ellis told that he, TC Ellis, would use
6	money to purchase foreclosed houses in and around the Sacramento, CA. TC Ellis told
7	hat he, TC Ellis, had a crew that would refurbish or rehabilitate the houses and TC Ellis
8	would turn around and sell the houses for a profit. TC Ellis told
.9	were to be split 50/50 with and an analysis splitting 50% of the profit and TC Ellis keeping
20	50% of the profit.
21	was interested in TC Ellis' investment opportunities and on August 13, 2008, wired
2	\$150,000 into FXKB's Union Bank account invested in TC Ellis' opportunities through a
23	company, Sound Investments, in which and his wife are 100% stockholders. On
24	September 24, 2008, received a \$170,000 return from TC Ellis. On September 26, 2008,
25	nvested another \$80,000 and \$10,000 with TC Ellis. On that same day,
26	TC Ellis \$150,000 for a "two house deal." On March 9, 2009, received a return from Ellis
.7	of \$90,000. On April 14, 2009 received \$207,500 from TC Ellis, which he believed was a
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1	return on his investment plus the principle. On or about April 17, 2009, TC Ellis sent an email to
2_	promoting a "56 house deal". TC Ellis' email stated that the projected cost of the project
3	would be \$2.5 million dollars with a profit margin of 10% and projected that would receive
4	approximately \$21,000 based on a \$210,000 investment. TC Ellis' email was forwarded by
5	to decided to re-invest the \$207,500 he just received from TC Ellis and add
6	another \$2,500 toward the "56 house deal" for a \$210,000 investment.
7	spoke to IA Smith prior to my discussion with him via telephone. IA Smith informed
8	that his, IA Smith's, records indicate received \$8,400 in September 2009, from TC
9	Ellis. According to the discussion I had with the confirmed receipt of the \$8,400; however
10	estimated loss is still approximately \$132,500.
11	said he spoke with TC Ellis via telephone a couple of times in November 2008
12	regarding rolling his already invested money into another investment opportunity to purchase
1.3	more foreclosed houses. did not authorize TC Ellis to use his investment money for
14	anything other than real estate. Between approximately August 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009,
15	Ellis unlawfully took a total of \$600,000 from total loss is approximately
16	\$132,500.
17	
18	of Vintage Capital Advisors, LLC, Redding, CA, is an investment
19	broker with a client named informed me that on December 2,
20	2009, he invested \$100,000 with TC Ellis and FXKB, Inc. for his client, money
21	was deposited into TC Ellis' Bank of America account, account number by
22	Interactive Brokers LLC. Based on FXKB's website and TC Ellis' statements to
23	and understood that FXKB would place money in an account with FXCM, an
24	online foreign currency broker. TC Ellis told that he opened an FXCM account with
25	money. was to have review privileges but would not be able to change anything in
26	the account. Later in December 2009, tried checking with TC Ellis regarding the status
27	
00	

1	of the funds but was not able to reach him. then contacted FXCM and inquired about
2	funds, and FXCM informed that they had no record of or account.
3	confronted TC Ellis about funds not being deposited into the FXCM
4	account as agreed. TC Ellis told that money along with other money he, TC
5	Ellis, had at other financial institutions had been frozen by court order in a civil lawsuit. At the
6	time, TC Ellis had a civil lawsuit against him in Sacramento Superior Court, Mirrow, et al. v.
7	Ellis, et al., Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2009-00063061, in which the court issued an
8	order freezing various bank accounts held by TC Ellis and the other civil defendants. However,
9	the order was not issued until January 4, 2010. Further, TC Ellis had previously told
.0	he had opened an FXCM account for with with money.
.1	A search warrant for TC Ellis' bank accounts produced bank records of Bank of America
2	account These were reviewed by IA Smith. The bank records showed the deposit
.3	of money into TC Ellis' bank account, Bank of America account
.4	December 2, 2009, and show that the funds were spent by TC Ellis on personal expenses and
.5	payment to third parties for unknown reasons and not transferred to an FXCM account. In
.6	summary, in December 2009, Ellis unlawfully took a total of \$100,000 from and
7	total loss is \$100,000.
.8	
9	In March 2011, CA DOJ, Special Agent (SA) Debra Gard (Gard), interviewed
20	SA Gard informed me what stated. told SA Gard that he
21	met with TC Ellis' son, TJ Ellis in September and October 2008, at a shopping center in Citrus
22	Heights, CA. In this meeting, TJ Ellis told that his business, FXKB, Inc. offered
23	investment services in the foreign currency market.
24	was interested in investing in the foreign currency market. Subsequently, on or
25	about October 1, 2008, TJ Ellis came to residence at the time on
26	Citrus Heights, CA 95610, and drafted a promissory note in living room. The terms of
27	the promissory note were that FXKB, Inc. would pay back the principle sum of \$40,000
28	

1	(due date not indicated) and interest at the rate of 60% annually in monthly payments of \$2,000
2	starting October 1, 2013 for five years thereafter. The note promised that \$120,000 will be paid
3	at the end of the five year term, and that upon default of interest or principle payment, the whole
4	sum of the principle and interest would become immediately due at the option of the holder. Both
5	and TJ Ellis signed the note, and then gave TJ Ellis a cashier's check for
6	\$40,000 from Safe Credit Union in exchange for the promissory note. TJ Ellis then left
7	home.
8	received his first \$2,000 interest payment on November 1, 2008, in the form of a
9	cashier's check withdrawn by TJ Ellis that was personally delivered to at his house by T.
10	Ellis' brother. received subsequent interest payments of \$2,000 in December 2008, and
11	in January 2009 in cash in an envelope. then stopped receiving interest payments.
12	called TJ Ellis to inquire about the missed payments, and TJ Ellis said he was having
13	problems and offered only excuses. After two months of missed payments, met with TJ
14	Ellis who again offered only excuses. After approximately six months of missed payments,
15	let TJ Ellis know that he would contact law enforcement regarding the non-payments.
16	Subsequently, was given another payment of \$500 in the form of check # 2323 signed by
17	TC Ellis from FXKB's Union Bank account. The memo line on the check depicts "For Lil"
18	Taze". then told TJ Ellis that he wanted to cancel the promissory note and wanted his
19	\$40,000 returned to him immediately. To date, TJ Ellis has not returned money.
20	A search warrant of the bank records of TJ Ellis produced bank records of Union Bank
21	account an account held by TJ Ellis and IA Smith
22	reviewed the bank records. The bank records include a copy of \$40,000 cashier's
23	check from Safe Credit Union, which identified as a copy of the cashier's check that he
24	gave to TJ Ellis. The bank records show that on October 3, 2008, TJ Ellis deposited
25	\$40,000 cashier's check into TJ Ellis and Union Bank account minus a \$5,000 cash
26	withdrawal. Prior to the deposit of money, the Union Bank account balance was
27	\$3,292.78. The bank records show that on October 8, 2008, TJ Ellis withdrew \$20,000 from TJ
28	

1	Ellis and Union Bank account and on that same day deposited \$20,000 into FXKB,
2	Inc.'s Union Bank account. The bank records show that on October 8, 2008, \$20,000 was
3	transferred from FXKB's Union Bank account to FXCM, LLC.
4	On October 16, 2008, TJ Ellis withdrew \$5,000 in cash from his and Union
5	Bank account. On October 17, 2008, TJ Ellis withdrew \$4,000 from the same account. The bank
6	records show that the remainder of money, approximately \$6,000, was spent by TJ
7	Ellis in the form of debit card withdrawals and purchases, rent payment, pet deposit for an
8	apartment and gas, food, electronics and clothing expenses.
9	In summary, between approximately October 1, 2008, and November 30, 2008, TJ Ellis
10	unlawfully took \$20,000 of the \$40,000 gave TJ Ellis to invest in the foreign currency
11	market. TJ Ellis' total loss is at least \$20,000.
12	CONCLUSION
13	Based on the foregoing I believe that TC Ellis has engaged in a pattern of related felony
14	conduct which includes the commission of two or more related felonies, a material element of
15	which is fraud or embezzlement, resulting in a loss in excess of \$500,000, and that the he has
16	violated the state's securities laws by violating California Corporations Code sections 25110,
17	25401, 25540, and 25541, and California Penal Code Section 487.
18	Based on the foregoing I believe that TC Ellis has unlawfully and intentionally taken
19	property amounting to a loss that exceeds three million, two hundred thousand dollars
20	(\$3,200,000).
21	TAZE CLAIBORNE ELLIS is more particularly described as a black male adult, California
22	Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Driver's License (CDL) date of birth (DOB),
23	03/06/1967, brown hair, brown eyes, 6 foot 1 inch tall, and weighs approximately 200 pounds.
24	TC Ellis' CII, history lists two social security numbers, and and
25	TC Ellis currently resides at
26	State of California.
27	///
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TAZE JORDAN ELLIS is more particularly described as black male adult, DOB 08/03/1989 is 6 foot tall, weighs approximately 210 pounds

and has brown hair and brown eyes.

The Sacramento County bail schedule indicates that bail can be set in the amount of taking, thus I am requesting bail be set at \$3,200,000, or \$3.2 million dollars for TAZE CLAIBORNE ELLIS. I am requesting bail be set at \$20,000 for TAZE JORDAN ELLIS.

In the event that TAZE CLAIBORNE ELLIS seeks to post bail, I ask that he be required to demonstrate to the court that no portion of said bail or any pledge or consideration provided for such bail was feloniously obtained as required by Penal Code section 1275.1. I am concerned that any assets used to post bail will be from cash or assets acquired through theft from others by the defendant.

Therefore, I request an order directed to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, and any other law enforcement agency, that in the event that TAZE CLAIBORNE ELLIS seeks to post bail, that such deposit not be accepted until a hearing is held on the source of the funds.

In the event that TAZE JORDAN ELLIS seeks to post bail, I ask that he be required to demonstrate to the court that no portion of said bail or any pledge or consideration provided for such bail was feloniously obtained as required by Penal Code section 1275.1. I am concerned that any assets used to post bail will be from cash or assets acquired through theft from others by the defendant.

Therefore I request an order directed to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, and any other law enforcement agency, that in the event that TAZE JORDAN ELLIS seeks to post bail, that such deposit not be accepted until a hearing is held on the source of the funds.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on August 13, 2012, at Sacramento, California.

CIAL AGENT JASON NICHOLS

California Department of Justice Bureau of Investigation, eCrime Unit Sacramento Regional Office