

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

<b>UNITED STATES COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	)	<b>CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-61160</b>
	)	
<b>v.</b>	)	
	)	
<b>FIRST BRISTOL GROUP, INC., ALLIANCE EQUITY GROUP, INC., CENTURION FINANCIAL GROUP, LC, THE GREAT MINSTER GROUP, INC., STACI LEE PETOK, BERNARD JUSTIN SEVILLA, JACK MARTIN POMEROY, and MICHAEL DESMOND BIGGS,</b>	)	<b>STATUTORY RESTRAINING ORDER FREEZING ASSETS, PRESERVING BOOKS AND RECORDS, PERMITTING ACCESS TO BOOKS AND RECORDS, AND APPOINTING TEMPORARY RECEIVER AND ORDER TO CONDUCT EXPEDITED DISCOVERY</b>
<b>Defendants.</b>	)	
	)	

Plaintiff, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”), has filed a complaint for permanent injunction and other relief, and moved *ex parte*, pursuant to Section 6c of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (“Act”), 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1, for a statutory restraining order freezing assets, preserving records, permitting access to records, appointing a temporary receiver, and for an order authorizing the CFTC to conduct expedited discovery.

The Court has considered the pleadings, declarations, exhibits, and memorandum filed in support of the CFTC’s motion, and now being fully advised in the premises finds that:

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case, and there is good cause to believe it will have jurisdiction over all parties;

2. Section 6c of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1, authorizes the *ex parte* relief sought by the CFTC;
3. There is good cause to believe that defendants have engaged, are engaging in, and are about to engage in fraud in violation of 7 U.S.C. §§ 6b(a) and 6c(b), and 17 C.F.R. §§ 1.1(b) and 32.9; the illegal sale of futures contracts in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 6(a); and the illegal sale of options contracts in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 6c(b) and 17 C.F.R. 32.11 and 33.3(a);
4. Since at least December 2000 and possibly earlier, defendants have fraudulently solicited individuals nationwide to engage in the purchase of foreign currency futures and options contracts, and futures contracts on precious metals and petroleum products;
5. When soliciting members of the public to purchase these futures and options contracts, defendants made false claims concerning the profitability and risks of these futures and options contracts, and failed to disclose known risks associated with these contracts with knowledge that their claims of profitability are false or with reckless disregard for the truth or falsity of these statements;
6. Absent the entry of this statutory restraining order, defendants are likely to dissipate or transfer assets and destroy business records; and
7. This a proper case for granting a statutory restraining order *ex parte* to preserve the status quo, to protect public customers from loss and damage, to enable the CFTC to fulfill its statutory duties, and to grant expedited discovery.

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, claim to, or control over, either directly or indirectly, 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, lines of credit, contracts, insurance policies, and all cash, wherever located.
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 reasonably usable form. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of the term.
3. “Defendants” means First Bristol Group, Inc. (“FBG”), Alliance Equity Group, Inc. (“AEG”), Centurion Financial Group, LC (“CFG”), The Great Minster Group, Inc. (“GMG”), Staci Lee Petok (“Petok”), Bernard Justin Sevilla (“Sevilla”), Jack Martin Pomeroy (“Pomeroy”), and Michael Desmond Biggs (“Biggs”) and any person insofar as he or she is acting in the capacity of an officer, agent, servant, employee or attorney of FBG, AEG, CFG, GMG, Petok, Sevilla, Pomeroy, or Biggs, 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 FBG, AEG, CFG, GMG, Petok, Sevilla, Pomeroy, or Biggs.

**RELIEF GRANTED**

**I.**

*Asset Freeze*

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that defendants 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 by or on behalf of the defendants within or outside the United States, and including both existing assets and assets acquired after the effective date of this Order; and
- B. Opening or causing to be opened any safe deposit boxes titled in the name of or subject to access by any of the defendants.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, defendants shall immediately transfer possession of all assets of defendants to the Receiver pursuant to the provisions of this Order.

**II.**

*Directives to Financial Institutions and Others*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pending further order of this Court, that any financial or brokerage institution, business entity, or person that holds, controls, or maintains custody of any account or asset of any defendant, or has held, controlled, or maintained custody of any account or asset of any defendant at any time since March 1, 1999, shall:

- A. Prohibit 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 or, as to receivership assets, as directed by the Receiver appointed herein;
- B. Deny defendants and all other persons access to any safe deposit box that is:
  - 1. titled in the name of any defendant, either individually or jointly;
  - or,
  - 2. otherwise subject to access by any defendant.

Notwithstanding this Paragraph, the Receiver appointed herein shall be provided with access to any safe deposit box titled in the name of, or subject to access by, any of the defendants.

- C. Provide the Receiver and counsel for the CFTC, 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, individually or jointly, on behalf, or for the benefit, 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, and 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, individually or jointly, or is otherwise subject to access by any of the defendants;
- D. Upon request by the Receiver or the CFTC, promptly provide the Receiver and the CFTC 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, and safe deposit box logs; and
- E. Cooperate with all reasonable requests of the Receiver relating to implementation of this Order, including transferring funds at the Receiver's direction and producing records related to defendants' accounts.

### **III.**

#### ***Accounting***

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that within three (3) business days following the service of this Order, defendants shall:

- A. Provide the CFTC, the Receiver, and the Court with a full accounting of all funds, documents, and assets both within and outside of the United States which are held by defendants, on their behalf, for their benefit, or

under their direct or indirect control, whether jointly or singly; or in which they have an interest, and a full accounting of all funds and assets that defendants received from their clients and the ultimate use or current location of those funds or assets;

- B. Provide the CFTC with full access to and permit copying of all documents both within and outside the United States which are held by them, on their behalf, or under their direct or indirect control, or relate to a corporate, partnership, or other entity in which they have an interest;
- C. Transfer to the territory of the United States and deliver to the Receiver all funds, documents, and assets located in foreign countries which are held by defendants, for their benefit, or under their direct or indirect control, whether jointly or singly;
- D. Provide the CFTC access to all records of defendants held by financial institutions located both within and outside the territorial United States by signing a Consent to Release of Financial Records; and
- E. Provide the CFTC with a complete customer list, including, without limitation, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons who transferred funds to defendants from March 1, 1999 to the present.

#### **IV.**

##### ***Temporary Receiver***

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that \_\_\_\_\_ is appointed temporary Receiver for defendants and any affiliates or subsidiaries of

defendants FBG, AEG, CFG, and GMG with the full powers of an equity receiver. The Receiver shall be the agent of this Court in acting as Receiver under this Order.

V.

*Receiver's Duties and Authorization*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Receiver is directed and authorized to accomplish the following:

- A. Assume full control of the defendants by removing any officer, independent contractor, employee, or agent of the defendants, from control and management of the affairs of the defendants;
- B. Take exclusive custody, control, and possession of all the funds, property, mail and other assets of, in the possession of, or under the control of the defendants, wherever situated. The Receiver shall have full power to sue for, collect, receive and take possession of all goods, chattels, rights, credits, moneys, effects, land, leases, books, records, work papers, and records of accounts, including computer-maintained information, and other papers and documents of the defendants, including documents related to customers or clients whose interests are now held by or under the direction, possession, custody or control of the defendants. The Receiver shall have discretion to determine that certain personal property or other assets of the defendants shall be under the Receiver's control, but shall remain in the possession or custody of the defendants;
- C. Take all steps necessary to secure the business premises of the defendants and any and all other premises under the control of the defendants;



- D. Preserve, hold and manage all receivership assets, and perform all acts necessary to preserve the value of those assets, in order to prevent any loss, damage or injury to customers or clients;
- E. Prevent the withdrawal or misapplication of funds entrusted to the defendants, and otherwise protect the interests of customers or clients;
- F. Manage and administer the defendants by performing all acts incidental thereto that the receiver deems appropriate, including hiring or dismissing any and all personnel or suspending operations;
- G. Collect all money owed to the defendants;
- H. Initiate, defend, compromise, adjust, intervene in, dispose of, or become a party to any actions or proceedings in state, federal or foreign court necessary to preserve or increase the assets of the defendants or to carry out his or her duties pursuant to this Order;
- I. Choose, engage and employ attorneys, accountants, appraisers, and other independent contractors and technical specialists, as the Receiver deems advisable or necessary in the performance of duties and responsibilities under the authority granted by this Order;
- J. Issue subpoenas to obtain documents and records pertaining to the receivership, and conduct discovery in this action on behalf of the receivership estate;
- K. Open one or more bank accounts as designated depositories for funds of the defendants. The Receiver shall deposit all funds of the defendants in

such designated accounts and shall make all payments and disbursements from the receivership estate from such accounts; and

- L. Make payments and disbursements from the receivership estate that are necessary or advisable for carrying out the directions of, or exercising the authority granted by, this Order. The Receiver shall apply to the Court for prior approval of any payment of any debt or obligation incurred by the defendants prior to the date of entry of this Order, except for payments that the Receiver deems necessary or advisable to secure assets of the defendants.

## VI.

### *Transfer of Assets to the Receiver*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, immediately upon service of this Order upon them, defendants, and any other person or entity served with a copy of this Order or provided with notice of the provisions of this Order, shall forthwith or within such time as permitted by the Receiver in writing, deliver over to the Receiver:

- A. Possession and custody of all funds, assets, property, and all other assets, owned beneficially or otherwise, wherever situated, of the defendants;
- B. Possession and custody of documents of the defendants, 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, canceled checks, records of wire transfers, and check registers), client lists, title documents and other papers;

- C. Possession and custody of all funds and other assets belonging to members of the public now held by the defendants;
- D. 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 the defendants, including but not limited to, access to the defendants' business premises, means of communication, accounts, computer systems, or other property; and
- E. Information identifying the accounts, employees, properties or other assets or obligations of the defendants.

## VII.

### *Cooperation by Defendants*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that defendants shall cooperate fully with and assist the Receiver. Defendants' cooperation and assistance shall include, but not be limited to, providing any information to the Receiver that the Receiver deems necessary to exercising the authority and discharging the responsibilities of the Receiver under this Order, and advising all persons who owe money to defendants that all debts should be paid directly to the Receiver.

## VIII.

### *Stay of Actions*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that except by leave of the Court, during the pendency of the receivership ordered herein, defendants and all other persons and entities be and hereby are stayed from taking any action to establish or enforce any claim, right or interest for, against, on behalf of, in, or in the name of, defendants, the Receiver,

receivership assets, or the Receiver's duly authorized agents acting in their capacities as such, including but not limited to, the following actions:

- A. Commencing, prosecuting, litigating or enforcing any suit, except that actions may be filed to toll any applicable statute of limitations;
- B. Accelerating the due date of any obligation or claimed obligation, enforcing any lien upon, or taking or attempting to take possession of, or retaining possession of, assets or property of the defendants or any assets or property claimed by the defendants, or attempting to foreclose, forfeit, alter or terminate any of the defendants' interests in assets or property, whether such acts are part of a judicial proceeding or otherwise;
- C. Using self-help or executing or issuing, or causing the execution or issuance of any court attachment, subpoena, replevin, execution or other process for the purpose of impounding or taking possession of or interfering with, or creating or enforcing a lien upon any assets or property, wherever located, owned by or in the possession of the defendants, or the Receiver, or any agent of the Receiver; and
- D. Doing any act or thing to interfere with the Receiver taking control, possession or management of the assets or property subject to the receivership, or to in any way interfere with the Receiver or the duties of the Receiver; or to interfere with the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court over the property and assets of the defendants.

This paragraph does not stay the commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by a governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's police or regulatory power.

**IX.**

***Compensation***

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Receiver and all personnel hired by the Receiver as herein authorized, including counsel to the Receiver, are entitled to reasonable compensation for the performance of duties pursuant to this Order and for the cost of actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred by them, from the assets now held by, or in the possession or control of, or which may be received by the defendants. The Receiver shall file with the Court and serve on the parties periodic requests for the payment of such reasonable compensation, with the first such request filed no more than sixty (60) days after the date of this Order. The Receiver shall not increase the hourly rates used as the bases for such fee applications without prior approval of the Court. The CFTC shall have the right to object to any fee application made by the Receiver.

**X.**

***Maintenance of and Access to Business Records***

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that 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 or personal finances of any defendant.

**XI.**

***Inspection of Books and Records***

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that representatives of the CFTC are immediately allowed to inspect the books, records, and other documents of defendants and their agents including, but not limited to, electronically stored data, tape recordings, and computer discs, wherever they may be situated and whether they are in the possession of the defendants or others, and to copy said documents, data and records, either on or off the premises where they may be situated.

**XII.**

***Service of Order***

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

**XIII.**

***Assistance of United States Marshals Service***

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the U. S. Marshals Service is directed to: (a) assist the CFTC in the service of the summons, complaint, and this statutory restraining Order on the defendants; and (b) assist the Receiver in taking control and custody of the assets, records and business premises of the receivership defendants; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that anyone interfering with the execution of this Order is subject to arrest by the U. S. Marshal and/or his or her representative.

#### **XIV.**

##### ***Expedited Discovery***

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the parties and the Receiver are 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; 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; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2), the parties and the Receiver are granted leave to take the depositions of defendants confined in prison; and

**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 paragraph; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that no depositions taken pursuant to this paragraph shall count towards the ten deposition limit set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2)(A).

**XV.**

***Jurisdiction***

**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**, at \_\_\_\_\_, Florida on this 20th day of August 2002, at \_\_\_\_\_m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**