

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

before the

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Release No. 79853/ January 23, 2017

WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD PROCEEDING

File No. 2017-6

In the Matter of the Claim for Award

in connection with

Redacted

Notice of Covered Action Redacted

ORDER DETERMINING WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD CLAIM

On December 7, 2016, the Claims Review Staff issued a Preliminary Determination related to Notice of Covered Action Redacted (the “Covered Action”). The Preliminary Determination recommended that Redacted (“Claimant #1”) receive a whistleblower award, and Redacted (“Claimant #2”) and Redacted (“Claimant #3”) receive a joint whistleblower award because Claimant #1, individually, and Claimant #2 and Claimant #3, jointly, voluntarily provided original information to the Commission that led to the successful enforcement of the Covered Action pursuant to Section 21F(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-6(b)(1), and Rule 21F-3(a) thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-3(a).

Further, the Claims Review Staff recommended that such awards be set in the amounts of Redacted percent Redacted of the monetary sanctions collected or to be collected in the Covered Action for Claimant #1, which will yield an award of more than \$4 million; and Redacted percent Redacted of the monetary sanctions collected or to be collected in the Covered Action for Claimant #2 and Claimant #3, which will yield a joint award of more than \$3 million. In reaching this recommendation, the Claims Review Staff considered the factors set forth in Rule 21F-6, 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-6, in relation to the facts and circumstances of the claimants’ applications. On December 8, 2016, Claimant #1, Claimant #2, and Claimant #3 each provided written notice to the Commission of their decisions not to contest the Preliminary Determination.

Upon due consideration under Rules 21F-10(f) and (h), 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-10(f), (h), the Preliminary Determination of the Claims Review Staff is adopted, including the award determinations. The record firmly demonstrates that the claimants have satisfied the criteria for awards. Claimant #1, an outsider, was a primary cause of the staff's investigation into an investment scheme that defrauded hundreds of investors, many of whom were unsophisticated. Claimant #2 and Claimant #3, acting jointly, voluntarily provided new information to the Commission that significantly contributed to the success of the Covered Action.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that Claimant #1 shall receive an award of ^{Redacted} percent ^{Redacted} of the monetary sanctions collected in this Covered Action, including any monetary sanctions collected after the date of this Order; and Claimant #2 and Claimant #3 shall receive a joint award of ^{Redacted} percent ^{Redacted} of the monetary sanctions collected in this Covered Action, including any monetary sanctions collected after the date of this Order.¹

By the Commission.

Brent J. Fields
Secretary

¹ Unless Claimant #2 and Claimant #3, within ten (10) calendar days of the issuance of this Order, make a joint request, in writing, for a different allocation of the award between the two of them, the Office of the Whistleblower is directed to pay each of them individually 50% of their joint award.