

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

United States Commodity Futures Trading
Commission,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Nicholas Cosmo, Agape World, Inc., and Agape
Merchant Advance LLC,

Defendants.

ECF CASE

**EX PARTE STATUTORY
RESTRAINING ORDER
Freezing Assets, Prohibiting the
Destruction or Alteration of
Books, Records or other
Documents, for Expedited Asset
Discovery, and an Order To Show
Cause Why a Preliminary
Injunction Should Not be Entered.**

Plaintiff, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "Commission") has filed a complaint for a preliminary and permanent injunction and other relief, and moved *ex parte* pursuant to Section 4b(a)(2)(A) and (C) of the Commodity Exchange Act (the "Act"), 7 U.S.C. §§ 1 *et seq.* (2006), as amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-246, Title XIII (the CFTC Reauthorization Act ("CRA"), §§ 13101-13204, 122 Stat. 1651 (effective June 18, 2008, to be codified at 7 U.S.C. §6b(a)(2)(A) and (C) for a statutory restraining order freezing assets, prohibiting the destruction of books, records, or other documents, granting leave to the Commission to engage in expedited asset discovery for the purpose of discovering the nature, location, status, and extent of assets, and ordering Defendants Nicholas Cosmo, Agape World, Inc., and Agape Merchant Advance LLC (collectively, the "Defendants") to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not be issued. The Court has

considered the pleadings, the declaration, and the memorandum of law filed in support of the Commission's application and now, being fully advised in the premises, finds that:

- (1) This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case, and Section 6c of the Act, 7 U.S.C. §13a-1, as amended by the CRA, authorizes the *ex parte* relief;
- (2) There is good cause to believe that the Defendants have engaged in, are engaging in, or is about to engage in fraud constituting a violation of 7 U.S.C. § 6b(a)(2)(A) and (C), as amended by the CRA;
- (3) Absent the entry of this statutory restraining order, the Defendants are likely to cause the dissipation or transfer assets and destruction of business records. As such, good cause exists for the freezing of Defendants' assets and for entry of an Order prohibiting the Defendants from destroying records and denying agents of the Commission access to inspect and copy records;
- (4) Good cause exists for the freezing of the Defendants' assets and for entry of an order prohibiting Defendants from destroying records and denying agents of the Commission access to inspect and copy records;
- (5) Good cause exists to permit asset discovery before the meeting of counsel pursuant to Rule 26(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- (6) Pursuant to Rule 30(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, immediate depositions are consistent with the principles of Rule 26(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- (7) Weighing the equities and considering the Commission's likelihood of success in its claims for relief, the issuance of a statutory restraining order is in the public interest; and

- (8) This is a proper case for granting a statutory restraining order to preserve the status quo, protect customers from loss and damage, and enable the Commission to fulfill its statutory duties, therefore the Court orders as follows:

DEFINITIONS

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

1. "Assets" means any legal or equitable interest in, right to, or claim to, any real or personal property, including but not limited to chattels, goods, instruments, equipment, fixtures, general intangibles, effects, leaseholds, mail or other deliveries, inventory, checks, notes, accounts, credits, receivables, contracts, insurance policies, and all cash, wherever located, whether in the United States or abroad.
2. The term "document" is synonymous in meaning and equal in scope to the usage of the term in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a), and includes, but is not limited to, writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, audio and video recordings, computer records, and other data compilations from which information can be obtained and translated, if necessary, through detection devices into reasonable usable form. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of the term.
3. The term "Defendants" refers to Nicholas Cosmo, Agape World, Inc., Agape Merchant Advance LLC, and any person insofar as he or she is acting in the capacity of an officer, agent, servant, employee, or attorney of any of the Defendants, and any person who receives actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise insofar as he or she is acting in concert or participation with any of the Defendants.

RELIEF GRANTED

I. Asset Freeze

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendants, except as otherwise ordered by this Court, are restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

- A. Transferring, selling, alienating, liquidating, encumbering, pledging, leasing, loaning, assigning, concealing, dissipating, converting, withdrawing, or otherwise disposing of any assets, wherever located, including assets held outside the United States, except as provided in this Order, or as otherwise ordered by the Court;
- B. Opening or causing to be opened any safe deposit boxes titled in the name or subject to access by any of the Defendants.

II. Identification and Preservation of Assets

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pending further Order of this Court, that any financial or brokerage institution or business entity that holds, controls, or maintains custody of any account or asset titled in the name of, held for the benefit of, or otherwise under the control of any of the Defendants, or has held, controlled, or maintained custody of any such account or asset of any of the Defendants at any time since at least January 2004 shall:

- A. Prohibit any of the Defendants and all other persons from withdrawing, removing, assigning, transferring, pledging, encumbering, disbursing, dissipating, converting, selling or otherwise disposing of any such asset, except as directed by further order of the Court;
- B. Deny any of the Defendants and all other persons access to any safe deposit box that is titled in the name of any of the Defendants or otherwise subject to access by any of the Defendants;

- C. Provide the Commission, within five (5) business days of receiving a copy of this Order, a statement setting forth:
- (1) the identification number of each such account or asset titled in the name of any of the Defendants or held on behalf of, or for the benefit of any of the Defendants or under the control of any of the Defendants;
 - (2) the balance of each such account, or a description of the nature and value of such asset as of the close of business on the day on which this Order is served, and, if the account or other asset has been closed or removed, the date closed or removed, the total funds removed in order to close the account, the name of the person or entity to whom such account or other asset was remitted; and
 - (3) the identification of any safe deposit box that is either titled in the name of any of the Defendants, or is otherwise subject to access by any of the Defendants;
- D. Upon request by the Commission, promptly provide the Commission with copies of all records or other documentation pertaining to such account or asset, including, but not limited to, originals or copies of account applications, account statements, signature cards, checks, drafts, deposit tickets, transfers to and from the accounts, all other debit and credit instruments or slips, currency transaction reports, 1099 forms, trading records, and safe deposit box logs; and
- E. Cooperate with all reasonable requests of the Commission relating to implementation of this Order, including producing records related to Defendant's accounts.

III. Accounting of Assets

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within five (5) business days following the service of this Order, the Defendants shall:

- A. Provide the Commission with a full accounting of all funds, documents, and assets both within and outside the United States which are (1) titled in the name of any of the Defendants; or (2) held by any person or entity, for the benefit of any of the Defendants; or (3) under any of the Defendants' direct or indirect control; and
- B. Provide the Commission access to all records of accounts or assets of any of the Defendants held by financial institutions located both within and outside the territorial United States by signing the Consent to Release of Financial Records attached to this Order.

IV. Maintenance of and Access to Business Records

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendants, and all persons or entities who receive notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly destroying, mutilating, erasing, altering, concealing or disposing of, in any manner, directly or indirectly, any documents that relate to the business practices or business finances of any of the Defendants.

V. Commission's Access to and Inspection of Documents

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that representatives of the Commission be immediately allowed to inspect the books, records, and other documents of any of the Defendants and his agents including, but not limited to, paper documents, electronically stored data, tape recordings, and computer discs, wherever they may be situated and whether they are in the possession of any

of the Defendants or others, and to copy said documents, data and records, either on or off the premises where they may be situated. Upon request of the Commission, the Defendants are ordered to deliver to the Commission documents of any of the Defendant, including but not limited to all books and records of accounts, all financial and accounting records, balance sheets, income statements, bank records (including monthly statements, cancelled checks, records of wire transfers, and check registers), lists of customers, title documents, other papers, all keys, computer passwords, entry codes, and combinations to locks necessary to gain or to secure access to any of the assets or documents of any of the Defendants, including but not limited to, access to the Defendant's business premises, means of communication, accounts, computer systems, or other property and information identifying the accounts, employees, properties, or other assets or obligations of the Defendant.

VI. Service of Order

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that copies of this Order may be served by any means, including facsimile or e-mail transmission, upon any financial institution or other entity or person that may have possession, custody, or control of any documents or assets of any of the Defendants or that may be subject to any provision of this Order.

VII. Expedited Asset Discovery

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission is granted leave, at any time after service of this Order, to take the deposition of and demand the production of documents from any person or entity for the purpose of discovering the nature, location, status, and extent of assets of any of the Defendants, and the location of documents reflecting the business transactions of any of the Defendants; forty-eight (48) hours notice shall be deemed sufficient for

any such deposition and five (5) days notice shall be deemed sufficient for the production of any such documents.

VIII. Depositions

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the limitations and conditions set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2)(B) regarding subsequent depositions of an individual shall not apply to depositions taken pursuant to this Order. No depositions taken pursuant to Paragraph VII shall count toward the ten-deposition limit set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2)(A).

IX. Service on the Commission

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendants shall serve all pleadings, correspondence, notices required by this Order, and other materials on the Commission by delivering a copy to Elizabeth Brennan, Senior Trial Attorney, Division of Enforcement, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Eastern Regional Office, 140 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, New York 10005.

X. Order to Show Cause

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants shall appear before this Court on the 4TH day of FEBRUARY, 2009, at 11:00 o'clock, before the Honorable LEONARD D. WEXLER at the United States Courthouse for the Eastern District of New York, ~~225~~ 540 FEDERAL PLAZA, CENTRAL ISCP, NY ~~Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY~~, to show cause why this Court should not enter a preliminary injunction:

A. Enjoining the Defendants from further violations of the Act; specifically, prohibiting the Defendant from violating Sections 4b(a)(2)(A) and (C) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 1

et seq. (2006), as amended by the CRA, §§ 13101-13204, 122 Stat. 1651 (effective June 18, 2008, to be codified at 7 U.S.C. §6b(a)(2)(A) and (C).

- B. Continuing the freeze on the assets of the Defendants;
- C. Ordering the Defendants, financial or brokerage institutions, business entities, and others to provide all documents specified in this Order to the Commission; and
- D. Ordering any additional relief this Court deems appropriate.

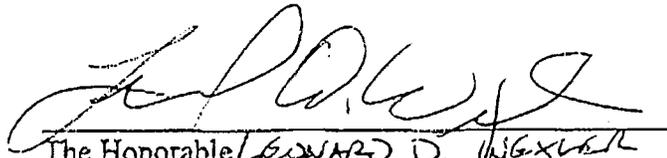
Should the Defendants wish to file a memorandum of law or other papers concerning the issuance of a preliminary injunction against the Defendants, such materials shall be filed, served and received by all parties at least two (2) days before the hearing date ordered above.

XI. Force and Effect of Order

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of this Court, and that this Court retains jurisdiction of this matter for all purposes.

SO ORDERED,

On this 27th day of January 2009.


The Honorable LEONARD D. WEXLER
U.S. District Judge
United States District Court
EASTERN District of New York
CENTRAL Islip, NY

CONSENT TO RELEASE OF FINANCIAL RECORDS

I, _____, do hereby direct any bank, financial institution or trust company at which I have an account of any kind upon which I am authorized to draw, and its officers, employees and agents, to disclose all information and deliver copies of all documents of every nature in your possession or control which relate to said accounts to any attorney of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and to give evidence relevant thereto, in the matter of U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission v. Nicholas Cosmo, et al., Docket No. _____ now pending before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and this shall be irrevocable authority for so doing. This direction is intended to apply to the laws of countries other than the United States which restrict or prohibit the disclosure of bank information without the consent of the holder of the account, and shall be construed as consent with respect thereto, and the same apply to any of the bank accounts for which I may be a relevant principal.

Dated: _____, 2009

Signature