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STATE OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND INNOVATION

TO: Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC, also known as www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com 1560 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80202

DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER (For violations of Corporations Code sections 25210, 25230, 25235)

The Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation (Commissioner) finds that:

- 1. At all relevant times, Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC (herein "Imposter") claimed to be a Colorado limited liability company with a principal place of business at 1560 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80202. The Imposter conducted business using the e-mail address mary@marylorenzassetmanagement.com and maintained a website at www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com. (the Website).
- 2. The Imposter's website is hosted by NiceNIC International Group Co., Limited., a company with a principal place of business at 4Room 1704 Hang Lung Center Paterson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, China.
- 3. At all relevant times, Mary Lorenz is an individual residing in Georgia who is a registered broker assigned FINRA CRD number 1310519. Ms. Lorenz has no connection with the Imposter, has no website, and offers no broker-dealer and/or investment adviser services to California consumers. The Commissioner does not allege any wrongdoing by Ms. Lorenz in connection with this Desist and Refrain Order.
- The Imposter conducted business as a broker-dealer and investment adviser by impersonating Ms. Lorenz beginning as early as December 2022. The Imposter claimed to provide "investment management services that ... are customized based on your financial circumstances, your current and future income needs, risk tolerance, and investment objectives/goals", including active portfolio management. The Imposter also offered trading services that would allow customers to "automatically copy positions or trades opened and

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managed by [the Imposter]" allegedly leading to customers "earn[ing] returns...without having to invest hours researching the market." The Imposter charged a performance-based fee of 10% of the customer's profits for these services.

- 5. Beginning in May 2023, the Imposter advised at least one California resident to invest in the Alpha Crypto Private Fund, a fund allegedly managed by the Imposter and "other top industry risk analysts, each with over 25 years of expertise in financial markets." The Imposter claimed the California resident could expect monthly returns of 6% and annual returns of 72% on this investment. The Imposter also represented that the California resident would be able to make "monthly withdrawals of their investment and accumulated profit."
- The California resident transferred approximately \$600,000 in cryptocurrency to 6. a wallet hosted by Secawallet.com to fund the investment in the Alpha Crypto Private Fund.
- 7. Beginning in January 2024, the California resident attempted to withdraw \$3,000 of the profit the California resident had allegedly earned on the investment in Alpha Crypto Private Fund but was unable to do so.
- 8. The California resident repeatedly attempted to contact Secawallet.com and the Imposter about the issues withdrawing funds from the account but received no response. To date, the California resident has not received any of the funds invested with the Imposter.
- 9. CSL section 25004 defines "broker-dealer" as any person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities in this state for the account of others or for his own account. CSL section 25210, subdivision (a), prohibits a broker-dealer from effecting any transaction in or induce or attempt to induce the purchase or sale of any security in this state unless the broker-dealer has first applied for and secured from the commissioner a certificate, then in effect, authorizing that person to act in that capacity.
- 10. The Imposter has never obtained a certificate to act as a broker-dealer under CSL section 25210 and is not exempt from the licensure requirement.
- 11. CSL section 25230, subdivision (a) prohibits a person from conducting business as an investment adviser in this state without first applying for and securing a certificate from the Commissioner authorizing them to do so, unless exempt.

- 12. Beginning in at least 2023, the Imposter engaged in the business of providing investment advice in connection with the website and email to consumers. The Imposter advised at least one California resident regarding investments made with and through the Imposter. The Imposter asserts that it charges a fee and/or a commission for services provided in connection with providing investment advice.
- 13. The Imposter does not have a valid investment adviser certificate issued by the Commissioner nor has the Imposter been registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. The Imposter is not exempt from the certification requirement set forth in the CSL.
- 14. Section 25235, subdivisions (a) and (b) of the CSL, prohibits "any investment adviser, directly or indirectly, in this state to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud any client or prospective client" or "to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any client or prospective client."
- 15. The Imposter, in connection with the providing of investment advice, made the following untrue statements of material fact:
 - Investment accounts managed by the Imposter would "accrue a minimum of 5% profit monthly."
 - The investment in the Alpha Crypto Private Fund offered "high liquidity, allowing you to access your funds quickly when needed."
 - Investors can "make monthly withdrawals of their investment and accumulated Profits."

Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner is of the opinion that the Imposter Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC, also known as www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com, is subject to the laws regulating broker-dealers under the CSL, and has effected transactions in, or induced, or attempted to induce the purchase or sale of, securities as a broker-dealer, without having first applied for and secured from the Commissioner a certificate authorizing the Imposter to act in that capacity, in violation of CSL section 25210.

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Pursuant to CSL section 25532, Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC, also known as www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com, is hereby ordered to desist and refrain from conducting business as a broker-dealer, unless and until certification has been made under said law or unless exempt.

Moreover, based upon the foregoing findings, the Commissioner is of the opinion that the Imposter Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC, also known as www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com, conducted business as an investment adviser in this state without first securing from the Commissioner a certificate, authorizing them to do so, in violation of section 25230 of the CSL.

Pursuant to section 25532 of the CSL, Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC, also known as www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com, is hereby ordered to desist and refrain from conducting business as an investment adviser in the State of California, unless and until Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC, also www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com, has first applied for and secured from the Commissioner a certificate, then in effect, authorizing him to act as an investment advisor or unless exempt.

Further, based upon the foregoing findings, the Commissioner is of the opinion that the Imposter Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC, also known as www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com, conducted business as an investment adviser in this state and employed a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud any client or prospective client and engaged in a transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any client or prospective client, in violation of section 25235, subdivisions (a) and (b) of the CSL.

Pursuant to section 25532 of the CSL, Mary Lorenz Asset Management & Consultancy LLC, also known as www.marylorenzassetmanagement.com, is hereby ordered to desist and refrain from directly or indirectly employing any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud any client or prospective client and to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any client or prospective client.

Т	This Order	is necessary,	in the publi	c interest,	for the	protection	of invest	ors and
consiste	ent with the	purposes, poli	icies and prov	visions of t	he Corpo	orate Securi	ties Law o	of 1968.

Date: August 16, 2024 Sacramento, California CLOTHILDE V. HEWLETT Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation



By: MARY ANN SMITH Deputy Commissioner Enforcement Division