Division of Financial Regulation Labor and Industries Building 350 Winter Street NE, Suite 410 Salem, OR 97301-3881 Telephone: (503) 378-4387

STATE OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

In the Matter of:

Case No. S-22-0090

LAURA O. SHEAN (CRD #2628756) and PLANNOW, LLC d/b/a PLANNOW,

FINAL ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, ORDER ASSESSING CIVIL PENALTIES, AND ORDER TO PAY PREVIOUSLY SUSPENDED CIVIL PENALTIES, ENTERED BY DEFAULT

Respondents

On November 7, 2023, the Division of Financial Regulation ("Division") acting on behalf of the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services for the State of Oregon ("Director"), served Notice of Administrative Order INS-22-0090 ("Notice") on Laura O. Shean and PlanNow, LLC d/b/a PlanNow (collectively, "Respondents"). The Notice provided notice that the Director issued an order against Laura O. Shean ("Shean") to cease and desist from violating an order of the Director, ordered Respondents to cease and desist from violating provisions of Oregon Revised Statutes ("ORS") 59.005 to 59.451, 59.991 and 59.995, and the administrative rules promulgated thereunder ("the Oregon Securities Law"), proposed to assess civil penalties against Respondents, and proposed to order Shean to pay previously-suspended civil penalties.

The Notice offered Respondents an opportunity for a hearing if requested within 20 days of the Notice. The Notice further informed Respondents that if a hearing was not conducted because Respondents did not timely request a hearing or otherwise defaulted, then the designated portion of the Division's file and all materials submitted by Respondents in this case would automatically become part of the contested case record for the purpose of proving a prima facie case.

The Director did not receive from either Respondent a request for a hearing and did not conduct a hearing.

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Division of Financial Regulation Labor and Industries Building 350 Winter Street NE. Suite 410 Salem, OR 97301-3881 Telephone: (503) 378-4387 The Director finds that the record of this proceeding proves a prima facie case.

Now, therefore, after considering the relevant portions of the Division's file relating to this matter, the Director finds and orders as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Director FINDS that:

I. Introduction

- 1. Laura O. Shean ("Shean") resides in Corvallis, Oregon.
- 2. PlanNow, LLC is an Oregon limited liability company. It has been registered with the Oregon Secretary of State, Corporation Division since February 6, 2018. Shean is the organizer and the sole member/manager of PlanNow, LLC.
- 3. PlanNow is an assumed business name of PlanNow, LLC. PlanNow has been registered with the Oregon Secretary of State, Corporation Division since January 8, 2018. PlanNow's principal place of business is 2600 NW Century Dr Apt 103 in Corvallis, Oregon 97330. Shean is the authorized representative of PlanNow.
- 4. Shean was previously licensed in Oregon as a securities salesperson, investment adviser representative and resident insurance producer. Shean has not been licensed in Oregon to work for an investment adviser or broker-dealer as a securities salesperson or investment adviser representative since November 2017. The Director revoked Shean's securities salesperson, investment adviser representative, and resident insurance producer licenses in Oregon effective January 17, 2019.
- 5. Neither Shean nor her company, PlanNow, LLC d/b/a PlanNow have ever been licensed in Oregon as a broker-dealer or state investment adviser.

II. The Consent Order

6. On or about December 6, 2018, Shean consented to an administrative order issued by the Director addressing violations of the Oregon Securities Law and the Insurance Code by Shean. The order included an Order to Cease and Desist, Revocation of Investment

	1	<u>Date</u> <u>Amount</u> 3/6/17 \$ 72,782.83
	2	6/20/17 4,810.00
	3	7/26/17 4,810.00 8/14/17 14,000.00
		9/26/17 14,000.00
	4	10/12/17 14,000.00 Total \$124,402.83
	5	[9.] Shean caused those funds to be transferred from JC's account to
	6	the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), in order to pay a tax debt for the benefit of Shean.
	7	[10.] Shean took a total of \$124,402.83 from JC's account without
	8	the knowledge or consent of JC.
	9	[11.] [Firm 1] initiated an internal review of Shean on or about
	10	October 19, 2017, after an automated compliance system used by [Firm 1] had flagged the ACH transfers.
	11	[12.] On November 2, 2017, among other steps taken by [Firm 1] as
	12	part of the internal review, [Firm 1] conducted an unannounced office visit at Shean's office in Medford, interviewed Shean in
	13	person, and contacted JC by telephone.
	14	[13.] When [Firm 1] contacted JC on November 2, 2017, JC said he had never loaned any funds to Shean, and that JC was not aware of
	15	the ACH transfers to the IRS.
	16	[14.] JC described Shean as his friend and a wonderful person.
tegulation uilding Suite 410	17	[15.] During [Firm 1]'s interview of Shean on November 2, 2017,
cial Reguries Buildi NE, Suite -3881 378-4387	18	Shean initially said she had entered into a promissory agreement with JC, but she said she did not have the agreement at the office when
Finan Industr Street 97301 (503)	19	she was interviewed. She said she was in the process of returning the borrowed funds to JC. Later that day, after [Firm 1] had contacted JC
ivision of abor and 50 Winter alem, OR	20	directly, Shean eventually admitted that she misappropriated JC's money in order to pay a tax debt.
L SS 32 E	21	
TO SERVICE OF THE PARTY OF THE	22	[16.] [Firm 1] terminated Shean's employment with [Firm 1] on November 2, 2017.
	23	[17.] On November 5, 2017, Shean sent [Firm 1] copies of six signed
	24	promissory notes totaling \$124,402.83, purportedly showing that Shean "borrowed" the money from JC. The date of JC's signatures
	25	on the promissory notes is November 5, 2017.
	26	[18.] [Firm 1] promptly contacted the Director to report the ACH

transfers, and [Firm 1]'s termination of Shean, to the Director. This 1 matter has been reported to Adult Protective Services authorities in Oregon as a potential elder abuse case. 2 [19.] On or about November 20, 2017, Shean paid JC approximately 3 \$72,000 by personal check. The Director does not know the source of funds Shean used to repay JC that \$72,000. 4 5 [20.] As of November 1, 2017, Shean had more than 600 accounts registered to clients with addresses in Oregon. 6 [21.] The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") is a 7 self-regulatory organization. On or about April 3, 2018, FINRA accepted a Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent ("AWC") from 8 Shean. The AWC is currently effective. The FINRA case number is No. 2017056236901. 9 10 [22.] The AWC states: 11 FINRA Rule 2150(a) provides that "[n]o member or person associated with a member shall make improper use of a 12 customer's securities or funds." FINRA Rule 2010 requires FINRA members, in the conduct of their business, to observe 13 high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade. Conversion of customer funds is a 14 violation of FINRA Rules 2150(a) and 2010. 15 On six occasions between March 2017 and October 2017, 16 Shean made tax payments for her own benefit to the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") by improperly directing the 17 IRS to debit funds from a customer's brokerage account. The payments totaled approximately \$124,000. After the 18 misconduct was discovered, the customer was reimbursed in full by having certain of the transfers reversed and by Shean 19 making additional reimbursement. By virtue of the foregoing, Shean converted customer funds in violation of 20 FINRA Rules 2150(a) and 2010. 21 [23.] Shean agreed to the provisions of the AWC on or about March 18, 2018, without admitting or denying the findings. Shean consented to sanctions imposed by FINRA, including a bar in all 23 capacities from associating with any FINRA member. Shean acknowledged she is subject to statutory disqualification and may not 24 be associated with any FINRA member in any capacity, including 25 clerical or ministerial functions. 26



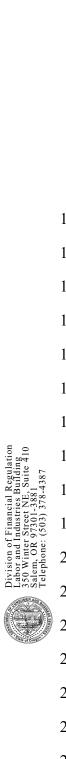
ii. Conclusions in the Consent Order

9. Pages 5 and 6 of the Consent Order include, in relevant part, the following conclusions:

[28.] None of the six ACH transfers described above were authorized by JC when Shean caused them. From March 2017 through October 2017, Shean caused six unauthorized ACH transfers that moved funds totaling \$124,402.83 from JC's account.

[29.] By causing the execution of the six ACH transfers described above, Shean caused six unauthorized transactions from JC's account. On six occasions during 2017, Shean caused the execution of transactions which were not authorized by a customer, JC. By doing so, Shean engaged in a manipulative, deceptive, or other fraudulent act or practice, as defined by OAR 441-205-0130(8). Therefore, Shean engaged in dishonest, fraudulent or illegal practices or conduct in a business or profession, pursuant to ORS 59.205(2), OAR 441-205-0010, and OAR 441-205-0020.

- [30.] By causing six unauthorized transactions from a customer's account, Shean engaged in an act, practice or course of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person, JC, and upon [Firm 1], in violation of ORS 59.135(3).
- [31.] Shean misappropriated a total of \$124,402.83 from JC's account by transferring JC's funds to the IRS for the benefit of Shean.
- [32.] By misappropriating funds from JC's account six times during 2017, Shean engaged in an act, practice or course of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person, JC, and upon [Firm 1], in violation of ORS 59.135(3).
- [33.] By causing six unauthorized transactions from her customer's account, and by misappropriating funds from a customer's account six times during 2017, Shean willfully or repeatedly violated at least one provision of the Oregon Securities Law, including ORS 59.135(3) and OAR 441-205-0130(8).
- [34.] By misappropriating funds from her client's account six times during 2017, Shean has engaged in dishonest, fraudulent or illegal practices or conduct in a business or profession.
- [35.] Shean is the subject of the AWC, which resulted in Shean's expulsion from membership in or association with a member of FINRA.



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investment adviser representative, broker-dealer or securities salesperson license in the State of Oregon;

- B. applying to register or renew any securities in the State of Oregon;
- C. applying for, holding, or renewing any insurance producer license in the State of Oregon; and
- D. applying for, holding, or renewing any license or registration required by the Director in Oregon, including but not limited to insurance, consumer finance, collection agency, manufactured structure dealer, or mortgage lending.
- [47.] The Director, pursuant to ORS 59.995(1)-(3) and ORS 731.988(1), hereby ASSESSES civil penalties totaling \$30,000 against Shean as follows:
- (1) A civil penalty of \$12,000 for one violation of ORS 59.135(3);
- (2) A civil penalty of \$2,000 per violation for six separate violations of OAR 441-205-0130(8); and
- (3) A civil penalty of \$1,000 per violation for six separate violations of ORS 744.074(1)(h).

[48.] The Director SUSPENDS \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) of the civil penalties assessed above, so long as Shean complies with all terms of this Order, all provisions of the Oregon Securities Law, and all provisions of the Insurance Code; PROVIDED HOWEVER, that the suspended portion of the civil penalties shall be immediately due and payable upon a determination by the Director that Shean has violated any term of this Order, or any provision of the Oregon Securities Law, or any provision of the Insurance Code.

Additional terms of the Consent Order iv.

- 11. Page 8, paragraph 50 of the Consent Order states, in relevant part:
 - "...entry of this Order in no way limits or prevents further remedies, sanctions, or actions which may be available to the Director under Oregon law to enforce this Order, for violations of this Order, for conduct or actions of Shean that are not covered by this Order, or against any party not covered by this Order."
- 12. Page 10 of the Consent Order includes the consent to entry of order, signed by Shean, acknowledging that Shean was represented by counsel and stating: "that I have read the foregoing Order and that I know and fully understand the contents...that the factual allegations stated herein are true and correct...."

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13. Page 10 of the Consent Order, signed by Shean, also states:

...I understand that the Director reserves the right to take further actions against me to enforce this Order or to take appropriate action upon discovery of other violations of the Oregon Securities Law or the Oregon Insurance Code by me; and I will fully comply with the terms and conditions stated herein.

III. Shean's business activities from January 17, 2019 to February 16, 2021

14. The Division conducted an inquiry regarding Shean's business activities that occurred after issuance of the Consent Order and whether Shean was complying with the terms of the Consent Order.

i. Shean's statement to the Director regarding her post-Consent Order business activities

- 15. On or about February 16, 2021, Division staff sent Shean a request for information ("the information request") regarding Shean's business activities from January 17, 2019 to February 16, 2021 ("the relevant time period").
- 16. Shean responded to the Division's information request with a statement dated February 26, 2021.
- 17. The Division's information requests and Shean's February 26, 2021 responses, in relevant part, are as follows:

<u>Request 1</u>: The Division asked Shean to describe her occupation(s) and business activities during the relevant time period.

<u>Response 1</u>: "During the relevant time period, my occupation and business activities have been the following:

- a. PlanNow, LLC Income derived from the sales of a self-help book I wrote entitled "My Life Organizer". I receive income from the sale of these notebooks and assist clients in gathering and organizing documents to help them navigate through the chapters of the book
- b. CentSai Working full-time in sales and other managerial roles for CentSai, which is a financial education company providing digital content to professionals through SAAS Technology.
- c. Norwex Distributor for products"

Request 4: The Division asked Shean to describe her role and responsibilities, if any, during the relevant time period in connection with PlanNow, LLC; Females and Finance, LLC; CentSai; and Shean Properties, LLC, and to include a brief description of the business purpose of each entity.

<u>Response 4</u>: "During the relevant time period, my roles and responsibilities have been as follows:

- a. PlanNow, LLC Single Member LLC. I helped clients organize and gather documents to complete their "My Life Organizer" book
- b. Females and Finance, LLC This is a facebook networking group used to network with those using SAAS technology in their businesses. This facebook group has several group activities to help members showcase their businesses/platforms to a large audience of over 3000 group members. My only role or responsibility is as a member of the facebook group.
- c. CentSai I sold subscriptions for digital platforms and content licensing through SAAS technology. I also managed and mentored sales teams within the organization and was the liaison for strategic partnerships.
- d. Shean Properties LLC -50% member of this LLC which owns a commercial building with a tenant."

Request 6: The Division asked Shean to "List the names of any and all persons, if any, for whom you have, during the relevant time period: made any recommendations or otherwise rendered advice regarding securities; managed accounts or portfolios of the person; determined which recommendations or advice concerning securities should be given; or solicited, offered or negotiated for the sale of or sold investment advisory services."

<u>Response 6</u>: "During the relevant time period, I did not perform the activities in Request number 6."

Request 7: The Division asked Shean to "List the names and addresses of all persons, if any for whom you have, during the relevant time period: Engaged in the business of advising the person(s), either directly or indirectly, or by mail or through publication or writing as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities; Engaged in the business of managing an investment or trading account in securities for the person(s); or Issued, as part of a regular business in this state, analyses or reports concerning securities."

<u>Response 7</u>: "During the relevant time period, I did not perform the activities in Request number 7."

Request 8: The Division asked Shean to "List the names and addresses of all broker-dealers, issuers or owners of securities, if any, you represented in effecting or



attempting to effect in any manner transactions in securities, during the relevant time period."

Response 8: "During the relevant time period, I did not perform the activities in Request number 8."

Request 9: The Division asked Shean to "List and describe the financial services business activities, if any, you have engaged in for compensation, during the relevant time period, including but not limited to investment adviser, securities salesperson, issuer of securities, broker-dealer, insurance, or mortgage lending."

Response 9: "During the relevant time period, I did not perform the activities in Request number 9."

ii. **PlanNow**

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- In February 2018 Shean formed a business entity, PlanNow LLC, purportedly to 18. market and sell a book she wrote called My Life Organizer (MLO).
- 19. The MLO is a document organizer. It is a notebook binder of forms, to help clients of Shean and PlanNow gather and organize the clients' important documents and information, in case of emergency. The notebook includes sections for documents and information such as insurance policies, medical information, advance directive, will or trust documents, power of attorney, funeral or burial information, as well as financial account information for bank accounts, investment accounts, safe deposit box, loans and mortgages, real estate information, credit cards, other personal information.
- 20. In addition to selling the MLO book, Shean, through PlanNow, entered into professional services agreements to provide consulting services to clients of Shean and PlanNow, in exchange for fees.
- 21. Some of Shean's clients at PlanNow were also Shean's clients from when she was licensed to work as a securities salesperson and investment adviser representative.
- 22. The fees that Shean, through PlanNow, charged the PlanNow clients were calculated at an hourly rate, or a fixed fee, or a combination of both. Generally, Shean's hourly rate was \$150 per hour.
- In exchange for their funds, Shean, through PlanNow agreed to perform certain 26 23.



business and/or personal consulting services for the clients, such as providing assistance in filling out paperwork and documentation as needed, providing research for services needed, providing assistance with compiling information for planning, and gathering documentation needed.

- 24. The PlanNow agreements state: "This agreement does not include investment advice as I no longer possess the licenses necessary to render advice."
- 25. The PlanNow agreements do not disclose why Shean no longer holds licenses to provide investment advice.
- 26. Neither Shean nor PlanNow disclosed to the clients who retained Shean's services through PlanNow, that Shean converted a customer's funds totaling approximately \$124,000, and that Shean is barred from associating with any FINRA member in any capacity, including clerical or ministerial functions.
- 27. Neither Shean nor PlanNow disclosed to the clients who retained Shean's services through PlanNow, that Shean is the subject of the Consent Order, which revoked Shean's Oregon investment adviser representative, securities salesperson and resident insurance producer licenses, and permanently barred Shean from applying for those licenses in Oregon, after Shean caused six unauthorized transactions from a customer's account and misappropriated a total of \$124,402.83 from the customer's account by transferring the customer's funds to the IRS for the benefit of Shean.
- 28. Neither Shean nor PlanNow disclosed to the clients who retained Shean's services through PlanNow, that Shean was terminated for cause by Firm 1, the firm where she was last licensed to work, after admitting to accessing one client's funds for personal use.

iii. Respondents' Financial Account Records

29. In April 2021, the Division issued subpoenas for copies of Shean's and PlanNow's bank account and credit union account records. A review of those records shows multiple and regular deposits made to the accounts from approximately 31 individuals or couples.

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Many of those p	payments were	deposited in a	credit union	account belo	nging to PlanNov

LLC. The amounts of the deposits ranged from \$50 per month to \$600 per calendar quarter.

Words such as "Investments", "Financial Planning", or "Financial Consult" were noted on the memo line of some of the payments to Shean and/or PlanNow.

30. Approximately 20 of the individuals or couples that made the payments deposited in Shean's and PlanNow's accounts were former clients of Shean when she was licensed to work at Firm 1.

iv. PlanNow Clients

"JC"

- One of the individuals identified in the Shean and PlanNow financial accounts was 31. "JC", the same elderly client whose funds Shean admitted she had misappropriated six times in 2017 for her personal use.
- 32. Deposit records for the credit union account include checks from JC payable to Shean or PlanNow, LLC, dated after the Consent Order was issued. The payments by check from JC to Shean or PlanNow, LLC include \$3600 on February 20, 2019; \$4200 on January 4, 2020; and \$2400 on January 6, 2021. Check #1060 dated February 20, 2019 for \$3600 is payable to PlanNow, LLC. The memo line of the check states: "2019 Fees/Laura Shean". Check #1008 dated January 4, 2020 for \$4200 is payable to PlanNow LLC. The memo line of the check states: "Annual fee for services". Check #1229 dated January 6, 2021 for \$2400 is payable to Laura Shean. The memo line of the check states: "6 months dues PlanNow, LLC.
- 33. Shean, through PlanNow, entered into a Consulting Services Agreement with JC on August 3, 2018. Shean signed the agreement as the managing member of PlanNow, LLC. In exchange for a \$3,000 annual fee, Shean, through PlanNow, agreed to perform certain business and/or personal consulting services for JC. The purpose or objective of those services is described in the agreement as:

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Provide assistance in filling out paperwork and documentation as needed. Provide research for services needed and/or to be acquired. Provide Assistance with compiling information for estate planning/tax accountant, etc., efforts through other vendors. There will be no investment advice rendered by PlanNow.

34. The agreement with JC also states, in the description of services: "This agreement does not include investment advice as I no longer possess the licenses necessary to render advice."

"JW"

- 35. "JW" resides in Keizer, Oregon. He was introduced to Shean by a family member.
- 36. Shean, through PlanNow LLC, entered into a Consulting Services Agreement dated March 30, 2020 with JW. Shean signed the agreement as the managing member of PlanNow, LLC.
- 37. During 2020 and 2021, JW paid Respondents, a total of at least \$2,450 by checks payable to Shean or to PlanNow, LLC. In exchange for those fees, Shean, by and through PlanNow, provided JW with certain services, including financial services, described in more detail below.
- 38. Shean mentioned the My Life Organizer book to JW a few times, but the book was not a focus of communications between JW and Shean.
- 39. JW gave Shean online access to his investment account at a broker-dealer firm, (hereinafter, "Firm 2") which is a firm where, at the time, Shean held accounts as well.
- 40. Shean discussed with JW the types of investments that would be suitable for JW considering factors such as JW's age and risk tolerance. Shean helped JW transfer his retirement assets from one broker-dealer to JW's accounts at Firm 2. Shean conducted cashflow analysis for JW. Shean provided analysis and reports to JW regarding the fees JW had paid for services with a financial services business that previously managed his account. Shean compared fees, and provided training to JW, including demonstrating how

1	to use a broker-dealer's retail platform.		
2	41. During an investigative interview of Shean on May 11, 2022, an investigator for		
3	the Division asked Shean about other work or help that Shean provided to JW, and the		
4	investigator asked Shean if JW knew about the Consent Order.		
5	[Investigator]: Any other work or help that you provided to him?		
6	MS. SHEAN: Yeah, he just used me he paid me monthly as just financial education. He bought a book, Investing for Dummies, and he would just ask		
7	me questions, but we were very, very clear I'm not giving investment advice and he understood that. Everybody I met with that signed that contract		
8	understood that this is not investment advice, that I'm just helping and assisting.		
9	[Investigator]: Okay, so if he what would happen if he would ask about a particular investment or anything like that? Did that ever come up?		
10	MS. SHEAN: Yeah, I would say, there are resources where you can find		
11	information on this, and I did help him look for resources. [Investigator]: Okay. Was he aware of the consent order or anything like		
12	that? MS. SHEAN: No.		
13	[Investigator]: Okay, so how would he know I don't know quite how to say it. Was he curious as to why you wouldn't provide him any investment		
14	advice? MS.SHEAN: I just told him I didn't have a license to provide investment		
15	advice.		
16	42. Among other services, Shean made investment recommendations to JW. JW		
17	confirmed this during a recorded phone call between a Division investigator and JW on		
18	May 19, 2022. Below is an excerpt from the transcript of the recording:		
19	[Investigator]: Well, you know, because it sounds like you told her that you		
know she went in there and that she saw something at a certain p she execute the transaction. Do you know if that ever happened	she execute the transaction. Do you know if that ever happened?		
21	JW: Well, do I know if that ever happened?		
22	[Investigator]: Mm-hmm.		
23	JW: I don't have any records of it, but my memory is that it likely did.		
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25	JW: I see. Yeah. Well and I think that the other thing that I will say is that Mrs. Shean did make investment recommendations to me.		
26	17113. Official did make investment recommendations to me.		

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1	[Investigator]: Okay.
2	JW: She definitely did that and (inaudible) she said have you looked at this stock and that stock, this would be, you know, one that you might want to
3	consider and you know, because, yeah, that occurred.
4	_
5	[Investigator]: That reminds you, did you say that she created some, a spreadsheet or something for you, some other documents?
6	JW: [REDACTED] I was involved with another trading, a boutique trading
7	investment company that really screwed up my accounts and (inaudible)
8	[Investigator]: Yeah
9	JW: and she did a fantastic job
\wedge L	

[Investigator]: Yeah.

JW: ... of doing the analysis on the, like, well, this, if they're supposed to be a fiduciary, they weren't even giving you the, just the standard investment rate, I mean this is just crazy, these ...

[Investigator]: Yeah.

JW: ... investment. I ended up getting a settlement, a modest settlement from them.

[Investigator]: Oh? Okay.

JW: Right. So she, you know, she was very, very capable of looking at the investments, where they'd been made, uh, you know, helping me understand ... these don't even fit the criteria of what would be considered a ... these are high risk investments, they're not or whatever. I can't remember.

[Investigator]: Yeah.

JW: (inaudible) that kind of stuff....

43. On April 14, 2020 Shean, using her email address laura@plannowllc.com sent an email to JW. The subject line of the email is "Second Round of purchases". The signature block on the email includes PlanNow, LLC and Laura Shean. The email states:

Here is a breakdown of future purchases. Today is not a good day to buy stocks, but it is a good day to sell the Global Real Estate Fund. We can talk about this today. Laura

"LJ"

- 44. "LJ" resides Florence, Oregon. LJ was a client of Shean and PlanNow. LJ also had been a client of Shean's at Firm 1, the firm that terminated Shean in 2017.
- 45. Shean, through PlanNow LLC, entered into a Consulting Services Agreement dated August 13, 2018 with LJ. Shean signed the agreement as the managing member of PlanNow, LLC.
- 46. In exchange for fees at the rate of \$150 per hour or \$100 per month, Shean, through PlanNow, agreed "to perform certain business and/or personal consulting services" for LJ, including:

Provide assistance in filling out paperwork and documentation as needed. Provide research for services needed and/or to be acquired. Providing assistance with compiling information for planning efforts through other vendors. Gather documentation needed for social security and estate/special needs planning attorney. There will be no investment advice rendered by PlanNow.

- 47. In the description of services, the agreement states: "This agreement does not include investment advice as I no longer possess the licenses necessary to provide advice."
- 48. Nevertheless, Shean had what LJ described as "carte blanche" over LJ's financial affairs, including investments.
- 49. LJ paid Shean a total of \$1,800 between January 5, 2020 and January 12, 2021. During a telephone call between a Division investigator and LJ on January 19, 2022, LJ told the investigator that LJ paid Shean \$600 every six months (\$100 a month) "to handle [LJ's] investments." Shean "totally managed [LJ's] money" and Shean had "carte blanche" because [LJ] did not understand "all of that." Shean "handled [LJ's] investments, bonds, reinvestments" and "totally managed [LJ's] money."
 - 50. LJ did not know Shean's licenses were revoked. LJ did not become aware of any

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issues of concern regarding Shean until Firm 2 contacted LJ, notifying LJ that someone had tried to access LJ's account and that LJ needed a representative with Firm 2. At the time, LJ was under the mistaken impression that Shean was LJ's representative at Firm 2. In reality, Shean did not work for Firm 2 and could not serve as LJ's representative at Firm 2.

"*RJ*"

- "RJ" resides in Medford, Oregon. RJ was a client of Shean and PlanNow. 51.
- 52. Shean, through PlanNow LLC, entered into a Consulting Services Agreement dated July 20, 2018 with RJ. Shean signed the agreement as the managing member of PlanNow, LLC.
- 53. In exchange for fees at the rate of \$150 per hour, which were later changed to \$150 per month, Shean, through PlanNow, agreed "to perform certain business and/or personal consulting services" for RJ, including:

Provide assistance in filling out paperwork and documentation as needed. Provide research for services needed and/or to be acquired. Provide assistance with compiling information for planning efforts through other vendors. Gather documentation needed for social security and estate/special needs planning attorney. There will be no investment advice rendered by PlanNow

- In the description of services, the agreement states: "This agreement does not 54. include investment advice as I no longer possess the licenses necessary to render advice."
- 55. Between January 23, 2019 and April 26, 2021, RJ made at least 25 monthly payments of \$150 payable to PlanNow and/or Laura Shean, for a total amount of at least \$3,750. During that time, Shean provided financial advice to RJ.
- 56. At the time, RJ did not know Shean's licenses were revoked or that she had been barred from the industry. 24
 - Shean would send RJ financial planning information. During a telephone call 57. between RJ and a Division investigator on January 19, 2022, RJ told the investigator RJ

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would ask Shean questions, and Shean would provide advice, make recommendations or
what he should do, and pull information for him. RJ has accounts at Firm 2.

- 58. RJ had a "My Life Organizer" book but Shean did not work with him on it.
- 59. RJ did not attend Shean's "My Life Organizer" class on August 17, 2021, but RJ received a letter from Firm 2 dated September 2, 2021. The letter notified RJ that Firm 2 had made a business decision to remove Shean's privileges as an authorized person for any accounts held at Firm 2 or any of its affiliates.
- 60. Shean was added to one of RJ's accounts at Firm 2 on February 5, 2019, with inquiry authority. With that authority, Shean could log into the account to view and get copies of statements, but could not transact or act on the account without a power of attorney. Shean had trading authority over two other accounts belonging to RJ at Firm 2.

"KG"

- "KG" resides Medford, Oregon. KG was a client of Shean and PlanNow. KG also 61. had been a client of Shean's at Firm 1, prior to Shean's termination for cause.
- 62. Shean, through PlanNow LLC, entered into a Consulting Services Agreement dated August 3, 2018 with KG. Shean signed the agreement as the managing member of PlanNow, LLC.
- In exchange for fees at the rate of \$150 per hour or \$150 per month, Shean, through PlanNow, agreed "to perform certain business and/or personal consulting services" for KG, including:

Provide assistance in filling out paperwork and documentation as needed. Provide research for services needed and/or to be acquired. Provide assistance with compiling information for planning efforts through other vendors. There will be no investment advice rendered by PlanNow.

- In the description of services, the agreement states: "This agreement does not 64. include investment advice as I no longer possess the licenses necessary to render advice."
- 65. Nevertheless, KG paid Shean \$150 per month for financial advice. During a phone

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Page 20 of 27 – DEFAULT ORDER – Laura O. Shean (S-22-0090)

Shean claimed she logged into her own account to print her statement.

conversation with a Division investigator on January 27, 2022, KG told the investigator

that Shean provided general advice to KG regarding the markets. According to KG, Shean

looked at the stock market, told KG about trends, and made recommendations about how

much cash KG should have on hand. KG, not Shean, made the changes to her account, but

February 2, 2019, lists "financial planning". KG made another payment of \$1500 on March

apparently involving Shean's computer. Firm 2 noticed that a similar device was used to

log into multiple Firm 2 customer accounts on or about August 17, 2021. Upon discovering

from Firm 2. The call was recorded. Shean said she could not log into her account. Shean

said she taught a class for My Life Organizer the night before. She said the class was from

about 5:30 to 9:30. There were 30 people at the class. Shean claimed she had the attendees

download their statements using her WiFi. Shean said everyone logged in at the same time.

They needed to download their statements to put in their My Life Organizer books. They

used her printer too. She said she did not realize it would create a problem. After they left,

iPads. She helped some of them find their statements. She said the book had 36 chapters.

They had been doing this for over a year. Sometimes they need to change the beneficiary

Shean said some of the attendees used her computer, some used their laptops or

the unusual activity, Firm 2 placed restrictions on Shean's account.

said she was the only one logging on, no one else had access.

The memo line of KG's payment of \$1500 for Shean/PlanNow's services, dated

In August 2021, Firm 2 detected unusual account activity in their system,

On August 18, 2021, when Shean's account was restricted, Shean spoke with staff

Firm 2 staff asked if Shean was helping anyone with their Firm 2 accounts. Shean

the changes were made on the advice of Shean.

Firm 2 Account Access

Division of Financial Regulation Labor and Industries Building 350 Winter Street NE, Suite 410 Salem, OR 97301-3881 Telephone: (503) 378-4387



or print a beneficiary form. They meet about once a month and she meets with them individually sporadically. The classes are sometimes at night. Some are friends, sometimes they have a margarita and log on. The previous night they had pizza and wrapped up about 9-10 p.m. Shean said she didn't know how many had Firm 2 accounts.

- 71. Fidelity staff informed Shean that Firm 2 takes security very seriously and to not share login credentials. Firm 2 staff told Shean to have them bring their own devices and not to use the same computer, and that multiple logons from the same computer triggers Firm 2's system. Shean said she works with people one-on-one and asked if it would be a red flag if they logged in on her computer. Firm 2 staff told Shean they have to use their own devices. Using the same wifi is not an issue. Shean said she would go in and clear out her computer. She said she would need to figure out how to structure things because she thought a lot of them had Firm 2 accounts. Shean said she thought it would be easy for them to bring all their stuff there. She said she would let everyone know they might have a problem.
- 72. When asked by Division staff on May 3, 2022 to provide a copy of a class/course syllabus and an attendee/participant list for the class, Shean responded through counsel on May 6, 2022 that Shean has no responsive documents in her possession, custody or control.
- 73. When interviewed by Division staff on May 11, 2022, Shean was asked whether RJ or LJ attended or participated in the class. Shean responded, "No."
- 74. According to Firm 2's records, RJ's account was accessed from a device at Shean's home on August 17, 2022.
 - 75. Firm 2 sent a communication to the customers whose accounts had been accessed.
- 76. LJ ,whose account was accessed on a device at Shean's home on August 17, 2021, told Firm 2 that she did not attend the event on August 17, 2021 and it had been months since LJ had communicated with Shean. At the time, LJ was under the mistaken impression that Shean was LJ's representative at Firm 2.

77. In fact, Shean was a customer of Firm 2, but was not employed to work for Firm 2 as a securities salesperson or investment adviser representative.

78. Shean also had trading authority over at least one account at Firm 2 belonging to "RJ" a customer of Firm 2 that was also a client of PlanNow.

79. On or about September 2, 2021, Firm 2 terminated Shean as a customer of Fidelity. On that same date Firm 2 also revoked Shean's trading authority and privileges as an authorized person for customers with Firm 2 accounts.

80. Shean acknowledged to Division staff on May 11, 2022 that Firm 2 terminated her as a customer "for using my computer to access multiple accounts."

81. Shean also acknowledged to Division staff on May 11, 2022 her understanding that the Consent Order includes a number of restrictions, including that Shean is not allowed: "to practice as an advisor"; "to give investment advice," and; "to work under a securities capacity."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Director CONCLUDES that:

- 82. The Director has jurisdiction over Respondents pursuant to ORS 59.235.
- 83. Shean has not been licensed in Oregon to work for any firm as a securities salesperson or investment adviser representative since November 2017. Respondents have never been licensed in Oregon as a state investment adviser or broker-dealer.
- 84. From 2018 through 2021, Respondents transacted business in Oregon as a state investment adviser, by engaging for compensation in the business of advising others, including but not limited to JW, LJ, RJ, or KG, as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities; engaging in the business of managing an investment or trading account in securities for other persons; or issuing, as part of their PlanNow business, analyses or reports concerning securities, as more fully described in Paragraphs 40, 42-43, 48-49, 55, 57, 60 and 65-66 above.

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- 85. From 2018 through 2021, Respondents transacted business in Oregon as a state investment adviser without a license, in violation of ORS 59.165(6).
- 86. From 2018 through 2021, Shean, while representing PlanNow, acted as an investment adviser representative for PlanNow, by making recommendations or otherwise rendering advice regarding securities to clients of Shean and PlanNow; managing accounts or portfolios of clients of Shean and PlanNow; or by soliciting, offering or negotiating for the sale of or selling investment advisory services to clients of Shean and PlanNow, as more fully described in Paragraphs 40, 42-43, 48-49, 55, 57, 60 and 65-66 above.
- From 2018 through 2021, Shean transacted business in Oregon as an investment 87. adviser representative for PlanNow without a license, in violation of ORS 59.165(4)(c).
- 88. Respondents' violations of ORS 59.165(6), and Shean's violations of ORS 59.165(4)(c), which spanned from 2018 through 2021, were continuing violations.
- 89. Respondents employed a device, scheme or artifice to defraud in violation of ORS 59.135(1) by, among other things, operating the PlanNow business in a manner calculated to conceal the unlawful securities business activities of Respondents and Shean described in Paragraphs 40, 42-43, 48-49, 55, 57, 60 and 65-66 above. Shean further violated ORS 59.135(1) by, among other things, accessing client accounts at Firm 2 using Shean's computer, as described in Paragraphs 67-80 above.
- 90. Respondents violated ORS 59.135(2), by stating to their clients that Shean is no longer licensed to provide investment advice, without disclosing the reasons why Shean is no longer licensed in Oregon to provide investment advice, including the Consent Order, the AWC, and Firm 1's termination of Shean for cause, as more fully described in Paragraphs 24 through 28 above.
- 91. By failing to disclose to PlanNow clients the Consent Order, the AWC, and Firm 1's termination of Shean for cause, as more fully described in Paragraphs 25 through 28 above, Respondents engaged in an act, practice or course of business which operated or

would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person, the PlanNow clients, in violation of ORS 59.135(3).

- 92. By accessing clients' accounts at Firm 2 on her computer, including the account of at least one client who was not present when Shean accessed the client's account, as more fully described in Paragraphs 67 through 80 above, Shean engaged in an act, practice or course of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person, including but not limited to Firm 2, in violation of ORS 59.135(3).
- 93. Shean filed a false statement with the Director, in violation of ORS 59.135(4), by filing a statement dated February 26, 2021 with the Director, falsely denying that she, for any person between January 17, 2019 and February 16, 2021, made any recommendations or otherwise rendered advice regarding securities; managed accounts or portfolios; determined which recommendation or advice regarding securities should be given; solicited, offered or negotiated for the sale of or sold investment advisory services; engaged in the business of advising a person, either directly or indirectly or by mail or through publication in writing, as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities; engaged in the business of managing an investment or trading account in securities for the person; or issued, as part of a regular business in this state, analyses or reports concerning securities, as more fully described in Paragraphs 15 through 17 above.
- 94. By transacting business in Oregon as a state investment adviser and investment adviser representative without the required licenses after January 17, 2019, Shean violated or failed to comply with a provision of the Oregon Securities Law, including ORS 59.165(4)(c) and ORS 59.165(6), thereby violating an order of the Director, specifically the Consent Order.
- 95. By transacting business in Oregon as a state investment adviser and investment adviser representative without the required licenses after January 17, 2019, Shean willfully



and repeatedly violated or failed to comply with a provision of the Oregon Securities Law, including ORS 59.165(4)(c), ORS 59.165(6), and an order of the Director, specifically the Consent Order, which is also in violation of ORS 59.205(3).

- 96. Shean's violation of the Consent Order by transacting business in Oregon as a state investment adviser and investment adviser representative without the required licenses after January 17, 2019 until at least February 16, 2021, was a continuing violation.
- 97. Pursuant to the terms of the Consent Order, the Director suspended \$20,000 of the civil penalties assessed against Shean in the Consent Order "so long as Shean complies with all terms of this [Consent] Order, all provisions of the Oregon Securities Law, and all provisions of the Insurance Code. The suspended portion of the civil penalties assessed against Shean "shall be immediately due and payable upon a determination by the Director that Shean has violated any term of this [Consent] Order, or any provision of the Oregon Securities Law."
- 98. Pursuant to ORS 59.995(1), the Director may impose a civil penalty of up to \$20,000 per violation upon any person who violates a provision of the Oregon Securities Law. Pursuant to ORS 59.995(2), in the case of a continuing violation, each day's continuance is a separate violation, and the Director may impose a civil penalty of up to \$100,000 for a continuing violation.

ORDERS

Now therefore, the Director issues the following ORDERS:

- 99. Pursuant to ORS 59.245(4), the Director hereby ORDERS Shean to CEASE AND DESIST from violating ORS 59.165(4)(c), ORS 59.205(3), and from violating an order of the Director, specifically the Consent Order.
- 100. Pursuant to ORS 59.245(4), the Director hereby ORDERS Respondents to CEASE AND DESIST from violating ORS 59.165(6), ORS 59.135(1), ORS 59.135(2) and ORS 59.135(3).

