



COMMISSION NEWS

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION, 1200 W. WASHINGTON, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

TO: EDITORS, NEWS DIRECTORS
FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACC PUTS THE BRAKES ON EASY STREET FINANCIAL AND OTHERS Firm ordered to pay \$8.4 million to 281 investors

PHOENIX – The Arizona Corporation Commission issued a default order against an Arizona-based corporation and entered into consent orders with two of its salespeople, requiring the payment of \$8.4 million in restitution and \$170,000 in penalties. Investors purchased certificates tied to a debt collection business from offices located in Sun City, Scottsdale, Tempe, Gilbert, Prescott and Yuma.

Respondents named in the orders include:

- Easy Street Financial Group, Inc., an Arizona corporation
- Christopher Ellis Marx of Phoenix, 43
- Scot Alan Oglesby of Desert Hills, 41

Marx, a licensed insurance producer and former registered securities salesman, was President of Easy Street Financial Group. He agreed to pay a \$50,000 penalty and \$590,482 in restitution. Oglesby, a licensed insurance producer and former registered securities salesman, was Vice President of Easy Street Financial Group. He agreed to pay a \$20,000 penalty and \$10,650 in restitution.

The restitution amounts that will be returned to investors represent the commissions that Marx and Oglesby earned from selling the certificates of participation.

The Commission found that Easy Street Financial Group sold the ‘certificates of participation’ to at least 281 investors, most of whom were elderly Arizonans. Many of the investors believed they were investing in high-interest certificates of deposit guaranteed by a bank.

In the consent orders, the Commission determined that Marx and Oglesby misrepresented the nature of the investment to the investors. Some investors knew that the investment was with a debt collection agency called Trend, but the respondents failed to disclose the inherent risks of investing in a new company with limited resources involving:

- reduced debt recovery margins,
- increased costs to acquire consumer debt,
- limited ability to transfer the security, and
- lack of liquidity.

Commission action is still pending against other respondents in this case who are not parties to these orders.

Anyone who has invested with the respondents is urged to contact the Commission's Securities Division at 602-542-4242 or toll free, 1-866-VERIFY-9 and ask for the special investigator assigned to the case.

To access the full text of the orders, click on the following link:

<http://www.ccsd.cc.state.az.us/enforcement/enforce-orders.asp>. All public documents related to the cases can be viewed and/or printed through the Commission's e-Docket system. The case or docket number assigned to this matter is S-20476A-06-0557.

Caution for Investors

The Commission urges the public to contact the Securities Division to check whether both the seller and investment are registered. Entrusting your money with someone for investment purposes, while expecting a profit through the efforts of others, may involve a security and sales agents/dealers subject to registration. **VERIFY BEFORE YOU BUY!** Call the Securities Division, (602) 542-4242, toll free (866) VERIFY-9. The Division's investor education web site also has helpful information at

www.azinvestor.gov.

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