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9	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA						
10							
11	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA						
12 13	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES						
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15							
16	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF Case No.						
17	COMPLAINT FOR RESTITUTION, Plaintiff, CIVIL PENALTIES, PERMANENT						
18	v. INJUNCTION AND OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF						
19	STANLEY CHAIS, an individual; and DOES						
20	1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants.						
21	Defendants.						
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28							
	COMPLAINT						

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, by and through Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California, alleges the following, on information and belief:

- 1. This action is brought against Stanley Chais, an unregistered investment adviser, who over the past 40 years has recklessly and clandestinely delivered hundreds of millions of dollars of investors' money to his friend and associate Bernard Madoff (Madoff). Chais, who fashioned himself as an "investment wizard," collected over \$250 million in fees supposedly for exercising his skill and judgment in managing investments. In fact, all Chais did was turn over the entirety of his investors' capital to Madoff without their knowledge or authorization and despite numerous indicia that Madoff was running a fraudulent scheme.
- 2. From the early 1970s to December 2008, Chais served as one of the largest feeder funds to Madoff, funneling hundreds of millions of dollars into Madoff's Ponzi scheme. In addition to his personal, entity and family accounts, Chais was the general partner of three funds, the Brighton Company (Brighton), the Lambeth Company (Lambeth) and the Popham Company (Popham) (collectively, the "Chais Funds"), each of which was fed into by numerous limited partnerships all formed for the express purpose of investing with Chais. Brighton, Lambeth and Popham were all or substantially all given over to Madoff.
- 3. All told, Chais was responsible for the capital of hundreds of investors through the Chais Funds. Chais led these investors to believe that he was actively managing their investments and extracted astronomical fees -- 25 percent of annual profits -- for his services. While there is some variation, typically Chais's investors are not sophisticated and many are elderly. Many of these men and women describe their experience with Chais as "heartbreaking," a "nightmare," and state that it caused their lives to "change overnight." A number of Chais's investors have been forced to sell their homes and move in with their adult children. Many lost their life savings, their retirement funds, their children's college funds and the financial legacy they had intended to leave behind.

4. Through his conduct, Chais violated California Corporations Code section 25401; California Corporations Code section 25235; California Business and Professions Code section 17500; and California Business and Professions Code section 17200. By this action, Plaintiff seeks an order permanently enjoining Chais from the unlawful activity set forth herein, requiring Chais to disgorge all profits and compensation obtained by his violations of Corporations Code sections 25401 and/or 25235, granting restitution, imposing civil penalties, and granting all other relief available under California law.

I. <u>DEFENDANTS AND VENUE</u>

- 5. Defendant Stanley Chais, an individual, is an unregistered investment adviser formerly based in Beverley Hills, California. Chais currently resides at 785 Fifth Avenue #14C, New York, NY 10022 and at 9255 Doheny Road, West Hollywood, California 90069. At all relevant times, defendant Chais was the general partner of, and advisor to, each of the Chais Funds. At all relevant times, defendant Chais has transacted and may continue to transact business throughout the State of California, including Los Angeles County.
- 6. Plaintiff is not aware of the true names and capacities of the defendants sued as Does 1 through 100, inclusive, and therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. Each of these fictitiously named defendants is responsible in some manner for the activities alleged in this Complaint. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to show the true names of the fictitiously named defendants once they are discovered.
- 7. The defendants identified in paragraphs 5 and 6 may collectively be referred to as "Defendants."
- 8. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any act of any defendant(s), such allegation shall mean that each defendant acted individually and jointly with the other defendants.
- 9. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any act or transaction of any corporate, partnership or business defendant that reference shall mean that the corporation, partnership or other business did the acts alleged though its officers, partners, directors, employees, agents and/or representatives while they were acting within the actual or ostensible scope of their authority.

- 10. At all relevant times, each defendant committed the acts, caused or directed others to commit the acts, or permitted others to commit the acts alleged in this Complaint. Knowing or realizing that other defendants were engaging in or planning to engage in unlawful conduct, each defendant nevertheless facilitated the commission of those unlawful acts. Each defendant intended to and did encourage, facilitate, or assist in the commission of the unlawful acts, and thereby aided and abetted the other defendants in the unlawful conduct.
- 11. At all relevant times, Defendants have engaged in a conspiracy, common enterprise, and common course of conduct, the purpose of which is and was to engage in the violations of law alleged in the Complaint. This conspiracy, common enterprise and common course of conduct continues to the present.
- 12. The violations of law alleged in this Complaint occurred in Los Angeles County and elsewhere throughout California and the United States.

II. BACKGROUND

A. The Madoff Ponzi Scheme

- Since 1960, Bernard Madoff owned and operated Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC (BMIS), a brokerage and investment advisory service. Madoff represented that BMIS managed over \$17 billion of client assets as of January 2008. In reality, BMIS had assets on hand worth a small fraction of that amount. On December 10, 2008, Madoff confessed to his sons that the investment advisory service was a giant Ponzi scheme, as he put it, "one big lie." On March 12, 2009, Madoff pleaded guilty to 11 felony counts and admitted to defrauding thousands of investors of billions of dollars. In substance, Madoff admitted that from at least as early as the 1980s, BMIS had been paying returns to certain investors out of the principal received from other investors and that he had never actually invested his clients' funds in securities. Federal prosecutors estimated client losses, which included fabricated gains, of almost \$65 billion. On June 29, 2009, Madoff was sentenced to 150 years in prison, the maximum allowed.
- 14. In order to perpetrate his scheme, Madoff depended upon middlemen and feeder funds that attracted billions of investment dollars to him. In the process, these feeders took in

extremely large "management" fees, frequently for doing little more than turning over all of their investment capital to Madoff. Many investors in these feeder funds were horrified to learn for the first time in December 2008 that they were entirely invested with Madoff and that all of their investment had been lost.

15. The largest and best-known feeder in California is Stanley Chais. Chais is an unregistered investment advisor formerly based in Beverly Hills who has funneled money to Madoff over many decades. Chais is a long-time business associate and friend of Madoff and his phone number appeared as the first speed dial entry on a telephone list at Madoff's office. Chais had two sets of accounts invested with Madoff. Chais controlled: (1) approximately 60 personal, entity and family trust accounts (the "Chais Family Accounts"); and (2) the Chais Funds – regular trading accounts, for which Chais recruited outside investors.

B. The Chais Funds

1. Formation and Structure

- 16. Chais created Lambeth in 1970, Brighton in 1973 and Popham in 1975. Each of the funds was created as a limited partnership with Chais serving as the general partner. Under the Chais Funds' partnership agreements, Chais had "exclusive control over the business of the partnership[s]." Chais gave all or substantially all of the Chais Funds' assets to Madoff.
- 17. Lambeth is a California limited partnership formed in 1970 for the stated purpose of "carrying on an arbitrage business." Chais has served as Lambeth's general partner since its inception; in his individual capacity until 2004, and thereafter through the Chais 1991 Family Trust, a trust under Chais's control. At the time of its formation, Lambeth had two limited partners, both of whom were natural persons. Additional limited partners, several of which were limited partnerships that were formed for the purpose of investing in Lambeth, were gradually added and/or replaced over the years. As of 2008, there were approximately twelve limited partners in Lambeth, most of which were general partnerships or informal "nominee groups," encompassing over 260 investors. All, or substantially all, of Lambeth's assets were given to Madoff. As of November 2008, Madoff represented that Lambeth's BMIS account balance was approximately \$400 million. This purported balance was vitiated by the collapse of BMIS.

- 18. Brighton is a California limited partnership formed in 1973 for the stated purpose of "conducting the business of arbitrage and related transactions." Chais has served as Brighton's general partner since its inception; in his individual capacity until 2004, and thereafter through the Chais 1991 Family Trust, a trust under Chais's control. At the time of its formation, Brighton had five limited partners, all of whom were natural persons. Additional limited partners, several of which were limited partnerships that were formed for the purpose of investing in Brighton, were gradually added and/or replaced over the years. As of 2008, there were approximately nine limited partners in Brighton, most of which were general partnerships or informal "nominee groups," encompassing over 90 investors. All, or substantially all, of Brighton's assets were given to Madoff. As of November 2008, Madoff represented that Brighton's BMIS account balance was approximately \$380 million. This purported balance was vitiated by the collapse of BMIS.
- 19. Popham is a California limited partnership formed in 1975 for the stated purpose of "conducting the business of arbitrage and related transactions." Chais has served as Popham's general partner since its inception; in his individual capacity until 2004, and thereafter through the Chais 1991 Family Trust, a trust under Chais's control. At the time of its formation, Popham had six limited partners, consisting of natural persons, some of whom were trustees. Additional limited partners, several of which were limited partnerships that were formed for the purpose of investing in Popham, were gradually added and/or replaced over the years. As of 2008, there were approximately ten limited partners in Popham, most of which were general partnerships or informal "nominee groups," encompassing over 110 investors. All, or substantially all, of Popham's assets were given to Madoff. As of November 2008, Madoff represented that Popham's account balance was approximately \$130 million. This purported balance was vitiated by the collapse of BMIS.

2. Chais's Fees

20. Each of the Chais Funds' partnership agreements provides that Chais, as the general partner, has "exclusive control over the business of the partnership . . . [and] shall render his personal services to the partnership, and shall devote thereto such time as he may deem

necessary." Each of the Chais Funds' partnership agreements contains a provision for Chais, as general partner, to receive a fee for his "services" such that "[s]hould the net profit accruing to a Limited Partner be more than ten percent of the Limited Partner's investment computed on an annualized basis, then the General Partner shall receive a sum equal to twenty-five percent of the Limited Partner's profit but in no event shall the amount accruing to the Limited Partner be less than ten percent of the Limited Partner's invested capital, computed on an annualized basis."

- Chais Funds investors, representing each investor's purported balance and returns based upon the BMIS reports that Madoff provided Chais. According to the account statements Madoff provided Chais and the account statements Chais in turn provided to the Chais Funds investors, the Chais Funds consistently yielded purported annual returns between 20-25 percent, and supposedly did not have any returns less than 10 percent since at least 1995.
- 22. Under the terms of partnership agreements, Chais charged the Chais Funds approximately \$269,608,000 in fees from 1995-2008.

III. <u>DEFENDANTS' BUSINESS ACTS AND PRACTICES</u>

A. Misrepresentations and Omissions

- 23. For four decades, Chais presented himself as an investment wizard who was successfully running several "arbitrage partnerships" and was deserving of exorbitant fees. In general, Chais discouraged specific questions about his trading strategy. A number of the investors referred to the Chais Funds as a "black box" because of Chais's secrecy with respect to his investment techniques. When pressed for details, Chais would often say that he did not discuss his investment strategy and that if investors were uneasy, they were free to withdraw from the Chais Funds (and forego the consistently excellent returns).
- 24. To the extent that information was given, it was that Chais was the one who was directing the investments. Chais purported to execute a complex investment strategy and created the impression that he was personally employing arbitrage and trading in derivatives. Chais's associates appeared to have talking points for (potential) investors that included references to Chais's superior skill and experience, his greater understanding of the market, his connections to

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sophisticated brokers and entities (plural) in New York and his use of advanced technology.

People were also led to believe that their investments in the Chais Funds were diversified using a combination of futures, currencies and stocks.

- 25. Chais made a number of explicit misrepresentations to Chais Funds investors. One investor, a California resident and one of the original partners of Leghorn Partners (a limited partner of Brighton), had a number of conversations with Chais beginning in the 1970s and throughout the years about Chais's arbitrage investments. Chais represented to this investor that he hedged his investments and "played both sides against the middle" to mitigate losses. In none of the subsequent discussions that Chais had with this investor about his track record and the Chais Funds' performance did Chais ever state that he was not actually managing the Chais Funds.
- 26. In or around the spring of 2001, another investor, a California resident who was the president of Southridge Corp., an S corporation that served as the general partner of CMG, Ltd. (a Brighton limited partner), approached Chais about his arbitrage strategy. During this conversation, Chais told the investor that over the past two to three years, he had moved away from buying convertible bonds and then shorting stock and was increasingly using other arbitrage strategies. Chais told this investor that he was currently utilizing derivatives. Chais said that he had been doing derivative transactions for 15-20 years and that they had accounted for 25-33 percent of the Chais Funds' trades. Chais said that beginning in roughly 1999, derivative transactions accounted for all of his trades. Chais gave this investor an explanatory example that he might purchase a stock, sell a "call" in connection with the same stock, and buy a "put" in connection with the same stock. Chais assured this investor that he alleviated risk by always being hedged and by not being heavily leveraged. Chais also pointed out that while he had lost money on a "handful" of trades involving derivatives, the Chais Funds year-end profit percentages were consistent with those based upon his earlier arbitrage strategy. After his discussion with Chais, the investor wrote a letter to all of the CMG, Ltd. investors explaining Chais's purported new strategy.
- 27. In or around June 2008, Chais sent a letter to his investors alerting them that he was seriously ill. Chais wrote that in the event that he was no longer able to serve as general

partner of the Chais Funds, he was naming his son as his successor. Chais listed his son's qualifications to take over the management of the Chais Funds, including his legal training and experience managing a venture fund. In this letter, and in subsequent phone calls discussing Chais's possible succession, Chais represented that he was actually managing investors' assets and that he was training his son to assume his role. In this letter, Chais stated that he had been "in close touch with the relevant *brokers* in New York" regarding his plan of succession (emphasis added to indicate use of plural).

- 28. At no time did Chais tell his investors that the person managing all or substantially all of the Chais Funds was actually Bernard Madoff.
- 29. Based upon these and other misrepresentations and omissions, most investors believed that Chais was a financial genius who managed the Chais Funds and formulated their investment strategy. So convinced of and impressed by Chais's prowess and performance, one investor stated that her family joked that "every night we should all say a little prayer for Stanley Chais." When Chais announced his illness, his investors were very concerned about what would happen if Chais were not there to actively manage their money. In sum, Chais's investors believed that he was central and integral to the success of the Chais Funds; they were unaware that Chais did nothing more than hand over all of the Chais Funds' assets to Madoff.
- 30. Many of Chais's investors had never heard of Madoff before his downfall on December 11, 2008. Chais instructed his accountant that neither Madoff nor Chais wanted Madoff's name or involvement disclosed to Chais Funds investors. Most of Chais's investors were unaware that Chais had invested with Madoff until after Madoff's arrest when Chais was forced by events to inform them that the man actually handling all of their funds was Madoff and that all their money had been lost. One investor in Marloma Securities, (a limited partner in Popham), only learned that he was invested with Madoff, and that his investment was gone, after reading of Chais's involvement with Madoff in the *Wall Street Journal* on December 17, 2008.

B. False Financial Returns

31. Chais was able to substantiate his investment savant image by appearing to provide unfailingly large returns to his investors. In or around the mid-1990s, Chais told Madoff

that he could not tolerate losses and that he did not want there to be any losses in any of the Chais Funds' trades. Madoff apparently accommodated Chais's request and seems to have produced made-to-order returns for him.

- 32. Between 1999 and 2008, despite supposedly executing thousands of trades on behalf of the Chais Funds, Madoff did not report a loss on a single equities trade. The Chais Funds received improbably high and consistent returns of between 20 and 25 percent, with only three months of negative returns between 1996 and 2007. The Chais Family Accounts reported even higher returns, sometimes in excess of 100 to 300 percent per year, with a combined average annual return of almost 40 percent. By contrast, during the same period, annual returns for the S&P 500 fluctuated by over 55 percentage points, with an average annual return of 10.72 percent and 52 months of negative returns.
- 33. Madoff also appears to have generated losses for the Chais Family Accounts on demand (ostensibly to offset gains in other investments for tax purposes). Some of these "losses" apparently were manufactured after the dates when the subject transactions purportedly took place.
- 34. Based on Madoff's ability to produce customized returns, Chais knew or should have known that Madoff could not have been legitimate, that the Chais Funds account statements received from Madoff were false, and that the account statements that Chais provided to the Chais Funds investors based upon the Madoff reports were also false. Chais, however, continued to distribute account statements based upon the Madoff reports to the Chais Funds investors up to the time of the collapse of Madoff's scheme.
- 35. As set forth above, in exchange for Chais's purported skill and expertise and based upon his supposedly high returns, Chais charged the Chais Funds approximately \$269,608,000 in fees between 1995 and 2008.

1	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION			
2	Securities Fraud (California Corporations Code Section 25401)			
3	36. Plaintiff refers to and realleges paragraphs 1 through 35, inclusive above, and			
4	incorporates them by reference as though fully set forth in this cause of action.			
5	37. Corporations Code section 25401 makes it unlawful for any person to offer or sell			
6	a security in this state by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue			
7	statement of material fact or an omission of a material fact.			
8	38. The limited partnership interests in the Chais Funds are "securities" as defined in			
9	Corporations Code section 25019.			
10	39. In offering and selling the securities referred to in this Complaint, Chais, or			
11	individuals acting on his behalf or at his direction, made untrue statements and/or			
12	misrepresentations of material facts to some or all prospective or existing investors. The			
13	misrepresentations included, without necessarily being limited to:			
14	(a) Statements that Chais was the one directing the investments and was			
15	personally employing a complex investment strategy;			
16	(b) References to Chais's superior skill and experience, his greater			
17	understanding of the market, his connections to sophisticated brokers and entities in New York			
18	and his use of advanced technology;			
19	(c) Statements detailing Chais's investment strategy and purported changes to			
20	it, as set forth in Paragraphs 25 and 26 of this Complaint;			
21	(d) Statements regarding Chais's investment track record;			
22	(e) Statements indicating that the Chais Funds' investments were diversified;			
23	(f) Chais's June 2008 letter to investors and subsequent conversations with his			
24	investors regarding his illness and possible succession in which Chais represented that he was			
25	training his son to take over his role of managing the Chais Funds investments as set forth in			
26	Paragraph 27 above; and			
27	(g) False account statements distributed to investors.			
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- 40. These statements both individually and taken collectively were designed to and did convey that Chais was actively and personally managing the Chais Funds, and was deserving of great compensation for so doing, when in fact he did nothing more than turn over all or substantially all of the Chais Funds to Madoff.
- 41. In offering and selling the securities referred to in this Complaint, Chais, or individuals acting on his behalf or at his direction, also omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to some or all of the prospective or existing investors. The omissions included, without necessarily being limited to:
- (a) The failure to disclose that Chais was not personally managing or dictating the investment strategy of the Chais Funds;
 - (b) The failure to disclose that the Chais Funds were not diversified; and
- (c) The failure to disclose that all or substantially all of the Chais Funds were invested with, and at the discretion of, Madoff.
- 42. The misrepresentations and omissions were made in connection with the offer and sale of securities within the meaning of Corporations Code section 25017.
- 43. The misstatements and omissions took place within the State of California within the meaning of Corporations Code section 25008.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Transaction, Practice or Course of Business to Defraud by Investment Adviser (California Corporations Code Section 25235)

- 44. Plaintiff refers to and realleges paragraphs 1 through 43, inclusive above, and incorporates them by reference as though fully set forth in this cause of action.
- 45. At all relevant times, Chais operated as an investment adviser to the Chais Funds and their investors within the meaning of Corporations Code section 25009.
- 46. Chais has violated Corporations Code section 25235 by engaging in acts, practices or a course of business as an investment adviser that are fraudulent, deceptive or manipulative by making material misrepresentations and omitting material facts necessary in order to make the

1	(e) Distributing account statements to investors that Defendant knew or should				
2	have been known were false.				
3	PRAYER FOR RELIEF				
4	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:				
5	1. For an order, under the authority of Corporations Code section 25530 and Business				
6	and Professions Code sections 17535 and 17203, permanently restraining and enjoining				
7	Defendant, his successors, agents, representatives, employees, assigns and all persons who act in				
8	concert with Defendant be from directly or indirectly or in any other manner engaging in:				
9	(a) The conduct alleged in this Complaint to violate Corporations Code				
10	section 25401;				
11	(b) The conduct alleged in this Complaint to violate Corporations Code section				
12	25235;				
13	(c) The conduct alleged in this Complaint to violate the law, or any other act or				
14	practice that violates Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq.;				
15	(d) The conduct as above alleged in this Complaint to violate the law, or any				
16	other act or practice that violates Business and Professions Code section 17500 et seq.;				
17	2. For an order, under the authority of Business and Professions Code sections 17535				
18	and 17203, that Defendant be required to make full restitution of any money or other property that				
19	may have been acquired by Defendant in violation of Business and Professions Code sections				
20	17200 and 17500;				
21	3. For an order, under the authority of Corporations Code section 25530, that				
22	Defendant be required to make full restitution of any money or other property that may have been				
23	acquired by Defendant in violation of Corporations Code sections 25401 and/or 25235;				
24	4. For an order, under the authority of Corporations Code section 25530, requiring				
25	Defendant to disgorge all profits and compensation obtained by Defendant as a result of violating				
26	Corporations Code sections 25401 and/or 25235;				
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1	5. For an order, under the authority of Corporations Code section 25535, that					
2	Defendant be assessed a civil penalty in the maximum sum of \$25,000 for each violation of					
3	Corporations Code sections 25401 and/or 25235 as proven at trial, but not less than \$23,000,000;					
4	6. For an order, under the authority of Business and Professions Code section 17536,					
5	that Defendant be assessed a civil penalty of \$2,500 for each violation of Business and					
6	Professions Code section 17500 as proven at trial; but not less than \$1,150,000;					
7	7.	7. For an order, under the authority of Business and Professions Code section 17206,				
8	that Defendant be assessed a civil penalty of \$2,500 for each violation of Business and					
9	Professions Code section 17200 as proven at trial; but not less than \$1,150,000;					
10	8.	That Plaintiff recovers i	ts costs of suit, including costs of investigation; and			
11	9.	For such other and furth	er relief that the Court deems just, proper, and equitable.			
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13	Dated: Septe	ember 17, 2009	Respectfully Submitted,			
14			EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of California			
15			FRANCES T. GRUNDER Senior Assistant Attorney General			
16			KATHRIN SEARS Supervising Deputy Attorney General			
17			Super-issing 2 sparsy rationally States and			
18						
19			Alexandra Robert Gordon			
20			Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Plaintiff			
21			THE PĚOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
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