	Case 2:21-cv-01298-JAD-BNW Document 13	32 Filed 05/02/23 Page 1 of 9				
2 3 4 5 6 7	 KARA HENDRICKS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 07743 KYLE A. EWING, Nevada Bar No. 014051 GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP 10845 Griffith Peak Drive Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 Telephone: (702) 938- 6856 Facsimile: (702) 792-9002 hendricksk@gtlaw.com KYRA E. ANDRASSY, ESQ. Admitted <i>Pro Hac Vice</i> SMILEY WANG-EKVALL, LLP 3200 Park Center Drive, Suite 250 Costa Mesa, California 92626 Telephone: (714) 445-1000 Facsimile: (714) 445-1002 kandrassy@swelawfirm.com Attorneys for Receiver <i>Geoff Winkler of American Fiduciary Services</i>					
13	UNITED STATES DIST	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT				
14	DISTRICT OF N	EVADA				
15	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,	Case No. 2:21-cv-01298-JAD-BNW				
16	Plaintiff,	SEVENTH STATUS REPORT OF				
17	V.	GEOFF WINKLER, RECEIVER				
18		FOR PROFIT CONNECT WEALTH SERVICES, INC.				
19	PROFIT CONNECT WEALTH SERVICES, INC., JOY I. KOVAR, and BRENT CARSON					
20	KOVAR,					
21	Defendants.					
22						
23	Geoff Winkler of American Fiduciary Services, LLC, the permanent receiver for Profit					
24	Connect Wealth Services, Inc., and any subsidiaries and affiliates (together, "Profit Connect")					
25	submits his Seventh Status Report (the "Report") re	egarding the receivership pursuant to Local				
26	Rule 66-4(b).					
27	///					
28	///					
TIVE	687208695v2					

ACTIVE 687208695v2

1 2 I.

SUMMARY OF THE RECEIVER'S OPERATIONS (LR 66-4(b)(1))

The Securities and Exchange Commission initiated this action against Profit Connect, 3 Ms. Kovar, and Mr. Kovar on July 8, 2021, when it filed an ex parte complaint and motion for temporary restraining order seeking, among other things, the freezing of defendants' assets 4 5 and the appointment of a receiver over Profit Connect. On July 23, 2021, the Defendants stipulated to modify the temporary restraining order to appoint Geoff Winkler as the 6 7 Temporary Receiver, giving him limited powers. On August 6, 2021, following another 8 stipulation of the parties, the Court converted the temporary restraining order to a preliminary 9 injunction and appointed the Temporary Receiver as the Permanent Receiver of Profit Connect. See Receivership Order (ECF No. 26.) 10

11 After appointment, the Receiver and his team attempted to find a solution that would 12 allow Profit Connect to continue to operate legally and profitably to maximize return to 13 investors. The Receiver, his staff, and the Forensic IT team spent several weeks collecting 14 and reviewing data, communicating with Profit Connect parties, observing operations, and documenting assets and information. After determining that there was no viable business to 15 continue operating, the Receiver terminated the employees and closed the offices, only 16 17 retaining a few employees on a contract basis to assist with the wind-down of operations and 18 preparation for the sale of the personal property.

19 Since the completion of the Investigation and Forensic Accounting Report (ECF 20 No. 111) in August 2022, the Receiver and his team have begun identifying third-party recovery opportunities and analyzing the accounting file to determine the recommended type 21 22 of claims process. During this reporting period, the Receiver has finalized the claims form 23 and claimant contact database in preparation for the claims process. The Receiver has decided 24 to utilize primarily a digital claims forms to streamline the process with paper copies 25 available, upon request. This will provide options for claimants based on their comfort level with technology. The Receiver anticipates seeking Court approval for the claims procedures 26 motion shortly after the filing of this Report. 27

28 ///

As stated in the previous reports (ECF Nos. 106, 115, 124), the Receiver settled with Ms. Uriarte for transfers she received from Profit Connect in the approximate amount of 3 \$387,786.94 that facilitated her purchase of residential real property located in, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89084. The settlement included repayment of the \$387,786.94 of transfers received from Profit Connect along with a total of \$8,000 in interest payments in the amount 5 of \$2,000 per month, to account for her continued use of Profit Connect funds. During the 6 7 reporting period, the payment of \$7,500 to be applied to the settlement amount, was received. 8 The Receiver is in communication with Ms. Uriarte regarding the repayment of the remaining 9 balance of \$1,604.48 and anticipates a resolution in the following reporting period.

Braun International Real Estate Company ("Braun") continued its efforts as the real 10 estate broker to list and sell the eight land parcels owned by Profit Connect in Searchlight, 11 Nevada. Offers have been presented on the more desirable parcels that Profit Connect had 12 13 purchased. During this reporting period Braun and the Receiver decided to lower the listing to increase the likelihood of attracting potential buyers. 14

15 As discussed in prior reports, the Receiver filed a motion to release the liens Profit Connect held against homes across the United States (ECF No. 115 and 124). During this 16 17 reporting period the liens have been released and Full Reconveyance for each property is dated 18 February 21, 2023.

19 111

20 111

10845 GRIFFITH PEAK DRIVE SUITE 600, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89135

[ELEPHONE: (702) 938- 6856

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

1

2

4

- 21 111
- 22 ///
- 23 111
- 24 111
- 25 ///
- 26 ///
- 27 111
- 28 ///

ACTIV# 687208695v2

3

Case 2:21-cv-01298-JAD-BNW Document 132 Filed 05/02/23 Page 4 of 9

The breakdown of cash flows and the current balance sheet for the reporting period are as follows:

SEC	v. Profit Connect Wealth Services, Inc. e	t al
	Summary Cash Flow Statement	
	March 31, 2023	
	Cash at Beginning of Period	9,100,834
	Cash Inflows	
	Settlement Payment from RU	7,500
	Total Cash Inflows	7,500
	Cash Outflows	
	Business Asset Expenses	(8,637)
	Payments to Professionals	(91,771)
	Total Cash Outflows	(100,408)
	Cash at End of Period	9,007,926
SEC	v. Profit Connect Wealth Services, Inc. e	t al
	Summary Balance Sheet	
	March 31, 2023	
	Assets	
	EWB Account	9,007,926
	Real Property**	816,000
	Professional Liability Litigation**	5,000,000
	Third Party Litigation**	2,820,000
	Total Assets	17,643,926
	Liabilities	
	Accrued Professionals	337,226
	Total Liabilities	337,226
	Equity	
	Ецину	
	Net Cash Investors**	22,271,098
		22,271,098 (4,964,398)
	Net Cash Investors**	

II.

I. INVENTORY OF ASSETS AND ESTIMATE VALUE (LR 66-4(b)(2))

As of the date of this Report, the Receiver is holding over \$9,007,925.89 in cash belonging to Profit Connect. Other than cash, the total value of assets is estimated to be \$8,636,000. It is estimated that there is \$5,000,000 in professional liability litigation, \$2,820,000 in third-party litigation and \$816,000 to be recovered in real property sales. This brings the total value of all assets to be estimated at \$17,643,926. The standardized fund accounting report for the period January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023, is attached to this
report as Exhibit A.

3 III. SCHEDULE OF RECEIVER'S RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS 4 (LR 66- 4(b)(3)

In addition to the foregoing, please see Exhibit A.

IV. OTHER ITEMS TO REPORT

7

a.

5

6

Current Litigation

8 As the Court is aware, the Receiver filed an ancillary proceeding (Case No. 21-cv-9 02000) seeking to claw back over \$500,000 in investor funds fraudulently transferred to 10 former Profit Connect employee and agent William Roshak, along with his current wife and ex-wife. A settlement was reached by which Mr. Roshak agreed to return \$470,000 to the 11 12 estate. However, in order to pay the funds Mr. Roshak intended to withdraw money from his 13 PERS account. Mr. Roshak requested the ability to withdraw the funds from PERS and his request was initially denied. However, he appealed the denial and the matter was expected to 14 be considered by the PERS Board in February. Unfortunately, the PERS Board continued the 15 hearing and the matter is now expected to be considered by the PERS Board in July of 2023. 16 Due to the delay, the Receiver is working with counsel for Mr. Roshak to secure interest in 17 18 Mr. Roshak's residence pending a resolution from the PERS Board.

19 The Receiver, by and through contingency fee counsel previously approved by the Court, filed an action in the 72nd District Court in Lubbock County, Texas on March 27, 2023, 20 identified therein in as Case No. DC-2023-CV-0377 ("Texas Action"). Although originally 21 22 filed in state court, the Texas Action was removed by one of the Defendants to the United 23 States District Court, Northern District of Texas, Lubbock Division and assigned Case No. 5:23-cv-00074-C. In the Texas Action, the Receiver has asserted claims against Jeffrey 24 25 Nicholas, Troy Sutton and Allianz Life Financial Service, LLC ("Allianz"). Nicholas and Sutton were both licensed by Allianz to sell life insurance and other annuity type products. 26 27 As alleged in the Petition, both Nicholas and Sutton promoted Profit Connect to their clients representing, among other things that: (i) money would be "safe"; (ii) emphasized the ability 28

1 to earn 15-30% per year returns; (iii) promised that the funds would be invested in FDIC-2 insured accounts; (iv) informed them that there would be no fees associated with the 3 investment; (v) represented that investing in Profit Connect was a better and safer investment than investing in IRS's, annuities, 401(k) plans, or other retirement plans; and (vi) claimed 4 5 that their money could be withdrawn at any time. Additionally, they told investors that they had done a comprehensive investigation into Profit Connect and found it to be completely 6 7 legitimate when it was not. Many of the investors in Profit Connect withdrew legitimate 8 investments based on the negligent financial advice of Nicholas and Sutton. Indeed, Nicholas 9 and Sutton generated substantial investor funds for Profit Connect based on these actions and convinced approximately forty (40) investors to put their money into Profit Connect all while 10 acting as agents for Allianz. Accordingly, the Texas Action asserts causes of action for aiding, 11 abetting or participating in breach of fiduciary duties, and avoidance and recovery of 12 13 fraudulent transfers.

14

15

10845 GRIFFITH PEAK DRIVE SUITE 600, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89135

[ELEPHONE: (702) 938- 6856

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

b. <u>Future Litigation</u>

1. Former Employees

The Receiver continues to evaluate additional avenues to recover funds for the Estate and anticipates filing additional claw back actions and continues to investigate potential targets. The Receiver has identified approximately eleven former employees who received funds or gifts from Profit Connect in excess of their W-2 wages and with whom the Receiver has not already settled. The Receiver is in the process of sending these employees demand letters requesting the return of the funds or value of the gifts in excess of their wages. The Receiver will seek Court permission prior to commencing litigation against former employees.

23

2. Agents/Promoters

The Receiver is evaluating potential claims against agents/promoters and anticipates sending demand letters to these individuals in the second quarter of 2023 for the return of false profits related to the investment scheme. The Receiver will seek Court permission prior to commencing litigation against agent/promoters.

28 ///

1 2

3. Other Third Parties

The Receiver is evaluating potential claims against third parties, including professionals and financial institutions, and anticipates sending demand letters to these individuals in the second quarter of 2023. The Receiver has spoken with potential litigation counsel and will seek Court permission prior to commencing litigation against other third parties.

7

V.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECEIVER (LR 66-4(b)(5))

8 The Receiver has determined that Profit Connect was not operating a viable business 9 and was quickly dissipating investor funds. So that the Receiver can continue to identify 10 assets and claims and pursue them for the benefit of the receivership estate, the Receiver 11 recommends that the receivership continue.

12 VI. CONCLUSION

Assuming the Court authorizes the Receiver to undertake the actions recommended herein, as well as to continue those actions provided for in the Appointment Order and any subsequent orders, the Receiver proposes to submit further interim reports to this Court, addressing his progress, findings, final conclusions, and additional recommendations, approximately every 90 days.

18 Accordingly, and based on the foregoing, the Receiver respectfully requests that the19 Court enter an order:

20

1. Accepting this Seventh Status Report;

21 2. Authorizing the Receiver to continue to administer the Receivership Entities
22 and their estate in accordance with the terms of the Appointment Order;

3. Authorizing the Receiver to undertake the recommendations presented herein,
including a continued engagement of those professionals he deems necessary for the proper
administration of the Receivership Entities and their estate; and

- 26 ///
- 27 / / /
- 28 ///

7

4. Providing such other and further relief as the Court deems necessary and
 2 appropriate.

3 DATED this 2^{nd} day of May 2023.

4

5

6

7

8

9

I, Geoff Winkler, verify under penalty of perjury that the statements made in the foregoing report are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Geoff Winkler, Receiver

DATED this 2nd day of May, 2023. 10

11 GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

- 12 By: /s/ Kara B. Hendricks KARA B. HENDRICKS, Bar No. 07743 13 KYLE A. EWING, Bar No. 014051 14 10845 Griffith Peak Drive Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 15 Telephone: (702) 938-6856 Facsimile: (702) 792-9002 16 hendricksk@gtlaw.com 17 KYRA E. ANDRASSY, ESQ.* *Admitted Pro Hac Vice 18
 - SMILEY WANG-EKVALL, LLP
- 19 3200 Park Center Drive, Suite 250
 - Costa Mesa, California 92626 Telephone: (714) 445-1000
 - Facsimile: (714) 445-1000
 - Attorneys for Receiver Geoff Winkler
- 10845 GRIFFITH PEAK DRIVE SUITE 600, LAS V TELEPHONE: (702) 938- 6856

28

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the 2nd day of May, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing SEVENTH STATUS REPORT OF GEOFF WINKLER, RECEIVER FOR PROFIT CONNECT WEALTH SERVICES, INC. was filed electronically via the Court's CM//ECF system. Notice of filing will be served on all parties by operation of the Court's CM/ECF system, and parties may access this filing through the Court's CM/ECF system.

An employee of GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION V. PROFIT CONNECT WEALTH. et al., USDC CASE NO. 2:21-CV-01298-JAD-BNW

Ехнівіт	DESCRIPTION
Exhibit A	STANDARDIZED FUND ACCOUNTING REPORT

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

Standardized Fund Accounting Report

STANDARDIZED FUND ACCOUNTING REPORT for SEC v. Profit Connect Wealth Services, Inc. et al. Receivership; Civil Docket No. 2:21-cv-01298-JAD-BNW Reporting Period from 01/01/2023 to 03/31/2023

FUND ACCC	DUNTING (See instructions)	Detall	0	Organd Table
Line 1	Parinning Palance (Ac of 04/04/2022)	Detail 9,100,833.60	Subtotal	Grand Total
LINE 1	Beginning Balance (As of 01/01/2023):	9,100,833.60		
	Increases in Fund Balance:			
Line 2	Business Income	-		
Line 3	Cash and Securities (in transit)	-		
Line 4	Interest/Dividend Income	-		
Line 5	Business Asset Liquidation	-		
Line 6	Personal Asset Liquidation	-		
Line 7	Third-Party Litigation Income	7,500.00		
Line 8	Miscellaneous - Other	-	7 500 00	
	Total Funds Available (Lines 1 - 8):		7,500.00	9,108,333.60
	Decreases in Fund Balance:			
Line 9	Disbursements to Investors			
Line 10	Disbursements for Receivership Operations			
Line 10a	Disbursements to Receiver or Other Professionals	(91,771.06)		
Line 10b	Business Asset Expenses	(8,636.65)		
Line 10c	Personal Asset Expenses	-		
Line 10d	Investment Expenses	-		
Line 10e	Third-Party Litigation Expenses	-		
	1. Attorney Fees	-		
	2. Litigation Expenses		(100 107 7 1)	
1 10 101	Total Disbursements for Receivership Operations		(100,407.71)	
Line 10f	Tax Administrator Fees and Bonds		-	
Line 10g	Federal and State Tax Payments			
	Total Disbursements for Receivership Operations			(100,407.71)
Line 11	Disbursements for Distribution Expenses Paid by the Fund:			
Line 11a	Distribution Plan Development Expenses: 1. Fees:			
	Fund Administrator Independent Distribution Consultant (IDC)	-		
	Distribution Agent	-		
	Consultants			
	Legal Advisers	-		
	Tax Advisers	-		
	2. Administrative Expenses	-		
	3. Miscellaneous	-		
	Total Plan Development Expenses		-	
Line 11b	Distribution Plan Implementation Expenses:			
	1. Fees:			
	Fund Administrator	-		
	IDC	-		
	Distribution Agent	-		
	Consultants	-		
	Legal Advisers	-		
	Tax Advisers	-		
	2. Administrative Expenses	-		
	3. Investor Identification: Notice/Publishing Approved Plan			
	Claimant Identification	-		
	Claims Processing			
	Web Site Maintenance/Call Center			
	4. Fund Administrator Bond	_		
	5. Miscellaneous	-		
	6. Federal Account for Investor Restitution			
	(FAIR) Reporting Expenses	-		
	Total Plan Implementation Expenses		-	
	Total Disbursements for Distribution Expenses Paid by the Fund			-
Line 12	Disbursements to Court/Other:			
Line 12a	Investment Expenses/Court Registry Investment System (CRIS) Fees	-		
Line 12b	Federal Tax Payments	-		
	Total Disbursements to Court/Other:		-	
1	Total Funds Disbursed (Lines 9 - 11):			(100,407.71)
	Ending Balance (As of 03/31/2023):			9,007,925.89
Line 13				
Line 13 Line 14	Ending Balance of Fund - Net Assets:			
			9,007,925.89	
Line 14	Ending Balance of Fund - Net Assets:		9,007,925.89 -	
Line 14 Line 14a	Ending Balance of Fund - Net Assets: Cash & Cash Equivalents		9,007,925.89 - 8,636,000.00	

STANDARDIZED FUND ACCOUNTING REPORT for SEC v. Profit Connect Wealth Services, Inc. et al. Receivership; Civil Docket No. 2:21-cv-01298-JAD-BNW Reporting Period from 01/01/2023 to 03/31/2023

OTHER SUPP	LEMENTAL INFORMATION:			
		Detail	Subtotal	Grand Total
	Disbursements for Plan Administration Expenses Not Paid by the Fund:			
Line 15a	Plan Development Expenses Not Paid by the Fund 1. Fees:			
	Fund Administrator			
	IDC			
	Distribution Agent	_		
	Consultants	-		
	Legal Advisers	-		
	Tax Advisers	-		
	2. Administrative Expenses	-		
	3. Miscellaneous			
	Total Plan Development Expenses Not Paid by the Fund		-	
Line 15b	Plan Implementation Expenses Not Paid by the Fund:			
	1. Fees:			
	Fund Administrator	-		
		-		
	Distribution Agent	-		
	Consultants Legal Advisers	-		
	Tax Advisers			
	2. Administrative Expenses	_		
	3. Investor Identification:	-		
	Notice/Publishing Approved Plan	-		
	Claimant Identification	-		
	Claims Processing	-		
	Web Site Maintenance/Call Center	-		
	4. Fund Administrator Bond	-		
	5. Miscellaneous	-		
	6. FAIR Reporting Expenses			
	Total Plan Implementation Expenses Not Paid by the Fund		-	
Line 15c	Tax Administrator Fees & Bonds Not Paid by the Fund			
1.1.1.40	Total Disbursements for Plan Administration Expenses Not Paid by the Fund			-
Line 16	Disbursements to Court/Other Not Paid by the Fund			
Line 16a Line 16b	Investment Expenses/CRIS Fees Federal Tax Payments		-	
Line 17	Total Disbursements to Court/Other Not Paid by the Fund:			-
Line 17	DC & State Tax Payments			-
Line 18 Line 18a	No. of Claims:			
Line 18a Line 18b	# of Claims Received This Reporting Period # of Claims Received Since Inception of Fund	-		
Line 19	No. of Claimants/Investors:	-		
Line 19 Line 19a	# of Claimants/Investors Paid This Reporting Period	_		
Line 19a	# of Claimants/Investors Paid This Reporting Pendu # of Claimants/Investors Paid Since Inception of Fund	-		
		•		

Receiver: Geoff Winkler

By:

Geoff Winkler (printed name)

Chief Executive Officer American Fiduciary Services LLC Receiver, Profit Connect Wealth Services, Inc.

Date: April 28, 2023