# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FORT MYERS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CASE NO. 2:25-cr- 240 - KCO - NPM

BRENT ADAM SEAMAN

18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud) 18 U.S.C. § 1957 (Money Laundering) 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1) (Tax Fraud)

### INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

# **COUNTS ONE THROUGH FIVE** (Wire Fraud)

#### Introduction A.

At times relevant to this Indictment:

1. Defendant, BRENT ADAM SEAMAN, was a resident of Naples, Florida, within the Middle District of Florida, and he controlled and operated several Florida limited liability companies, including the following: Accanito Capital Group, LLC; Accanito Holdings, LLC; Surge, LLC; Accanito Equity, LLC; Accanito Equity II, LLC; Accanito Equity III, LLC; and Accanito Equity IV, LLC (collectively referred to as "Accanito").

- 2. Victim-Investor 1 was a victim-investor who lived in Naples, Florida. Victim-Investor 1 invested at least \$1,290,000 in Accanito.
- 3. Victim-Investor 2 was a victim-investor who lived in Naples, Florida. Victim-Investor 2 invested at least \$414,000 in Accanito.
- 4. Victim-Investor 3 was a victim-investor who lived in Bonita Springs, Florida. Victim-Investor 3 invested at least \$25,000 in Accanito.
- 5. Victim-Investor 4 was a victim-investor who lived in Bonita Springs, Florida. Victim-Investor 4 invested at least \$1,083,847.70 in Accanito.
- 6. Victim-Investor 5 was a victim-investor who lived in Bloomington, Indiana. Victim-Investor 5 invested at least \$367,192.40 in Accanito.
- 7. Retirement Account Custodian 1 ("RAC-1") was a self-directed individual retirement account custodian for investing in alternative assets based out of Fort Myers, Florida.

### B. The Scheme and Artifice to Defraud

8. Beginning in or around at least June 2019 to in or around at least November 2022, in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere, Defendant,

### BRENT ADAM SEAMAN,

did knowingly and with intent to defraud, devise, and intend to devise, a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

### C. Purpose of the Scheme and Artifice

9. It was the purpose of the scheme to defraud for Defendant to obtain the money and property of victim-investors and unjustly enrich himself by making, and causing others to make, materially false and fraudulent representations to victim-investors regarding Defendant's prior trading success, the performance of past investments, the use and investment of the victim-investors' funds, guaranteed rates of return, the status of the purported investment, Defendant's management of the purported investment, and the terms of the investment in Accanito.

# D. <u>Description of the Scheme and Artifice</u>

- 10. From in or around at least June 2019 to in or around at least November 2022, Defendant, perpetrated an investment fraud scheme in which Defendant, and others known and unknown, falsely presented Defendant as a successful business entrepreneur and currency trader, falsely promised rates of return on investments and low or no-risk returns on investments, and misrepresented and concealed material facts about how victim-investors' money would be used by investing in Accanito.
- 11. Through his scheme, Defendant, along with others known and unknown, solicited millions of dollars from victim-investors in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere to invest in Accanito.
- 12. Defendant, along with others known and unknown, provided marketing materials that falsely claimed that Accanito had two investment strategies: (1) "[i]n second stage, post-revenue software and technology companies," and (2) "[i]n holdings and positions in the commodity and currency space." Defendant, along with

others known and unknown, also falsely represented to victim-investors in other materials that their investments would be used for investments in technology companies and for commodity and currency trading and falsely promised guaranteed investment returns. For example, Defendant provided marketing materials with the following false representations:

- a. "Accanito Capital Group has a proprietary system that vets each business prior to funding; this system is proven successful & allows us to provide out committed investors with industry-leading returns."
- b. "Accanito Equity II pays out it's [sic] members (investors) 2.5% MONTHLY guaranteed."
- 13. Defendant falsely guaranteed annual returns to the victim-investors, typically between 18% and 30% on the principal investment. When offering his services, Defendant told victim-investors that they had the option to collect monthly distributions or "roll over" their purported profits back into Accanito's investments "to accrue more" during the term of their agreement.
- 14. Defendant, and others known and unknown, would generally direct victim-investors to send their investments to bank accounts controlled by Defendant and his co-schemers, including to accounts held at Bank 1, whose servers for these accounts are located in the state of Illinois. Defendant, and others known and unknown, also directed victim-investors to transfer funds from personal investment retirement accounts through RAC-1 to be invested in Accanito and the related entities to accounts held at Bank 1.

- 15. Rather than invest in technology companies as promised, Defendant invested a portion of the proceeds obtained from early victim-investors in currency trading. Defendant caused victim-investors to lose a substantial portion of the investments and was never in a position to repay the promised returns to victim-investors. Instead, Defendant and others known and unknown continued to recruit new victim-investors and Defendant used those new victim-investor funds to repay old victim-investors in a Ponzi-style investment scheme. Defendant also enriched himself through the purchase of jewelry, cars, other luxury and personal items, and to pay off credit card debt.
- 16. Generally, after receiving the investment funds into Accanito Capital Group, LLC bank accounts at Bank 1, Defendant, along with others known and unknown, transferred the funds to another account at Bank 1, and those funds were then used to repay other victim-investors in the scheme or were used by Defendant for his own personal expenditures.
- 17. Neither Defendant nor his others informed victim-investors that their funds would be used to repay other victim-investors or to pay for his personal purchases and expenses, nor did Defendant or others inform victim-investors that he lost their investment funds in currency trading.
- 18. Instead, Defendant, sent and caused others to send fraudulent monthly statements to victim-investors that falsely indicated their investments were growing at the promised rates of return.

19. As part of his scheme, Defendant, along with others known and unknown, secured at least approximately \$36,177,802 from victim-investors through to use of materially false and misleading statements. This money was not invested as promised; instead, it was misappropriated to repay other victim-investors and for Defendant's own personal uses and self-enrichment.

### E. The Wires

20. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere, Defendant, BRENT ADAM SEAMAN, for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud, knowingly and intentionally transmitted, or caused to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce the writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds described below, each transmission constituting a separate count:

COUNT	ON OR ABOUT DATE	DESCRIPTION OF WIRE	
ONE	October 18, 2021	Wire from Victim-Investor 1's bank account ending in 2821 to Accanito Holding Capital Group account ending in 3586 at Bank 1 for approximately \$1,250,000.00	
TWO	November 17, 2021	Wire from Victim-Investor 2's bank account ending in 0329 to Accanito Holding Capital Group account ending in 3586 at Bank 1 for approximately \$414,000.00	
THREE	February 1, 2022	Wire from Victim-Investor 3's bank account ending in 1213 to Accanito Holding Capital Group account ending in 3586 at Bank 1 for approximately \$25,000.00	
FOUR	February 4, 2022	Wire from Victim-Investor 4's bank account ending in 0329 to Accanito Holding Capital Group account ending in 3586 at Bank 1 for approximately \$577,249.00	
FIVE	August 4, 2022	Wire from Victim-Investor 5's bank account ending in 1598 to Accanito Holding Capital Group account ending in 8849 at Bank 1 for approximately \$252,192.40	

Document 3

All in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2.

# **COUNTS SIX THROUGH NINE** (Illegal Monetary Transactions)

- Paragraphs 1-20 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by 21. reference as if fully set forth herein.
- On or about the dates listed below, in the Middle District of Florida and 22. elsewhere, Defendant,

## BRENT ADAM SEAMAN,

did knowingly engage and attempt to engage in a monetary transaction, in and affecting interstate commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, such property having been derived from specified unlawful activity, namely, wire fraud, and knowing that such transactions involved property and funds that were the proceeds obtained from a criminal offense, as follows:

COUNT	ON OR ABOUT	AMOUNT	NATURE OF TRANSACTION
	DATE	(approx.)	
SIX	November 13, 2020	\$12,500	Check to pay personal rent using victim- investor derived funds for a property
			located in Naples, Florida.
SEVEN	January 4, 2021	\$165,126.85	Wire transfer to purchase a 2019 Ferrari
			488 Spider Convertible, using victim-
			investor derived funds to a store located
			in Naples, Florida.
EIGHT	November 20, 2021	\$25,000	Check to purchase jewelry using victim-
			investor derived funds to a store located
			in Naples, Florida.
NINE	November 29, 2021	\$40,129	Wire transfer to purchase a private jet
			charter, using victim-investor derived
			funds to a company located in Naples,
			Florida.

All in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1957 and 2.

### **COUNT TEN**

# (Making and Subscribing a False Tax Return)

- 23. Paragraphs 1-20 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 24. On or about October 14, 2020, in the Middle District of Florida, and elsewhere, Defendant,

### BRENT ADAM SEAMAN,

willfully made and subscribed and filed and caused to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service, a false Form 1040, for calendar year 2019, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury, and which Defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to a material matter; to wit, by underreporting his taxable income.

All in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.

### **COUNT ELEVEN**

# (Making and Subscribing a False Tax Return)

- 25. Paragraphs 1-20 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 26. On or about October 15, 2021, in the Middle District of Florida, and elsewhere, Defendant,

#### BRENT ADAM SEAMAN,

willfully made and subscribed and filed and caused to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service, a false Form 1040, for calendar year 2020, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury, and which Defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to a material matter; to wit, by underreporting his taxable income.

All in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.

### **FORFEITURE**

- 27. The allegations contained in Counts One through Nine are incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(C), 982(a)(1), and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).
  - 28. Upon conviction of a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, the defendant, BRENT ADAM SEAMAN,

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the violation.

29. Upon conviction of a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957, the defendant, BRENT ADAM SEAMAN,

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1), any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, or any property traceable to such property.

- 30. The property to be forfeited includes, but is not limited to, an order of forfeiture in the amount of at least \$36,177,802, which represents the amount of proceeds obtained from the offenses as well as the amount involved in the offenses.
- 31. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant
  - a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
  - b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
  - c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
  - d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
  - e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

the United States shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

A TRUE BILL,

Foreperson

GREGORY W. KEHOE United States Attorney

By:

Mark Morgan

Assistant United States Attorney

By:

Jesus M. Casas

Assistant United States Attorney Chief, Fort Myers Division

Lorinda I. Laryea,

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By:

Timothy J. Coley Trial Attorney