WHEREAS, on April 6, 2005, the Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order in this case (Dkt. #13), which, among other provisions, froze the assets of Defendants and Relief Defendant. On April 14, 2005, the Court granted a Stipulated Preliminary Injunction in this case (Dkt. #35), which, among other provisions, continued the freeze on those assets. 

Case 2:05-cv-00440-LDG-LRL Document 236 Filed 03/05/2009 Page 3 of 21

3

4

5

7

9

10

11

17

21

24

26

27

8.

Defendants and Jeffrey S. Benice.

Final Judgment and Order

Having reviewed the February 25, 2009, stipulation between the FTC and Mr. Benice,

**Page 4 of 21** 

the Court finds that the law firm of Jeffrey S. Benice is entitled to \$136,700 for
reasonable attorney fees and costs directly related to this case between January 1, 2005,
and April 1, 2006. Therefore, pursuant to the Attorney Fees Orders, the FTC is entitled,
for consumer restitution, to the retainer funds paid to the law firm of Jeffrey S. Benice in
excess of \$136,700, which amounts to \$238,300.

- 9. The paragraphs of this Order shall be read as the necessary requirements for compliance and not as alternatives for compliance, and no paragraph serves to modify another paragraph unless expressly so stated.
- Each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees. 10.
- 11. Entry of this Order is in the public interest.

## **DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

- "Assets" means any legal or equitable interest in, right to, or claim to, any real and personal property, including, but not limited to, chattel, goods, instruments, equipment, fixtures, general intangibles, inventory, checks, notes, leaseholds, effects, contracts, mail or other deliveries, shares of stock, lists of consumer names, accounts, credits, premises, receivables, funds, and cash, wherever located, whether in the United States or abroad.
- B. "Business Opportunity Rule" means FTC Trade Regulation Rule titled "Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Business Opportunities," codified at 16 C.F.R. Part 437, or as it may be amended.
- C. "Business Venture" means any written or oral business arrangement, however denominated, that is covered by the Franchise Rule or the Business Opportunity Rule, or that consists of the payment of any consideration in exchange for:
  - the right or means to offer, sell, or distribute goods or services (regardless a. of whether identified by a trademark, service mark, trade name, advertising, or other commercial symbol); and
- more than nominal assistance to any person or entity in connection with or b.

1	
2	
3	
4	N
5	sı
6	
7	D
8	
9	te
10	p
11	W
12	ir
13	n
14	
15	R
16	n
17	
18	G
19	
20	C
21	C
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	V

incident to t	he estal	blishment	, maint	tenance	e, or	operation	of a	new	busin	ess
or the entry	by an e	xisting b	ısiness	into a	new	line or typ	e of	busi	ness.	

- D. "Corporate Defendants" means Network Services Depot, Inc.; Network Marketing, LLC; Network Services Distribution, Inc.; Sunbelt Marketing, Inc.; and their uccessors and assigns.
- E. "Defendants" means all of the Individual Defendants and the Corporate Defendants, individually, collectively, or in any combination.
- F. "Document" is synonymous in meaning and equal in scope to the usage of the erm in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a), and includes writings, drawings, graphs, charts, hotographs, audio and video recordings, computer records, and other data compilations from which the information can be obtained and translated, if necessary, through detection devices nto reasonably usable form. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the neaning of the term.
- G. "Franchise Rule" means the FTC Trade Regulation Rule titled "Disclosure equirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising," codified at 16 C.F.R. Part 436, or as it nay be amended.
- "Individual Defendants" means Charles V. Castro, Elizabeth L. Castro, and H. regory High.
- I. "Person" means a natural person, organization or other legal entity, including a orporation, partnership, proprietorship, association, or cooperative, or any other group, or ombination acting as an entity.
  - J. "Relief Defendant" means Phyllis Watson.

## ORDER

I.

# BAN ON SALE OF FRANCHISES AND BUSINESS VENTURES

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Corporate Defendants and Defendant Charles '. Castro, directly or through any corporation, partnership, subsidiary, division, trade name,

Final Judgment and Order

Page 6 of 21

device, or other entity, are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from:

- A. Advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, selling, or assisting any other person in the sale of any Business Venture; or
- B. Receiving any remuneration or other consideration of any kind whatsoever from any person engaged in or assisting in advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling any Business Venture;
- C. Holding any ownership interest, share, or stock in, any person engaged in advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling any Business Venture; or
- D. Serving as an employee, officer, director, trustee, general manager of, or consultant or advisor to, any person engaged in advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling any Business Venture.

Nothing in this Order shall be read as an exception to this Section.

# II.

# PROHIBITED REPRESENTATIONS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in connection with the advertising, offering for sale, licensing, contracting, sale or other promotion, in or affecting commerce, of any goods or services, Defendants, directly or through any corporation, partnership, subsidiary, division, trade name, device, or other entity, and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all persons and entities in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

D. The availability or existence of locations or profitable locations for such good or service.

III.

## MEANS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in connection with the advertising, offering for sale, licensing, contracting, sale or other promotion, in or affecting commerce, of any goods or services, Defendants, directly or through any corporation, partnership, subsidiary, division, trade name, device, or other entity, and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all persons and entities in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order, by personal service or otherwise, are hereby enjoined from providing to others the means or instrumentalities with which to make misrepresentations, expressly or by implication, of any material fact, including, but not limited to, providing others with materials that contain false representations concerning:

- The existence, performance, efficacy, nature, or central characteristic of such A. good or service;
- В. The income, profit, or sales volume that a purchaser of such good or service is likely to achieve;
- C. The source of any income or profit sent to a purchaser of such good or service; or
- D. The availability or existence of locations or profitable locations for such good or service.

IV.

# MONETARY RELIEF

#### **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

A. Judgment is hereby entered jointly and severally against the Corporate Defendants, Defendant Charles V. Castro, and Defendant Gregory High in the amount of eighteen million, eight hundred twenty-seven thousand, five hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$18,827,528), as equitable monetary relief to redress

Final Judgment and Order

**Page 8 of 21** 

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

27

consumer injury. This monetary judgment shall become immediately due and payable by Defendants upon entry of this Order, and interest computed at the rate prescribed under 28 U.S.C. § 1961 shall immediately begin to accrue on the unpaid balance.

B. Within ten (10) business days of the date of service of this Order, by personal service or otherwise, Relief Defendant shall pay to the FTC as equitable monetary relief to redress consumer injury all funds containeo rebT iy t7-nia tovpop46 (764 t7-niamt, Relief petad. at amiastwo h fuo r Cadal pandr,(e)(hble)1toveg51ith31

B. B.

1

2

3

apply any remaining funds for any other equitable relief (including consumer information remedies) that it determines to be reasonably related to Defendants' practices alleged in the Complaint. Any funds not used for this equitable relief shall be deposited into the U.S. Treasury as disgorgement. Defendants and Relief Defendant shall have no right to challenge the FTC's choice of remedies under this Section.

## V.

#### TURNOVER OF ASSETS HELD BY THIRD PARTIES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that to partially satisfy the monetary judgment set forth in the Section titled "Monetary Relief:"

- A. Any law firm, financial or brokerage institution, escrow agent, title company, commodity trading company, business entity, or person, that holds, controls, or maintains custody of any asset or account of, on behalf of, or for the benefit of, any Corporate Defendant, Defendant Charles V. Castro, or Defendant Gregory High, or has held, controlled, or maintained custody of any account or asset of, on behalf of, or for the benefit of, any such Defendant, shall turn over such asset or all funds in such account to the Commission or its duly authorized agent (as directed by Commission counsel), within ten (10) business days of receiving actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise. Those assets or accounts include, but not necessarily limited to:
  - All frozen funds held at Fullerton Community Bank, including, but not limited to, funds in accounts in the name of, or controlled by, any Defendant, including accounts with account numbers ending in 9150, 9169, 1018, 1827, 3179, 0058, 3518, 2905, 0266, and 9753;
  - 2. All frozen funds held at Union Bank of California, including, but not limited to, funds in the account in the name of, or controlled by, any Defendant, with account number ending in 0230, 7484, and 7674; and

1			

hundred dollars (\$238,300) ("Benice Funds"), (b) designate the Benice Funds as: "Retainer Funds Subject to Consumer Restitution in *FTC v*. *Network Services Depot*;" and (c) transfer the Benice Funds to a trust account maintained by the law firm of Jeffrey S. Benice; and

- 2. Within ten (10) business days of the date of receiving actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, transfer the Benice Funds to the Commission or its duly authorized agent (as directed by Commission counsel) by electronic funds transfer, designating the Benice Funds as "Retainer Funds Subject to Consumer Restitution in *FTC v. Network Services Depot.*"
- F. If, after entry of this Order, Washington Mutual Bank, its successors, and/or assigns, realizes any excess proceeds (proceeds in excess of payment of all sums that Washington Mutual Bank secured by a deed of trust) upon exercising any rights it has to enforce remedies against real property owned by Defendant Gregory High, located at 90 Echo Run, Irvine, CA, Washington Mutual Bank, its successors, and/or assigns shall transfer such excess proceeds to the Commission or its duly authorized agent (as directed by Commission counsel) within ten (10) business days of realizing such proceeds.
- G. All payments required to be made to the Commission or its agents or representatives under this Section shall be used as equitable monetary relief to redress consumer injury in accordance with the Section titled "Monetary Relief" and shall be made by electronic funds transfer in accordance with directions provided by the Commission.

#### VI.

## LIFTING OF THE ASSET FREEZE

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the freeze of the assets pursuant to the Stipulated
Preliminary Injunction in this case shall be lifted to the extent necessary to transfer assets
Final Judgment and Order

Page 12 of 21

1 with them who receive actual notice of this Order, by personal service or otherwise, are hereby 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

enjoined from selling, renting, leasing, transferring, or otherwise disclosing the name, address, telephone number, credit card number, bank account number, email address, or other identifying information of any person who purchased a Business Venture from any Defendant; provided that Defendants may disclose such identifying information to a law enforcement agency, including the Federal Trade Commission, or as required by any law, regulation, or court order.

#### IX.

#### COMPLIANCE MONITORING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of monitoring and investigating compliance with any provision of this Order:

- A. Within ten (10) days of receipt of written notice from a representative of the Commission, Defendants and Relief Defendant each shall submit additional written reports, which are true and accurate and sworn to under penalty of perjury; produce documents for inspection and copying; appear for deposition; and provide entry during normal business hours to any business location in such Defendant's possession or direct or indirect control to inspect the business operation;
- B. In addition, the Commission is authorized to use all other lawful means, including but not limited to:
  - 1. obtaining discovery from any person, without further leave of court, using the procedures prescribed by Fed. R. Civ. P. 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 45 and 69;
  - 2. posing as consumers and suppliers to Defendants, their employees, or any other entity managed or controlled in whole or in part by any Defendant, without the necessity of identification or prior notice; and
- C. Defendants each shall permit representatives of the Commission to interview any employer, consultant, independent contractor, representative, agent, or employee who has agreed to such an interview, relating in any way to any

Corporate Defendant or any business entity that any Defendant directly or indirectly controls, or has an ownership interest in, that may affect compliance obligations arising under this Order, including but not limited to: incorporation or other organization; a dissolution, assignment, sale, merger, or other action; the creation or dissolution of a subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to this Order; or a change in the business name or address, at least thirty (30) days prior to such change, *provided* that, with respect to any proposed change in the business entity about which a Defendant learns less than thirty (30) days prior to the date such action is to take place, such Defendant shall notify the Commission as soon as is practicable after obtaining such knowledge.

B. One hundred eighty (180) days after the date of entry of this Order and annually thereafter for a period of five (5) years, Defendants each shall provide a written report to the FTC, which is true and accurate and sworn to under penalty of perjury, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which they have complied and are complying with this Order. This report shall include, but not be limited to: pf 21

	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
1	0	
1	1	
1	2	
1	3	
1	4	
1	5	
1	6	
1	7	
1	8	
1	9	
2	0	
2	1	
2	2	
2	3	
2	4	
2	5	
_		

27

owner of the business or directly or indirectly manages or controls the business, and their agents, employees, officers, corporations, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are hereby restrained and enjoined from failing to create and retain the following records:

- A. Accounting records that reflect the cost of goods or services sold, revenues generated, and the disbursement of such revenues;
- В. Personnel records accurately reflecting: the name, address, and telephone number of each person employed in any capacity by such business, including as an independent contractor; that person's job title or position; the date upon which the

of this Order, Defendants shall deliver copies of the Order as directed below:

- A. Corporate Defendant: Each Corporate Defendant must deliver a copy of this Order to (1) all of its principals, officers, directors, and managers; (2) all of its employees, agents, and representatives who engage in conduct related to the subject matter of the Order; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure set forth in Subsection A.2 of the Section titled "Compliance Reporting." For current personnel, delivery shall be within five (5) days of service of this Order upon such Defendant. For new personnel, delivery shall occur prior to them assuming their responsibilities. For any business entity resulting from any change in structure set forth in Subsection A.2 of the Section titled "Compliance Reporting," delivery shall be at least ten (10) days prior to the change in structure.
- B. **Individual Defendant as Control Person**: For any business that an Individual Defendant controls, directly or indirectly, or in which such Defendant has a

occ-7s31f( re)45days prior to n12(x.01 Tw 71 ) 0 Td[(s)-7s31f( re)46 responsibilities. For any but

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Case 2:05-cv-00440-LDG-LRL Document 236 Filed 03/05/2009

Page 21 of 21