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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

GREGORY N. McKNIGHT, and LEGISI HOLDINGS, LLC,

Defendants,

Case: 4:08-cv-11887 Judge: Gadola, Paul V MJ: Morgan, Virginia M

Filed: 05-05-2008 At 12:06 PM CMP POSSIBLE SEALED MATTER (TAM)

and

LEGISI MARKETING, INC., LIDO CONSULTING, LLC HEALTHY BODY NUTRACEUTICALS, LINDENWOOD ENTERPRISES, LLC, DANIELLE BURTON, THERESA BURTON, and JENNIFER MCKNIGHT,

Relief Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), alleges and states as follows:

SUMMARY

1. Defendant Gregory N. McKnight ("McKnight") is a resident of Swartz Creek,
Michigan. Defendant Legisi Holdings, LLC ("Legisi Holdings") is a shell company chartered in
the bank-secrecy haven of Nevis in the West Indies. McKnight controls Legisi Holdings.

- 2. Prior to the events described herein, in around December 2005, McKnight owed \$11,184 on his VISA Gold credit card. His bank accounts were overdrawn by \$156.
- In December 2005, McKnight and Legisi Holdings began offering and selling interests in a pooled investment program variously called Legisi.com or Legisi ("the Legisi program"). McKnight promoted the offering around the globe through an Internet website at www.legisi.com ("the Legisi website"). From December 2005 through at least November 2007, the Defendants raised approximately \$72 million from 3,000 to 4,000 members of the public. The 3,000 to 4,000 persons who invested in McKnight's scheme ("Legisi investors") reside in all 50 states and several foreign countries.
- 4. McKnight, on behalf of Legisi Holdings and himself, raised money based on promises that he would invest the offering proceeds and then pay the investors each month, which payments would be funded with profits from his investments. On the Legisi website, and in conversations with investors, McKnight represented that his investing activities consistently generated monthly profits ranging from 15 percent to 18 percent. From those purported profits, McKnight promised to pay his investors returns of as much as 15 percent per month. McKnight also represented that he set aside 10% percent of all his investing profits each month to create a reserve fund for the benefit of the Legisi investors. McKnight claimed that he would put profits into the supposed reserve fund until it totaled 110% of the total investors' principal that Legisi received.
- 5. McKnight's representations to investors and potential investors were false. Of the approximately \$72 million that McKnight raised from Legisi investors, he invested, net of withdrawals, only about \$33 million. And, far from being the wild success that McKnight

portrayed to the Legisi investors, his investments in fact generated significant losses. All together, McKnight has realized losses totaling approximately \$3.6 million on the investments he made with the Legisi investors' money.

- 6. McKnight diverted the remaining \$39 million of the offering proceeds for his own benefit. In the manner of a classic Ponzi scheme, he used approximately \$27.5 million of the offering proceeds to make payments of purported profits to Legisi investors. McKnight used another \$2.2 million of the offering proceeds to pay personal expenses, including at least \$218,919 on motor vehicles, at least \$190,682 in payments to or for the benefit of family members, at least \$124,215 for home repairs and renovations, at least \$108,311 for vacations and travel, at least \$102,024 to pay credit card bills, and sent at least \$144,000 in total to his daughter, Jennifer McKnight, his niece Danielle Burton, and to Danielle Burton's mother.
- 7. During the Legisi offering-when the Defendants took in approximately \$72 million from Legisi investors—the Defendants and Relief Defendants Legisi Marketing, Inc., Lido Consulting, LLC, Healthy Body Nutraceuticals, and Lindenwood Enterprises, LLC ("Entity Relief Defendants") received a total of only about \$130,000 from other sources.
- 8. In May 2007, McKnight was interviewed by law enforcement agents. Within hours of the interview, an announcement appeared on the Legisi website stating that the Legisi program was closed to new investors, effective immediately, and representing that Legisi had to close that afternoon because of a "massive influx" of new investors. McKnight also cut off access to the Legisi website by the public by requiring a login and password to enter the site.

The Defendants appear to have been taking in money from members of the public at least as late as November 2007.

- 9. At the present time, McKnight and the Relief Defendants hold assets worth \$59 millions dollars. These assets include stocks, commodity futures and options, cash, and real estate investments in Michigan and Florida. McKnight acquired these assets with money raised from the Legisi investors. McKnight possesses control over his and the Entity Relief Defendants' assets and is free to dispose of those assets without warning or notice to anyone. In addition, over the last seven months, McKnight has transferred at least \$525,000 of investor funds to Relief Defendant Lindenwood Enterprises, LLC. Relief Defendant Danielle Burton has withdrawn at least \$75,000 of cash from a bank account containing investor funds. Further, at least \$467,158 has been transferred out of Legisi Marketing's account at LaSalle Bank to unidentified recipients and for unknown reasons.
- Through their actions, McKnight and Legisi Holdings have violated Sections 5(a), 5(c), and 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a), 77c(c), and 77q(a)], Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)], and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

<u>DEFENDANTS</u>

11. <u>Gregory N. McKnight</u> is 48 years old and resides in Swartz Creek, Michigan.

McKnight controls Defendant Legisi Holdings and Relief Defendants Legisi Marketing, Inc.,

Lido Consulting, LLC, Healthy Body Nutraceuticals, and Lindenwood Enterprises, LLC.

McKnight is related to the individual Relief Defendants.

12. Legisi Holdings, LLC is a Nevis, West Indies limited liability company that McKnight formed in February 2006. Its principal place of business is in Swartz Creek, Michigan. The Legisi website represents that the Legisi program is a wholly owned subsidiary of Legisi Holdings. Legisi Holdings has no apparent business other than to serve as the entity through which McKnight conducted the offering of the Legisi program investment contracts.

RELIEF DEFENDANTS

- by McKnight in January 2007. Legisi Marketing has its principal place of business in Flint, Michigan. According to its now defunct website, Legisi Marketing is in the business of buying soon-to-be foreclosed properties in Genesee County, Michigan. Beginning in January 2007, McKnight has deposited millions of dollars of Legisi investor funds in bank and brokerage accounts held in the name of Legisi Marketing. McKnight controlled these accounts and used them to make interest and principal payments to Legisi investors, to trade in securities and commodities, and to purchase real estate.
- 14. Lido Consulting, LLC ("Lido") is a Wyoming limited liability company that McKnight formed in June 2006. Lido has its principal place of business in Swartz Creek, Michigan. Lido has no apparent business other than serving as the account holder for e-currency and brokerage accounts that McKnight controlled. McKnight transferred millions of Legisi investor funds into these accounts and sent funds out of these accounts to Legisi investors.
- 15. Healthy Body Nutraceuticals ("HBN") is a Michigan limited liability company that McKnight formed in February 2003. HBN has its principal place of business in Swartz Creek, Michigan. McKnight sold nutritional products through HBN prior to commencing his

offering of Legisi program investment contracts. During the course of the Legisi program offering, McKnight transferred approximately \$800,000 of Legisi investor funds into an account he controlled in the name HBN. Most of these funds were then transferred to an account in McKnight's name.

- Lindenwood Enterprises, LLC ("Lindenwood") is a Michigan limited liability 16. company formed by McKnight in August 2007 that has its principal place of business in Flint, Michigan at the same location as Legisi Marketing. McKnight is listed as the registered agent for Lindenwood which is a shell corporation. In late March 2008, Lindenwood received a check for \$100,000 from Legisi Marketing, drawn on a bank account into which investor funds had been deposited.
- Danielle Burton, age 28, resides in Swartz Creek, Michigan. Danielle Burton is 17. McKnight's niece and the office manager for Legisi Holdings and Legisi Marketing. She has signatory authority on Legisi Marketing's bank accounts. Since the end of February 2008, Danielle Burton has signed and endorsed several checks made out to "cash" in the total amount of at least \$75,000. These checks were drawn on a Legisi Marketing bank account into which investor funds had been deposited. She also personally received at least an additional \$26,399 in investor funds.
- Theresa Burton, age 50, resides in Flint, Michigan. Theresa Burton is Danielle 18. Burton's mother. McKnight transferred at least \$80,000 in investor funds to Theresa Burton.
- Jennifer McKnight, age 19, resides in Swartz Creek, Michigan. Jennifer 19. McKnight is Gregory McKnight's daughter. McKnight has transferred at least \$38,000 of investor funds from his personal bank accounts to accounts held by Jennifer McKnight.

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JURISDICTION

- This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 22(a) of the 20. Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77v(a)] and Sections 21(e) and 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(e) and 78aa]. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77v(a)] and Section 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78aa].
- The acts, transactions, practices, and courses of business constituting the 21. violations alleged herein occurred within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and elsewhere.
- Defendants, directly and indirectly, have made, and are making, use of the means 22. and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, the means and instruments of transportation and communication in interstate commerce, and the mails, in connection with the acts, transactions, practices, and courses of business alleged herein.

FACTS

DEFENDANTS' PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF INVESTORS

- From approximately December 2005 through August 2007, Defendants McKnight 23. and Legisi Holdings have conducted a fraudulent, unregistered offering of investment contracts.
- The investment contracts offered and sold by the Defendants were interests in a 24. pooled investment program called variously Legisi.com or Legisi.
- 25. Through their offering, the Defendants raised approximately \$72 million from between 3,000 and 4,000 investors.
- The Legisi investors reside in all 50 states and several foreign countries. 26.

- The Defendants solicited investors around the world through a publicly available Internet website at www.Legisi.com. McKnight controls the Legisi website and is responsible for its content.
- 28. McKnight also spoke with investors and prospective investors by telephone and in at least one meeting.
- 29. No valid registration statement was filed or was in effect with the Commission in connection with the Defendants' offer and sale of Legisi program investment contracts.
- 30. Neither the Defendants nor anyone else on their behalf inquired into the financial status of the Legisi investors. Some Legisi investors had net worths of less than \$1 million and/or annual incomes of less than \$200,000 at the time they invested in the Legisi program.
- 31. Neither the Defendants nor anyone else on their behalf provided the Legisi investors with any financial information about themselves or the Legisi program.
- The Defendants asserted on the Legisi website that the Legisi program was merely a "loan program" through which investors would "loan" money to Legisi and, in return, Legisi would pay investors high rates of interest.
- In fact, however, the Legisi program was a classic pooled investment vehicle, in which investors invested money into a common venture with the expectation that the money would be used to generate profits, for the Defendants and the investors, solely through the efforts of McKnight.
- 34. The Defendants offered several investment options on the Legisi website. One option was the 30-day, "Tester Fund" with a \$20 minimum principal investment which was to

pay .25% interest per day. Another option was the one-year, "V.I.P. Fund" with a \$5,000 minimum principal investment which was to pay 15% interest per month.

- To invest, an investor had to join the Legisi program by completing a membership 35. form on the Legisi website, chose a Legisi investment option, and set up an account with an electronic currency ("e-currency") provider.
- By way of example, one e-currency provider utilized by the Defendants is E-gold, 36. a Nevis-chartered Internet depository that maintained accounts on behalf of McKnight and Legisi investors. Investors who wished to invest in the Legisi program deposited money via a credit card transaction or wire transfer into their E-gold accounts. E-gold, in turn, transferred equivalent sums (in U.S. dollar denominated amounts) via the Internet, to E-gold accounts controlled by McKnight. McKnight maintained and controlled e-currency accounts in his name and in the names of the entities he controlled, including Legisi Holdings, Lido, and HBN.
- The Defendants did not maintain separate accounts for each Legisi investor. 37. Rather, the Defendants pooled the Legisi investors' funds in the e-currency accounts that McKnight controlled.
- After an investor transferred money into the Legisi program, the Defendants sent 38. an email to the investor confirming the transfer amount, the investor's Legisi account number, the name of the investment option chosen by the investor, and the investor's rate of return.
- Legisi investors did not receive a promissory note or any form of "loan" 39. documentation.
- The Defendants offered Legisi investors the choice either to reinvest the interest 40. they earned on their investments or to receive an interest payment each month.

- The majority of Legisi investors chose to reinvest their interest in the Legisi 41. program.
- As a result of the Defendants' early consistent payments of interest and return of 42. principal, many investors purchased new investments and recommended the Legisi program to their family, friends, and co-workers.
- The Defendants paid investors a commission for each new investor they referred. 43. The commission initially was \$40 per referral and then was increased to 5% of the amount invested by the referred investor.

DEFENDANTS' MISREPRESENTATIONS AND MISLEADING OMISSIONS

- Throughout the period from December 2005 through at least October 2007, 44. McKnight, on behalf of himself and Legisi Holdings, misrepresented material facts and misleadingly omitted to disclose material facts in communications to investors and prospective investors. McKnight made these misrepresentations and materially misleading omissions on the Legisi website, in conversations with investors, and on at least one other website.
- The Legisi website also included a "Forum" on which Legisi investors could pose 45. questions or discuss issues regarding the Legisi program. McKnight and several Forum "moderators" posted information and updates on the Forum, including reports on the amount of money investors sent to and withdrew from Legisi. McKnight and the Forum moderators also posted answers to questions from investors. On December 24, 2006, McKnight made a post on the Forum stating that he oversaw the Forum and that the moderators spoke on his authority. McKnight's December 24, 2006 posting remained on the Forum until at least June 2007.

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Like McKnight, the Forum moderators misrepresented material facts and misleadingly omitted to disclose material facts. McKnight's and the Forum moderators' misrepresentations and misleading omissions concerned, among other things, the use McKnight would make of offering proceeds, the profitability of investments in the Legisi program, the losses he incurred with the investors' funds, the true sources of the money he paid out to investors, and the legitimacy and safety of investments in the Legisi program.

Use of Offering Proceeds

- 47. McKnight, on behalf of himself and Legisi Holdings, represented that he invested Legisi investor funds in various investment vehicles, including foreign currencies, commodity futures, stocks, and real estate.
- 48. In fact, however, of the approximately \$72 million that the Defendants raised from Legisi investors, McKnight only used a net of approximately \$33 million to make the promised investments.
- 49. For the first five months of the Defendants' offering, McKnight invested only about \$181,000 of the Legisi investors' money. However, he did not invest these funds as he had represented. Rather, he put the \$181,000 into three dubious offerings of the type commonly known as high yield investment programs or HYIPs. Only \$88,000 of the funds McKnight transferred to the HYIPs was ever returned, resulting in a loss of approximately \$94,000.
- 50. Eight months after the Defendants began their offering, in August 2006, McKnight began investing in foreign currencies. Four months later, in December 2006, he began investing in commodity futures. From August 2006 through August 2007, McKnight invested approximately \$11.7 million of investor funds in foreign currencies, commodity futures,

and options on commodity futures. From August 2006 through April 9, 2008, McKnight suffered realized of approximately \$3.6 million on these investments.

- From January 2007 through May 2007, McKnight used approximately \$11.2 51. million to purchase real estate investments through Relief Defendant Legisi Marketing. To date, McKnight appears to have received only a de minimus amount of income from these investments.
- From March 2007 through August 2007, McKnight, through Relief Defendant 52. Legisi Marketing, used approximately \$12.3 million of investor funds to purchase millions of restricted shares and warrants of three thinly-traded over-the-counter ("OTC") stocks and one privately held company. Also in August 2007, McKnight, through Relief Defendant Legisi Marketing, used approximately \$3.9 million of investor funds to acquire four promissory notes issued by a privately held shutter and screen door company. McKnight has not realized any gains or losses from these investments. McKnight's positions in the stock of the private company and the promissory notes are illiquid and have no current market value. McKnight's positions in two of the OTC stocks have incurred unrealized losses. His position in the third OTC stock has incurred unrealized gains. Over the last several weeks McKnight's positions in the three OTC stocks, held through Relief Defendant Legisi Marketing, have fluctuated between \$32.4 million and \$39.8 million. However, all three of the OTC stocks are thinly traded and their prices have been volatile; the prices for which these stocks could be liquidated are uncertain.
- McKnight diverted at least \$27 million of Legisi investors' money to pay 53. purported interest to other Legisi investors, to return principal to other Legisi investors, and to

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pay commissions to Legisi investors who referred other investors to Legisi. That is, McKnight operated the Legisi program as a Ponzi scheme.

- McKnight also converted about \$ 2.2 million of the investors' money to pay his 54. personal expenses; and McKnight secretly transferred at least \$144,000 of the Legisi offering proceeds to Relief Defendants Danielle Burton, Theresa Burton, and Jennifer McKnight. McKnight also transferred at least \$525,000 to Relief Defendant Lindenwood. The Defendants did not disclose these diversions of investor funds.
- McKnight used the remainder of the Legisi investors' money for a variety of 55. purposes, including to pay the costs of the marketing of the Legisi program. The Defendants did not disclose this use of investor funds to investors.

Profitability of Investments in Legisi

- McKnight misrepresented that the investments he made with the investors' money 56. were profitable.
- Between December 2005 and May 2006, the Legisi website stated that "profits 57. from these investments . . . are used to enhance our program(s) and increase stability for the long term."
- The investment choices listed on the Legisi website varied throughout the life of 58. the Legisi program, with the offered interest rates ranging from .25% a day to 15% per month, to be paid from the profits generated by McKnight's investments.
- In January 2007, McKnight wrote on the Legisi Forum that "Legisi Holdings is 59. simply a company that currently wants to borrow your money and re-pay you with a handsome interest rate. Obviously, we make money from your money. That['s] why we're in business."

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- Between December 2005 and the first half of October 2007, McKnight б0. represented to investors who chose to reinvest their investments that they had carned the interest each month that he had promised to pay them.
- In or about March 2007, McKnight told an investor in a telephone call that Legisi 61. was successful in the foreign currency market. McKnight also told the investor that the profits generated from Legisi's foreign currency and other investments would pay the interest the investor was to receive.
- In May 2007, he wrote on the Legisi website, "our members loan us funds, choose 62. their repayment terms and enjoy the interest payments. The sole purpose of Legisi Holdings, LLC is to profit more than we pay out in interest. We have been extremely successful at that since December 28, 2005."
- McKnight also told undercover law enforcement agents in May 2007 that "a 63. really good month is 18%...the average month is 16%" in profits.
- In January 2007, McKnight informed Legisi investors that the Legisi program 64. would be closed to new investors in May or June 2007. McKnight explained that the Legisi program's investments in foreign currency and commodities were extremely profitable, but were volatile, and he wanted to move investor funds into more conservative investments. McKnight represented that once the Legisi program had been closed to new members, the interest rate for new "loans" would be reduced to 6% per month, though existing "loans" would continue to pay interest at their current rates. This limited time offer to continue to invest in the Legisi program at the higher interest rates attracted a significant number of additional investments. Between

January 2007 and May 2007, the Defendants raised at least an additional \$35 million from investors.

- In June 2007, a posting on the Legisi website stated that "Legisi makes about 15% 65. a month on the money between Forex, options, warrants, and stocks; sometimes more, sometimes less, but let's just say 15%."
- Throughout 2006 and 2007, McKnight posted on the Legisi website each 66. investor's "account history," which listed the amount of interest that the investor had purportedly earned each month and the total value of their investment. The posted amount of interest earned always equaled the amount that McKnight promised to pay pursuant to the terms of the investment the investor chose.
- McKnight also represented on the Legisi website in May 2006 and June 2007 and 67. in conversations that he was compensated from the difference between the profits earned from these investments and the interest he promised to pay investors each month. In at least May 2006, McKnight wrote, "We are obviously receiving a higher return on our invested funds. We repay our members and keep a small profit for ourselves. Everybody's happy."
- In addition, Legisi Forum moderator "Martin" posted on March 17, 2007, "But, in 68. case you are wondering Greg of course has a financial motive to leverage our funds for his personal gain in the long run by taking the difference between what he pays out and what he brings in. I don't know the numbers, but he has to be paying us a huge majority of the earnings back."
- McKnight's and the moderators' representations of profitability were all false and 69. misleading.

- 70. During the period of December 2005 through April 2008, McKnight realized losses of approximately \$3.6 million.
- 71. The Defendants did not disclose these losses to Legisi investors.

Sources of Money Paid out to Investors

- 72. McKnight represented on the Legisi website that his investments routinely generated a profit of 15 percent to 18 percent each month. McKnight further represented that once he paid the Legisi investors he would keep any remaining profits for himself.
- 73. Legisi investors who chose to withdraw their monthly interest payments received them on a timely basis from December 2005 until July 2007.
- 74. Likewise, from December 2005 through July 2007, the Defendants paid back the principal of Legisi investors who requested a withdrawal of their funds from the program.
- 75. From December 2005 through the first half of October 2007, the Defendants paid out a total of approximately \$27 million to Legisi investors.
- 76. McKnight, on behalf of himself and Legisi Holdings, represented to investors that their payments were made from investment profits of the Legisi program.
- 77. For example, on the Legisi website's "Frequently Asked Questions" page as it appeared in at least May 2006, McKnight answered the question, "How do you pay out such high returns?" by stating, "We are obviously receiving a higher return on our invested funds. We repay our Members and keep a small profit for ourselves. Everybody's happy."
- 78. McKnight also told at least one Legisi investor that the interest he would pay the investor would come from the profits that he made in the foreign currency markets and other investments.

- **79**. McKnight also stated on the Legisi Forum that: "I am looking to diversify our holdings into some much more stable elements. While our Commodities Options and Forex Positions have been extremely profitable, they are also very volatile and may become mores so as we grow larger. Diversifying a large part of our funds into lower risk instruments will mean lower profits and therefore lower rates but it also means much greater longevity and less stress on me."
- 80. McKnight also stated on the Legisi Forum that: "As we diversify our holdings to slightly more conservative situations, our profit margin will shrink. We will no longer desire to borrow at 10 - 12.5%."
- 81. The representations described in paragraphs 72 through 80 above were false.
- 82. In fact, McKnight funded his payments to Legisi investors with money obtained from other investors. In other words, he operated a classic Ponzi scheme.
- 83. The Defendants did not disclose that the money paid out to Legisi investors, rather than constituting investment profits, was funded by money obtained from other Legisi investors.

The Legitimacy and Safety of Investments in Legisi

- 84. McKnight also misrepresented the legitimacy of the Legisi program and the safety of the Legisi investments.
- 85. McKnight represented on the Legisi website from December 2005 to at least May 2006 that investors could trust their money with Legisi because "we will never resort to paying out earnings from 'new money' like the filthy scamming HYIPs." In at least May 2007, McKnight represented on the Legisi website that, "We do not offer ridiculously high interest

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rates. We leave that to the seam artists. One of our goals is to put these seammers out of business. Drive 'em right off the 'Net!"

- 86. He further represented that Legisi was a legitimate program designed to put out of business the HYIPs and Ponzi schemes that "disappear with all your money."
- 87. In a November 6, 2006 on-line interview about Legisi on a different website, McKnight stated that he started Legisi because, "With the extremely large number of scams on the Internet today, I saw an amazing opportunity for someone with the right knowledge and connections to step forward and create an honest, legitimate program."
- 88. These statements were false, because McKnight was operating a Ponzi scheme by using new investor funds to pay interest to other investors and was misappropriating investor funds for his own use.
- 89. McKnight also represented on the Legisi website that Legisi had a "Reserve Account" in which he would place 10% of his trading profits until the account's balance equaled 110% of the total investors' principal that Legisi received. McKnight represented that he set up this account to protect investors should Legisi's investments not generate sufficient profits in any given month.
- 90. McKnight told undercover law enforcement agents in May 2007 that he set aside 10% per month in a reserve account in the event he is not able to pay investors what he owes them, the reserve account's balance was approximately \$8 million, and that he had not had to withdraw any funds from the reserve account.
- 91. In May 2007, on the Legisi Forum, on which Legisi investors posted information and asked questions about the Legisi program, McKnight stated that Legisi had more than

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enough in its reserves to completely cover the funds frozen in his E-gold accounts as a result of a court order in a separate government action.

92. These statements were false. McKnight had never created a Reserve Account and did not set aside for the Legisi investors any profits.

MCKNIGHT ACTED TO CONCEAL HIS OFFERING OF SECURITIES

- 93. The Legisi website was available to the general public from the inception of the Legisi program in December 2005 until on or about May 17, 2007.
- 94. On May 17, 2007, two law enforcement agents interviewed McKnight about the Legisi offering.
- 95. Within hours of the interview, an announcement appeared on the Legisi website stating that the Legisi program was closed to new investors, effective immediately. McKnight also cut off access to the Legisi website by the public by requiring a login and password to enter the site.
- 96. In August 2007, the Defendants stopped taking in money through e-currency providers. Beginning in around September 2007, investors requested but did not receive withdrawals of their funds.
- 97. In October 2007, the Legisi website was taken down.
- 98. The Defendants continued to receive money from members of the public at least through November 2007.

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MCKNIGHT AND HIS COMPANIES CONTROL MILLIONS IN ASSETS ACQUIRED WITH OFFERING PROCEEDS

- 99. McKnight is still in control of millions of dollars of assets acquired with investor funds, including securities, commodity futures positions, options positions, foreign currency positions, and real estate investments. Many of these assets are held in the names of Relief Defendant Legisi Marketing.
- 100. As of April 9, 2008, McKnight, through Legisi Marketing, controlled three brokerage accounts containing foreign currency options and futures and commodities options and futures positions with an aggregate net liquidating value of approximately \$1.3 million.
- 101. As of April 21, 2008, McKnight, through Legisi Marketing, also held approximately \$105,000 in several bank accounts.
- McKnight, through Legisi Marketing, currently owns ten pieces of real estate in Genesee County, which Legisi Marketing purchased with approximately \$1.2 million of investor funds.
- 103. McKnight, through Legisi Marketing, used approximately \$9.3 million of investor funds to purchase an interest in a Florida real estate venture, which he currently still has.
- 104. McKnight, through Legisi Marketing, also controls several million shares of thinly-traded stocks that may be worth millions.
- 105. Included in the stock holdings of Legisi Marketing are approximately 1.7 million shares of the restricted stock of an issuer named Pacific Asia Petroleum, Inc ("Pacific Asia").

 The stock of Pacific Asia is quoted on the Pink OTC Market.

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- 106. The restrictions on the Pacific Asia stock will expire on May 7, 2008, cnabling McKnight to begin selling the shares of this stock. The Pacific Asia shares controlled by McKnight had a total value of \$39.8 million as of May 4, 2008.
- 107. McKnight holds this stock, as well as two other OTC stocks, in certificate form.
- McKnight told investors in November 2007 and February 2008 that he plans to 108. sell stock, purportedly to repay investors. McKnight called a stock broker on or about April 9, 2008 seeking the broker's assistance in selling shares of other restricted stocks which had recently become eligible for resale.
- 109. McKnight has the ability to sell or to transfer all assets held by Legisi Marketing, Lido, and HBN, without notice to anyone.

COUNT I

Violations of Section 5(a) and (c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77e(a) and (c)]

- 110. Paragraphs 1 through 109 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 111. By their conduct, McKnight and Legisi Holdings, directly or indirectly: (i) made use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or of the mails to sell, through the use or medium of a prospectus or otherwise, securities as to which no registration statement was in effect; (ii) for the purpose of sale or delivery after sale, carried or caused to be carried through the mails or in interstate commerce, by any means or instruments of transportation, securities as to which no registration statement was in effect; and (iii) rnade use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or of the

mails to offer to sell or offer to buy, through the use or medium of a prospectus or otherwise, securities as to which no registration statement had been filed.

- 112. No valid registration statement was filed or was in effect with the Commission in connection with McKnight's and Legisi Holdings's offer and sale of securities in the Legisi program.
- By reason of the foregoing, McKnight and Legisi Holdings have violated Sections 5(a) and (c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77e(a) and (c)].

COUNT II

Violations of Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)(1)]

- 114. Paragraphs 1 through 109 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 115. By their conduct, McKnight and Legisi Holdings, in the offer or sale of securities in the Legisi program, by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce and by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly, have employed devices, schemes or artifices to defraud.
- 116. McKnight and Legisi Holdings acted with scienter.
- 117. By reason of the foregoing, McKnight and Legisi Holdings violated Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)(1)].

COUNT III

Violations of Sections 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77q(a)(2) and 77q(a)(3)]

- Paragraphs 1 through 109 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 119. By their conduct, McKnight and Legisi Holdings, in the offer or sale of securities in the Legisi program, by the use of any means or instruments of transportation and communication in interstate commerce and by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly, have obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of material fact or omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or have engaged in transactions, practices or courses of business which have been operating as a fraud or deceit upon purchasers of securities in the Legisi program.
- 120. By reason of the foregoing, McKnight and Legisi Holdings violated Sections 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77q(a)(2) and 77q(a)(3)].

COUNT IV

Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5]

- 121. Paragraphs 1 through 109 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 122. By their conduct, McKnight and Legisi Holdings, in connection with the purchase or sale of securities in the Legisi program, by the use of any means or instrumentalities of

interstate commerce or by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly: (a) employed a device, scheme or artifice to defraud; (b) made untrue statements of material fact and omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and (c) engaged in an act, practice, or course of business which has been or is operating as a fraud or deceit upon other persons, including purchasers and sellers of such securities.

- 123. McKnight and Legisi Holdings acted with scienter.
- By reason of the foregoing, McKnight and Legisi Holdings have violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5].

COUNT V

Relief Defendants

- 125. Paragraphs 1 through 124 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 126. Altogether, the Defendants received approximately \$72 million of ill gotten funds through their illegal offering of securities.
- The Defendants transferred millions of dollars in offering proceeds to the Relief Defendants.
- 128. Legisi Marketing received millions in Legisi investor funds. It currently holds assets worth approximately \$59 million, which assets were acquired with offering proceeds raised by the Defendants.

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- HBN received approximately \$800,000 of the offering proceeds raised by the 130. Defendants. Some of these funds were later transferred to McKnight's personal e-Bullion account, while approximately \$55,000 was used to pay a debit card balance.
- 131. Lindenwood received at least \$525,000 of the offering proceeds raised by the Defendants.
- 132. Danielle Burton received at least \$26,850 of the offering proceeds raised by the Defendants.
- Theresa Burton received at least \$80,000 of the offering proceeds raised by the 133. Defendants.
- Jennifer McKnight received at least \$38,000 of the offering proceeds raised by the 134. Defendants.
- 135. The offering proceeds the Relief Defendants received from the Defendants constituted ill-gotten gains.
- The Relief Defendants have no legitimate claim to the ill-gotten funds they 136. received from the Defendants or to any assets that the Relief Defendants acquired with those illgotten funds.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the Defendants committed the violations charged and alleged herein.

Issue Preliminary and Permanent Injunctions restraining the Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all person in active concert or participation with them, and each of them, from violating and from aiding and abetting violations of: (a) Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a) and 77e(c)]; (b) Sections 17(a)(1), (2) and (3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§77q(a)(1), (2) and (3)]; and (c) Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)]; and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5].

Order the Defendants and Relief Defendants to pay disgorgement of their ill-gotten gains, derived directly or indirectly from the conduct complained of herein, together with prejudgment interest thereon.

Order the Defendants to pay to the Commission civil penalties pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §77t(d)] and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. $\S78u(d)(3)$].

Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and to carry out the terms of all orders and decrees that may be entered or to entertain any suitable application or motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of the Court.

Grant an Order for such further relief as the Court may deem appropriate.

DATED: May 5, 2008

JOHN E. BIRKENHEIER STEVEN L. KLAWANS

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES G. O'KEEFE

Document 5

Attorneys for Plaintiff

U.S. SECURITIES AND

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Case 4	1:08-cv-11887 - P\	VG-VMM DO	vene VER	ent 5 SHE	Filed 0: ET Cour	5/05/2008 Pag aty in which action are	ge 28 of 2	
the JS 44-ivil cover sheet and the Jonal rules of court. This form the civil docket sheet. (SEE INS	ne information contained her	ein neither replace nor si 'onference of the United	ipplement States in	the filing September	and service of p 1974, is require	leadings or other papers as reed for the use of the Clerk o	equited by law, I Court for the p	except as provided urpose of initiating
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS United States Securities and Exchange Commission				DEFENDANTS Gregory N. McKnight, J.egisi Holdings; Relicf Defendants: Legisi Marketing, Lido Consulting, Healthy Body Nutraccuticals, Lindenwood Enterprises, Danielle Burton, Theresa Burton, Jennifer McKnight				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) John E. Hirkenheier, Steven L. Klawans, James G. O'Keefe, Securities and Exchange Commission, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60604, 312.886.3947 (Birkenheier).				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known) Richard A. Roth, 545 5th Ave, Suite 960, New York, NY 10016, 212.542.8882. M. Allen Robb, 1289 S. Linden Road, Suite B, Flint, MI 48532, 810.230.1415.				
Plaintiff Defendant	Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party) U.S. Government			Case: 4:08-cv-11887 Citizen of An Judge: Gadola, Paul V MJ: Morgan, Virginia M Citizen or Sub Foreign Cou CMP POSSIBLE SEALED MATTER (TAM)				
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VI. CAUSE OF ACT	15 U.S.C. 77c, 77q	a), 15 U.S.C. /8j(b).				nal statutes unless diversit tained funds were transferre	al to Relief Defe	endants.
VII. REQUESTED II COMPLAINT:		IS IS A CLASS ACTIO		DEMANI		CHECK YES JURY DEMA	raly if demande	d-m complimat:

VI. CA VII, RE CO VIII, RE DOCKET NUMBER (See instructions): JUDGE IF ANY DATE May 3, 2008 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY MAG JUDGE JUDGE APPLYING IFF AMOUNT RECEIPT#

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PURSU	ANT TO LOCAL RULE 83.11			
1.	Is this a case that has been previou	Yes No		
If yes, g	ive the following information:			
Court: _				
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Judge: _				
2.	Other than stated above, are there discontinued or dismissed compar court, including state court? (Comit appears substantially similar evior related parties are present and transaction or occurrence.)	∑ Yes ☐ No		
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