# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1 **SECURITIES DIVISION** 2 3 4 IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING SDO -018-02 Whether there has been a violation 5 of the Securities Act of the State SUMMARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST of Washington by: 6 Case No. 01-07-0251 WILFRED KENT; WILFRED KENT & 7 ASSOCIATES; WILFRED KENT & ASSOCIATES, LLC; JOSHUA PATTEN; 8 CHRISTIAN WOODHOUSE-KENT; their employees and agents 9 Respondents. 10 11 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: Wilfred Kent a.k.a. Wilfred Woodhouse-Kent 12 Wilfred Kent & Associates; Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC; 4920 S 107<sup>th</sup> St. 13 Tukwila, WA 98178 14 Joshua Patten 15 3990 129th Pl SE #C-304 Bellevue, WA 98006 16 Christian Woodhouse-Kent 17 4926 S 107<sup>th</sup> St. Tukwila, WA 98178 18 19 STATEMENT OF CHARGES 20 Please take notice that the Securities Administrator of the State of Washington has reason to believe that 21 Respondents, Wilfred Kent (Kent), Wilfred Kent & Associates (WKA), Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC (WKALLC), 22 Joshua Patten (Patten) and Christian Woodhouse-Kent (Woodhouse-Kent) have each violated the Securities Act of 23 Washington and that their violations justify the entry of an order of the Securities Administrator under RCW 21.20.390 24 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS 25

SUMMARY ORDER TO CEASE AND **DESIST** 

26

27

**Securities Division** PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760 against each of them to cease and desist from such violations. The Securities Administrator finds that delay in ordering the Respondents to cease and desist from such violations would be hazardous to the investors and to the public and that a Summary Order to Cease and Desist should be entered immediately. The Securities Administrator finds as follows:

#### TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT

# I. Respondents

- 1. Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC, a Washington Limited Liability Company, maintains business addresses at 2100 Westlake Avenue North, #107, Seattle, Washington; 12819 SE 38<sup>th</sup> St. #237, Bellevue, Washington; 4920 S 107<sup>th</sup> St., Tukwila, Washington; and 8306 Wilshire Blvd. #92, Beverly Hills, California. WKALLC represents itself as an international finance company that assists customers in making offshore investments.
- Wilfred Kent & Associates, an unregistered business entity, maintains business addresses at 4920 S
  Tukwila, Washington and 8306 Wilshire Blvd. #92, Beverly Hills, California.
  - 3. Wilfred Kent is a principal in Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC and Wilfred Kent & Associates.
- 4. Joshua Patten is a principal in Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC and a representative of Wilfred Kent & Associates.
  - 5. Christian Woodhouse-Kent is a principal in Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC.

## II. Offering

6. Currently, the Respondents are offering high yield investments and private placement investments in the state of Washington. The website <a href="www.wkallc.com">www.wkallc.com</a>, registered to WKALLC, states that WKALLC is "capable of facilitating large scale project financing and the substantial placement of private funds" and "has formulated creative investment solutions for clients". Additionally, the website states that WKALLC specializes in structuring specialized arrangements for investments of high net worth individuals, private and public corporations, governments and non-profits throughout the world. The website states that Kent, Patten and Woodhouse-Kent are principals in WKALLC. The Respondents also claim, based upon current contractual agreements with existing clients beginning no later than January 1999, to be able to arrange financing for business ventures. The contracts between the Respondents and the clients additionally state that once the financing is completed the Respondents will be able to

place a portion of the financing in high yield investments where the clients can receive a greater amount of money through the profits of the high yield investment.

- 7. Beginning no later than June 2000 and continuing through at least November of 2000, Kent, Patten and WKA, while in the state of Washington, caused an offer of an investment opportunity to be distributed to at least one individual (the "investor").
- 8. The investor first met Kent, through Patten, in 1999. Kent told the investor that he was an "International Financier" who has been in business since 1963. Kent stated that he had the ability to place investor funds in exclusive "high-yield investment programs" through his years of experience in international finance. Kent explained that extraordinarily high rates of return could be obtained through the "inter-bank" trading system used by large European banks. Kent further explained that this system is not open to the general public and that to enter the trading system, investors are required to have very large sums of money ready to invest.
- 9. The investor was told by Kent that the investment consisted of two parts, placing the investor funds into a trust account controlled by WKA, and the subsequent placement of the funds in the trust account into a high yield investment. In addition to the investor's funds, the trust account would include the funds of additional investors, brought in by WKA, with the intention of reaching an account balance of \$10,000,000. Once the trust account reached a balance of \$10,000,000 the entire balance would be placed into a "regular high-yield investment program". According to the offering material provided by Kent and Patten, and statements by Kent, until the \$10,000,000 balance was achieved the investor would receive a guaranteed 20% annual return, paid monthly, that it usually takes between two months to five months to aggregate the required \$10,000,000 and that WKA is currently placing other investors funds in high yield investments and had done so in the past. The offering material entitled "\$10M Aggregated Funds Program Outline" (the "Outline") signed by both the investor and Kent states that the investor would receive 350% return on her investment over a twelve-month period if \$1,000,000 were invested with WKA. The investor was told that this particular investment required a minimum investment of \$25,000, and that the annual return on the investment varied from 100% to 350%, depending on the amount of money invested. Based upon these representations the investor deposited or caused to be deposited \$1,000,000 in offshore accounts controlled by Kent.

10. Beginning no later than September of 2000, Patten, through WKALLC and at the direction of Kent, began sending the investor monthly statements, entitled "WK Trust Account". These statements were in regard to the investment made in WKA. Beginning no later than July 2001 the account statements indicated that the payments due to the investor had been suspended "pending settlement of concerns regarding income tax/withholding tax & legal concerns" and according to a statement dated January 15, 2002 there was \$1,120,000 (\$1,000,000 in principal and \$120,000 in interest) in payments due to the investor. These account statements imply that there is an actual account where the entire funds are deposited.

# III. <u>Misrepresentations or Omissions in Connection with the Offering</u>

- 11. The investigation has found no such account where the investor's funds are located. Additionally, from the investigation, it does not appear that the Respondents have sufficient funds to make the payments that are due and at least a portion of the investor's funds have been used for the benefit of Kent, Patten and Woodhouse-Kent.
- 12. The investigation has not shown any basis for the suspension of the payments for "tax concerns". The payments to the investor were made on a regular basis with no mention of tax issues until the investor filed suit against the Respondents at which time the payments ceased and the statements began to reflect the suspension of payments for tax reasons.
- 13. Furthermore, in connection with the offer and sale of the investment program, Respondents, did not disclose the following information: the use of investment funds; the sales costs and commissions; the identity and address of relevant parties; the risks specific to the offering, such as an absence of a market, inadequate funds to finance the program, and adverse consequences of not obtaining the amount of proceeds needed; the extent of liquidity; the effects of government regulation in the banking and investing industries; disclosure and financial statements of WKA and WKALLC; the experience and track record in investment programs of the principals; and what basis WKA and WKALLC had for its claim that it will be able to pay investors 20% interest per year or 350% interest per year.

# IV. Scheme to Defraud

14. Notwithstanding the Respondents' representations regarding the investment opportunity, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal regulatory agencies such as the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Office of Thrift Supervision have indicated that financial investments denominated as "high-yield investment programs" that bear high yields obtained through inter-bank trading by banks are not bona fide financial investments and that the purported existence of such investments have been advanced for the purpose of defrauding investors.

### V. <u>Registration Status</u>

- 15. The offer and/or sale of securities issued by or held by WKA or WKALLC is not registered under the Securities Act of Washington nor has the offer and/or sale previously been so registered.
- 16. Kent, Patten and Woodhouse-Kent are not currently registered as securities salespersons, investment advisers or broker-dealers in the state of Washington and neither have previously been so registered.

Based upon the foregoing Tentative Findings of Fact the following Conclusions of Law are made.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

#### I. Securities

17. The offer and/or sale of the investment opportunities described above constitutes the offer and/or sale of a security as defined in RCW 21.20.005 (10) and (12).

#### II. Anti-Fraud Provision

18. The offer and/or sale of said securities was made in violation of RCW 21.20.010 because the Respondents made misstatements of material fact or 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.

|| DE213

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

# III. Registration of Securities

19. The offer and/or sale of said securities is in violation of RCW 21.20.140, the registration section of the Securities Act, because no registration for such offer and/or sale is on file with the Securities Administrator of the state of Washington.

## IV. Registration of Broker-Dealer and Salespersons

20. Respondents, Wilfred Kent, Wilfred Kent & Associates, Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC, Joshua Patten and Christian Woodhouse-Kent have each violated RCW 21.20.040 by offering and/or selling said securities while not being registered as a broker-dealer or securities salesperson in the state of Washington.

#### **EMERGENCY**

The Securities Administration finds that an emergency exists and that the continued offers or sales of said purported investment opportunities in violation of RCW 21.20.010, RCW 21.20.140, and RCW 21.20.040, constitute a threat to the investing public. Accordingly, a Summary Order to Cease and Desist from those violations is in the public interest and necessary for the protection of the investing public.

#### **SUMMARY ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing, IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY SUMMARILY ORDERED that Respondents, Wilfred Kent, Wilfred Kent & Associates, Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC, Joshua Patten, Christian Woodhouse-Kent, their agents, and employees shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.010, the anti-fraud section of the Securities Act.

It is further SUMMARILY ORDERED that Respondent, Wilfred Kent & Associates, Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC, their agents, and employees shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.140, the securities registration section of the Securities Act.

It is further SUMMARILY ORDERED that Respondents, Wilfred Kent, Joshua Patten, Christian Woodhouse-Kent, their agents, and employees shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.040, the securities brokerdealer, securities salesperson registration section of the Securities Act.

# 1

2

45

6

7

8

9

10

11 12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

6

#### **AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE**

This Order is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 21.20.390, and is subject to the provisions of Chapter 34.05 RCW. The Respondents, Wilfred Kent, Wilfred Kent & Associates, Wilfred Kent & Associates, LLC, Joshua Patten and Christian Woodhouse-Kent may each make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING accompanying this Order. A request for a hearing should be in writing and sent to Deborah R. Bortner, Securities Administrator, Department of Financial Institutions, P.O. Box 9033, Olympia, Washington 98507-9033.

If a respondent does not request a hearing, the Securities Administrator intends to adopt the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as final and make the Summary Order to Cease and Desist permanent as to that Respondent.

#### **CONTINUING INVESTIGATION**

The Securities Division is continuing to investigate the practices of the Respondents, Kent, WKA, WKALLC, Patten and Woodhouse-Kent to determine the full extent of the violations of the Securities Act that have occurred in this matter.

WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

DATED this 27th day of March, 2002

DEBORAH R. BORTNER Securities Administrator

Debark R Brher

Presented by:

Tyler Letey

Michael E. Stevenson Chief of Enforcement

Approved by:

SUMMARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST

Staff Attorney

/

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

\_ -

**DESIST** 

SUMMARY ORDER TO CEASE AND

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