2 STATE OF OREGON 3 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATION 4 5 In the Matter of: Case No. S-18-0049 6 MARTIN L. HUDLER, an FINAL ORDER TO CEASE AND Individual, AUGUSTINE FLORES, DESIST, FINAL ORDER DENYING 7 an Individual. STRATEGIC USE OF EXEMPTIONS AND FINAL CAPITAL HOLDINGS LLC aka ORDER ASSESSING CIVIL 8 STRATEGIC CAPITAL PENALTIES, ENTERED BY DEFAULT HOLDINGS, LLC, a Revoked 9 Nevada Limited Liability Company, AS AGAINST RESPONDENTS and YORK AVENUE PROPERTIES, AUGUSTINE FLORES, STRATEGIC 10 LLC, a Dissolved Limited Liability CAPITAL HOLDINGS LLC AND YORK AVENUE PROPERTIES, LLC Company, 11 **ONLY** Respondents. 12 13 On April 27, 2020, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business 14 Services for the State of Oregon ("Director"), by and through the Division of Financial 15 Regulation ("Division"), served an Amended Order to Cease and Desist, Proposed Orders 16 Denying the Use of Exemptions, and Proposed Order Assessing Civil Penalties ("Amended 17 Notice") on Martin L. Hudler ("Hudler"), Augustine Flores ("Flores"), Strategic Capital 18 Holdings LLC aka Strategic Capital Holdings, LLC ("Strategic") and York Avenue 19 Properties, LLC ("York") (collectively "Respondents"). 20 The Amended Notice offered Flores, Strategic and York an opportunity for a hearing if requested within 20 days of service of the Amended Notice. 1 The Amended 21 Notice further informed Flores, Strategic and York that any Respondent that did not file a 23 timely request for a hearing will have waived their right to a contested case hearing, and 24 ¹ On June 28, 2018, the Director served Hudler with a Notice Order regarding this matter. On or around July 25 10, 2018, Hudler submitted a written request for a hearing. No further response was required from Hudler

to preserve his right to a hearing, and a contested case hearing as against Hudler will be scheduled with the

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Office of Administrative Hearings.

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that if a hearing was not conducted against them because they 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 Flores, Strategic and/or York a request for a hearing, and the time to request a hearing has expired.

After considering the relevant portions of the Division's file in this matter, the Director finds that the record proves a prima facie case as against Respondents Flores, Strategic and/or York, such that an Order of Default may be entered against such Respondents only.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Director FINDS that:

Casino Venture

- On May 8, 2013, Meritage Ventures, LLC ("Meritage") registered as a Nevada limited liability company.² Meritage's members were Coast Equities, LLC ("Coast"), a Nevada limited liability company whose sole officer is Hudler, and Rock Managers, LLC, an entity managed by David Wakefield ("Wakefield"). Meritage maintained a principal place of business at 333 S. State St., Suite V-105, Lake Oswego, OR 97035 ("State St. Office").
- 2. In or around June 2013, Hudler offered the following investment opportunity to an individual investor identified herein as "AC" ("Casino Investment"):
 - Meritage was raising \$450,000 to purchase and/or renovate a property A. located in the Bahamas for the purpose of operating a casino;
 - В. \$300,000 had already been secured, of which Hudler and Wakefield had contributed \$150,000, and Hudler sought the remaining \$150,000 from AC;

²⁶ ² Nevada has since revoked Meritage's registration.



C.	AC would have no role in finalizing the acquisition or renovation of the
casino pro	operty;

- D. AC would have no role in operating the casino; and
- E. AC's investment would be secured by a membership interest in Meritage, making it as "risk free" as possible.
- Contrary to Hudler's assertions, Hudler and Wakefield did not contribute \$150,000 to the Casino Investment. In fact, Meritage had not secured any funds for the Casino Investment.
- 4. AC told Hudler he was concerned about investing in a foreign business operated by savvy individuals. To assuage AC's concerns, Hudler offered to enter into an escrow agreement with AC pursuant to which AC would retain control over the disbursement of his investment funds.
- 5. On June 10, 2013, Hudler entered into an escrow agreement with AC ("Escrow Agreement"). Under the terms of the Escrow Agreement:
 - A. Hudler and AC would deposit \$150,000 into an escrow account for the purpose of funding the Casino Investment;
 - B. The funds would be administered by Alvin Garland ("Garland"), an attorney licensed to practice law in the Bahamas; and
 - C. The disbursement of funds would require the written approval of both Hudler and AC, except AC could unilaterally demand the return of his funds at any time and for any reason.
 - 6. Hudler failed to disclose to AC that Garland served as attorney for Meritage.
- 7. On June 13, 2013, AC, in accordance with the Escrow Agreement, transferred \$100,000 to Garland to be deposited in an escrow account for the Casino Investment. Garland was approximately 70 years old at the time.
 - 8. Garland did not deposit AC's Casino Investment funds into an escrow account.

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He deposited the funds into his client trust account, where they were identified as Meritage	36
funds. No escrow account was ever created for AC's Casino Investment funds.	

- 9. Hudler knew the facts set forth in Paragraph (8) and failed to disclose them to AC.
- 10. From on or around June 21, 2013 through on or around July 9, 2013, Hudler directed Garland to make the following disbursements of AC's Casino Investment funds:
 - A. \$10,000 to Loro Partners, LLC ("Loro"), a revoked Nevada limited liability company whose sole officer was Hudler's son, Brandon Hudler;
 - В. \$24,000 to Carl Enterprises, Ltd., the entity that owned the building in which the casino was to operate;³
 - C. \$8,250 to Davcon Owner Services, Inc., a suspended California corporation whose CEO was Wakefield;
 - D. \$4,019.76 to Centurion, a revoked Nevada limited liability company whose officers were Hudler and Hudler's other son, Alexander Hudler.
 - E. \$35,000 to Family Collectibles, Inc., a suspended California corporation engaged in the business of selling classic cars;
 - F. \$3,316 to Garland's law firm, for legal services Garland provided to Meritage;
 - G. \$3,317 for airfare for Wakefield, his wife, and "RC", a potential investor in the Casino Investment;
 - H. \$1,100 for hotel accommodations for Wakefield; and
 - I. \$640 in travel and accommodations for RC.
- 11. Garland disbursed AC's Casino Investment funds in accordance with Hudler's directions.
 - 12. AC had no knowledge of the foregoing disbursements nor did he approve of

³ To date, Meritage has purchased neither the building nor the casino.

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Meritage.

14. On or around November 2, 2013, AC communicated to Hudler his desire to

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them, in writing or otherwise.

have his Casino Investment funds returned to him. Hudler failed to inform AC that the majority of the funds had been spent. Hudler failed to facilitate the return of any of AC's

Casino Investment funds.

Kingsland Property Venture

Relevant Entities

15. On May 4, 2015, Strategic registered as a Nevada limited liability company.⁴ Strategic was managed by Flores and Hudler.

On August 14, 2013, AC's limited liability company became a member of

16. Strategic was owned by Flores, Hudler and Charles R. Markley ("Markley").

17. On June 4, 2015, York registered as an Oregon limited liability company.⁵

York was managed by Strategic and maintained a principal place of business at the State St. Office.⁶

18. York was owned and managed by Strategic.⁷

19. On or around June 17, 2015, York obtained the title deed to Unit 101, Unit 102 and PK 1-12⁸ of a condominium located at 99 Kingsland Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11222 ("Kingsland Property").

Liens and Encumbrances

20. At the time of York's purchase, the Kingsland Property was subject to the following liens and encumbrances:

⁴ Nevada has since revoked Strategic's registration.

⁵ York administratively dissolved on August 3, 2017.

⁷York had a second owner in Kew Garden Property, LLC.

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⁶ York's registration filing identified Strategic as "Strategic Capital Holdings, LLC." Upon information and belief, these are the same entity.

⁸ This represents twelve parking spaces on or adjacent to the condominium property.

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A.	On July 16, 2010, a \$2,479.16 lien was recorded on Unit 101;
В.	On July 16, 2010, a \$7,225.74 lien was recorded on Unit 102:

- C. On August 9, 2011, a \$480,000 mortgage was recorded on Unit 102.
- 21. At the time of York's purchase, the Kingsland property was subject to the following litigation:
 - On or around July 8, 2014, JPMorgan Chase Bank ("JP Morgan") A. commenced action to foreclose on the August 9, 2011 mortgage on Unit 102; and
 - B. On or around October 23, 2014, the Metroplex Suites Condominium Board of Managers commenced action to foreclose on the July 16, 2010 lien on Unit 102.
- 22. In or around July 2015, an individual investor identified herein as "SK" loaned \$77,100 to York. Hudler, acting as York's manager, claimed York needed the funds to refinance the Kingsland Property.9
- 23. Hudler promised to secure SK's loan with a first-position mortgage on Unit 101 and PK 1-12.10

HP/RP

- In or around July 2015, a married pair of individual investors identified herein 24. as "HP/RP" met with Flores to discuss retirement funding. Flores claimed to have experience in real estate financing. HP/RP had no experience in real estate financing or private money lending. They told Flores they wanted conservative and safe investments.
- 25. Flores told HP/RP that York was about to purchase Unit 101 but needed additional funds to complete the transaction. He encouraged them to loan York \$400,000 to be secured by a first-position mortgage on the property ("York Loan").
 - 26. On or around July 31, 2015, York entered into a promissory note ("York Note")

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HUDLER, et al. – S-18-0049

⁹ Upon information and belief, York never refinanced the Kingsland Property.

¹⁰ Markley drafted mortgage documents to this end, but Respondents never executed or recorded them.

with HP/RP's limited liability company, Map Real Estate LLC ("Map"). Under the terms

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the York Note.

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A.

HP/RP made the York Loan in reliance on:

Flores's proclaimed experience in real estate financing;



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38.	In addition,	despite	assurances	the	York Loan	would	be s	secured	by]	Unit	101
and PK 1-	12, Responde	ents faile	ed to record	HP/	RP Mortga	ge One.					

Post-Loan Events

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- 39. In or around March 2016:
 - The Board of Managers of the Kingsland Property approved the sale of Α. Unit 101 from York to Life C LLC ("Life C") for \$170,000; and
 - В. Hudler directed the title company not to record HP/RP Mortgage One, falsely claiming that HP/RP no longer wanted it recorded. Hudler further directed the title company to remit to him the York Loan funds that had been set aside for recording fees.
- 40. Shortly thereafter, the title company disbursed \$8,307 to Hudler.
- 41. On or around April 11, 2016, York sold Unit 101 to Life C.
- 42. Shortly thereafter, Markley drafted mortgage documents to secure the York Loan with Unit 102 ("HP/RP Mortgage Two"). The documents stated York held good and merchantable title to Unit 102 free and clear of liens and encumbrances. On or around April 20, 2016, Flores signed HP/RP Mortgage Two as manager of Strategic and York.
- 43. At no time did Respondents inform HP/RP of the \$487,225.74 in liens and encumbrances identified in Paragraphs 20(B) and (C) ("Unit 102 Liens and Encumbrances") or the related litigation. ¹³
 - 44. On or around April 28, 2016, Life C recorded the title deed for Unit 101.
- 45. On May 4, 2016, HP/RP Mortgage Two was recorded. At all times it has been subordinate to the Unit 102 Liens and Encumbrances.
 - 46. On or around May 8, 2017, Markley provided HP with:
 - A \$39,000 check from Strategic; and Α.

¹³ On or around October 12, 2017, a judgment of foreclosure was entered in connection with Unit 102. JP Morgan was later granted ownership of the property.

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A "Complete Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure," ("Deed in Lieu") drafted by

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of the Clerk of the Borough of Brooklyn as Document ID 201508110278002.

The Director CONCLUDES that:

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Casino Venture

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53. The Casino Investment that Hudler offered and sold to AC, as documented in the Escrow Agreement, is a security under ORS 59.015(19)(a), as it is evidence of indebtedness and an investment contract. It is an investment contract because AC invested money in a common enterprise with the expectation of profit to be made by the management and control of others.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- By offering and selling an unregistered security to AC, Hudler violated ORS 54. 59.055.
- 55. By offering and selling an unregistered security to AC, Hudler transacted business as a securities salesperson under ORS 59.015(18)(a).
- 56. By transacting business as a securities salesperson without being licensed under the Oregon Securities Law, Hudler violated ORS 59.165(1).
- 57. Hudler made the following untrue statements of material fact to AC in connection with the sale of the Casino Investment, in violation of ORS 59.135(2):
 - A. That Meritage had secured \$300,000 in Casino Investment funds;
 - B. That Hudler and Wakefield had personally invested \$150,000 in the Casino Investment: and
 - C. That AC's investment funds would be deposited into an escrow account, and disbursement of the funds would require AC's written approval.
- 58. Hudler omitted to state material facts needed to make the following statements made to AC in connection with the sale of the Casino Investment not misleading, in violation of ORS 59.135(2), as follows:
 - A. That AC would retain control over the investment funds, when in fact Garland was serving as Meritage's attorney and acting at Hudler's direction; and



B.	That the funds	would be used to purchase and/or renovate a casino
property,	when in fact they	were largely used for unrelated purposes, including the
disbursem	nents described in	Paragraph (10).

- 59. By compelling AC to enter into the Escrow Agreement under false pretenses, such that AC had no knowledge or authority over how his Casino Investment funds were disbursed and no power to have the funds returned to him, Hudler:
 - A. Engaged in an act, practice or course of business which operated as a fraud or deceit upon AC, in violation of ORS 59.135(3); and
 - B. Employed a device, scheme or artifice to defraud AC, in violation of ORS 59.135(1).
- 60. By omitting to provide AC with the material facts set forth in Paragraph (14), Hudler prevented AC from discovering the truth about his investment and taking timesensitive actions to seek redress. As a result, the foregoing violations of ORS 59.135(3) and ORS 59.135(1) were continuing violations from in or around June 2013 through in or around November 2013.

Kingsland Property Venture

- 61. The York Note that Flores and Hudler, acting on behalf of York, offered and issued Map and HP/RP in exchange for making the York Loan is a security under ORS 59.015(19)(a), as it is a note, evidence of indebtedness and an investment contract. It is an investment contract because HP/RP invested money in a common enterprise with the expectation of profit to be made by the management and control of others.
- 62. By offering and selling the York Note, an unregistered security, to Map and HP/RP, Flores, Hudler and York violated ORS 59.055.
- 63. By offering and selling an unregistered security to Map and HP/RP, Flores and Hudler transacted business as securities salespersons under ORS 59.015(18)(a).
 - 64. By transacting business as securities salespersons without being licensed under



Α.

Flores proclaimed his real estate financing experience in order to



persuade HP/RP to loan \$400,000 to York;

- B. Flores misrepresented the purpose of the York Loan funds;
- C. Flores directed the title company to refrain from communicating directly with HP/RP, thereby preventing them from receiving material information regarding the York Loan;
- D. Hudler and Flores provided HP/RP with no documentation regarding their investment, except for the York Note;
- E. Hudler directed the disbursements of the York Loan to primarily benefit Respondents;
- F. Hudler directed the title company not to record HP/RP Mortgage One, falsely claiming the loan had been repaid in order to receive an additional \$8,307 in loan funds;
- G. Hudler and/or Flores directed Markley to draft mortgage documents and the Deed in Lieu, all of which contained false information and omitted material information about the Kingsland Property, to give HP/RP a false sense of security regarding the York Loan, thereby preventing them from discovering the truth and taking time-sensitive actions to seek redress.
- 68. For the reasons set forth in Paragraph (67), the foregoing violations of ORS 59.135(3) and ORS 59.135(1) were continuing violations from in or around July 2015 through in or around May 2017.
- 69. Flores and Hudler aided and abetted each other's Kingsland Property violations, under ORS 59.995.

General

70. Because the Director has reason to believe that Respondents have engaged, are engaging, or are about to engage in violations of the Oregon Securities Law, the Director may issue an order to Respondents to cease and desist from violations of the Oregon

Because the Director has reason to believe that Respondents have engaged or

Securities Law under ORS 59.245(4).

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You are entitled to judicial review of this order in accordance with ORS 183.482. You may request judicial review by filing a petition with the Court of Appeals in Salem, Oregon, within 60 days from the date this order is served. Note that under ORS 59.295(2), in the absence of a timely demand for a hearing, no personal shall be entitled to judicial review of the order.

on of Financial Regulation and Industries Building inter Street NE, Suite 410 OR 97301-3881 one: (503) 378-4387