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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

vs.

KENNETH MATTSON,

Defendant,
and
KS MATTSON PARTNERS LP,

Relief Defendant.

Case No.

COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) alleges:

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

1. From approximately 2007 through April 2024, Defendant Kenneth Mattson (“Mattson”) orchestrated a Ponzi-like scheme that involved offering and selling fake interests in various legitimate limited partnerships created and managed by his company LeFever Mattson, a California corporation (“LeFever Mattson”). In the last five years alone, since around January

1 2020, Mattson fraudulently raised more than \$46 million from approximately 200 investors, many
2 of whom were retired senior citizens that Mattson met through his church community.

3 2. The limited partnerships in which Mattson purported to sell interests (the “LeFever
4 Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships”) were real and invested in residential and commercial real
5 estate. The LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships were managed and partly owned by
6 LeFever Mattson, a Citrus Heights, California-based company, which Mattson co-founded and ran
7 as both the entity’s chief executive officer and chief financial officer. LeFever Mattson has been in
8 business since 1989 and boasted an approximately \$400 million portfolio of real estate
9 investments, most of which consisted of ownership interests in 50 limited partnerships.

10 3. While the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships were real, and were in
11 fact owned by a defined set of real investors, Mattson fraudulently raised funds from another set of
12 investors by falsely purporting to sell them ownership stakes in those same LeFever Mattson-
13 affiliated limited partnerships. Mattson falsely told the defrauded investors that their investments
14 would buy them a portion of LeFever Mattson’s ownership interests in specific LeFever Mattson-
15 affiliated limited partnerships and would entitle them to proportional distributions of the income
16 generated by the underlying properties. These lies were material to investors.

17 4. Mattson took deceptive steps to hide his fraudulent scheme from people associated
18 with LeFever Mattson, including by using a personal post office box to receive documents from
19 investors, receiving investor funds and sending purported distributions from a bank account in the
20 name of LeFever Mattson that only Mattson could fully access, and instructing his personal
21 assistant not to discuss the defrauded investors with anyone else at LeFever Mattson.

22 5. Mattson also kept documents related to his fraudulent scheme, including
23 commercial bookkeeping records, on his laptop, and he deleted those documents after receiving an
24 investigative subpoena from the staff of the Commission’s Division of Enforcement that required
25 him to produce certain records concerning, among other things, the LeFever Mattson-affiliated
26 limited partnerships.

1 6. Because he concealed his fake limited partnership sales from people associated
2 with LeFever Mattson, the fake sales were not reflected in the legitimate records demonstrating
3 ownership percentages of the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships.

4 7. As a result, the investors who purchased the fake interests in certain LeFever
5 Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships from Mattson never became actual limited partners or
6 acquired any actual ownership interests, and they never received legitimate distributions from the
7 limited partnerships in which they thought they invested.

8 8. Instead, Mattson commingled new investor funds with other personal and business
9 funds in a bank account that he controlled and used the commingled funds to make Ponzi-like
10 payments to existing investors. He also misappropriated investor money to fund certain real estate
11 transactions through his personal partnership, Relief Defendant KS Mattson Partners LP
12 (“KS Mattson Partners”), pay expenses of KS Mattson Partners, and pay for personal expenses.

13 9. Mattson concealed from investors the fact that he was orchestrating a Ponzi-like
14 scheme by, among other things, using some new investor funds to make payments to deceive
15 existing investors, and providing investors with altered limited partnership documents. Mattson
16 also prepared a separate set of false tax records for the defrauded investors, which contradicted the
17 legitimate annual tax filings for the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships that he signed
18 and submitted to the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”).

19 10. LeFever Mattson discovered Mattson’s misconduct in late 2023. In around April
20 2024, following an internal investigation, Mattson resigned from his positions as chief executive
21 officer and chief financial officer, although he remains a significant owner of the company. Later,
22 in September 2024 and October 2024, LeFever Mattson and all of its affiliated limited partnerships
23 filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

24 11. As a result of the conduct alleged in this Complaint, Defendant Mattson violated
25 the antifraud provisions of the Securities Act of 1933 (“Securities Act”) and the Securities
26 Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) as well as the securities registration provisions of the
27 Securities Act. Relief Defendant KS Mattson Partners was unjustly enriched by Mattson’s
28 violations.

12. In this action, the Commission seeks against Defendant Mattson a permanent injunction, disgorgement of ill-gotten gains with prejudgment interest, and civil monetary penalties. The Commission also seeks an order prohibiting Mattson from serving as an officer or director of a public company as well as from participating in the issuance, purchase, offer, or sale of any security. Additionally, the Commission seeks disgorgement of ill-gotten gains with prejudgment interest from Relief Defendant KS Mattson Partners.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

13. The Commission brings this action and this Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 20(b), 20(d), 20(e), and 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b), 77t(d), 77t(e), and 77v(a)] and Sections 21(d), 21(e), and 27(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d), 78u(e), and 78aa(a)].

14. Mattson, directly or indirectly, made use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce or of the mails in connection with the acts, transactions, practices, and courses of business alleged in this Complaint.

15. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77v(a)] and Section 27(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78aa(a)], because acts, transactions, practices, and courses of business that form the basis for the violations alleged in this Complaint occurred in this District. In addition, venue is proper in this district because Mattson resided in Alameda County and Sonoma County during the conduct alleged in this Complaint.

DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT

16. Under Civil Local Rules 3-2(d) and 3-5, this civil action should be assigned to the San Francisco Division or the Oakland Division because a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claims alleged herein occurred in Napa County and Sonoma County.

DEFENDANT AND RELIEF DEFENDANT

17. Defendant **Kenneth Mattson**, age 63, is a resident of Piedmont and Sonoma, California. He was the CEO and CFO of LeFever Mattson from 1989 until April 2024.

18. Relief Defendant **KS Mattson Partners LP** is a California limited partnership with its principal place of business in Vacaville, California. KS Mattson Partners is owned 49% by Mattson; 49% by Mattson's spouse; and 2% by KS Mattson Company LLC, Mattson's wholly owned limited liability company.

RELATED ENTITIES

19. **LeFever Mattson, a California corporation**, is a California corporation with its principal place of business in Citrus Heights, California that primarily creates, manages, and holds ownership interests in 50 limited partnerships, which, in turn, own and invest in residential and commercial real estate. Mattson and a business partner each own 50% of LeFever Mattson.

20. **Home Tax Service of America d/b/a LeFever Mattson Property Management** ("Home Tax") is a California corporation with its principal place of business in Citrus Heights, California. Home Tax has approximately 40 employees who manage the business of the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships. LeFever Mattson owns approximately 66.67% of the equity of Home Tax.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Background on LeFever Mattson and Its Affiliated Limited Partnerships

21. LeFever Mattson's primary business involves forming and acting as the general partner of 50 limited partnerships that purchase and invest in real estate. LeFever Mattson maintains an ownership interest in each limited partnership for which it acts as general partner.

22. During his tenure as LeFever Mattson's CEO and CFO, Mattson primarily was responsible for finding real estate investment opportunities and soliciting investors to contribute capital to fund real estate purchases.

23. After LeFever Mattson decided to buy a specific property, it formed a limited partnership, which was the entity that made the purchase and also served as the owner of the property. A group of initial investors, which included LeFever Mattson, provided the funds necessary to buy the property. The initial investors, who became the limited partners, then split up and proportionally allocated 100% of the limited partnership interests based on the amount of each

1 investor's capital contribution. The percentage ownership of each limited partner was recorded in
2 a document titled "Schedule A," which was attached to the limited partnership agreement.

3 24. LeFever Mattson has no employees. It relied on an affiliated property management
4 company, Home Tax, to manage the limited partnerships. Of particular relevance to this
5 Complaint, Home Tax was responsible for maintaining and updating the limited partnership
6 agreements as well as the attached Schedules A.

7 25. After a limited partnership was formed and the limited partnership interests were
8 fully distributed among the initial investors, there was no opportunity for new investors to join the
9 limited partnership unless they purchased an interest from an existing limited partner. On a
10 number of occasions, LeFever Mattson or KS Mattson Partners bought out a limited partner in one
11 of the limited partnerships and thereby increased its ownership share; in certain other cases,
12 LeFever Mattson sold portions of its own interests in particular limited partnerships to new or
13 existing investors.

14 26. In these legitimate transactions involving LeFever Mattson and KS Mattson
15 Partners, Mattson coordinated the signing of an "Agreement of Transfer and Purchase of
16 Partnership Interest" (a "transfer agreement") by the buyer and the seller that specified the
17 percentage interest that was being transferred. Mattson then sent the signed transfer agreement to
18 Home Tax, and Home Tax updated the relevant limited partnership's Schedule A and other
19 internal records to reflect the change in limited partners and their respective ownership
20 percentages.

21 27. Each of the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships is regulated by the
22 California Department of Real Estate, and is required by state law to use a separate trust account to
23 collect rental income for the limited partnership and to distribute funds to its limited partners.
24 Home Tax was responsible for opening the separate accounts and distributing funds.

25 28. The distributions to limited partners were made at the discretion of the general
26 partner, LeFever Mattson, but, typically, limited partners received a 6% to 8% annual return on
27 their investments. At times, certain limited partnerships, at the direction of Mattson, bought or
28

1 sold real estate, which resulted in additional income for that particular limited partnership. When
2 those transactions happened, Home Tax increased the distribution to the relevant limited partners.

3 29. Each LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership is required to file a partnership
4 tax return with the IRS on a Form 1065. As part of that process, the limited partnership must send
5 each of its limited partners a Schedule K-1 showing the limited partner's share of profits, losses,
6 and capital. In addition, on the Form 1065 itself, the limited partnership has to identify the number
7 of limited partners that it has and attach each Schedule K-1. The Form 1065 partnership tax
8 returns were primarily prepared by an employee of Home Tax, but were reviewed and signed by
9 Mattson. After Mattson reviewed a Form 1065, including the associated Schedules K-1, Home
10 Tax sent out the Schedules K-1 to the real limited partners.

11 **B. Kenneth Mattson Defrauded Investors by Selling Fake Limited Partnership**
12 **Interests**

13 30. In the last five years alone, Mattson sold at least \$46 million of fake interests in
14 LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships to approximately 200 investors throughout the
15 United States, including many in the San Francisco Bay Area. Mattson met many of the defrauded
16 investors through his church, where several of the investors were also members. A majority of the
17 defrauded investors are over age 65, and many are retired. Some invested their life savings with
18 Mattson.

19 31. Mattson's fraudulent Ponzi-like scheme took two main forms, but the general
20 contours were the same for both: Mattson held himself out to potential investors as the CEO of
21 LeFever Mattson, and he offered them the opportunity to purchase interests in certain LeFever
22 Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships from LeFever Mattson. He had the investors sign what
23 appeared to be limited partnership agreements and other related documents, and he accepted their
24 funds. However, Mattson did not record these purported sales in LeFever Mattson's books and
25 records, or submit the signed documents to Home Tax so that the Schedules A and other limited
26 partnership records would be updated. As a result, the defrauded investors never became limited
27 partners or acquired any ownership interests.
28

32. To continue his deception, Mattson made payments to the defrauded investors that he mischaracterized as limited partnership distributions from a bank account that was held in the name of LeFever Mattson, but over which only he had control (the “Mattson Controlled Account”). He also created and provided the defrauded investors with fake Schedules K-1 that purported to show their financial interests in their specific limited partnerships.

33. In one iteration of Mattson’s fraudulent scheme, Mattson made false offers and sales of LeFever Mattson-owned interests in about 25 different LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships to at least 120 defrauded investors.

34. In the other version of his fraudulent scheme, Mattson helped approximately 180 defrauded investors (some of whom also purchased fake interests in other LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships) change their individual retirement accounts (“IRA”) so that they could use their IRA money to make purported investments in one particular LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership called Divi Divi Tree LP (the “Divi Divi LP”).

1. Mattson’s False Offers and Sales of Interests in LeFever Mattson-Affiliated Limited Partnerships

35. Mattson’s false offers and sales of LeFever Mattson’s interests in certain limited partnerships raised at least \$30 million from January 2020 through March 2024.

36. Mattson negotiated these sales himself, often during in-person meetings with the investors. Some meetings took place in the homes of the investors. In most cases, Mattson presented the investor with a limited partnership agreement for a particular LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership that stated the investor would be a limited partner and would receive distributions commensurate with the investor’s ownership interest. Typically, Mattson, claiming to act on behalf of LeFever Mattson, and the investor both signed the limited partnership agreement during the in-person meeting. Mattson also often falsely represented that the distributions would result from rental income or profits from real estate transactions involving the property owned by the limited partnership. Moreover, Mattson usually had the investor sign a transfer agreement that purported to identify the percentage of partnership interests being transferred.

1 37. The defrauded investors wired money to, or gave Mattson checks that were
2 deposited into, the Mattson Controlled Account. All the investor funds were paid into the single
3 Mattson Controlled Account without regard to the specific limited partnerships that investors were
4 supposedly investing in.

5 38. Mattson knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that he did not follow LeFever
6 Mattson's well-established internal steps to inform Home Tax about the purported sales of
7 partnership interests and to have the sales recorded. Indeed, he did not provide the signed limited
8 partnership agreements and transfer agreements with the defrauded investors to Home Tax. As a
9 result, Home Tax did not list the defrauded investors on the appropriate Schedules A for the
10 limited partnerships that they had supposedly joined as limited partners. Mattson, who did send
11 this documentation to Home Tax following his legitimate transactions on behalf of LeFever
12 Mattson or KS Mattson Partners, hid his false sales from Home Tax.

13 39. Mattson also knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that his concealment of the
14 sales meant that the new investors were not receiving distributions from the specific trust accounts
15 for their limited partnerships, as required by California law. Instead, for any purported income
16 distributions, Mattson used newly invested funds that had been commingled with other funds in the
17 Mattson Controlled Account to make Ponzi-like payments to existing defrauded investors.
18 Mattson knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that these payments were not true distributions
19 because, as both the head of LeFever Mattson as well as the owner of KS Mattson Partners, he
20 regularly received legitimate limited partnership distributions from Home Tax through the
21 applicable limited partnerships' separate trust accounts.

22 40. Mattson did not tell investors that he would hide their investments from Home Tax
23 and others associated with LeFever Mattson, or that they would receive purported distributions
24 directly from Mattson rather than the limited partnerships that they invested in.

25 41. Every year, Mattson prepared false Schedule K-1 tax documents for certain of the
26 defrauded investors that purported to show the percentage of the limited partnerships owned by the
27 investors. Because Mattson also reviewed and signed the legitimate Form 1065 and Schedule K-1
28 documents submitted to the IRS, which did not list the defrauded investors as limited partners,

1 Mattson knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that the defrauded investors did not actually own
2 interests in any of the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships and that the Schedules K-1
3 provided to the defrauded investors contained false information.

4 **2. *Mattson Obtained IRA Retirement Funds from Investors in Exchange***
5 ***for Fake Divi Divi LP Interests***

6 42. In addition, Mattson made material misrepresentations to defrauded investors who
7 used their IRA retirement money to purchase fake interests of Divi Divi LP. In total, over the last
8 18 years, Mattson sold at least \$55 million of fake Divi Divi LP interests to more than 180
9 investors, and, in the last five years alone, he sold around \$16 million of fake Divi Divi LP
10 interests to approximately 75 investors.

11 43. IRAs are a type of retirement account that provide investors with certain tax
12 benefits for retirement savings. Generally, IRAs maintained and managed by major financial
13 institutions and brokerages are limited to holding stocks, mutual funds, and bonds.

14 44. In order to invest in less common assets, investors must open so-called self-directed
15 IRAs. The companies that act as custodians for self-directed IRAs permit accountholders to invest
16 in a wider array of assets, including real estate, promissory notes, private placement securities, and
17 limited partnership interests like the ones at issue in this Complaint. Investors who have existing
18 IRAs invested in equities and bonds can roll over their funds into self-directed IRAs.

19 45. As part of his fraudulent scheme, Mattson solicited investors to transfer funds from
20 their existing IRAs to self-directed IRAs in order to invest in interests of Divi Divi LP. Mattson
21 falsely told investors that they were purchasing interests from LeFever Mattson, which owned a
22 significant stake of Divi Divi LP. He also falsely represented that, as limited partners, investors
23 would receive a guaranteed annual return of 6% on their investment that would come from the
24 income generated by Divi Divi LP's properties.

25 46. Mattson directed interested investors to work with his personal assistant to open
26 self-directed IRA accounts at specific IRA custodians with which Mattson had established
27 relationships. Mattson and his personal assistant communicated with investors by email and
28 telephone. Mattson also directed the Divi Divi LP investors to wire money to the self-directed

1 IRA custodians, and he instructed the custodians to transfer the money to the Mattson Controlled
2 Account.

3 47. Mattson also provided defrauded investors who invested before 2016 with falsified
4 Schedules A that purported to show their percentage ownership interest in Divi Divi LP. These
5 falsified documents listed several dozen investors as limited partners and identified the fractional
6 interest that they each purportedly owned of Divi Divi LP, with the total adding up to 100%.
7 In fact, the true Schedule A for Divi Divi LP maintained by Home Tax only listed 19 real limited
8 partners at its peak, and never included any of the defrauded investors.

9 48. Because the ownership interests could not add up to more than 100%, Mattson
10 eventually ran out of fractional interests that he could pretend to assign to new Divi Divi LP
11 investors. Starting in 2016, Mattson directed investors to work with a new self-directed IRA
12 custodian, and, at the same time, he stopped sending falsified Schedules A to new Divi Divi LP
13 investors. Those new investors were not told what percentages of Divi Divi LP they were
14 supposedly buying with their investments.

15 49. In an effort to deceive the defrauded investors, also starting in 2016, Mattson
16 knowingly or recklessly provided the new self-directed IRA custodian, which is based outside of
17 California, with an altered version of the Divi Divi LP limited partnership agreement that omitted
18 the signatures of the true Divi Divi LP limited partners. The custodian then provided the altered
19 agreement to investors, who had to sign the agreement as part of their account-opening and
20 investing process. In turn, the custodian returned the signed altered agreements to Mattson and his
21 personal assistant.

22 50. Certain defrauded Divi Divi LP investors over age 72 were required by law to take
23 minimum distributions from their IRAs. For those investors, Mattson wired money every month
24 from the Mattson Controlled Account to the self-directed IRA custodians with instructions to
25 distribute the money to the particular investors. The source of the funds used to pay distributions
26 to defrauded investors included new investor money commingled with other funds in the Mattson
27 Controlled Account. Other defrauded Divi Divi LP investors, who did not take distributions, were
28

1 told that their putative 6% return on investment “rolled over” into their initial investments, which
 2 increased the value of their investments on paper.

3 51. Mattson did not record any of his purported sales of Divi Divi LP interests to the
 4 defrauded investors in LeFever Mattson’s books and records or report them to Home Tax. He
 5 therefore knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that none of the defrauded Divi Divi LP investors
 6 ever actually purchased Divi Divi LP interests or became limited partners in Divi Divi LP.

7 52. As of April 2024, LeFever Mattson estimated that the total value of Divi Divi LP’s
 8 real estate assets was \$34 million, which represents an increase over time. However, as noted
 9 above, over the years Mattson collected from defrauded investors more than \$55 million, an
 10 amount that well exceeded the value of Divi Divi LP.

11 **C. Mattson Made Materially False and Misleading Statements to Investors**

12 53. In both versions of his scheme, Mattson made numerous materially false and
 13 misleading statements to defrauded investors, including the following: Mattson falsely told the
 14 defrauded investors that they were purchasing interests, from LeFever Mattson, in certain LeFever
 15 Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships that were created and managed by LeFever Mattson, and he
 16 omitted to tell investors that, in fact, their investments would be commingled with other funds and
 17 used to make Ponzi-like payments to prior investors. Mattson directed many defrauded investors
 18 to sign limited partnership agreements and transfer agreements, both of which purported to specify
 19 the rights and obligations of the defrauded investors. But Mattson did not inform Home Tax of his
 20 purported sales to the defrauded investors, and the defrauded investors therefore were not listed on
 21 the appropriate Schedules A. As a result, the defrauded investors never became partners in the
 22 LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships they believed they were investing in, and they
 23 never owned any interests in those limited partnerships.

24 54. Mattson also misrepresented to investors that they would receive a 6% to 8%
 25 distribution from the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership they believed they were
 26 investing in. But these investors, who were not recorded as real limited partners, never received a
 27 legitimate distribution from a LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership, because legitimate
 28 distributions were only made with funds from the trust account in the name of the specific limited

1 partnership and were made by representatives of Home Tax. Instead, Mattson sent certain
2 investors Ponzi-like payments from the Mattson Controlled Account that came from new
3 investments by defrauded investors commingled with other funds. For certain other investors in
4 the Divi Divi LP, Mattson did not send Ponzi-like payments, but instead provided quarterly
5 statements showing the purported increase in value of their investments on paper.

6 55. Mattson was the maker of the false and misleading statements to the defrauded
7 investors. He personally made verbal misrepresentations to investors. Additionally, he was the
8 maker of the false and misleading statements in the limited partnership agreements and related
9 documents that he provided to investors, which purported to reflect sales from LeFever Mattson to
10 the investors. He also sent falsified and altered documents concerning Divi Divi LP to self-
11 directed IRA custodians even though he knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that the custodians
12 were providing those documents to investors.

13 56. Mattson's false and misleading representations about Divi Divi LP and other
14 LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships were material to a reasonable investor, as well as
15 the actual defrauded investors who bought the fake limited partnership interests. It was important
16 to investors that they were acquiring ownership interests in specific LeFever Mattson-affiliated
17 limited partnerships, and that they were thus entitled to distributions from those limited
18 partnerships. Because the limited partnerships owned real estate, they had a source of income and
19 could make reliable distributions. The fake or altered investment documents and false Schedule
20 K-1 documents were also important to investors because they appeared to confirm that the
21 investors did in fact own interests in the limited partnerships.

22 **D. Mattson Acted with Scienter in Carrying Out His Scheme**

23 57. Mattson's scheme to offer and sell the fake interests in the LeFever Mattson-
24 affiliated limited partnerships was conducted knowingly or recklessly by Mattson.

25 58. With respect to Mattson's offers and sales, Mattson acted with scienter in
26 representing to investors that their signature on limited partnership agreements and transfer
27 agreements and payment of money would purchase interests in LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited
28 partnerships, because he knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that the defrauded investors'

1 purported interests were not being recorded in the relevant books and records and that the
2 defrauded investors were not becoming true limited partners.

3 59. Moreover, Mattson knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that the false Schedules
4 K-1 provided to the defrauded investors were not legitimate in light of his role in reviewing and
5 signing the true tax forms filed with the IRS by the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited
6 partnerships.

7 60. With respect to Mattson's offers and sales through self-directed IRA custodians,
8 Mattson acted with scienter in falsely representing to investors that their completion of paperwork
9 with a self-directed IRA custodian, including their signature on an altered version of the Divi Divi
10 LP limited partnership agreement and payment of money, would purchase interests in Divi Divi
11 LP, because he knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that the defrauded investors' purported
12 interests were not being recorded in the relevant books and records and that the defrauded investors
13 were not becoming true limited partners.

14 61. Mattson further knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that his representation that
15 investors would receive a distribution from the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships
16 was false and misleading because Mattson was paying defrauded investors purported distributions
17 using new investor money commingled with other funds in the Mattson Controlled Account.

18 62. In addition, in February 2024, prior to his resignation, Mattson signed an indemnity
19 agreement with LeFever Mattson in which he agreed to indemnify LeFever Mattson for claims
20 related to "Third Party Transactions," which was defined in the agreement as "numerous
21 transactions with individuals and/or entities pursuant to which Indemnitor has secured funds on
22 terms and conditions not clearly documented." The agreement further stated, among other things,
23 that "none of the Third Party Transactions were presented to the Board or shareholders of LeFever
24 Mattson prior to the date that the Third Party Transactions were entered into"; "none of the Third
25 Party Transactions were authorized or approved by the Board or shareholders of LeFever Mattson
26 at any time prior to or after the date that the Third Party Transactions were entered into"; and
27 neither Mattson's business partner nor "LeFever Mattson received any benefit, directly or
28

1 indirectly, economic or otherwise, in connection with or as a result of the Third Party
2 Transactions.”

3 **E. Mattson Perpetuated and Concealed His Fraud by Using the Mattson**
4 **Controlled Account**

5 63. To facilitate his schemes, Mattson used the Mattson Controlled Account, which he
6 opened in the name of LeFever Mattson. Until April 2024, Mattson was the only person who
7 controlled the Mattson Controlled Account and could access its statements, which were mailed to
8 Mattson’s personal post office box per his instruction.

9 64. Mattson used the Mattson Controlled Account to receive wire transfers and deposit
10 checks from the defrauded investors and to pay them purported distributions from LeFever
11 Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships. Defrauded investors sent more than \$46 million to the
12 Mattson Controlled Account between January 2020 and March 2024.

13 65. Mattson sent out hundreds of checks each month through the mail from the
14 Mattson Controlled Account to defrauded investors that contained the memo-line notation “Owner
15 WD [withdrawal],” as well as the name of the limited partnership that was supposedly paying the
16 distribution. Mattson knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that these memo-line statements were
17 false and misleading because legitimate distributions from any LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited
18 partnership were only paid from the trust account in the limited partnership’s name, and were
19 exclusively handled by employees of Home Tax.

20 66. Images of the checks that Mattson sent to defrauded investors show that he used
21 commercial bookkeeping software to generate the checks.

22 67. In around early-May 2024, Mattson received an investigative subpoena from the
23 staff of the Commission’s Division of Enforcement that required him to produce certain records,
24 including documents and communications related to his purported offers and sales of interests in
25 Divi Divi LP and other LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships.

26 68. Subsequently, in late May 2024, federal criminal authorities executed a judicially
27 authorized search warrant and seized, among other things, a laptop belonging to Mattson.
28

69. A forensic analysis of the laptop conducted by federal criminal authorities revealed that in May 2024, after Mattson received the Commission's subpoena, Mattson deleted from his laptop certain commercial bookkeeping software as well as hundreds of files, including ones with file names that contained the names of defrauded investors as well as Divi Divi LP and other LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships.

F. Mattson's Misuse and Misappropriation of Investor Funds

70. Mattson misappropriated millions of dollars of defrauded-investor funds for his own purposes, and to pay for the expenses of KS Mattson Partners.

71. Mattson commingled new investments from defrauded investors in the Mattson Controlled Account with money from other sources, including proceeds from real estate sales, distributions received based on LeFever Mattson's legitimate ownership interests in the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships, and transfers from a bank account in the name of KS Mattson Partners.

72. Mattson used these commingled funds to make approximately \$2.1 million in payments against multiple personal loans collateralized by properties including his primary and non-primary residences, and to pay for approximately \$4.2 million in credit card bills for accounts in his name, among other personal expenses. He also spent approximately \$9.9 million from the Mattson Controlled Account to buy real estate in the name of KS Mattson Partners. In addition, he paid approximately \$13 million of interest on several high-interest loans that he had taken out to purchase other real estate properties in the name of KS Mattson Partners.

73. KS Mattson Partners had no legitimate claim to the ill-gotten funds of the defrauded investors, who were told by Mattson that they were investing in particular LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships and were not told that their funds would be used to pay for KS Mattson Partners' investments and expenses.

74. Mattson did not disclose these expenditures to the defrauded investors, who believed, based on Mattson's material misrepresentations, that they were investing in specific LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships. Mattson's failure to disclose his intention to misappropriate investment funds, and past practice of doing so, was material to a reasonable

investor, as well as the actual defrauded investors who bought the fake limited partnership interests. It was important to investors to know that the money they were sending Mattson was in fact being used to purchase the promised limited partnership interests, rather than to pay existing investors; buy properties and pay expenses for Mattson's personal entity, KS Mattson Partners; or pay for certain of Mattson's other personal expenses.

G. The Registration Violations

75. The LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership interests that Mattson offered and sold to the defrauded investors were securities.

76. No registration statements were filed with the Commission for the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership interests that Mattson offered and sold to defrauded investors and none of the exceptions to the registration requirements applied to the offering.

77. Mattson directly participated in the offer of the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership interests to the defrauded investors by holding in-person meetings with the defrauded investors.

78. Mattson also had the defrauded investors sign limited partnership agreements for a particular LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership and other investment related documents.

79. Mattson additionally gave the defrauded investors instructions on how to transfer the funds needed to invest in the limited partnerships and encouraged many defrauded investors to use their IRA retirement money to invest in the limited partnerships.

80. Defrauded investors sent Mattson money in the belief that they were purchasing LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership interests from Mattson.

81. Mattson led the defrauded investors to believe that by investing in the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships they were investing in a common enterprise and that their fortunes were linked to the fortunes of Mattson and LeFever Mattson, who often also owned interests in the limited partnerships.

82. The money invested by the defrauded investors was pooled together and commingled in the Mattson Controlled Account and used by Mattson to pay existing defrauded investors as part of his Ponzi-like scheme, among other expenses.

83. The defrauded investors passively received distributions and did not manage, or expect to participate in the management of, the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships. Indeed, Mattson led the defrauded investors to believe they would earn profits based solely on the efforts of Mattson, LeFever Mattson, and others, who would use their expertise to choose real estate investments and manage acquired properties, which would result in profits for the defrauded investors derived from rents or real estate transactions.

84. Mattson engaged in a general solicitation of investors by offering the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships interests to individuals located throughout the United States and by offering the limited partnership interests to individuals with whom Mattson had no pre-existing substantive relationship.

85. Mattson failed to take reasonable steps to verify that the defrauded investors he offered the limited partnership interests to were accredited investors. For instance, Mattson did not require the defrauded investors to provide any IRS forms reporting the investors' income, bank statements, brokerage statements, certificates of deposit information, tax assessments, or appraisal reports issued by an independent third party to verify their accredited status.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Mattson Only)

Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder

86. The Commission re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraph Nos. 1 through 85.

87. Mattson, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of securities, by use of the means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:

- a. Employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
- b. Made untrue statements of material facts or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and

- 1 c. Engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated or would
2 operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons, including purchasers of
3 securities.

4 88. By reason of the foregoing, Mattson violated, and unless restrained and enjoined
5 will continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5
6 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

7 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Mattson Only)**

8 *Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act*

9 89. The Commission re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraph Nos. 1
10 through 85.

11 90. Mattson, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in the
12 offer or sale of securities, by use of the means or instruments of transportation or communication
13 in interstate commerce or by use of the mails:

- 14 a. with scienter, employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
15 b. obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of material fact
16 or by omitting to state a material fact necessary in order to make the
17 statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were
18 made, not misleading; and
19 c. engaged in transactions, practices, or courses of business which operated or
20 would operate as a fraud or deceit upon purchasers.

21 91. By reason of the foregoing, Mattson violated, and unless restrained and enjoined
22 will continue to violate, Section 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)].
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THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Mattson Only)

Violations of Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act

92. The Commission re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraph Nos. 1 through 85.

93. The LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnership interests offered and sold by Mattson are securities under Section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77b(a)(1)] and Section 3(a)(10) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 77c(a)(10)].

94. By engaging in the conduct described above, Mattson, directly or indirectly, made use of the means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce, or of the mails, to offer to sell or to sell securities through the use or medium of any prospectus or otherwise, or carried or caused to be carried through the mails or in interstate commerce, by means or instruments of transportation, securities for the purpose of sale or for delivery after sale, when no registration statement had been filed or was in effect as to such securities, and when no exemption from registration was applicable.

95. By reason of the foregoing, Mattson violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a) and 77e(c)].

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (KS Mattson Partners Only)

Relief Defendant – Unjust Enrichment

96. The Commission re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraph Nos. 1 through 95.

97. As described above, Mattson engaged in a scheme to defraud investors in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of interests in the LeFever Mattson-affiliated limited partnerships and to use the money raised to unjustly enrich himself and Relief Defendant KS Mattson Partners.

98. KS Mattson Partners has no legitimate claim to the funds, property, and benefits described above, and has thus been unjustly enriched under circumstances in which it is not just, equitable, or conscionable for it to retain such profits.

V.

Enter an order requiring Mattson to pay civil monetary penalties pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)] and Section 21(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)].

VI.

Enter an order requiring KS Mattson Partners to disgorge the ill-gotten gains or unjust enrichment it obtained or derived from Mattson's unlawful conduct, together with prejudgment interest on all such amounts.

VII.

Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.

VIII.

Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and necessary.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38 and L.R. 3-6, the Commission demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: May 22, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Duncan C. Simpson LaGoy

Duncan C. Simpson LaGoy

Attorney for Plaintiff

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION