

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
MISSOULA DIVISION

FILED
JUN 28 2017
Clerk, U.S. District Court
District Of Montana
Missoula

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

vs.

AMERICAN EVOICE, LTD., EMERICA
MEDIA CORPORATION, FONERIGHT,
INC., GLOBAL VOICE MAIL, LTD.,
HEARYOU2, INC., NETWORK
ASSURANCE, INC., SECURATDAT,
INC., TECHMAX SOLUTIONS, INC.,
VOICE MAIL PROFESSIONALS, INC.,
STEVE V. SANN, TERRY D. LANE,
a/k/a TERRY D. SANN, NATHAN M.
SANN, ROBERT M. BRAACH,

Defendants.

and

BIBLIOLOGIC, LTD.,

Relief Defendant.

WHEREAS on January 8, 2013, Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission") filed its Complaint (Doc. 1) for a permanent injunction and other equitable relief in this matter pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), against Defendants

American eVoice, Ltd.; Emerica Media Corp.; FoneRight, Inc.; Global Voice Mail, Ltd.; HearYou2, Inc.; Network Assurance, Inc.; SecuratDat, Inc.; Techmax Solutions, Inc.; Voice Mail Professionals, Inc.; Steven V. Sann; Terry D. Sann (a/k/a Terry D. Sann); Nathan M. Sann; and Robert M. Braach ("Defendants"); and Relief Defendant Bibliologic, Ltd; and

WHEREAS Plaintiff FTC alleges in its Complaint that the Defendants engaged in deceptive and unfair acts or practices in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, by placing over \$70 million in unauthorized charges on consumers' telephone bills; and

WHEREAS Plaintiff FTC, in its Complaint, requests that Court award Plaintiff, among other things, equitable monetary relief such as restitution, the refund of monies paid, and the disgorgement of ill-gotten assets; and

WHEREAS Defendant Steven V. Sann filed a petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on September 29, 2014, In re Steven Vincent Sann, No. 14-61370 (Bankr. D. Mont.) ("Bankruptcy Case"); and

WHEREAS on April 29, 2015, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order converting the case to a Chapter 7, and Christy L. Brandon was appointed Chapter 7 Trustee of the bankruptcy estate; and

WHEREAS on March 22, 2017, Defendant Sann filed in his Bankruptcy

Case a waiver of discharge (attached hereto as Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS the Bankruptcy Court approved the waiver of discharge in a written order (attached hereto as Exhibit B); and

WHEREAS the Chapter 7 Trustee has entered into a settlement agreement ("Bankruptcy Settlement Agreement") with Defendant Steven V. Sann and the Montana Department of Revenue ("MT DOR"), that would, among other things, resolve matters of dispute between and among Defendant Steven V. Sann, the MT DOR, and the Chapter 7 Trustee; and

WHEREAS the Bankruptcy Settlement Agreement contains substantially the same asset turnover relief against Defendant Sann set forth in Section IV.B of this Stipulated Order for Permanent Injunction and Monetary Judgment ("Order"); and

WHEREAS the Bankruptcy Settlement Agreement is subject to Bankruptcy Court approval; and

WHEREAS the Bankruptcy Settlement Agreement is contingent upon the District Court's approval and entry of this Order; and

WHEREAS the monetary judgment imposed by Section IV of this Order represents a debt that arose prior to Defendant Sann's Bankruptcy Case; and

WHEREAS Plaintiff FTC and Defendant Steven V. Sann ("Sann") stipulate

to the entry of this Order to resolve all matters in dispute in this action between them;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED as follows:

FINDINGS

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. The FTC's Complaint charges that Defendants engaged in deceptive and unfair acts or practices in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, by placing unauthorized charges on consumers' telephone bills ("cramming").
3. Defendant Sann neither admits nor denies any of the allegations in the Complaint, except as specifically stated in this Order. Only for purposes of this action, Defendant Sann admits the facts necessary to establish jurisdiction.
4. Defendant Sann waives any claim that he may have under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, concerning the prosecution of this action through the date of this Order, and agrees to bear his own costs and attorney fees.
5. Defendant Sann waives all rights to appeal or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Order.

DEFINITIONS

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

1. **"Bankruptcy Case"** means the Chapter 7 Bankruptcy of Defendant Sann, In re Steven Vincent Sann, No. 14-61370 (Bankr. D. Mont.);
2. **"Clearly and Conspicuously"** means that a required disclosure is difficult to miss (i.e., easily noticeable) and easily understandable by ordinary consumers, including in all of the following ways:
 - a. In any communication that is solely visual or solely audible, the disclosure must be made through the same means through which the communication is presented. In any communication made through both visual and audible means, such as a television advertisement, the disclosure must be presented simultaneously in both the visual and audible portions of the communication even if the representation requiring the disclosure is made in only one means.
 - b. A visual disclosure, by its size, contrast, location, the length of time it appears, and other characteristics, must stand out from any accompanying text or other visual elements so that it is easily noticed, read, and understood.

- c. An audible disclosure, including by telephone or streaming video, must be delivered in a volume, speed, and cadence sufficient for ordinary consumers to easily hear and understand it.
- d. In any communication using an interactive electronic medium, such as the Internet or software, the disclosure must be unavoidable.
- e. The disclosure must use diction and syntax understandable to ordinary consumers and must appear in each language in which the representation that requires the disclosure appears.
- f. The disclosure must comply with these requirements in each medium through which it is received, including all electronic devices and face-to-face communications.
- g. The disclosure must not be contradicted or mitigated by, or inconsistent with, anything else in the communication.
- h. When the representation or sales practice targets a specific audience, such as children, the elderly, or the terminally ill, "ordinary consumers" includes reasonable members of that group.

3. "**Corporate Defendants**" means American eVoice, Ltd.; Emerica Media Corp.; FoneRight, Inc.; Global Voice Mail, Ltd.; HearYou2, Inc.; Network Assurance, Inc.; SecuratDat, Inc.; Techmax Solutions, Inc.; Voice Mail Professionals, Inc., as well as any affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, or assigns, and any fictitious business entities or business names created or used by these entities, or any of them.
4. "**Defendants**" means the Individual Defendants and the Corporate Defendants, individually, collectively, or in any combination.
5. "**FTC Claim**" means Proof of Claim number 10 filed in the Bankruptcy Case on January 27, 2015, alleging an unliquidated claim for equitable monetary relief against Defendant Sann in this enforcement action.
6. "**Individual Defendants**" means Steven V. Sann; Terry D. Lane (a/k/a Terry D. Sann); Nathan M. Sann; and Robert M. Braach.
7. "**Person**" means a natural person, an organization or other legal entity, including a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, association, cooperative, or any other group or combination acting as an entity

ORDER

I. PROHIBITION AGAINST TELEPHONE BILLING

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant Sann is permanently restrained and enjoined from placing charges on any person's telephone bill, whether directly or through an intermediary, including by providing any advertising, marketing, financial, or technical assistance to other persons to place charges on any person's telephone bill.

II. PROHIBITION AGAINST BILLING WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Sann and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, are permanently restrained and enjoined from (a) representing or assisting others in representing, expressly or by implication, that a consumer is obligated to pay any charge for goods or services, or (b) causing or assisting others in causing any charge to be billed to a consumer's account, unless:

- A. the consumer provides express verifiable authorization to be charged; and
- B. all material terms of the offer for which the consumer is billed, including the number and amount of each charge and the account to

which each charge will be billed, have been clearly and conspicuously disclosed prior to the authorization of the charge and in close proximity to any request that the consumer provide his or her name, address, telephone number, email address, account number, or any other payment information.

III. PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF CONSUMER INFORMATION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Sann and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, are hereby restrained and enjoined from:

- A. disclosing, using, or benefitting from customer information, including the name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number, other identifying information, or any data that enables access to a customer's account (including a credit card, bank account, or other financial account), that any Defendant obtained prior to entry of this Order in connection with the placement of charges on consumers' telephone bills; and
- B. failing to destroy such customer information in all forms in their possession, custody, or control within 30 days after receipt of written

direction to do so from a representative of the Commission. Provided, however, that customer information need not be disposed of, and may be disclosed, to the extent requested by a government agency or required by law, regulation, or court order.

IV. MONETARY JUDGMENT AND PARTIAL SUSPENSION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. Judgment in the amount of forty-one million, nine hundred ten thousand, four hundred twenty-two dollars (\$41,910,422) is hereby entered in favor of the Commission against Defendant Sann, jointly and severally, as equitable monetary relief.
- B. Within fourteen days of entry of this Order, Defendant Sann shall cause the following property to be transferred to the Chapter 7 Trustee:
 1. All funds contained in Defendant Sann's Individual Retirement Accounts at S.G. Long ending in -1786 and -2272, except for \$50,000 in the -2272 account and \$25,000 in the -1876 account, which Defendant Sann may retain subject to paragraphs C through G of this Section IV.
 2. The 2005 Nissan 350 Z currently titled in the name of

Defendant Emerica Media Corp.

3. The 2010 Infinity Q56 currently titled in the name of Defendant Sann.
- C. Upon the transfers required by Section IV.B, the monetary judgment contained in Section IV.A is suspended, subject to Sections IV.D through IV.G below.
- D. The Commission's agreement to the suspension of the monetary judgment is expressly premised upon the truthfulness, accuracy, and completeness of Defendant Sann's sworn financial statements and related documents (collectively, "financial representations") submitted to the Commission, namely, the Declaration of Defendant Sann executed on March 31, 2017, including attachments; and
- E. The suspension of the judgment will be lifted as to Defendant Sann if, upon motion by the Commission, the Court finds that Defendant Sann failed to disclose any material asset, materially misstated the value of any asset, or made any other material misstatement or omission in the financial representations identified above.
- F. The suspension of the judgment will be lifted as to Defendant Sann if he defaults on any of his obligations under this Section IV.

G. If the suspension of the judgment is lifted as Defendant Sann, the judgment becomes immediately due as to him in the amount specified in Section IV.A above (which the parties stipulate, only for purposes of this Section, represents the consumer injury alleged in the Complaint), less any payments previously made pursuant to this Section, plus interest computed from the date of entry of this Order.

V. ADDITIONAL MONETARY PROVISIONS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. Defendant Sann relinquishes dominion and all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in all assets transferred pursuant to this Order and may not seek the return of any assets.
- B. The facts alleged in the Complaint will be taken as true, without further proof, in any subsequent civil litigation by or on behalf of the Commission, including in a proceeding to enforce its rights to any payment or monetary judgment pursuant to this Order
- C. Defendant agrees to withdraw his objection to the FTC Claim in the Bankruptcy Case, and he will not object to the allowance of the FTC Claim as a general unsecured claim in the amount of \$22,500,000.
- D. Defendant Sann acknowledges that his Taxpayer Identification

Numbers (Social Security Numbers or Employer Identification Numbers), which Defendant Sann previously submitted to the Commission, may be used for collecting and reporting on any delinquent amount arising out of this Order, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 7701.

E. All money paid to the Commission pursuant to this Order may be deposited into a fund administered by the Commission or its designee to be used for equitable relief, including consumer redress and any attendant expenses for the administration of any redress fund. If a representative of the Commission decides that direct redress to consumers is wholly or partially impracticable or if money remains after redress is completed, the Commission may apply any remaining money for such other equitable relief (including consumer information remedies) as it determines to be reasonably related to Defendants' practices alleged in the Complaint. Any money not used for such equitable relief is to be deposited into the U.S. Treasury as disgorgement. Defendant Sann has no right to challenge any actions the Commission or its representatives may take pursuant to this Section V.E.

VI. MODIFICATION OF ASSET FREEZE

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the freeze imposed on Defendant Sann's assets pursuant to the Stipulated Preliminary Injunction entered on May 8, 2013 (Doc. 55) is modified to permit the transfers required by Section IV of this Order. Upon completion of all of the transfers required by Section IV, the asset freeze shall be dissolved.

VII. ORDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Sann obtains acknowledgments of receipt of this Order.

- A. Defendant Sann, within 7 days of entry of this Order, must submit to the Commission an acknowledgment of receipt of this Order sworn under penalty of perjury.
- B. For 5 years after entry of this Order, Defendant Sann, for any business that he, individually or collectively with any other Defendants, is the majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must deliver a copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC managers and members; (2) all employees, agents, and representatives who participate in activity relating to the placement of charges on consumers' telephone bills; and (3) any business entity resulting from

any change in structure as set forth in Section VIII below. Delivery must occur within 7 days of entry of this Order for current personnel. For all others, delivery must occur before they assume their responsibilities.

- C. From each individual or entity to which Defendant Sann delivered a copy of this Order, Defendant Sann must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

VIII. COMPLIANCE REPORTING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Sann makes timely submissions to the Commission.

- A. One year after entry of this Order, Defendant Sann must submit a compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury.
 - 1. Defendant Sann must:
 - a. identify all of his telephone numbers and all of his physical, postal, email and Internet addresses, including residences;
 - b. identify the primary physical, postal, and email address and telephone number, as designated points of contact, which representatives of the Commission may use to

communicate with him;

- c. identify all of his business activities, including any business for which he performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which he has any ownership interest;
- d. identify all of his businesses by all of their names, telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet addresses;
- e. describe in detail his involvement in each such business, including title, role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control, and any ownership;
- f. describe the activities of each business, including the goods and services offered, the means of advertising, marketing, sales, methods of payment, and the involvement of any other Defendant (which Defendant Sann must describe if he knows or should know due to his own involvement);
- g. describe in detail whether and how he is in compliance with each Section of this Order; and

h. provide a copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant to this Order, unless previously submitted to the Commission.

B. For 15 years after entry of this Order, Defendant Sann must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in the following:

1. any designated point of contact;
2. name, including aliases or fictitious name, or residence address;
3. title or role in any business activity, including any business for which he performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which he has any ownership interest, and identify the name, physical address, and any Internet address of the business or entity.
4. the structure of any entity that he has any ownership interest in or controls directly or indirectly that may affect compliance obligations arising under this Order, including: creation, merger, sale, or dissolution of the entity or any subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to this Order;

- C. Defendant Sann must submit to the Commission notice of the filing of any bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or similar proceeding by or against him within 14 days of its filing.
- D. Any submission to the Commission required by this Order to be sworn under penalty of perjury must be true and accurate and comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, such as by concluding: "I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on [date] at [location]."
and supplying the date, location, signatory's full name, title (if applicable), and signature.
- E. Unless otherwise directed by a Commission representative in writing, all submissions to the Commission pursuant to this Order must be emailed to DEbrief@ftc.gov (with "FTC v. American eVoice, X130020" in the subject line) or sent by overnight courier (not the U.S. Postal Service) to:

Associate Director for Enforcement
Bureau of Consumer Protection
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580
RE: FTC v. American eVoice, X130020

IX. RECORDKEEPING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Sann must create certain records for 15 years after entry of this Order, and retain each such record for 5 years. Specifically, Defendant Sann, for any business that he, individually or collectively with any other Defendants, is a majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must create and retain the following records:

- A. accounting records showing the revenues from all goods or services sold or billed;
- B. personnel records showing, for each person providing services, whether as an employee or otherwise, that person's: name; addresses; telephone numbers; job title or position; dates of service; and (if applicable) the reason for termination;
- C. records of all consumer complaints and refund requests, whether received directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;
- D. all records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision of this Order, including all submissions to the Commission; and
- E. a copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material.

X. COMPLIANCE MONITORING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for purposes of monitoring Defendant Sann's compliance with this Order, including the financial representations identified in Section IV.D and the transfers required by Section IV.B of this Order:

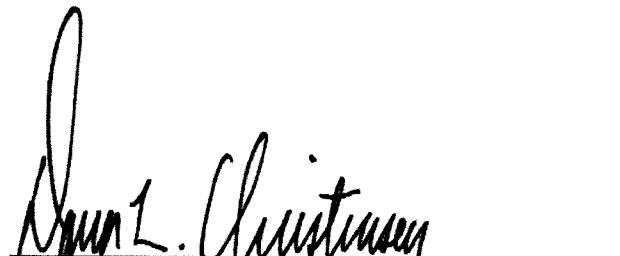
- A. Within 14 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of the Commission, Defendant Sann must: submit additional compliance reports or other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury; appear for depositions; and produce documents for inspection and copying. The Commission is also authorized to obtain discovery, without further leave of court, using any of the procedures prescribed by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including telephonic depositions), 31, 33, 34, 36, 45, and 69.
- B. For matters concerning this Order, the Commission is authorized to communicate directly with Defendant Sann. Defendant Sann must permit representatives of the Commission to interview any employee or other person affiliated with any Defendant who has agreed to such an interview. The person interviewed may have counsel present.
- C. The Commission may use all other lawful means, including posing, through its representatives as consumers, suppliers, or other

individuals or entities, to Defendant Sann or any individual or entity affiliated with Defendant Sann, without the necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits the Commission's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.

XI. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court retains jurisdiction of this matter for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.

DATED this 28th day of June, 2017.



Dana L. Christensen
Dana L. Christensen, Chief District Judge
United States District Court

SO STIPULATED AND AGREED:

FOR PLAINTIFF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION:

Date: _____

RICHARD McKEWEN, WSBA #45041
Federal Trade Commission
Northwest Regional Office
915 Second Ave., Suite 2896
Seattle, WA 98174
Phone: 206-220-6350
Fax: 202-220-6366
E-mail: rmckewen@ftc.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission

FOR DEFENDANT STEVEN V. SANN:

Date: _____

STEVEN V. SANN,
individually