## STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **SECURITIES DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING	) Order No.: S-14-1522-15-FO01
Whether there has been a violation of the	
Securities Act of Washington by:	) ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACT AND
C ,	) CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND
TVDeeBee, Inc.	) FINAL ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST,
Robert O. Lee;	) TO IMPOSE FINES, AND TO CHARGE COSTS
Respondents.	
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THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: TVDeeBee, Inc. Robert O. Lee

On July 31, 2015, the Securities Administrator of the State of Washington issued Statement of Charges and Notice of Intent to Enter Order to Cease and Desist, to Impose Fines, and to Charge Costs, Order No. S-14-1522-14-SC01 (hereinafter referred to as the "Statement of Charges"). The Statement of Charges, together with a Notice of Opportunity to Defend and Opportunity for Hearing, hereinafter referred to as the "Notice of Opportunity for Hearing," and an Application for Adjudicative Hearing, hereinafter referred to as "Application for Hearing," was served on Respondents TV DeeBee, Inc. and Robert O. Lee on September 26, 2015. The Notice of Opportunity for Hearing advised the Respondents that a written application for an administrative hearing on the Statement of Charges must be received within twenty days of receipt of the notice. Respondents each failed to request an administrative hearing within twenty days of receipt of the Statement of Charges and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, either on the Application for Hearing provided, or otherwise.

The Securities Administrator therefore will adopt as final the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as set forth in the Statement of Charges and enter a final order against the Respondents to cease and desist from violations of the Securities Act, and to impose the fines and costs sought in the

Statement of Charges.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **Securities Division** PO Box 9033 Olympia WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760

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#### FINDINGS OF FACT

The Securities Administrator makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

### Respondents

- 1. TVDeeBee, Inc. ("TVDeeBee") is a Delaware corporation formed on May 10, 2010, which previously used a business address in Seattle, Washington. TVDeeBee was in the business of establishing an online database of historical television-related media such as photographs and press clippings.
- 2. Robert O. Lee ("Lee") was a resident of Bellevue, and Seattle, Washington, and was the founder, CEO, and President of TVDeeBee during the period relevant to this Final Order.

### Failure to Comply with Subpoena

3. On September 24, 2014, the Division personally served subpoena number S-14-1522-14-DI01 on Lee. The subpoena required Lee to produce records to the Division no later than October 1, 2014. Lee did not respond to the subpoena and, to date, has provided no records to the Division.

#### Overview

4. Beginning no later than 2006, Lee raised investment funds to digitize a collection of television-related media, maintained in hard copy format, related to programs that aired from the 1960s onward and to create a website that would host the digitized media and be accessed by fans and researchers of the history of American television. The website was to generate revenue through subscription fees and advertising, among other things. Lee had previously entered a contract with the collection's owners to sell the collection on the owner's behalf that entitled Lee to 20% of any sale's proceeds. The contract did not contemplate the website that Lee described to investors. However, Lee represented to one investor that, in 2006, Lee acquired the exclusive right to make the media available online. By emphasizing the purported valuations to investors of both the media itself and of the contemplated website as an acquisition target, Lee

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raised at least \$124,500 by selling stock to at least seven investors, including five Washington residents, between November 2006 and August 2011.

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

- 5. Lee solicited people he met in professional capacities as well as those he met through word of mouth. Lee met a Washington investor through advertising directed to members of the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants that was related to Lee's non-profit organization (Independent Football Veterans), which assists retired professional football players in securing disability benefits. Lee solicited others whom he met through this non-profit. Lee primarily solicited investors during one-on-one meetings in restaurants and other locations. Investors paid by checks payable to TVDeeBee, Inc. or by wire transfer. One investor used the settlement from a workplace injury to purchase shares of TVDeeBee stock.
- 6. Lee provided most investors with little or no written disclosure prior to receiving their funds, and some investors received no document to evidence their investment. However, in January 2011, Lee provided one investor with the following prior to receiving the investor's funds: an Executive Summary, a PowerPoint presentation, an unsigned Subscription Agreement, and a "Confidential Private Placement Disclosure Statement." According to these documents, TVDeeBee's website would generate revenue from advertising, licensing, and subscriptions.
- 7. These documents also stated that, due to the exclusive nature of its media content, TVDeeBee was well-positioned to be acquired by other corporations. In particular, the PowerPoint claimed that the media in TVDeeBee's collection was of "great value" to Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, and that Amazon was likely to acquire TVDeeBee. Lee further represented to investors that Amazon was "extremely interested" in acquiring TVDeeBee, and that other, unnamed companies were interested in acquiring TVDeeBee as well. Further, Lee represented to an investor that an acquisition would occur within one year of the website's launch.

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- 8. Lee compared TVDeeBee to the Internet Movie Database ("IMDb"), which Lee stated was the largest online database of movie information and which had a current valuation of "well over" \$500 million. Lee told investors that TVDeeBee would be the television equivalent of IMDb in part because TVDeeBee and IMDb had similar business models and revenue streams. Lee told investors that Amazon's acquisition of IMDb for \$25 million in 1998 set the "benchmark for [TVDeeBee's] valuation." However, Lee failed to provide a detailed explanation of why the price that Amazon paid to acquire IMDb could predict TVDeeBee's value. Furthermore, Lee failed to disclose that, unlike TVDeeBee, IMDb had been an active, consistently expanded website for eight years when Amazon acquired it in 1998. Lee also failed to disclose that, unlike TVDeeBee, IMDb had never been restricted to a single source of content.
- 9. In 2011, Lee made misleading statements and failed to disclose material information concerning TVDeeBee's financial condition. Lee stated to an investor that, as of January 2011, TVDeeBee had raised approximately \$1 million from investors and was entering its "last stage of funding." However, at the time of that statement, Lee had not yet opened the bank account in TVDeeBee's name into which subsequent investment funds would be deposited. Lee also represented that TVDeeBee "expects to be profitable within the first 12 months after launch" but failed to disclose the assumptions underlying this claim.
- 10. Lee made misleading representations regarding the returns that investors would earn on their investment once TVDeeBee had been acquired. Lee represented to at least one investor that he would earn a "guaranteed" return of 1,400% to 1,700% of his principal investment, and that another investor could expect a minimum return of 1,000%. Lee represented to another investor that he would receive "around a 10X return." Lee failed to disclose the basis for these projected returns and the ability of TVDeeBee to guarantee investment returns.

- 11. Lee failed to disclose the technical requirements of a website such as the one promoted to investors, as well as the costs involved and the time required to meet those requirements. These requirements included, but were not limited to, how and where the website would be hosted, the creation of the website's pages, and how payments from subscribers could be securely processed.
- 12. Lee failed to disclose the risks of investing in TVDeeBee to some investors prior to receiving their funds. These risks included, but were not limited to, the need to raise additional capital, the risk that a buyer might not emerge to buy TVDeeBee, the risk that a competitor might create a website superior to that contemplated by TVDeeBee, and the risk that investors might not receive any return.
- 13. Lee made misleading statements and failed to disclose material information concerning the use of investor funds. According to written offering documents received by one investor who made two separate investments, investment funds would be applied to salaries and wages (approximately 21% of funds raised), scanning (approximately 28% of funds raised), website and database development (approximately 14% of funds raised), hardware and storage facilities approximately 19% of funds raised), professional and administrative expenses (approximately 11% of funds raised), and "contingency" (approximately 8% of funds raised). Lee also orally represented to that investor that Lee would apply the funds to the purchase of ten color scanners. However, after Lee initially deposited the investor funds into an account in the name of TVDeeBee, he proceeded to transfer approximately 65% of the investor's first investment and 75% of the investor's second investment into a personal account in Lee's own name, using checks paid to himself. After each of these investments, Lee spent nearly all of the investor's transferred funds on cash withdrawals and various retail purchases.
- 14. As of the date of this Final Order, Lee has not launched the website he described to investors while soliciting their funds or a test version thereof. At least three investors have demanded that Lee return their funds. Lee has ignored these communications, offered excuses for why he could not comply, or made

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promises to repay, then failed to follow through. In June 2013, an investor obtained a default judgment against Lee and TVDeeBee.

### **Registration Status**

- 15. TVDeeBee, Inc. is not currently registered to sell its securities in the State of Washington and has not previously been so registered, and has not claimed an exemption from registration.
- 16. Robert O. Lee is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.

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

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The offer and/or sale of the investments described above constitute the offer and/or sale of a security as defined in RCW 21.20.005(14) and (17).
- 2. TVDeeBee, Inc. and Robert O. Lee have each violated RCW 21.20.140, because, as set forth in the Findings of Fact, Respondents offered and/or sold securities for which no registration is on file with the Securities Administrator.
- 3. Robert O. Lee has violated RCW 21.20.040 by offering and/or selling said securities while not being registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington.
- 4. TVDeeBee, Inc. and Robert O. Lee have each violated RCW 21.20.010, because, as set forth in the Findings of Fact, Respondents made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading.

Based upon the foregoing, and finding it in the public interest:

## FINAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondents TVDeeBee, Inc. and Robert O. Lee, and their agents and employees each shall cease and desist from violations of RCW 21.20.140, the securities registration section of the Securities Act of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent Robert O. Lee, and his agents and employees each shall cease and desist from violations of RCW 21.20.040, the securities salesperson and broker-dealer registration section of the Securities Act of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents TVDeeBee, Inc. and Robert O. Lee, and their agents and employees each shall cease and desist from violations of RCW 21.20.010, the anti-fraud section of the Securities Act of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent Robert O. Lee shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$20,000.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent TVDeeBee, Inc. shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$10,000.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents TVDeeBee, Inc. and Robert O. Lee shall be jointly liable for and shall pay costs in the amount of \$2,500.

#### AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

This FINAL ORDER is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 21.20.390, and is subject to the provisions of Chapter 34.05 RCW. Respondents have the right to petition the superior court for judicial review of this agency action under the provisions of RCW 34.05. For the requirements for judicial review, see RCW 34.05.510 and sections following. Pursuant to RCW 21.20.395, a certified copy of this Order may be filed in superior court. If so filed, the clerk shall treat the Order in the same manner as a superior court judgment as to the fine, and the fine may be recorded, enforced, or satisfied in like manner.

# WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

SIGNED and ENTERED this <u>22nd</u>	day of2015.
	William M. Beatty Securities Administrator
An Elm	Fduar Rhuney
Suzanne Sarason Chief of Enforcement	Edward R. Thunen Financial Legal Examiner
Reviewed by:	
Robert Kondrat	

Financial Legal Examiner Supervisor