JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION

Upon motion by the United States of America, the Court makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law and enters this permanent injunction against Defendants (1) Jovita Arcaro, (2) Ideal Management, Ltd. Limited Partnership, (3) Ideal Financial Partners, Ltd. a CA Limited Partnership, (4) Ideal Payroll Plus, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership, (5) Ideal Advisors, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership, (6) Ideal Payroll Plus II, Ltd. LP, (7) Onestone, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership, (8) Bluestone Management, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership, and (9) Hillstone Advisors, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership (Defendants 2 - 9 collectively "business defendants").

Standards for Granting Judgment By Default

The entry of default judgment is committed to the sound discretion of a district court. In exercising its discretion, Courts consider the factors outlined in *Eitel v. McCool*, 782 F.2d 1470 (9th Cir. 1986). The *Eitel* factors include: (1) the possibility of prejudice to the plaintiff; (2) the merits of plaintiff's substantive claim; (3) the sufficiency of the complaint; (4)the sum of money at stake in the action; (5) the possibility of a dispute concerning material facts; (6) whether the default was due to excusable neglect; and (7) the strong policy underlying the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure favoring decisions on the merits.²

In the Central District of California, applications for default judgment must set forth the following procedural information as well: (1) when and against which party the default was entered; (2) the identification of the pleading to which default was entered; (3) whether the defaulting party is an infant or incompetent

¹ Draper v. Coombs, 792 F.2d 915, 924-25 (9th Cir. 1986); Lau Ah Yew v. Dulles, 236 F.2d 415, 416 (9th Cir. 1956).

² Eitel v. McCool, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir. 1986).

person, and if so, whether that person is adequately represented; (4) that the Service Members Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C.S. Appx. §§ 501, et seq.) (SCRA) (formerly the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940), does not apply; and (5) that notice of the application has been served on the defaulting party, if required.³

In this action, the United States is seeking injunctive relief rather than money damages. Because Defendants have failed to answer the complaint, "the factual allegations of the complaint, except those relating to the amount of damages," are taken as true.⁴ These factual allegations, when taken as true, establish that Defendants are subject to injunction under I.R.C. §§ 7402 and 7408.

Findings of Fact

The facts as alleged in the Complaint, supported by the docket, or stated in the declaration of Hilarie Snyder are as follows:

1. On August 14, 2006, the Government filed a complaint for injunctive relief against Defendants (1) Jovita Arcaro, (2) Ideal Management, Ltd. Limited Partnership, (3) Ideal Financial Partners, Ltd. a CA Limited Partnership, (4) Ideal Payroll Plus, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership, (5) Ideal Advisors, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership, (6) Ideal Payroll Plus II, Ltd. LP, (7) Onestone, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership, (8) Bluestone Management, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership, and (9) Hillstone Advisors, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership (collectively, Defendants).

³ L.R. 55-1. See also Elektra Entm't Group, Inc. v. Crawford, 226 F.R.D. 388, 392 (C.D. Cal. 2005).

⁴10A Charles Alan Wright, Arthur R. Miller, & Mary Kay Kane, Federal Practice & Procedure § 2688 (3d ed. 1998); Benny v. Pipes, 799 F.2d 489, 495 (9th Cir. 1986), cert. denied, 484 U.S. 870 (1987); Geddes v. United Fin. Group, 559 F.2d 557, 560 (9th Cir. 1977).

ORDER 2264232.2

- 2. David Clancy, Jr. is also an individual defendant in this action. In response to the Government's Motion for Default Judgment, Clancy moved to set aside the Clerk's entry of default. The Court granted Clancy's motion, so Clancy, in his individual capacity, is not enjoined pursuant to this Judgment by Default and Permanent Injunction, and the term "Defendants" in this Judgment does not include Clancy.
- 3. The Complaint contained two causes of action, one based on I.R.C. § 7408 and a second based on I.R.C. § 7402.
- 4. Defendants were served with the complaint on September 14, 2006, and, on October 13, 2006, the Government filed proofs of service with the Court.
- 5. In a stipulation filed jointly by the parties, Defendants acknowledged that service was proper and agreed to a November 14, 2006 deadline for filing a response to the complaint.
- 6. Defendants filed papers with the Court on November 14, 2006, but the Court rejected the filing on November 17, 2006.
- 7. To date, Defendants have not cured their deficient pleading or otherwise filed a response to the complaint.
- 8. On December 15, 2006 (docketed on December 28, 2006), the Clerk entered default against Defendants for their failure to answer the complaint. This Order was amended on January 10, 2007.
- 9. Defendants are neither infants nor incompetent persons, and the Service Members Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C.S. Appx. §§ 501, et seq.) (SCRA) (formerly the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940), does not apply.
- 10. Notice of the Government's motion for default judgment was sent to the last known address of Defendants.

- 11. The Court heard oral argument on April 23, 2007 for the Government's Motion for Default Judgment.
 - 12. Jovita Arcaro and David Clancy, Jr. attended the hearing.

1. The Defendants

- 13. The individual defendant Jovita Arcaro resides and does business in the Central District of California.
- 14. Clancy is the general partner for all of the business defendants, the chief executive officer of Ideal Financial Partners, and a consultant for the Onestone Financial Group.
- 15. Arcaro is the business planning division manager of Ideal Financial Partners and the executive director of Onestone Financial Group.
- 16. There are seven business defendants, all of which are limited partnerships doing business in the Central District of California.
- 17. Ideal Financial Partners includes four limited partnership defendants, Ideal Management, Ltd.; Ideal Financial Partners, Ltd.; Ideal Payroll Plus, Ltd.; Ideal Advisors, Ltd.; and Ideal Payroll Plus II, Ltd. LP.
- 18. Onestone Financial Group includes three limited partnership defendants, Onestone, Ltd.; Bluestone Management, Ltd.; and Hillstone Advisors, Ltd.

2. The Abusive Schemes

- 19. Beginning in 2001, Defendants began promoting two tax scams: (a) a payroll-tax scheme and (b) a trust scheme.
- 20. Arcaro promoted both schemes first through the Ideal Financial Partners defendants (2001-2003) and next through the Onestone Financial Group defendants (2003-present).

ORDER 2264232.2

- 21. Additionally, Arcaro is currently promoting and selling the tax-fraud schemes through an entity called US Business Advisors.
- 22. If they are not enjoined, Defendants will continue to engage in § 6700 penalty conduct in organizing and selling tax-fraud schemes.

a. Payroll Scheme

- 23. Defendants advertise themselves as either a Professional Employer Organization (Ideal Financial Partners) or an Administrative & Benefit Services Organization (Onestone Financial Group).
- 24. Defendants instruct their business customers about, and purport to assist customers with, employee payroll and withholding.
- 25. In their promotional materials, Defendants advertise that their "system" will help the business customers save on payroll tax and worker's compensation costs.
- 26. Defendants' "system," however, fraudulently disguises wage income in order to reduce reported wages and thereby reduce reported employment taxes.
- 27. Defendants instruct their business customers to split employees' wages or salaries into two portions.
- 28. Defendants instruct (and assist) their business customers to pay the first portion as wages, with appropriate withholding of federal income and employment taxes.
- 29. Defendants tell their customers to call the second portion of wages something other than Form W-2 wage income, and assist their business customers in disguising the second portion as something other than wages to avoid reporting that portion as wages subject to employment tax.
- 30. Defendants cause their business customers to pay the second portion by means of a different check than is used to pay the first portion, and typically route

the second portion through the account of a sham trust or other entity before it is paid to the customers' employees.

- 31. In their promotional materials and in conferences with their customers, Defendants falsely tell their customers that because the second portion has been labeled something other than Form W-2 wage income, the customers need not withhold or pay federal employment taxes with respect to the second portion.
- 32. At the end of each year, Defendants issue (or help their customers to issue) a Form W-2 to each employee falsely reflecting only the first portion as wages paid for the year.
- 33. Similarly, at the end of each year Defendants also prepare and file with the federal government (or help their customers to prepare and file) W-2 and W-3 forms reporting the same false wage information to the IRS and Social Security Administration.
- 34. And, at the end of each quarter, Defendants prepare and file with the IRS (or help their customers to prepare and file) a Form 941 federal employment tax return falsely reporting only the first portion as total wages paid for the quarter.
- 35. Defendants also issue (or help their customers to issue) a K-1 (an IRS form used to report a trust distribution) or other IRS form (such as Form 1099) to each employee reflecting the falsely characterized second portion.
- 36. Despite the labels and despite Defendants' contentions to the contrary, both portions are in fact wages (and not trust or other distributions) paid to the employees for performing work.
- 37. By fraudulently dividing employees' wages into two portions, and reporting and paying federal employment taxes only on the first portion,

- Defendants and their customers report and pay less federal employment tax than is owed.
- 38. The Government is thus harmed by the amount of federal employment tax owed but unpaid, plus the costs of detecting and correcting the fraud.
- 39. The employees are harmed as well, because federal social security and Medicare benefits as well as state workers compensation benefits are tied to the amount of wage income an employee earned.
- 40. Thus, the employees will receive less government benefits than they are entitled to under the law.
- 41. Defendants know or have reason to know that they falsely misstate the tax consequences of their scheme.
- 42. The federal government has told them that their scheme understates wage income because simply labeling wages as something other than wages does not change the character of the payments as income subject to federal employment taxes.
- 43. Further, the State Compensation Insurance Fund has challenged Defendants' practices as well.

b. Sham-Trust Scheme

- 44. Defendants advertise themselves as financial and estate planners, and charge customers thousands of dollars for their services.
- 45. Defendants help customers set up and use sham trusts and sham limited partnerships to help customers evade their federal tax liabilities.
- 46. Defendants advise and assist customers to transfer all their personal and business assets to several entities, typically limited partnerships or trusts.

- 47. Defendants put the customer's business in one entity, the business's assets in a separate entity, and the customer's personal assets (such as a house or car) in still other entities.
- 48. Defendants then falsely advise customers, in promotional materials and in their meetings with customers, that these transfers increase the customers' tax basis in the transferred property to the property's market value.
- 49. Defendants also falsely advise customers that they can take depreciation and other deductions for personal home and living expenses.
- 50. The customer's use and enjoyment of the transferred property remains as it was before Defendants' scheme was implemented.
- 51. The trusts and limited partnerships that Defendants create for their customers are shams, and are devoid of economic substance.
- 52. Contrary to Defendants' assertions, customers cannot claim depreciation deductions for their homes or deduct their personal living expenses, and transferring property into a trust or limited partnership will not increase the customer's basis in the property.
- 53. Claiming these deductions on federal income tax returns materially and substantially understates customers' income tax liabilities.
- 54. Defendants know or have reason to know that this scheme misstates their customers' tax liabilities.
- 55. Courts have enjoined many such schemes, and a number of participants in and promoters of such schemes have been convicted of tax crimes based on their involvement with the schemes.
- 56. Moreover, the federal government has told Defendants that their trust scheme is illegal, and Michael Richmond, an Illinois resident from whom Clancy

received "training," was enjoined in December of 2002 from promoting a similar sham-trust scheme.

3. Harm to the Government

- 57. Defendants' schemes harm the Government by fraudulently reducing customers' reported tax liabilities.
- 58. Defendants' payroll scheme results in business customers underreporting and underpaying federal employment tax.
- 59. The trust scheme results in customers underreporting and underpaying income taxes.
- 60. The payroll-tax scheme has cost the Government approximately \$1.7 million in employment taxes so far. Defendants have had approximately 50 California business customers, including a Riverside transportation company, a Sacramento roofing company, a Palm Springs doctor's office, and a Palm Desert glass company.
- 61. The IRS has thus far identified approximately 35 customers of Defendants' trust scheme.
- 62. The IRS has not yet been able to determine the extent of the tax losses from this scheme.
- 63. The trust-scheme customers include residents of Huntington Beach, Torrence, Yucaipa, and Del Mar, California.

When appropriate, any finding of fact should also be construed as a conclusion of law.

Conclusions of Law

- 64. The Court finds that the *Eitel* factors weigh in favor of granting the Government's motion for default judgment.⁵
- 65. Further, the Court finds that the requirements in Local Rule 55-1 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(b) have been met.
- 66. Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.; I.R.C.) § 7408 authorizes a court to enjoin a person who has engaged in any conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6700 from further engaging in such conduct if the court finds that injunctive relief is appropriate to prevent the recurrence of such conduct.
- 67. Because § 7408 sets forth specific criteria for injunctive relief, the United States need only meet those statutory criteria, without reference to traditional equitable factors, for the Court to issue an injunction under this section.⁶
- 68. A person violates § 6700 if he organizes or participates in the sale of a plan or arrangement and in connection therewith makes or furnishes (or causes another to make or furnish) a statement with respect to the allowability of any deduction or credit, the excludability of any income, or the securing of any tax benefit by reason of participating in the plan or arrangement which that person knows or has reason to know is false or fraudulent as to any material matter.
- 69. Arcaro and the business defendants organized and sold tax-fraud schemes that falsely promised tax benefits to customers. In organizing and selling these schemes, Defendants made false or fraudulent statements regarding the tax benefits of participating in the schemes. Defendants knew or had reason to know

⁵ Eitel v. McCool, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir. 1986).

⁶United States v. Estate Pres. Servs., 202 F.3d 1093, 1098 (9th Cir. 2000) ("The traditional requirements for equitable relief need not be satisfied since Section 7408 expressly authorizes the issuance of an injunction.").

that these statements were false or fraudulent within the meaning of I.R.C. § 6700. And, unless they are enjoined, Defendants will continue to promote these schemes.

- 70. Pursuant to I.R.C. § 7408, the Court will enjoin Defendants from further engaging in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6700.
- 71. Section 7402(a) grants federal district courts broad authority to issue injunctions to enforce the internal revenue laws.
- 72. Because § 7402(a) expressly provides that the injunction remedy is "in addition to and not exclusive of" other remedies, the United States need not establish that it has no adequate remedy at law. Rather, § 7402(a) manifests "a congressional intention to provide the district courts with a full arsenal of powers to compel compliance with the internal revenue laws," and "has been used to enjoin interference with tax enforcement even when such interference does not violate any particular tax statute."
- 73. Thus, to obtain an injunction under § 7402(a), the United States need only show that an injunction is necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of the internal revenue laws. Nonetheless, the traditional equitable standards for granting a permanent injunction are also met here. In the Ninth Circuit, the requirements for the issuance of a permanent injunction are (1) the likelihood of substantial and immediate irreparable injury, and (2) the inadequacy of remedies at law.⁹

⁷ Brody v. United States, 243 F.2d 378, 384 (1st Cir.), cert. denied, 354 U.S. 923 (1957).

⁸ United States v. Ernst & Whinney, 735 F.2d 1296, 1300 (11th Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 470 U.S. 1050 (1985) (citations omitted).

⁹ See G.C. & K.B. Invs., Inc. v. Wilson, 326 F.3d 1096, 1107 (9th Cir. 2003); LaDuke v. Nelson, 762 F.2d 1318, 1330 (9th Cir. 1985).

74. Defendants are interfering with the administration of the internal revenue laws by organizing the payroll scheme and the sham-trust scheme in violation of I.R.C. § 6700. Additionally, if this injunction is not issued the Government and Defendants' customers will continue to suffer injury for which there is no other adequate remedy. Thus, an injunction is both necessary and appropriate to prevent Defendants from causing further harm to their customers and the U.S. Treasury.

75. In addition to barring Defendants from continuing to violate § 6700, the Court will order them (1) to provide their customers with a copy of the injunction order, (2) to produce records in their possession that identify persons that have purchased their tax schemes, (3) to stop promoting or selling trusts or limited partnership or advising anybody for compensation about the creation of a trust or limited partnership, and (4) to stop advising anyone for compensation about federal income, employment, or unemployment taxes. Additionally, the Court will allow the United States to conduct discovery to monitor Defendants' compliance with the injunction. This affirmative relief is authorized by I.R.C. § 7402(a), which grants this Court broad authority to fashion relief to prevent interference with the internal revenue laws. ¹⁰

- 76. The additional relief requested by the Government serves the public interest and will prevent additional interference with the tax laws.
- 77. The second and third *Eitel* factors weigh heavily in favor of the Government. The Complaint sufficiently states a cause of action upon which

United States v. First Nat'l City Bank, 379 U.S. 378, 383-84 (1965) ("[O]ur review of the [temporary] injunction as an exercise of the equity power granted by [§ 7402(a)] must be in light of the public interest involved: 'Courts of equity may, and frequently do, go much farther both to give and withhold relief in furtherance of the public interest than they are accustomed to go when only private interests are involved.") (quoting Virginian Ry. Co. v. Sys. Fed'n No. 40, 300 U.S. 515, 552 (1937)).

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- 78. The first Eitel factor weighs in favor of the Government as well. The Government would suffer prejudice if the default judgment is not entered because it would be denied the right to resolution of its claims, and would be without recourse for recovery. Further, without an injunction, Defendants will continue to promote their tax-fraud schemes, thereby, continuing to harm the Government and Defendants' customers.
- 79. The fourth Eitel factor weighs in favor of the Government. The Government is seeking injunctive relief and not monetary damages. This injunctive relief is consistent with I.R.C. §§ 7408 and 7402.
- 78. The fifth Eitel factor weighs in favor of the Government. All allegations in the Government's well-pled complaint are taken as true after the Clerk enters default judgment, so there is no likelihood that any genuine issues of material fact exist.
- 81. The sixth Eitel factor weighs in favor of the Government as Defendants' default is not due to excusable neglect.
- 82. The seventh Eitel factor weighs in favor of the Government because Defendants' failure to answer the complaint makes a decision on the merits impractical if not impossible and, under Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(a), termination of a case before hearing the merits is allowed in cases such as this when a defendant fails to defend an action.

PERMANENT INJUNCTION ORDER

This Court finds the United States has presented sufficient evidence to obtain a judgement by default based on the factual findings listed above. THEREFORE, the Court GRANTS the United States' Motion for Default

ORDER 2264232.2 ase 5:06-cv-00889-VAP-QP

Judgment as to Jovita Arcaro and the business defendants,	, and ORDERS, pursuan
to I.R.C. §§ 7408 and 7402, that:	

- 1. Jovita Arcaro and the business defendants (Ideal Management, Ltd. Limited Partnership; Ideal Financial Partners, Ltd. a CA Limited Partnership; Ideal Payroll Plus, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership; Ideal Advisors, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership; Ideal Payroll Plus II, Ltd. LP; Onestone, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership; Bluestone Management, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership; and Hillstone Advisors, Ltd. a California Limited Partnership) have engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C.§ 6700, and that injunctive relief under I.R.C. § 7408 is appropriate to prevent a recurrence of that conduct;
- 2. Arcaro and the business defendants, and their representatives, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them, are prohibited from directly or indirectly:
 - a. Engaging in conduct subject to penalty under 26 U.S.C. § 6700, including making, in connection with the organization or sale of any plan or arrangement, a statement about the tax benefits of participating in the plan or arrangement that defendants know or have reason to know is false or fraudulent as to any material matter;
 - b. Engaging in any other conduct that substantially interferes with the proper administration and enforcement of the internal revenue laws; and
 - c. promoting the payroll scheme and the sham-trust scheme described in the findings of fact section.

Additionally, the Court ORDERS, pursuant to I.R.C. § 7402, that:

- 3. Arcaro is required to contact by mail (and also by e-mail, if an address is known) all customers who purchased either the payroll scheme or the sham-trust scheme, as well as all employees of customers that used the payroll scheme, and send them a copy of this Judgment by Default and Permanent Injunction;
- 4. Arcaro and the business defendants are required to produce to the United States any records in their possession or to which they have access, identifying the

persons who have purchased the payroll scheme and/or the sham-trust scheme

(whether purchased either directly from Defendants or from their associates or

of this Order that they have complied with the provisions in paragraphs three and

6. Arcaro and the business defendants are prohibited from promoting or

7. Arcaro and the business defendants are prohibited from advising anyone

8. The United States is permitted to engage in post-judgment discovery to

selling a trust or limited partnership, or advising anyone for compensation about

for compensation about federal income, employment, or unemployment taxes; and

5. Defendants are required to certify to the Court within thirty days of entry

their related entities);

four of this Permanent Injunction Order;

the creation of a trust or limited partnership;

ensure compliance with the permanent injunction.

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Date: Mly 12 2007

VIRGINIA A. PHILLIPS
United States District Judge

Prepared By: GEORGE S. CARDONA United States Attorney SANDRA R. BROWN Assistant United States Attorney Chief, Tax Division EVAŃ DAVIS Assistant United States Attorney HILARIE E. SNYDER Trial Attorney, Tax Division U.S. Department of Justice Post Office Box 7238 Ben Franklin Station Washington, D.C. 20044 Telephone: (202) 307-2708 Facsimile: (202) 514-6770 hilarie.e.snyder@usdoj.gov Attorneys for United States

ORDER 2264232.2

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify, on this 1st day of May, 2007, that a copy of the amended Proposed Order was mailed, first-class, postage prepaid to

Jovita Arcaro 9650 Business Center Drive,

Suite 134 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 Individual Defendant

J. Michael Clancy Ideal Payroll Plus, Ltd. 9650 Business Center Dr.

Suite 134

Rancho Cucamonga, CA91730 Registered Agent for Ideal Payroll Plus, Ltd.

Jovita Arcaro 8963 Westbrook Ct.

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-2405

David Clancy, Jr. 16372 Garo Street Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 Individual Defendant and General Partner of all of the Limited Partnership Defendants, as well as Registered Agent for 7 of the Limited Partnership Defendants

ORDER 2264232.2