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# **FINDINGS**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over Defendants.
- 2. Venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)-(c), 28 U.S.C. § 1395(a), and 15 U.S.C. § 53(b).
- 3. The activities of Defendants are in or affecting commerce, as defined in section 4 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44.
- 4. The Complaint states a claim upon which relief may be granted against Defendants under sections 5(a), 13(b), and 16(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a), 53(b), and 56(a), and under section 621(a) of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681s(a).
- 5. Defendants make no admissions to the allegations in the Complaint, other than the jurisdictional facts.
- 6. Defendants waive: (a) all rights to seek appellate review or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Order; (b) any claim Defendants may have against the Commission, its employees, representatives, or agents that relate to the matter stated herein; (c) all claims under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, as amended by Pub. L. 104-121, 110 Stat. 847, 863-64 (1996); and (d) any rights to attorneys' fees that may arise under said provision of law.
- 7. This action and the relief awarded herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, other remedies as may be provided by law, including both civil and criminal remedies.
  - 8. Entry of this Order is in the public interest.

## **DEFINITIONS**

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

- 1. "Consumer report", "consumer reporting agency", and "firm offer of credit" have the same meanings as in sections 603(d), 603(f), and 603(l) of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681a(d),1681a(f), and 1681a(l).
  - 2. "Individual Defendant" means John M. Rainey, Jr.

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3. "Corporate Defendant" means Direct Marketing Associates, Corp., and its successors and assigns.

- 4. "Defendants" means both the Individual Defendant and the Corporate Defendant individually, collectively, or in any combination.
- 5. "Commerce" means as defined in Section 4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44.

## **ORDER**

#### I. CIVIL PENALTY

#### IT IS ORDERED that:

- A. Judgment in the amount of One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$157,000) is hereby entered against Defendants, jointly and severally, as a civil penalty for violations of the FCRA pursuant to section 621(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681s(a). Based on Defendants' sworn representations in financial statements and information, full payment for the foregoing civil penalty judgment is suspended, contingent upon the accuracy and completeness of the financial statements and information, as set forth in Subparagraph B of this Paragraph.
- B. Plaintiff's agreement to this Order is expressly premised upon the truthfulness, accuracy and completeness of the Defendants' sworn financial statements and supporting documents submitted to the Commission, which include material information upon which Plaintiff relied in negotiating and agreeing to this Order. If, upon motion by Plaintiff, this Court finds that any Defendant has failed to disclose any material asset or materially misstated the value of any asset in the financial statements and information submitted to the Commission, or has made any other material misstatement or omission in the financial statements and related documents described above, then this Order shall be reopened and suspension of the judgment against that particular Defendant shall be lifted for the purpose of requiring payment of a civil penalty in the full amount of the judgment (\$157,000). Provided, however, that in all other respects this Order shall remain in full force and effect, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

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- C. Defendants relinquish all dominion, control, and title to any funds paid to the fullest extent permitted by law. Defendants shall make no claim to or demand return of the funds, directly or indirectly, through counsel or otherwise.
- D. This judgment represents a civil penalty owed to the United States Government, is not compensation for actual pecuniary loss, and, therefore, is not subject to discharge under the Bankruptcy Code pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(7). Defendants agree that the facts as alleged in the complaint filed in this action shall be taken as true, without further proof, in any subsequent civil litigation filed by or on behalf of the Commission to enforce its rights to any payment or money judgment pursuant to this Order.

### II. PROHIBITION AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 5 OF THE FTC ACT

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants, and their officers, agents, servants, employees and all persons or entities in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any business entity, corporation, subsidiary, division, affiliate, or other device, in connection with the advertising, promotion, or offering of any extension of credit or financing are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from:

- A. Misrepresenting, expressly or by implication, the availability of credit or financing; or
- B. Making any representation, expressly or by implication, that a consumer has been pre-approved for, or otherwise will or is likely to receive an extension of credit or financing unless Defendants know or take reasonable steps to know that the entity that is identified as the source of credit or financing is legally and financially able to provide the credit or financing to all consumers who reasonably can be expected to respond to the offer and obtain credit or financing from the entity, and, in the case of firm offers of credit, who meet the qualifications for the firm offer of credit.

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## III. PROHIBITION AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF THE FCRA

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants and all officers, agents, servants, employees and all persons or entities in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any business entity, corporation, subsidiary, division, affiliate, or other device, are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from obtaining any consumer report from a consumer reporting agency unless the report is obtained for a purpose authorized by section 604 of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b.

#### IV. COMPLIANCE MONITORING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of monitoring and investigating compliance with any provision of this Order:

- A. Within ten (10) days of receipt of written notice from a representative of the Commission, Defendants each shall submit additional written reports, which are true and accurate and sworn to under penalty of perjury; produce documents for inspection and copying; appear for deposition; and provide entry during normal business hours to any business location in each Defendant's possession or direct or indirect control to inspect the business operation;
- B. In addition, the Commission is authorized to monitor compliance with this Order by all other lawful means, including but not limited to:
  - 1. obtaining discovery from any person, without further leave of Court, using the procedures prescribed by Fed. R. Civ. P. 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, and 45.
  - posing as consumers and suppliers to Defendants, their employees, or any other entity managed or controlled in whole or in part by any Defendant, without the necessity of identification or prior notice.
- C. Defendants each shall permit representatives of the Commission to interview any employer, consultant, independent contractor, representative, agent, or

employee who has agreed to such an interview, relating in any way to any conduct subject to this Order. The person interviewed may have counsel present.

Provided however, that nothing in this Order shall limit the Commission's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49 and 57b-1, to obtain any documentary material, tangible things, testimony, or information relevant to any unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce (within the meaning of 15 U.S.C.§ 45(a)(1)) or to any violation of the FCRA.

#### V. COMPLIANCE REPORTING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in order that compliance with the provisions of this Order may be monitored:

- A. For a period of five (5) years from the date of entry of this Order,
  - 1. The Individual Defendant shall notify the Commission of the following:
    - a. Any changes in his residence, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers, within ten (10) days of the date of such change;
    - b. Any changes in his employment status (including self-employment), and any change in his ownership in any business entity, within ten (10) days of the date of such change. Such notice shall include the name and address of each business that he is affiliated with, employed by, creates or forms, or performs services for; a detailed description of the nature of the business; and a detailed description of his duties and responsibilities in connection with the business or employment; and
    - c. Any changes in his name or use of any aliases or fictitious names.

- 2. Defendants shall notify the Commission of any changes in structure of Corporate Defendant or any business entity that any Defendant directly or indirectly controls, or has an ownership interest in, that may affect compliance obligations arising under this Order, including but not limited to: incorporation or other organization; a dissolution, assignment, sale, merger, or other action; the creation or dissolution of a subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to this Order; or a change in the business name or address, at least thirty (30) days prior to such change, provided that, with respect to any proposed change in the business entity about which a Defendant learns less than thirty (30) days prior to the date such action is to take place, such Defendant shall notify the Commission as soon as is practicable after obtaining such knowledge.
- B. One hundred eighty (180) days after the date of entry of this Order and annually thereafter for a period of five (5) years, Defendants each shall provide a written report to the FTC, which is true and accurate and sworn to under penalty of perjury, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which they have complied and are complying with this Order. This report shall include, but not be limited to:
  - 1. For the Individual Defendant:
    - his then-current residence address, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers;
    - b. his then-current employment status (including selfemployment), including the name, addresses, and telephone numbers of each business that he is affiliated with, employed by, or performs services for; a detailed description of the nature of the business; and a detailed description of his duties

Order, the Commission is authorized to communicate directly with each Defendant.

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#### VI. RECORD KEEPING PROVISIONS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for a period of eight (8) years from the date of entry of this Order, Corporate Defendant and Individual Defendant (for all entities where he is the majority owner of the business or otherwise controls the business) and their agents, employees, officers, corporations, and those persons in active concert or

participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are hereby restrained and enjoined from failing to retain the following records:

- A. Copies of all training materials that relate to Defendants' activities as alleged in the Complaint and Defendants' compliance with the provisions of this Order;
- B. Copies of each separate advertisement or piece of promotional material prepared by the Defendants for which the Defendants access consumer reports to obtain a list of consumers to receive the offer, and copies of all records and documents necessary to show the business for which the material was prepared, the lender providing the section 604 permissible purpose for obtaining the information under the FCRA, the consumer reporting agency that provided the consumer report information, the number of consumers whose names were provided, the date the names were obtained, and the date or dates on which the advertisements or promotional materials were distributed; and
- C. All other records and documents necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision of this Order, including but not limited to, copies of acknowledgments of receipt of this Order, required by the Sections titled "Distribution of Order" and "Acknowledgment of Receipt of Order" and all reports submitted to the FTC pursuant to the Section titled "Compliance Reporting."

#### VII. DISTRIBUTION OF ORDER

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for a period of five (5) years from the date of entry of this Order, Defendants shall deliver copies of the Order as directed below:

A. Corporate Defendant: The Corporate Defendant must deliver a copy of this Order to (1) all of its principals, officers, directors, and managers; (2) all of its employees, agents, and representatives who engage in conduct related to the subject matter of the Order; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure set forth in Subsection A.2 of the Section titled "Compliance Reporting." For current personnel, delivery shall be within five (5) days of service of this Order upon the Corporate Defendant. For new personnel, delivery shall occur prior to them assuming their responsibilities. For any business entity resulting from any change in structure set forth in

(10) days prior to the change in structure.

structure.

B. Individual Defendant as Control Person: For any business that the Individual Defendant controls, directly or indirectly, or in which he has a majority ownership interest, he must deliver a copy of this Order to (1) all principals, officers, directors, and managers of that business; (2) all employees, agents, and representatives of that business who engage in conduct related to the subject matter of the Order; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure set forth in Subsection A.2 of the Section titled "Compliance Reporting." For current personnel, delivery shall be within five (5) days of service of this Order upon such Defendant. For new personnel, delivery shall occur prior to them assuming their responsibilities. For any business entity resulting from any change in structure set forth in Subsection A.2 of the Section titled "Compliance Reporting," delivery shall be at least ten (10) days prior to the change in

Subsection A.2 of the Section titled "Compliance Reporting," delivery shall be at least ten

- C. Individual Defendant as employee or non-control person: For any business where the Individual Defendant is not a controlling person of a business but otherwise engages in conduct related to the subject matter of this Order, he must deliver a copy of this Order to all principals and managers of such business before engaging in such conduct.
- D. Defendants must secure a signed and dated statement acknowledging receipt of the Order, within thirty (30) days of delivery, from all persons receiving a copy of the Order pursuant to this Section.

### VIII. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF ORDER

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Defendant, within five (5) business days of receipt of this Order as entered by the Court, must submit to the Commission a truthful sworn statement acknowledging receipt of this Order.

#### IX. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

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

# X. COSTS AND ATTORNEYS' FEES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this action.

## IT IS SO ORDERED:

# The parties, by their respective counsel, hereby consent to the terms and conditions of the Stipulated Order as set forth above and consent to the entry thereof. FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: TONY WEST Assistant Attorney General **DENNIS BURKE** United States Attorney District of Arizona EUGENE M. THIROLF, Director KENNETH L. JOST, Deputy Director Civil Division Office of Consumer Litigation DANIEL K. CRANE-HIRSCH Trial Attorney United States Department of Justice Office of Consumer Litigation PO Box 386 Washington, DC 20044 Facsimile: 202-514-8742 Email: Daniel.Crane-Hirsch@usdoj.gov Telephone: 202-616-8242

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