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8	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA						
9	FOR THE D	ISTRICT OF ARIZONA					
10	Federal Trade Commission,	No. CV-20-0047-PHX-DWL					
11	Plaintiff,	PLAINTIFF FEDERAL TRADE					
12	V.	COMMISSION'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AS TO					
13	James D. Noland, Jr., et al.,	LIABILITY					
14	Defendants.						
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<u>INTRODUCTION</u>

For over two years prior to the Court's Temporary Restraining Order, Defendants promised financial freedom to convince consumers to join, and continue sinking money into, two pyramid schemes. Beginning in July 2017, Defendants' Success By Health ("SBH") pyramid sold coffees, teas, and nutraceuticals. When that scheme started to collapse, Defendants, in October 2019, launched a VOZ Travel pyramid (also part of SBH) that promised to one day provide a travel-booking platform. In both pyramids, Defendants told members (called "affiliates") that their success depended not on their ability to find, and sell products to, ultimate users, but instead on buying products and recruiting new affiliates to buy products from SBH. Consequently, affiliates entered an endless chain of recruitment, in which they could recoup their costs only by enrolling new affiliates. As in any pyramid scheme, the vast majority of affiliates must be, and were, losing money at any given time. Led by serial pyramid scheme promoter Jay Noland, the Individual Defendants took \$1.7 million for themselves while 6,957 affiliates earned \$2.4 million in rewards, despite spending over \$8.4 million on Defendants' products and training—not to mention thousands on expenses not paid to SBH. Because there is no genuine dispute regarding any material fact, each Defendant is liable as a matter of law for deceptively promoting the SBH and VOZ pyramid schemes and violating two FTC rules mandating that they offer or provide refunds in certain contexts.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

#### I. SBH'S DECEPTIVE SALES AND RECRUITING PRACTICES

The Individual Defendants ran Success By Health ("SBH"), Success By Media, LLC, and Success By Media Holdings Inc. (Doc. 222 ¶ 5 (admitting Second Amended Complaint (Doc. 205; "SAC") ¶¶ 10-13).) SBH sells coffee, tea, and nutraceuticals through a network of "affiliates." Defendants lure consumers to enroll as affiliates with promises that if they work hard and follow "millionaire maker" Jay Noland's

instructions, they can replace their job income in six months and become financially free—reaping a perpetual stream of million-dollar yearly payments—in just 18 months. Once enrolled, Defendants tell affiliates that achieving financial freedom requires recruiting new affiliates and purchasing excessive inventory, rather than selling SBH products to ultimate users.

#### A. Defendants Lure Consumers into SBH Promising Financial Freedom.

Defendants tell consumers that there are three types of affiliates, those looking to: (1) supplement their income, (2) "replace [their] income (no more job)," and (3) obtain "financial freedom." (Doc. 8-3 at 20.) The choice is "yours," *id.*, but if you seek financial freedom and "pay close attention," you are "going to be able to get out of that job in about six months" and attain financial freedom in 18 months. (Doc. 8-27 at 17 (9:5-9), 57 (41:2-9).) It is undisputed that Defendants told recruits (falsely) "several people" are "achieving Financial Freedom already with our company." (Doc. 8-5 at 33, 35; Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 45); Doc. 106 at 23-24 & n.22; *infra* pp. 21-23.)

Defendants consistently use the term "financial freedom" to refer to a "fabulous level of wealth beyond completely replacing a job income." (Doc. 106 at 23; *see also* Doc. 8-5 at 30 ("liv[ing] the Life of Their Dreams"); Doc. 8-27 at 50 (13:1-3) ("do what you want, when you want, wherever you want"); Doc. 8-27 at 56 (40:15-24) (a life "where your son before he was born was already retired[,] and his kids are retired[,] and his kids' kids are retired").) They admit to using images of yachts and cars, piles of cash, and exotic vacations to make the point. (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶¶ 50(b), 52).) Harris used his \$1.8 million home, too. (Ex. 8 ¶ 7; Ex. 30 at 109:7-20, 149:2-150:7, 295:7-296:2.) As the Court found, financial freedom, at minimum, means earning income greater than one's current job income. (Doc. 106 at 22.)

Defendants also tout Noland's (fictitious) wealth as attainable for affiliates. At one recruiting event, Noland rhetorically asked: "Jay, just please tell me how you created

a financial freedom life to where your son before he was born was already retired? And his kids are retired, and his kid's kids are retired? . . . [I]t's going to be somebody that walks in here for the first time, 18 months from now will never have to work again." (Doc. 8-27 at 56-57 (40:15-41:9).) Noland, now 52, went on to claim he was "financially free, completely time and money free since I was 36" and had not "had to work a job . . . since I was 27." (Doc. 8-27 at 50 (14:19-23); Ex. 29 at 9:11-13 (Noland born in 1968).)

Privately, Defendants did the same. Harris told a recruit, "You'll make \$100k+ in 2018." (Doc. 259-1 at 12.) He told another he wanted "serious guys who want to make \$100K a month in 3 years or less," adding, "[m]illions will be made" with 10 hours per week to replace one's job income. (Doc. 259-1 at 11.) Sacca told a recruit that it "literally only takes 2-3 folks catching the vision to create millions!!" (Doc. 259-1 at 8.)

#### **B.** After Affiliates Join, Defendants Continue Hyping Financial Freedom.

Consumers pay a \$49 annual membership fee to become an SBH "affiliate." (Doc. 222 ¶ 13 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 23).) Defendants then bombard affiliates with claims that they can attain financial freedom by working hard and following instructions. For example, Noland gave affiliates a "reasonable expectation" of replacing their job income in six months by being "result-oriented and focused," adding if they "just applied [his system], without fail, you should be able to be financially free in 18 months." (Doc. 8-14 at 63 (7:23-8:6); Doc. 222 ¶ 20 (admitting SAC ¶ 44).)

Defendants highlight that SBH will make affiliates millions, calling the program a "literal golden goose." (Doc. 8-14 at 21 (10:3-5).) They ubiquitously call Jay Noland the "Millionaire Maker." (Doc.  $222 \, \P \, 1$  (admitting SAC  $\, \P \, 46$ ).) Noland, in turn, promises to create "1,000 millionaires" through SBH. (Doc. 8-1 at 39; Doc. 8-13 at 397 (28:10-21); Doc. 8-14 at 139.) He titles many of his videos, "Millionaire Mentorship." (Doc. 8-1 at 43 ( $\, \P \, 60(c)$ ).) During one such session, he told his online audience to each type, "I'm going to be a millionaire in SBH." (Id. at 38 ( $\, \P \, 57(e)$ ).) Close to 100 did, including

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Sacca, who wrote, "Millionaire thru SBH!! Guaranteed!" (*Id.*; *see also* Doc. 8-1 at 40 ("You will be a millionaire if you apply this training."); Ex. 14 ¶¶ 44-45 (training attendees to not just for "financial freedom," but to make "tens of millions of dollars").)

Similarly, Noland frequently dangles his own purported wealth as a carrot. He boasts that he "made more [money] than most people will make in 10 lifetimes, or maybe even 20." (Ex. 145 at 7:25-8:7.) He regularly claims to own homes and warehouses. (Doc. 8-14 at 45 (21:3-5) (house and office in Colombia); Doc. 8-1 at 42-44 (¶¶ 60(a), 62) ("home in beautiful Uruguay," "house over in Colombia," Panamanian house purchased in 2012); Ex. 14 ¶ 46 ("my warehouse in London, my warehouse in Colombia, my warehouse in Hong Kong").) Noland claims to have turned down multiple \$100,000 speaking gigs because they were inferior to his "residual income." (Ex. 48 at 7:20-8:8.) He also touts giveaways to family, friends, and others totaling "a couple million per year." (Ex. 42 at 36:18-37:5.)

These claims are all false. Noland *now* admits he has a negative net worth and does not remember the last time it was positive. (Ex. 28 at 37:1-18.) Far from unfathomable riches, he swore under oath to the IRS that he had "major losses" in each of his pre-SBH companies. (Ex. 88 at 5; Ex. 29 at 105:6-110:15.) Rather than sitting on a perpetual income stream, he urged the IRS to remove huge tax liens so that competitors could not use them to "discredit" him. (Ex. 88 at 5.) Rather than being financially free at the age of 36 (in 2004), Noland was "living on credit cards" in 2005 and 2006. (Ex. 89 at 1; Ex. 29 at 124:3-130:12.) In 2007, the IRS said he owed \$187,000; he still owes about \$180,000. (Ex. 89; Doc. 203-2 at 17.) Rather than owning properties, he owns none at all. (Ex. 28 at 194:4-197:12.) Harris, who passed the big lie along, purposefully avoided questions that would have easily shown the emperor had no clothes. (Ex. 30 at 41:24-45:12 ("It's not my business to ask things like that."), 183:18-192:14.)

Defendants make similarly outlandish claims about Noland's trainees. Noland

told affiliates that he had trained multiple people to make over \$1 million per month. (Ex. 14 ¶ 47; see also Ex. 42 at 53:3-11 ("I've had people do it in 12 months. Never have to work again . . . No less than 20,000 a month."); Doc. 8-1 at 38 (trainees acquired "Lamborghinis; Rolls Royces"); Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶¶ 50(d)-(e)).) Harris told affiliates to tell recruits Noland had "created many 6 Figure earners" and that some "earned in excess of \$1M a month and many have earned over \$1M a year." (Ex. 110 at 2; Ex. 30 at 180:21-181:17; see also Doc. 259-1 at 14 (Noland "taught 30 people to make \$50k or more a month within 3 years" and "50 [people] to make \$20K or more a month within 3 years"). Noland admits he cannot support these claims. (Doc. 259-1 at 70-71 (identifying just four people Noland "personally trained" to "make at least \$23,500 per month" and, even for that, relying on a hearsay internet post (Doc. 187 at 16-17)).)¹

Defendants repeatedly claim that *anyone* can achieve lucrative financial results if they put in the work and follow Defendants. They tell recruits that SBH's rewards are "achievable for the masses." (Doc.  $222 \, \P \, 1$  (admitting SAC  $\, \P \, 57$ ).) Although Noland sometimes equivocates by saying that not everyone *will* be millionaires, he explains "the masses" *could* if they just put the time in. (Doc. 8-13 at 311 (7:13-18) ("The masses can do it. The masses won't do it.").) Noland calls his plan "Direct Sales for Dummies," and claims that a "dummy can just go follow these instructions and create wealth." (Doc. 8-13 at 222 (29:8-13); *see also* Doc. 8-27 at 60 (53:23-54:5) ("you just ain't done it yet"), Doc. 8-13 at 4 (8:20-23) ("there's no way you can fail").)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Defendants also promoted, without support, Sacca and Harris's wealth. Noland boasted of "three millionaires" in the field—referring to Harris, Sacca, and Luke Curry. (12-4-17 at 5:22-6:5; Ex. 333 at 11-12.) None are millionaires. Curry and Sacca have declared bankruptcy, and Harris and Sacca each swore to net worths of less than \$40,000. (Doc. 203-3 at 10, 21; *In re Curry*, No. 1:18bk11079 (Bankr. W.D. Ken. 2018); *In re Sacca*, No. 5:08bk50589 (Bankr. E.D. Ken. 2008); *In re Sacca*, No. 5:11bk53502 (Bankr. E.D. Ken. 2011); Ex. 342; Doc. 259-1 at 9.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Defendants claim to have a "No Income Claim" policy, but it simply prescribes how to deceive. For example, their "Getting Started Training" tells affiliates, "No

## C. Defendants Emphasize Recruiting, Rather Than Sales to Ultimate Users, as the Key to Financial Success.

Tellingly, Defendants compel affiliates seeking the promised financial gains to focus on recruiting new affiliates rather than on selling products to ultimate users. They do so through the structure of their compensation plan and bonuses, their instructions to affiliates, and the obstacles they place to making sales to ultimate users.

#### 1. The Structure of SBH Commission Plan Prioritized Recruiting.

Affiliates "sell" SBH products by having others buy from SBH using a SBH website URL unique to each affiliate. (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 24).) Affiliates earn commission on those purchases and on their own and their downline teams' purchases. (Doc. 222 ¶ 1(admitting SAC ¶ 26).) SBH promoted a "six-phase" commission plan—with six more phases added in August 2019³ (Doc. 8-5 at 37-42; Doc. 8-8 at 23-36; Doc. 8-9 at 1-3)—and other bonuses. (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶¶ 28, 30-33.) Other than Phase 1, each phase and each bonus program pays rewards that require recruiting—often extensively—but not sales to ultimate users.

#### i. Six-Phase Commission Plan

**Phase 1 (Retail Sales)** of the plan does not involve any money paid by SBH. Rather, it refers to affiliates' (and non-affiliates', *see infra* p. 11) ability to buy products from SBH at a "wholesale price" and resell them at a mark-up. (Doc. 8-5 at 38.)

Income Claims (Share Lifestyle Enhancements Instead)." (Doc. 8-4 at 72; *see also* Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 50); Doc. 8-13 at 48 (8:12-22) (Harris tells affiliates no "income claims" but talk about making house payments and "walk[ing] away" from jobs); Ex. 44 at 24:17-24 (Noland making similar point).) Noland admits the reason for the "policy" is to avoid government scrutiny. (Doc. 8-27 at 101 (75:1-8); Doc. 106 at 23 n.21.) Noland, Harris, and Sacca all claimed that Noland never violated the policy. (Ex. 29 at 93:11-94:9; Ex. 30 at 12:24-15:3, 17:15-24; Ex. 32 at 100:8-23.) In fact, the lone instance they identified of *anyone* violating the policy was when Harris gave *truthful* information about an Affiliate's commission check. (Ex. 30 at 17:25-19:13.)

<sup>3</sup> Although Defendants profess not to require auto-orders, they *did* impose this requirement for certain parts of their 12-phase commission plan. *See* Ex. 126; *but see* Doc. 75-1 at ¶ 27 (Noland swearing no auto-order required).

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**Phases 2-6** provide cash payments or product credits based solely on *purchases* from SBH by an affiliate and the affiliate's recruits, rather than sales to ultimate users of the products. In each phase, Defendants pay rewards without regard to whether products are purchased by, or intended for, ultimate users. To receive any commissions, affiliates must buy at least \$200 in SBH products (or have others do so). (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 27).) Phase 2 (Auto Orders) provides "product credits" to affiliates who set recurring purchases from SBH, and whose direct recruits do, too. (Doc. 8-5 at 39.) Phase 3 (Accelerator Bonus) pays a cash bonus to affiliates whose newly-enrolled recruits purchase \$500 "Accelerator Packs" or \$1,995 "Super Accelerator Packs" from SBH. (Doc. 8-5 at 39.) **Phase 4 (6-Tier Commissions)** rewards affiliates for purchases from SBH by themselves and their downline teams. (Doc. 8-5 at 40.) Affiliates earn 10% commission on purchases they (Tier 0) and their direct recruits (Tier 1) make. (*Id.*) Purchases by the affiliate's recruits' recruits (Tier 2) provide 6% commissions, repeating through Tier 3 (4%), Tier 4 (3%), and Tier 5 (2%). (*Id.*) Phase 5 (Infinity Bonus) pays Affiliates who achieve a rank of "SBA1" an additional commission on certain purchases by their recruits. (Doc. 8-5 at 40-41.) Defendants admit the goal of Phase 5 is to "encourage[] you to develop a deep, strong Affiliate Team." (Doc. 8-4 at 88.) Phase 6 (BAM Bonus) pays a bonus to affiliates who achieve the "Power of 10" structure promoted by SBH, in which affiliates recruit ten new affiliates, each of whom themselves recruit ten new affiliates, and so on through five tiers. See infra pp. 8-10. The top BAM Bonus pays \$5 million. (Doc. 8-11 at 14.)

#### ii. Bonuses and Promotions

Defendants offer other rewards for recruiting and purchasing from SBH. They pay "Power 500" and "Power 1000" bonuses if an affiliate buys a product pack of \$125 or more and, within 14 days, recruits new affiliates who make certain purchases. (Doc. 8-11 at 5.) Similarly, SBH's "5x5 bonus" pays up to \$10,000 for recruiting five new

affiliates, each of whom buy a \$500 Accelerator Pack and recruit five new affiliates who also purchase Accelerator Packs. (Doc. 8-13 at 193; Doc. 222 ¶ 16 (admitting in part ¶ 34).) SBH offered a \$200 bonus for each month's "Top Referrer"—*i.e.*, the top recruiter. (Ex. 13 at 3, 16; *see also* Ex. 69 (\$50 credit for recruiting 10).) SBH also teased a trip to Hawaii and to Aruba for "rank advanc[ing]." (Ex. 32 at 149:1-151:24.) Finally, a "USA Tour Challenge" awarded \$1,000 for recruiting affiliates. (Ex. 70.)

### 2. Defendants Instruct Affiliates to Focus on Recruiting Rather Than Sales to Ultimate Users.

Defendants reinforce their recruitment-focused commission plan through their training documents and instructions to affiliates. They promote "four steps to success" that encourage recruiting, but not product sales, and encourage affiliates to harness the "Power of Ten" by building a team of ten "Tier 1" affiliates who duplicate the same process. They also make numerous statements to focus affiliates on recruiting.

#### i. The "Four Steps to Success" Omits Retail Sales.

Defendants promote "Four Steps to Success" to "Hit the Ground Running as a new SBH Affiliate." (Doc. 8-8 at 20.) Yet the four steps do not mention sales to ultimate users. Instead, they tell affiliates to (1) "get started" by buying products (preferably \$500 or \$1,995 packs), (2) "be a product of the product" by setting a monthly auto-order of at least \$60 (\$500 if seeking "financial freedom"), (3) build a team (i.e., recruit), and (4) duplicate their own efforts by teaching their team to do the same. (Doc. 8-8 at 20; Doc. 8-4 at 114; Doc. 8-13 at 397 (25:1-4).) For the third step, Defendants tell affiliates to recruit two new affiliates within 48 hours if they seek financial freedom. (Doc. 8-4 at 117.) "[D]uplication," is the "key to long term success as an SBH Affiliate." (*Id.* at 98.)

#### ii. The "Power of Ten" Encourages Exponential Recruiting.

Defendants also highlight a "Power of Ten" "success strategy" in which "Affiliates need to get 'my 10' Affiliate Team Members" and teach new recruits to "do the same." (Doc. 8-8 at 5.) Affiliates achieve the full "Power of Ten" by recruiting 10

affiliates as their "Tier 1," each of whom recruit 10 as the first affiliate's "Tier 2," and so on through Tiers 3-5. (*Id.* at 6-7.) Defendants say this will pay \$1,173,500 per month when each affiliate in the 10x10 spends \$500 per month.<sup>4</sup> (*Id.* at 6-7.) The affiliate also is eligible for the \$5 million BAM Bonus upon completing the Power of 10. *Supra* p. 7.

After affiliates join SBH, Defendants' references to "getting ten" are ubiquitous. (See, e.g., Doc. 8-14 at 81 (26:16-19) (Harris: "your ten-by-ten is the most important thing you can ever build in this company.")); Doc. 8-13 at 312 (34:6-12) (Noland: "If you're not creating a ten-by-ten, you're not doing your job . . . . [A]nybody that tells me that they want financial freedom and will not go . . . get these ten, they are an enemy."); Ex. 14 ¶ 42 ("you're completely free" if "you find [your 10]"), ¶ 43 (affiliates "\$200,000 in debt" can be "free in four months" through Power of 10).) In what the Court called a "damning statement" (Doc. 106 at 12), Sacca told affiliates that the SBH commission plan is "driven 100 percent, not—not 95, not 85, not 75—it's driven 100 percent by our [Power of Ten BAM] bonus. . . ." (Doc. 8-13 at 291; Doc. 106 at 4 n.4.) Defendants admit urging affiliates to achieve the Power of 10. (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶¶ 69-72, 75)(a)-(c)).)

To build the Power of Ten, Defendants tell affiliates seeking financial freedom they must ask four people to join SBH every day. The SBH "Million Dollar Contract," for example, tells affiliates to ask four people to join SBH "at least 5 days a week for at least 18 months." (Doc. 222 ¶ 1(admitting SAC ¶ 47).) Noland told affiliates if they wanted to show "the utmost commitment to developing a financially free lifestyle," they

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Defendants try to justify their exhortations to buy \$500 per month with sleight of hand—arguing that they were actually encouraging offline retail sales of six bags of coffee per week. However, affiliate compensation in no way depends on selling products they buy. *See supra* p. 7. Therefore, saying "six bag per week" serves little purpose other than convincing affiliates to buy more products than they need or can sell. (Ex. 18 at 53-54 (¶ 98).) Tellingly, Defendants do not tell affiliates to stop buying as they accumulate inventory. *See infra* pp. 13-14. There is little, if any, evidence that any affiliates are able to achieve \$500 per month in offline retail sales. *See infra* pp. 21-23.

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need to ask "four people a day for money to join the business." (Ex. 63 at 19:9-13.; *see also* Ex. 64 at 37:13-14 (same).) This theme was a frequent subject of Defendants' training events. (Ex. 65 at 5; Ex. 66 at 13; Ex. 113 at 38; Ex. 68 at 3.)

#### iii. Explicit Recruiting Instructions

Defendants reinforce their recruiting-focused program. For example, Noland told affiliates that the goal of one cash promotion was to focus them on "what you should be focusing on right now, which is new people getting into the company." (Doc. 8-13 at 154 (24:18-21).) At one event, Harris told affiliates to "have a plan to recruit everyone you meet." He then told affiliates that when people ask him "Is this one of those pyramid things?" he says, "[H]ell, yeah it is. If it wasn't, I wouldn't be doing it. Do I look dumb enough to go get a job again?" (Ex. 38 at 7:15-21; Ex. 50 at 7:7-11 (similar).)

The focus on recruiting starts right when an affiliate joins. At one event, Noland predicted dire consequences for any new affiliate who did not recruit someone within 48 hours: "Soon as I bring you in, you better put somebody in in 48 hours, or I am almost never going to talk to you again. . . . Guess what will happen if you go slow? More than likely you're gonna die. More than likely, you're gonna quit." (Ex. 49 at 4 (9:13-23).) Along the same lines, Noland explained the "most important thing" is to recruit inviters—people who will continue the recruitment chain. (Ex. 58 at 11:11-20 ("I'm not super fired up until that person recruits somebody else to join.").) Defendants' "Bootcamp" slide deck bluntly tells affiliates: "You Have To Get Great At RECRUITING." (Ex. 67 at 22.) These remarks are consistent with SBH training documents. (Doc. 8-4 at 117.)

Defendants' internal talks show their focus on recruiting is deliberate. In one frank text series of messages from Noland to Harris and Sacca, Noland made clear that "RECRUITING" is the "MAIN FOCUS" (Doc. 259-1 at 15):

Need you guys to get people RECRUITING. That has to be the MAIN FOCUS. No Recruiting = No Residual Income. As Sr. Field

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Advisors, your #1 Job is to move the field to build . . . . Scott, you and Tommy buckle up hard today with each other and get people moving. RECRUIT and REPORT . . . . You two need to personally start RECRUITING your asses off as well. Lead.

Tellingly, Noland requested a monthly report on the top recruiters. (Ex. 108; Ex. 14 ¶ 16.) No comparable "retail sales" report exists. (Ex. 14 ¶ 17.)

SBH's employees and affiliates all march to this recruiting drumbeat. SBH's then-director of sales, Robert Mehler, explained that while retail sales could help affiliates "make some extra, part-time money," "recruiting is key" and affiliates should build a "10x10x10x10x10." (Doc. 8-12 at 83-84 (20:12-21:6); Doc. 259-1 at 9 (Affiliate to Sacca: "[W]e know we have to constantly keep recruiting.").)

#### 3. Defendants Undermine Sales to Ultimate Users as a Viable Path.

Affiliates can sell SBH products to ultimate users online through their replicated version of the SBH website or "offline" from their own inventory. Defendants, however, put little emphasis on, and in fact undermine, sales to ultimate users as follows.

First, Defendants do not reward offline sales. They do not even track them. (Doc. 8-1 at 47-48 (¶ 65(k)); Doc. 222 ¶ 34 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 64); Doc. 106 at 14; Ex. 30 at 270:6-25.)

Second, definitively demonstrating that recruits are not supposed to make money selling products to user, Defendants sell products to the public at the same "wholesale" price at which affiliates buy from SBH. (Doc. 8-5 at 38.) This pricing makes any meaningful amount of offline sales all but impossible. Indeed, Defendants tell affiliates to instruct their "retail" customers on how to cut the affiliate out and buy wholesale from SBH. (Doc. 8-5 at 8.) As the Court recognized, "this pricing structure raises serious questions about whether retail sales can and do serve as a legitimate pathway to profits." (Doc. 106 at 2.) Unsurprisingly, affiliates complained to no avail about this obstacle.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Ex. 71 ("[H]ow can I charge them \$35 for coffee when it sates on the site that it is \$22?"); Ex. 72 ("When we send people to the site . . . , they assume they will get

Third, Defendants restrict offline sales. For example, they bar sales on Amazon or eBay. (Ex. 103; Ex. 105; Ex. 30 at 226:15-232:22 (it's "really not fair" if an affiliate sells "at a lower price than what they paid" or does so when they "leave the company").) Their products also lacked UPC barcodes, needed for affiliates looking to resell products in local businesses. (Exs. 75, 76; Ex. 14 ¶ 39.)

*Fourth*, to the extent that Defendants promote sales to non-affiliate ultimate users, they do so as a recruiting or "confidence-building" strategy, and consistently urge converting those customers into affiliates. (*See, e.g.*, Doc. 8-4 at 117; Doc. 8-13 at 96 (26:16-27:4); Doc. 8-13 at 133 (23:21-24:3); Doc. 8-15 at 32.)

Fifth, Defendants' frequent shipping delays (see infra pp. 15-16) made sales to ultimate users nearly impossible, as affiliates repeatedly complained. See Ex. 77 ("I have to have product in order to sell something."); Ex. 78 ("How am I supposed to sell coffee when I can't even get what I order[?]"); Ex. 79 ("The delay in delivery product has interfered with my ability to profit.").

Sixth, Noland admits the obvious: the products are, in fact, irrelevant. Shortly before launching SBH, Noland claimed he could "plug any company or product into [his] process, and you can be free financially if you want to be." (Doc. 8-27 at 87 (19:4-6).) Similarly, he told SBH affiliates not to complain about not receiving products because they could just "sell the vision" (*i.e.*, the business opportunity). (Ex. 35 at 29:18-30:10; see also Doc. 8-14 at 136 (prior team sold \$1 million without product).)

Unsurprisingly, Defendants' undermining of sales to ultimate users is reflected in the data. Offline and online sales to non-affiliates are rare. *See infra* p. 21-23, 30.

4. Defendants Tell Affiliates That They Must Purchase Excessive Products and Pay for "Training" to Achieve Financial Success.

Defendants preach that if affiliates want financial freedom, they must buy products

the products at the wholesale price listed."); Ex. 73 ("Why can a customer order G burn from my website for [the same price as] when I order for myself?").

and attend training events. By doing so, they further remove rewards from true demand.

From the outset, Defendants urge consumers to buy large product packs: the "more inventory you have to start your business, the faster your business typically will grow." (Doc. 222 ¶ 41 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 76(a)); Doc. 8-4 at 113; *see also* Doc. 8-5 at 29 ("The higher the Pack you initially start with, the more money you can make . . . .").) Defendants encourage new affiliates to set auto-orders (Doc. 8-4 at 114), explaining that their success depends on it (Doc. 8-5 at 5-6).

Defendants also push expensive training events on new affiliates. The 1-Year Commitment Form tells them to commit to attending "all Major Corporate Events," at a cost of at least \$4,000 per year. (Doc. 8-5 at 2; Ex. 14 ¶¶ 36-37 (cost).) They add that getting new recruits to events is the "fastest way to build a large, long term team." (Doc. 8-4 at 118.) In Defendants' Million Dollar Contract, affiliates pledge to attend "all SBH corporate trainings and events no matter what." (Doc. 8-13 at 189.)

The pressure does not relent after the affiliate joins. Instead, Defendants push ongoing monthly product purchases untethered to retail demand. At the end of each month, they send an email telling affiliates to "[Q]ualif[y] to the Highest Affiliate Rank Possible!" (Ex. 141.) They remind affiliates, "your Personal Orders count towards your Group Volume Qualifications." (*Id.*) Noland admitted the purpose of these emails is to "create urgency." (Ex. 122.) In one end-of-month video message to affiliates, Harris acknowledged affiliates were holding large volumes of unsold inventory (Doc. 8-12 at 103 (28:9-19)), but urged them to buy more, bragging he and Noland previously carried around "\$25,000 or more in products," and explaining he used to spend \$2,000-3,000 to qualify for higher ranks (Doc. 8-12 at 105 (30:11-22); Ex. 51 at 15:6-18). Noland told one audience not to bother if they were not going to order products every month, later adding that if affiliates wanted to earn millions, they needed \$500 in "personal volume" per month. (Doc. 81-2 at 5 (¶ 17(a)).) Affiliates abide, with the data showing purchase

volume spikes at the end of each month. (Doc. 8-23 at 20-22.)

Defendants require "Founders" and "Global Ambassadors" to purchase \$100-350 in products per month and attend all events at a cost of at least \$4,000 per year or lose their status. (Ex. 63 at 21:1-15; Ex. 69 at 1; Ex. 14 ¶¶ 7, 36-37.) Defendants even forced an affiliate, who missed an event on her doctor's orders because a fall had resulted in "[c]racked discs and such," to make up for it by hitting a rank of SBA1 in three months or lose her status. (Doc. 259-1 at 8.) Defendants' emails confirm affiliates make purchases to maintain rank rather than to satisfy demand. (Ex. 83 ("trying to set up my auto-order . . . in order that I can fulfil my commitments"); Ex. 81 (affiliate "is trying to get her \$250 order in because she's a Global Ambassador"); Ex. 82; Ex. 141 (end-of-month emails remind Founders and Global Ambassadors of purchase obligations).)

Defendants also force purchases by inventing elite groups for affiliates to receive purportedly exclusive benefits. In 2018, for example, SBH announced an "SBH CORE team," which would include 20 affiliates "on the same page mentally with [Noland] on this Millionaire Making journey." (Ex. 135; Ex. 29 at 279:3-280:23.) Members had to subscribe to three Jay Noland training series (\$100 per month plus approximately \$1500 up-front), establish a \$500 Auto-Order, buy a ticket to an upcoming training, and have three recruits also buy tickets. (Ex. 135; Ex. 14 ¶ 38 (cost).) Affiliates submitted applications, but Defendants never even announced a CORE team. (Ex. 124 (Core submissions); Ex. 14 ¶ 15.) The next year, Defendants rebooted the scheme, promoting a new "Pre-Core" team with yet more eligibility criteria. (Ex. 123.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Defendants urge affiliates seeking financial freedom to become "Founders" or "Global Ambassadors" for \$2,500-5,000. (Ex.  $14 \ 13$ ; Ex.  $55 \ at \ 3 \ (8:1-17)$  ("If you want to be an Icon, are you at least a country founder?); Ex.  $56 \ at \ 3 \ (8:7-21)$  ("[I]f they say they want to be wealthy . . . and you ain't global ambassador, you making an extremely . . . unwise decision that you [will] regret."); Ex.  $32 \ at \ 253:19-254:17$  ("[W]e probably said we only want Number 3s" to be Founders or Global Ambassadors).)

### **D.** Defendants Employ No Safeguards to Protect Consumers.

Not only do Defendants encourage excessive buying (untethered to ultimate-user demand), but they also lack any policies to ensure that affiliates' inventory ends up in the hands of ultimate users rather than accumulating in affiliates' garages. For example, Defendants' no-refund policy (*see infra* p. 16) leaves consumers who are unable to sell their personal inventory with no option but to take losses. *See* Ex. 18 at 99 (¶ 161) (no-refund policy is an "anti-safeguard"). Defendants also have no policy that affiliates must resell or use products they purchase or that they maintain a minimal number of retail customers. (Doc. 81-3 at 18 (Noland admitting SBH has no compliance policies); Doc. 8-2 at 17-21 (no safeguards in Terms of Use).)

## E. Defendants' Shipping and Refund Policies and Practices Exacerbate the Harm Caused by Their Pyramid Scheme.

Consistent with their focus on recruitment rather than retail sales, Defendants, by their own admission, routinely wait months to fulfill product orders, if they do so at all. They nevertheless refuse to refund affiliates, even for items never delivered.

Buried in SBH's terms—which are themselves buried in a hyperlink in SBH's website footer—the company states that products "usually" ship within 48 hours, but may not for up to 60 days "or more." (Doc. 8-1 at 7 (¶ 19(b)); Doc. 8-2 at 18.) In affiliates' back offices, Defendants state products ship within "48-72 hours" and add the "60 day or more" exception in a separate section about refunds. (Doc. 8-11 at 580; Doc. 8-12 at 2.)

Defendants frequently fail to meet even these vague projections. Multiple consumers report never receiving products or waiting months for them. *See, e.g.*, Ex. 6 ¶ 17 ("[Shipments] were often late. I received tons of complaints from other Affiliates and customers about delays."); Ex. 22 at 86-87 (products delivered more than 30 days later "quite often"); Ex. 25 at 148:3-149 (never received 3 separate case orders totaling \$1500 in products; never received \$5,000 pack). For some foreign affiliates, Defendants refused to ship products, and required them to travel to the United States to pick up

orders (without saying so in advance). See Ex. 4  $\P$  5; Ex. 11  $\P$  7.

Defendants admit to these prolonged delays. In October 2018, Noland admitted that SBH sold out of all products for a "month, month-and-a-half" at the start of 2018. (Ex. 147 at 16:7-11.) As of March 13, 2018, an internal SBH list showed Defendants owed SBH founders at least \$370,000 in products, all for orders placed at least 30 days prior. (Ex. 102; Ex. 14 ¶ 22.) Defendants also failed to ship orders, totaling at least \$200,000, for at least 30 days and up to a year. (Ex. 14 ¶ 23-27.)

Defendants do not offer consumers the opportunity to cancel delayed orders or receive a refund. In fact, their policy is no refunds "for any reason whatsoever." (Doc. 8-2 at 19.) Unsurprisingly, SBH had, in Noland's words, "a crazy amount" of people ask about shipping delays. (Ex. 57 at 5:23-6:15; *see also* Ex. 33 at 22:4-11 (Noland noting 8 such complaints).) Noland blames complaints on "terrible leadership," not by himself, but by Affiliates, and threatens to terminate anyone if they or their downline complain. (Ex. 57 at 5:23-6:15; *see also* Ex. 36 at 20:4-15 ("If you complain, great chance you're going to be terminated, out, bam. . . . Can't complain, it's one of the rules.").

## F. Defendants Use Their "Training" Events To Amplify Pressure on Affiliates to Make Excessive Purchases.

Defendants consistently pressure affiliates to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars to attend all of Jay Noland's "training" events. Sacca said of one event—with \$3,000-5,000 tickets—"*[t]here's no way you can fail* if you utilize the training that Mr. Noland is going to give us . . . ." (Doc. 8-13 at 4 (8:20-22).) Noland agreed, telling affiliates the only way they could fail to get wealthy, if they and their downline teams attended, was "to shoot yourself in the head." (Doc. 8-1 at 32-33 (¶ 54(c)).) Over almost two years,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Defendants also discourage consumers from recovering money paid for undelivered products by prohibiting chargebacks for any reason (even SBH's failure to deliver) and imposing an onerous confession of judgment clause. (Doc. 8-2 at 19.) In December 2018, Success By Media Holdings Inc. sued nine affiliates, alleging, among other things, that they sought 12 chargebacks. (Doc. 8-20 at 84, 92.)

consumers paid over \$1.2 million to attend Defendants' trainings or to access training materials—approximately 25% all money they paid to SBH. (Doc. 8-23 at 18 (¶ 28).)

Defendants also pressure affiliates to take on debt to attend SBH events (and buy products). Prior to a Florida event, Harris told affiliates they should max out credit cards and take out loans because attending "is what it takes . . . to make it to the top." (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 78); see also Ex. 30 at 245:21-24 ("if you really want to be at the top, you have to spend money, at least in the beginning, to get enough training"); Ex. 62 at 5:12-15 (Sacca boasting consumers "are using multiple credit cards to get to Icon because they . . . see the value"); Ex. 6 (Noland on "us[ing] other people's money").)

At their events, Defendants create a high-pressure sales environment, frequently pressuring affiliates to buy packs or tickets to yet more training events. (Ex. 54 at 10:9-23 (telling affiliates "you were a con" and "you were a fake" if they did not commit to buying tickets to upcoming event); Ex.  $9 \P 9$ , 13.) The order forms distributed at these events bar refunds, rather than informing consumers, as required by law, of their right to a refund. (Exs. 90-98 (order forms); Ex. 31 at 9:23-29:5.) Defendants, in fact, admit that they do not offer legally required refunds. (Doc. 222  $\P 1$  (admitting SAC  $\P 181$ ).)

#### II. VOZ'S FRAUDULENT SALES AND RECRUITING PRACTICES

Defendants' business struggled in 2019. In late August, their accountant, Crystal Roney, sent Jay Noland "internal reporting" showing SBM's net operating income for the year was negative. (Ex. 84 at 1, 9.) SBH product sales had plummeted nearly 33%. (See id. at 9.) Roney warned Noland he needed an "income run." (Id. at 1; see also Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 112 (sales declines)).) Noland turned to what he knows best. See Doc. 8-27 at 96 (53:3-8) (Noland: "I build pyramids, man. . . . That's what I do. I build some little pyramids. Except I'm at the top of the ones I built.").)

In October 2019, Defendants announced a "VOZ Travel" program. The program required enrollees ("Elite Travel Affiliates" or "ETAs") to buy \$1,000-2,795 "packs" to

access a (never-completed) travel platform and earn rewards by recruiting others to buy packs. Even as their efforts to launch the scheme collapsed, they pushed affiliates to keep recruiting others to pay money to SBH. Ultimately, Defendants took in \$1 million from ETAs, but never provided any product or service, and had no ability to do so.

## A. Defendants Lured Consumers to Purchase Expensive VOZ Memberships with Promises of Substantial Income.

From the outset, Defendants promoted VOZ in much the same way as SBH. In one video, Sacca boasted: "Yes, there will be [VOZ] Travel ETAs making over [\$]1.5 million per year. We cannot guarantee you income . . . . We can guarantee you that, if you go to work, you're going to change your life." (Ex. 59 at 17:14-18:8.) Similarly, Noland introduced VOZ by telling SBH affiliates how they could make a "six-figure income just saving people money on travel." (Doc. 8-14 at 107 (51:19-25).)

Defendants' VOZ recruiting presentation echoed those boasts. It touted the ability to earn \$230,000 per year with "casual effort" and \$1.53 million a year by being "on the ball." (Doc. 8-18 at 33-34.) Defendants told consumers, "You will MAKE significant earnings on sharing the platform with others." (Doc. 8-18 at 20; *see also id.* at 27 ("Our lucrative compensation and rewards model presents a fun and profitable path towards financial independence."); Ex. 85 at 4 ("Literally replace your current income.").) VOZ also duplicated SBH's "Power of Ten" recruiting model, telling affiliates that they could earn \$115,000 per month. (Ex. 85 at 7.)

#### **B.** Defendants Paid Commissions to VOZ Members for Recruiting.

SBH affiliates earned rewards by buying VOZ memberships and recruiting others to do the same. During VOZ's permanent pre-launch, consumers could buy a VOZ membership only by spending \$1,000 for a VOZ "movement pack" or \$2,495 for a VOZ "movement founders pack." (Doc. 81-2 at 8; Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 121).) There was no physical "pack," and consumers who bought these "packs" never received any product or service. (Doc. 222 ¶ 72 (admitting in part SAC ¶¶ 123).) Instead, they

obtained the right to receive rewards by recruiting others to spend \$1,000 or more on a pack.<sup>8</sup> For example, Defendants duplicated the SBH "3x3," "4x4," and "5x5"-style cash promotions to reward recruitment of new VOZ ETAs. (Ex. 134.) To earn the 3x3 bonus, one had to buy a VOZ membership "pack" or SBH membership, recruit three others to buy VOZ packs, and have each of them recruit three new VOZ members. (*Id.*) The 3x3 had a \$1,000-2,000 bonus; the 4x4 and 5x5 worked the same way with bigger bonuses. (*Id.*) Defendants also used their "six-tier" commissions for each purchase of a "pack." (Ex. 5 at 5 (\$145 earned primarily on VOZ purchase); *see* Ex. 15 ¶ 22.)

Defendants also provided general recruiting encouragement. In one post, Noland stated that there was "no telling what I'm going to do SPECIAL" for the top VOZ recruiter. (Ex. 128.) As in SBH, Harris and Sacca stressed to new VOZ members that it was "crucial" that they recruit a new member within 48 hours. (Ex. 117; *supra* pp. 8-10.) When affiliates emailed SBH about a new enrollee, Defendants replied, "keep growing," and encouraged them to help the new member recruit others. (Ex. 86.)

#### C. Defendants Never Provided the VOZ Service.

When Defendants announced the VOZ "pre-launch," promising 75% discounts on travel, they had no vendor to provide the service. (Ex. 29 at 136:12-138:21.) Weeks later, they signed a contract with "Advantage Services" to do so. (Doc. 81-2 at 27.)

Two months and \$1 million in VOZ sales later, Jay Noland announced on December 18, 2019 that he would unveil "beta access" to the VOZ platform by year's end. (Doc. 81-2 at 65.) He knew this was untrue (Ex. 106), but tried to create urgency by claiming it was the last day to gain "some fantastic benefits" (Doc. 81-2 at 65). Two days later, he reversed. On a lie-filled call he deemed a "Strategic Timing Release Announcement" (Doc. 81-2 at 68), Noland told ETAs "beta access" would *not* be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Noland was unsure if it was technically necessary to buy a VOZ pack to receive recruiting rewards, but confirmed that an SBH membership (and \$49 fee) was required. (Ex. 29 at 186:13-188:16.) In any event, as described above, Defendants, in practice, strongly encouraged VOZ pack purchases to obtain the recruiting rewards. (Ex. 127.)

1 available (Ex. 60 at 22:10-14). He explained that "two weeks ago something mega 2 happened. I can't even tell you how big it is other than to say it's the biggest travel deal 3 ever," in which "all kind of attorneys" had been "dealing with all of those hotels, cruise 4 lines, airlines, rental cars." (Ex. 60 at 13:17-14:7.) Then, Noland reveled the "news": 5 Well about 72 hours ago it got to the point to where it was close to where it could be inked . . . . It just happened. I want to scream. I want 6 to run out of here, I want to shout, it just happened, a multi-billion 7 dollar inked deal, it's happened, and you're all a part of it. (Ex. 60 at 14:11-18.) The "multibillion dollar inked deal" would result in a "slight push 8 9 on the release" until mid-January. (Ex. 60 at 14:19-23, 22:10-14.) 10 This story was a complete fabrication. There was no "multibillion dollar inked 11 deal" or "biggest travel deal ever." There were no negotiations with "hotels, cruise lines, airlines, rental cars." There was nothing. (Doc. 222 ¶ 77 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 129).) 12 Without missing a beat, Defendants used the delay to announce a new sales contest with 13 14 higher prices. (Doc. 81-2 at 67.) They continued rewarding the recruiting of new ETAs 15 to buy VOZ packs with no actual service in sight. (*Id.*) 16 Two weeks later, and just one week before the revised purported launch date, 17 SBM and Advantage Services both terminated the entities' contract with each other. 18 (Doc. 222 ¶ 79 (admitting in part SAC ¶131).) Defendants pivoted again, telling ETAs 19 that VOZ was not just a travel program, but instead was about "Freedom," "experiences," 20 and "memories." (Ex. 61 at 13:5-18.) Defendants had not retained a new vendor as of 21 entry of the TRO and had not informed ETAs of the obstacles to launching the platform. 22 (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 134); Doc. 81-2 at 11 (¶ 28).) 23 D.

### The VOZ Service, If It Ever Existed, Would Have Rewarded Recruiting in the Same Manner That SBH Did.

Defendants never released a full version of the VOZ commission plan but indicated it would mirror the SBH plan, featuring the "six-tier residual tier" commissions, "Accelerator Pay Match," and "4 Generation Infinity Bonus." See (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 117 (six-tier commissions)); *supra* p. 7; Ex. 85 at 6.)

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#### III. DEFENDANTS' DECEPTION HARMS CONSUMERS.

Defendants' claims that the "masses" can make substantial income by enrolling in SBH and following Defendants' instructions are patently false. In fact, no affiliates made substantial income and very few, if any, could ever do so. Affiliates, excluding the Individual Defendants, are overwhelmingly in a net loss position whether viewed through (1) economic modeling of the SBH plan, (2) SBH's actual data on affiliate purchases and rewards, or (3) actual data from affiliates.

First, Dr. Stacie Bosley, a Ph.D. in Applied Economics and an expert on multilevel marketing who previously has testified in that capacity in this District and in this case, reviewed Defendants' compensation plan and marketing materials. (Ex. 18.) She explained the SBH (and VOZ) plan creates a perpetual chain of recruitment "delivering easily foreseen losses (from a structural perspective) to the vast majority of participants." (Ex. 18 at 4 (¶ 10).) Dr. Bosley's modeling predicts more than 90% of affiliates have to incur losses by following the SBH program. (Ex. 18 at 33 (¶¶ 59-60)), 34 (Table 2); *see also supra* (noting VOZ plan never released in full but would mirror SBH).) Amazingly, the same is true even assuming each affiliate buys \$500 in product per month and sells it for a 75% markup as Defendants instruct. (Ex. 18 at 33 (¶ 61), 35 (Table 3).

Second, consistent with Dr. Bosley's analysis, SBH's own data shows that over 94% of affiliates did not earn enough rewards from SBH to recoup the money they paid to SBH. (Ex. 18 at 100 (¶ 163); Ex. 15 ¶ 17.) Excluding the Defendants, SBH has 6,957 affiliates who earned \$2,174,301 in commissions (\$312 per affiliate), and \$261,640 in product credits (\$38 per affiliate). (Ex. 15 ¶16.) Affiliates purchased \$8.4 million in SBH products and trainings to earn those payouts. (*Id.*) Less than 6% of affiliates (420), received more money from SBH than they paid to it, and that "lucky" few received, on average, a net \$227 per month. (*Id.* ¶¶ 17-18.) Only 11 affiliates netted more than \$10,000, and based on their tenure with SBH, is an average of \$1,581 per year for each of them—a far cry from the \$1,173,500 per month Defendants promised. (*Id.* ¶ 18.) The

273 affiliates who pursued SBH for over 18 months—the time to reach "financial freedom"—had a net loss of \$2.0 million; only 11 had a positive net. (Ex. 14 9 35.)

Third, data from affiliates' actual experience shows nearly all lost money. Sworn testimony from 12 affiliates, 11 of them "Founders" ("3s" seeking financial freedom through SBH who had to be interviewed and cleared by SBH's Senior Field Advisors, *see* Harris Dep. 101:3-20; Sacca Dep. 251:18-23) show they each lost money. (Ex. 14 ¶ 31.) Collectively, the 12 pursued SBH for 125 months, paid SBH \$38,177 for "training" and \$103,924 for memberships/products, incurred \$53,511 in SBH-related expenses, earned \$45,491 in SBH rewards, earned \$20,177 from reselling SBH products, and personally consumed \$13,334 in SBH products. (*Id.*) Together, they lost \$123,195. (*Id.*)

Even affiliates who oppose the Court's injunction did abysmally. The 106 unique affiliates for whom Defendants submitted statements to the Court (with discernable IDs) earned incurred a collective loss of -\$908,103. (Ex.  $15 \, \P \, 20$ .) Just six are net positive (one at \$17). (*Id.*) The top 5 *most successful* of Defendants' hand-picked supporters netted just \$2,556 each on an average, annualized basis. (Ex.  $14 \, \P \, 35$ .)

The results are not much better for Defendants' supporters by adding information about their retail sales and expenses. The FTC subpoenaed 19 affiliates, 5 did not respond (each one of Defendants' 106 supporters). (Doc. 282-1 at 2.) Taking the 9 who gave meaningful data, along with Defendants' purported expert/affiliate who testified under oath, the 10: paid SBH \$52,827 for "training" and \$232,337 for memberships and products, incurred \$73,285 in SBH-related expenses, earned \$242,631 in rewards from SBH, earned \$248,804 from reselling SBH products, and personally consumed \$85,941 of product. (Ex. 15 ¶ 32.) Over their collective 212 months in SBH, they netted on average, \$93.50 per month (or, \$36 per month by excluding the top affiliate). (Ex. 15 ¶¶

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Harris testified 3% of affiliates were "3s" seeking financial freedom, the ultimate SBH achievement. (Ex. 30 at 127:13-22.) That equates to 209 affiliates; together, they netted \$417,691, or \$1,998 per affiliate on average for their entire tenure. (Ex. 15  $\P$  21.)

32-33.) Finally, post-TRO, with recruiting incentives gone, only 45 of the 106 pro-Defendant affiliates made a SBH purchase, demonstrating the lack of actual personal use, or retail demand, for SBH products. (Ex. 15 ¶¶ 26-27.) The 45's collective spending on products also dropped from \$772 per day pre-TRO to \$236 per day post-TRO. *Id*.

Affiliates' testimony reinforces what the data shows: Defendants prey on consumers and push them to turn over what savings they may have and go deeper into debt. *See* Ex. 18 at 90-94 (quoting examples). The results are devastating. One affiliate quit her job of 27 years to follow Noland after being cleared to become a SBH "Founder," only to lose \$10,000, have to quit, and struggle to make half of what she did before at a new job. (Ex. 9  $\P$  4, 11; *see also* Ex. 22 at 90:17-91:24, 97:2-99:2 (life savings gone); Ex. 4 (\$47,180 lost; family ties severed); Ex. 25 at 6:6-7, 158:10-23 (sold home to go "all-in with SBH," ended up bankrupt); Ex. 6 at 1 (credit damaged).)

By contrast, the Individual Defendants did great. They paid \$5,690 to SBM (net of product credits), yet received \$1.7 million from it, far more than anyone else. (*See* Ex.  $15 \, \P \, 13$ ; Ex.  $16 \, \P \, 23$ ; *cf.* Ex.  $30 \, \text{at} \, 29$ :3-17 (Harris: in part, "a pyramid scheme would be . . . only the people at the top can make money).)

#### IV. THE DEFENDANTS

Defendants conduct their schemes through three corporate entities: **Success By Media LLC** ("Success By Media" or "SBM"), **Success By Media Holdings Inc.** ("SBM Holdings"), and **Enhanced Capital Funding** ("ECF"). (Doc. 222 ¶¶ 1, 6 (admitting in part SAC ¶¶ 14, 145).) SBH is an "unincorporated division" of Success By Media, which itself is a wholly owned subsidiary of SBM Holdings. (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶¶ 6-7).) Success By Media and SBM Holdings "operat[e] as one corporation." (*id.* ¶ 142). ECF operated as a conduit by which the Nolands paid themselves money from Success By Media. (Doc. 163 Ex. A ¶ 12; Doc. 8-22 at 13, ¶18). Since July 1, 2017, 97.6 % of all credits to ECF bank accounts referenced Success By Media. (Doc. 163-1 at

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6.) Lina Noland viewed the ECF account as a "personal account," and used it for things like "groceries" and swim lessons. (Ex. 388 at 112:21-113:12, 116:21-117:14.)

Defendants attribute some of the SBM-to-ECF transfers to a "Royalty Agreement" through which ECF purportedly allowed SBM to use ECF's product formulas. That "agreement," however, was not negotiated at arm's length. (Ex. 28 at 125:11-22.) Other transfers are "loans" for which there is no documentation. (Doc. 163-3 at 3; Ex. 28 at 49:13-50:2.) Defendants claim that ECF "manages" Jay Noland's books and training series and licenses the rights to SBM, though no such written agreement exists. (Doc. 163-1 at 13, 15-16, 21; Doc. 163-2 at 2-3; Ex. 390 at 124:24-125:10.) The Individual Defendants admit the Corporate Defendants "have operated in a common enterprise" and "commingled funds and have or had common ownership, officers, managers, business functions, and office locations." (Doc. 222 ¶ 6 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 14).)

Jay and Lina Noland were directors of SBM Holdings (Doc. 8-1 at 72) and the sole managers of Success by Media (*id.* at 68). The Nolands also were the sole signatories on the Corporate Defendants' shared bank accounts. (Doc. 8-24 at 3, 6, 15; Doc. 8-24 at 4.) Jay Noland is the majority owner of SBM Holdings and serves as its CEO and as the CEO of Success by Media. (Doc. 8-20 at 135, 137, 139, 151.) He also identifies himself as the CEO of Success By Health. (Doc. 8-2 at 36.) Lina Noland identifies herself as "Co-Owner at Success By Health." (Doc. 8-13 at 187; Ex. 31 at 30:4 (describing self as "the owner of the company").) The Nolands were involved in "product development, website development, sales, [and] overseeing management." (Doc. 222 ¶¶ 1, 7 (admitting in part SAC ¶¶ 15, 41).) From the "start," Lina Noland "[took] charge and supervised" SBM's product shipping and customer service department. (Ex. 31 at 20:6–21:7, 33:3-5). She also developed an SBH magazine for recruiting, worked to expand SBH to Spanish-speakers, and regularly posted to the SBH Facebook group to promote SBH. (Doc. 8-14 at 141-149; Doc. 8-15 at 2.)

Scott Harris and Thomas Sacca held senior roles in SBH from the start and were

pivotal in its launch. (Doc. 8-14 at 23 (18:8-20:20).) Harris served as senior field advisor and president of SBH and SBM, and on the board of SBM Holdings. (Doc. 222 ¶ 5 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 12); Ex. 29 at 46:11-19.) Sacca served as senior field advisor, chief sales officer, and chief visionary officer for the same entities. (Doc. 222 ¶ 5 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 13).) They made the above-described false income claims in hundreds of company calls and gatherings. (Doc. 8-1 at 29, 43 (¶¶ 44, 61).)

Each of the Individual Defendants admit they "had knowledge of, formulated, directed, controlled, had the authority to control, or participated in, the acts and practices of" the Corporate Defendants. (Doc. 222 ¶ 7 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 15).) They also each admit to promoting recruitment into SBH and developing or revising SBH's commission plan. (Doc. 222 ¶¶ 1, 5-7 (admitting in part SAC ¶¶ 10-15, 36, 43).)

#### **LEGAL STANDARD**

"Summary judgment is appropriate when 'there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." *Rookaird v. BNSF Railway Co.*, 908 F.3d 451, 459 (9th Cir. 2018) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a)). "Where," as here, "the moving party will bear the burden of proof on an issue at trial, the movant must affirmatively demonstrate that no reasonable trier of fact of fact could find other than for the moving party." *Soremekun v. Thrifty Payless, Inc.*, 509 F.3d 978, 984 (9th Cir. 2007). "If the moving party meets its initial burden, the non-moving party must set forth, by affidavit or as otherwise provided in Rule 56, specific facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial." *Id.* (quotation marks omitted).

#### **ARGUMENT**

The undisputed facts prove that (1) SBH and VOZ were pyramid schemes, (2) Defendants promoted those schemes using false claims that affiliates could reasonably expect to earn substantial income (including financial freedom) by following Defendants' instructions, (3) Defendants provided affiliates the means and instrumentalities to violate the FTC Act, (4) Defendants violated the Merchandise Rule by failing to timely ship

products or provide refunds, and (5) Defendants violated the Cooling-Off Rule by failing to offer a three-day right of rescission on sales taking place at events. Additionally, the undisputed facts establish that the Corporate Defendants are all liable for these violations because they are a common enterprise, and the Individual Defendants are all liable because they directly participated in, had authority to control, and had knowledge of the Corporate Defendants' unlawful acts.

### I. DEFENDANTS VIOLATED THE FTC ACT BY OPERATING THE SBH AND VOZ PYRAMID SCHEMES.

Section 5(a) of the FTC Act prohibits "unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce." 15 U.S.C. § 45(a). Operating a pyramid scheme violates § 5(a). FTC v. BurnLounge, Inc., 753 F.3d 878, 880 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing In re Koscot Interplanetary, Inc., 86 F.T.C. 1106, 1178, 1181 (1975)). To prove that the Defendants' operated a pyramid scheme, the FTC must show participants paid money to SBM "in return for which they receive[d] (1) the right to sell a product and (2) the right to receive in return for recruiting other participants into the program rewards which are unrelated to sale of the product to ultimate users." Id. at 883. The undisputed evidence establishes both elements for SBH and VOZ. In addition, Dr. Bosley independently reviewed SBH and VOZ and found them to be pyramids in her expert opinion. (Ex. 18.)<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Defendants presented a "Fraud Expert Report" that the FTC plans to move under *Daubert* to exclude. It is by an SBH affiliate and VOZ Founder who determined SBH is not "fraudulent" even though he—has never been an expert, has no academic training or work experience in economics or pyramids or MLMs, declared his "closest case" to this one was "completely different," did not review the data that Dr. Bosley did (and wrongly declared she didn't review any either), was "[n]ot sure there would be a specific method" he used in his analysis, had not applied (or read) *Omnitrition* or *BurnLounge*, was unfamiliar with inventory loading and safeguards, and had gifted his services to Defendants and admitted that (in his view) he may make money through SBH if Defendants win. Ex. 33 at 18:12-19, 21:11-24:2, 43:18-24, 61:24-62:3, 68:6-8, 72:17-21, 74:11-13, 97:2:9, 112:1-15, 141:25-142:16, 174:18-24, 177:1-180:25, 183:4-184:23, 186:8-13, 196:21-23, 201:11-20, 214:5-7, 229:18-25, 261:12-16.

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#### A. Success By Health Is a Pyramid Scheme.

#### 1. Prong 1: Participants Pay Money for the Right to Sell Products.

The first prong of the pyramid test can be satisfied "by a required purchase to become a distributor" or a "required purchase of non-returnable inventory to receive the full benefits of the program." *FTC v. Vemma Nutrition Co.*, 2015 WL 11118111, at \*3 (D. Ariz. Sept. 18, 2015). Where the "bonus structure and training materials are designed to make new Affiliates buy a [product pack]," payment for the right to sell the company's product may be considered a "practical" requirement that satisfies the first *Koscot* prong. *Id.* at \*4. SBH satisfies the first prong of the *Koscot* test both through its \$49 annual fee and its strongly encouraged upfront non-refundable pack purchases. (Ex. 424 at 3-4.)

First, SBH affiliates must pay \$49 annually to become and remain affiliates. *See supra* p. 3. The fee entitles them to "sell" SBH products through an SBH website unique to them. *See supra* p. 6. This satisfies the first element of the pyramid test. *See BurnLounge*, 753 F.3d at 883 (\$29.95 for "ready made . . . web page" to sell products).

Second, Defendants drove new affiliates to purchase non-refundable product packs. *See supra* pp. 7-8, 13. This requirement also satisfies the first prong because the purchase of a product pack is a "practical" requirement for full participation in the program. *See Vemma*, 2015 WL 11118111, at \*4.

## 2. Prong 2: Success By Health Participants Pay Money in Return for the Right to Receive Recruiting-Based Rewards.

The second prong of the test is "the *sine qua non* of a pyramid scheme" and requires proof that affiliates receive rewards based on recruiting new participants rather than selling products to ultimate users. *See BurnLounge*, 753 F.3d at 883-84. Rewards are "facially unrelated to the sale of the product to ultimate users [when they are] paid based on the suggested retail price of the amount *ordered from* [the company], rather than based on *actual sales to* consumers." *Webster v. Omnitrition Int'l, Inc.*, 79 F.3d 776, 782 (9th Cir. 1996) (emphasis in original); *FTC v. Equinox Int'l Corp.*, 1999 WL 1425373, at

\*6 (D. Nev. Sept. 14, 1999) (same). In short, the second prong is met when "rewards are received by purchasing product and recruiting others to do the same." *Equinox*, 1999 WL 1425373, at \*6.

The FTC need not prove that rewards are "completely unrelated to product sales," and a company cannot "save itself from liability by engaging in some retail sales." *BurnLounge*, 753 F.3d at 885-86 (emphasis added). As a result, a company is a pyramid scheme if "the rewards the participants received in return were *largely* for recruitment, not for product sales." *Id.* at 886 (emphasis added). Thus, for example, a pyramid scheme exists where the "mere structure of the scheme suggests that [the company's] focus was in promoting *the program* rather than selling *the products*." *Id.* at 884.

Additionally, sales to consumers within the program (here, affiliates) are not considered ultimate-user sales if those affiliates would not have purchased the products but for the income opportunity. *Vemma*, 2015 WL 11118111, at \*3. Thus, "when evaluating whether a company's rewards are based primarily on recruitment or sales to ultimate users, courts also consider whether the company has promulgated, and effectively enforced, policies to prevent inventory loading." Doc. 106 at 14 (citing *Omnitrition*, 79 F.3d at 783; *Vemma*, 2015 WL 11118111, at \*4; *Bostick v. Herbalife Int'l of Am., Inc.*, 2013 WL 12131732, at \*4 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 11, 2013)).

Here, Affiliates' rewards are based almost exclusively on recruiting rather than retail sales because (1) Defendants pay rewards based entirely on recruiting or *purchases from* SBH, rather than *sales to* ultimate users, (2) defendants encourage affiliates to recruit to max their earnings, and (3) Defendants employ no safeguards to prevent, and in fact encourage, inventory loading. The post-TRO collapse in SBH product sales confirms that recruiting incentives drove purchases, rather than legitimate demand.

First, SBH is facially a pyramid scheme because it does not condition any of its rewards on whether affiliates sell products to ultimate users. Rather, it pays affiliates

based on amounts ordered from the company, without regard to who is ordering or for what purpose, and recruiting. *See supra* p. 7; Doc. 8-5 at 37-42; Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 26). In this respect, SBH is indistinguishable from others found to be or likely to be pyramids. *Omnitrition*, 79 F.3d at 782; *Equinox*, 1999 WL 1425373, at \*6; *Vemma*, 2015 WL 11118111, at \*4.

In fact, SBH is in a worse position because Defendants *admit* that SBH treats *no* purchases from the company as sales to ultimate users. Defendants, for example, refuse to collect any sales tax for this reason. (Exs. 80, 87.) Noland trained affiliates that purchases from SBH—*i.e.*, the "sales" that paid commissions—are "Not Retail" (Ex. 374) and swore to the IRS that SBM's business was "sell[ing] to wholesale distributors" (Ex. 88 at 5; *see also* Ex. 72 ("wholesale company first and foremost").)

Second, Defendants incentivize recruiting over ultimate-user sales. Tellingly, they expressly instruct affiliates that recruiting is the key to financial freedom. See supra pp. 9-10. Internally, they admit recruiting is their "MAIN FOCUS," and their commission plan and training materials reflect this focus. See supra pp. 9-10. Many rewards pay consumers cash in direct exchange for recruiting new members who buy packs. See supra pp. 7-8. Others rewards—such as the percentage-based "residual team commissions"—in theory could be based on online sales at wholesale price to non-affiliates through an affiliates' website (on which affiliates receive a commission), but in practice are not. See supra pp. 7, 21-23, infra p. 30. Instead, affiliates must build extensive downline teams to obtain meaningful income. See supra pp. 7-10.

While economic modeling or analysis of a company's or its affiliates' data are not necessary, courts have relied on much more limited sets of data than the FTC has provided here in finding companies to be or likely to be a pyramid. *See Omnitrition*, 79

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> SBH's "four steps to success" matches the four from Vemma, found likely to be a pyramid. *Compare* 2015 WL 11118111, at \*1-2, *with supra* p. 8.

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F.3d 776 (no data); *Equinox*, 1999 WL 1425373 (same); *BurnLounge*, 753 F.3d at 888-89 (upholding use of "mathematical projections and formulas"); *Vemma*, 2015 WL 11118111, at \*2 (71% of sales were to Vemma distributors, nearly three-fourths of whom received a commission did not earn enough from Vemma to recoup their investments). The evidence in this case is compelling. More than 94% of product purchases from SBH were by affiliates, and over 94% of affiliates did not earn enough compensation to recoup their costs based on their purchase and reward activity. (Ex. 15 ¶¶ 15, 17.) Data from affiliates about their retail sales, personal consumption, and expenses demonstrate the financially terrible outcome for consumers. *See supra* pp. 21-23.

Third, rather than safeguards to protect against inventory loading, Defendants employed "anti-safeguards." They enforced a no-refund policy, had no requirement to sell to ultimate users, and had no policy to verify affiliates' sales to ultimate users. See supra p. 15. Worse yet, they actively encouraged inventory loading. See supra pp. 13-15. As a result, affiliate purchases—almost the sole basis for commissions—are divorced from demand and are not ultimate-user sales.

Fourth, the collapse of SBH product sales once the Receiver ended SBH's recruiting incentives (Ex.  $15 \, \P \, 26\text{-}27$ ) confirms that it was those incentives, rather than demand for the products, that drove product purchases.

### B. VOZ Travel Is a Pyramid Scheme.

### 1. Prong 1: Participants Paid Money for the Right to Sell Products.

As described *supra* pp. 17-18, consumers (VOZ "ETAs") paid \$1,000-2,795 for the right (never actually realized) to sell discount travel to the public through the VOZ booking platform. This payment satisfies prong 1 of the pyramid test.

## 2. Prong 2: VOZ Travel Participants Paid Money in Return for the Right to Receive Recruiting-Based Rewards.

Because Defendants' product never actually existed, it is clear the rewards they offered (and paid) were based "largely"—in fact, entirely—on recruiting. *See supra* pp.

17-20. Tellingly, Defendants continued to offer these rewards even after their platform collapsed. *See supra* pp. 19-20.

Even if the booking platform did exist—and it were, therefore, theoretically possible to base rewards on ultimate-user sales—Defendants had no plan to do so. Instead, they simply planned to transfer the recruitment-focused SBH commission plan to VOZ. *See supra* p. 20. As in SBH, they were explicit about their asking affiliates to focus on recruiting—showing them that using a "team-building [recruiting] model" would yield vastly greater rewards than a "customer [non-recruiting] model." (Doc. 8-18 at 31-34.) Finally, Dr. Bosley affirms these findings. (Ex. 18 at 75-84.)

#### II. DEFENDANTS' FALSE INCOME CLAIMS VIOLATE THE FTC ACT.

Defendants' deceptive income claims violate the FTC Act's prohibition against "deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce." 15 U.S.C. § 45(a)(1). Deception occurs when: (1) defendants make a representation or omission; (2) that is likely to mislead consumers acting reasonably; and (3) that representation or omission is material to consumers' purchasing decisions. *See, e.g., FTC v. Gill*, 265 F.3d 944, 950 (9th Cir. 2001). The evidence here establishes all three elements.

*First*, Defendants promise that enrolling in SBH or VOZ and following their instructions allow consumers to earn substantial income, becoming financially free in 18 months and reaping million-dollar monthly or yearly payouts. *See supra* pp. 2-6, 18-19.

Second, Defendants' claims of substantial income are likely to mislead consumers because they are false. See, e.g., FTC v. Pantron I Corp., 33 F.3d 1088, 1096 (9th Cir. 1994) (false claims likely to mislead); see also Resort Car Rental Sys., Inc. v. FTC, 518 F.2d 962, 964 (9th Cir. 1975) ("Advertising capable of being interpreted in a misleading way should be construed against the advertiser."). The vast majority of consumers are mathematically doomed to fail (over 90%) no matter how hard they work. See supra p. 21. Purchasing and commission data support this conclusion (94% failure rate). Id. Also, Defendants' claims about Noland's wealth and success of his trainees—which

Defendants used to justify their misleading statements—are false. See supra pp. 3-5.

Third, Defendants' misrepresentations are material. A claim is material "if it involves information that is important to consumers and, hence, likely to affect their choice of, or conduct regarding, a product." FTC v. Cyberspace.com, LLC, 453 F.3d 1196, 1201 (9th Cir. 2006). Courts presume express claims to be material. See, e.g., Pantron I, 33 F.3d at 1095-96. Implied claims are also presumed material if they are "deliberately made," FTC v. Natural Solution, Inc., 2007 WL 8315533, at \*3 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 7, 2007), or if they "pertain to the central characteristics of the products or services being marketed," FTC v. John Beck Amazing Profits, LLC, 865 F. Supp. 2d 1052, 1076 (C.D. Cal. 2012). "Courts consistently conclude that misrepresentations regarding income potential are material." Vemma, 2015 WL 11118111, at \*5 (citing FTC v. Five-Star Auto Club, Inc., 97 F. Supp. 2d 502, 528-29 (S.D.N.Y. 2000)); Nat'l Dynamics Corp. v. FTC, 492 F.2d 1333, 1335 (2d Cir. 1974)).

Here, Defendants make express claims relating to a "central characteristic" of SBH and VOZ—consumers' projected incomes. Thus, the claims are presumed material. Even without this presumption, however, Defendants' claims are material because their promises of substantial income plainly affect consumers' purchasing decisions.

### III. DEFENDANTS PROVIDE AFFILIATES WITH MEANS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES TO VIOLATE THE FTC ACT.

"Those who put into the hands of others the means by which they mislead the public, are themselves guilty of a violation of Section 5 of the [FTC] Act." *Waltham Watch Co. v. FTC*, 318 F.2d 28, 32 (7th Cir. 1963). Defendants give affiliates materials with false income promises, including claims that affiliates are achieving "financial freedom" now and that such wealth is "achievable for the masses." *See supra* pp. 2-5.

#### IV. DEFENDANTS VIOLATE THE MERCHANDISE RULE BY FAILING TO OFFER AND PROVIDE REFUNDS

The FTC's Merchandise Rule requires merchants who are unable to deliver

internet orders within 30 days—or within any other time "clearly and conspicuously" stated during the ordering process—to provide affected customers with the opportunity to consent to a shipping delay or to cancel the order and receive a refund. 16 C.F.R. § 435.2(b)(1). If a merchant fails to seek consent and offer cancellation, or if any buyer requests cancellation, the merchant must provide a refund. 16 C.F.R. § 435.2(c)(1).

Defendants admit they violated the Merchandise Rule (Doc. 222 ¶¶ 1, 106-107 (admitting in part SAC ¶¶ 170-173)), contesting only how frequently they did so. Because they did not clearly and conspicuously disclose a shipping date (*see supra* p. 15), they were obligated to ship products within 30 days. *See* 16 C.F.R. § 435.2(a)(1). There is no dispute that, for at least \$570,000 in product sales, however, Defendants waited beyond 30 days to ship orders, if they ever did so. *See supra* pp. 15-16. Instead of offering and providing the required refunds, Defendants mocked, threatened, and even sued those who sought refunds or asked about delayed orders. *See supra* pp. 15-16.

## V. DEFENDANTS VIOLATE THE COOLING-OFF RULE BY FAILING TO INFORM CONSUMERS OF THEIR RESCISSION RIGHTS.

The FTC's Cooling-Off Rule gives consumers the right to cancel, within three business days, any purchase of at least \$130 in goods or services (including "courses of instruction or training") that occurs at a location other than the merchant's place of business. 16 C.F.R. § 429.1(g). The Rule also requires the merchant to inform the buyer of this right, both verbally and in writing, 16 C.F.R. § 429.1(a), (e), and provide a form "Notice of Cancellation" that the buyer can use to cancel the sale, 16 C.F.R. § 429.1(b).

Defendants admit they violated the Cooling-Off Rule (Doc. 222 ¶ 1 (admitting SAC ¶ 181)), again challenging only the extent of their violations. Defendants made at least \$500,000 in \$130-plus sales of event tickets and product packs at their hotel-based events. (Ex. 14 ¶ 36.) Defendants failed to offer the required three-day right of rescission to anyone and, in effect, enforced an *anti*-Cooling-Off Rule by prohibiting refunds of any kind. *See supra* pp. 15-16.

#### VI. THE CORPORATE DEFENDANTS ACTED IN A COMMON ENTERPRISE AND ARE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE.

"When corporate entities operate together as a common enterprise, each may be held liable for the deceptive acts and practices of the others." *FTC v. Grant Connect*, *LLC*, 763 F.3d 1094, 1105 (9th Cir. 2014). A common enterprise exists where there is "no real distinction among the companies" operating the scheme. *FTC v. J.K. Pub., Inc.*, 99 F. Supp. 2d 1176, 1202 (C.D. Cal. 2000); *see also FTC v. Neovi, Inc.*, 598 F. Supp. 2d 1104, 1116 (S.D. Cal. 2008) (listing factors considered, *e.g.*, "common control, sharing of office space and officers, whether business is transacted through a 'maze of interrelated companies,' the commingling of corporate funds, unified advertising, and any other evidence revealing that no real distinction existed between the corporate defendants").

The Individual Defendants admit that the Corporate Defendants "operated as a common enterprise." (Doc. 222 ¶¶ 6-7 (admitting in part SAC ¶¶ 14-15).) They also admit the Defendants satisfy the relevant factors, having "commingled funds" and shared "common ownership, officers, managers, business functions, and office locations." (Doc. 222 ¶ 6 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 14).) The undisputed facts support these admissions.

#### VII. THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS ARE LIABLE FOR MONETARY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.

An individual defendant is liable for corporate defendants' violations of the FTC Act or rules promulgated thereunder if that individual "had authority to control" the unlawful acts or "participated directly" in them. *FTC v. Publishing Clearing House, Inc.*, 104 F.3d 1168, 1170 (9th Cir. 1997). A defendant is also liable for equitable monetary relief if he or she had knowledge of the unlawful acts. *Id.* at 1171. Here, both elements are satisfied for each of the Individual Defendants.

First, Defendants admit to their authority to control Defendants' business practices or their participation in those practices. (Doc. 222  $\P$  7 (admitting in part SAC  $\P$  15—that the Individual Defendants have "formulated, directed, controlled, had the authority to

control, or participated in, the acts or practices of the [Corporate Defendants]").) Those admissions are supported by Defendants' status as corporate officers, which evidence their authority to control. *See, e.g., FTC v. Transnet Wireless Corp.*, 506 F. Supp. 2d 1247, 1270 (S.D. Fla. 2007) (status as a corporate officer gives rise to a presumption of ability to control a small, closely-held corporation). Each of the Defendants also participated in the unlawful acts by making income misrepresentations, recruiting participants, and developing SBH's illegal commission plan. *See supra* pp. 24-25.

Second, the Individual Defendants are monetarily liable for the Corporate Defendants' unlawful acts because they knew of the acts. *See FTC v. Affordable Media*, 179 F.3d 1228, 1234 (9th Cir. 1999). The knowledge prong can be met by proving actual knowledge, reckless indifference, or "awareness of a high probability of fraud" with "intentional avoidance of the truth." *Publ'g Clearing House*, 104 F.3d at 1171. The Ninth Circuit has found liability where defendants' "central involvement" in a scheme made them at least recklessly indifferent to whether the scheme's "profit potential" claims were true, especially where the "promised yields . . . were so extraordinary that [they] should have been suspicious." *Affordable Media*, 179F.3d at 1235-36.

Defendants admit to having "knowledge of . . . the acts and practices of the [Corporate Defendants]." (Doc. 222 ¶ 7 (admitting in part SAC ¶ 15).) The evidence also establishes the Individual Defendants' "central involvement" and therefore knowledge. *See supra* pp. 24-25. This is especially true here, where all of the Defendants have been centrally involved in SBH scheme from the start. *Id.* As in *Affordable Media*, each at least should have investigated whether their promises of lucrative earnings were actually true.

#### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the FTC respectfully requests that the Court enter summary judgment as to liability against all Defendants on all counts.

#### Case 2:20-cv-00047-DWL Document 285 Filed 03/12/21 Page 41 of 41

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2	Dated: March 12, 2021	Respectfully submitted,
3		
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15 16	TAB	BLE OF EXHIBITS			
14	Defendants.	LIABILITY			
13	James D. Noland, Jr., et al.,	SUMMARY JUDGMENT AS TO			
12	V.	OF PLAINTIFF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION'S MOTION FOR			
11	Plaintiff,	TABLE OF EXHIBITS IN SUPPORT			
10	Federal Trade Commission,	No. CV-20-0047-PHX-DWL			
9					
8	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA				
7					
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1	EVAN M. MENDELSON, DC Bar No. 996765				

N	MSJ Ex. No.	Description
		DVD OF AUDIO/VIDEO FILES
		Exhibit 1-01: Jay Noland 04/21/2018
		Exhibit 1-02: Scott Harris 04/22/2018
		Exhibit 1-03: Jay Noland 04/22/2018
		Exhibit 1-04: Jay Noland 04/22/2018
	1	Exhibit 1-05: Jay Noland 06/24/2018
		Exhibit 1-06: Jay Noland 10/13/2018
		Exhibit 1-07: Jay Noland 10/13/2018
		Exhibit 1-08: Scott Harris 04/23/2019
		Exhibit 1-09: Scott Harris 04/27/2019
		Exhibit 1-10: Jay Noland 04/27/2019

1	MSJ Ex. No.	Description
2		Exhibit 1-11: Jay Noland & Tommy Sacca 04/27/2019
3		Exhibit 1-12: Jay Noland 04/27/2019
4		DVD OF AUDIO/VIDEO AND EXCEL FILES
5		Exhibit 2-01: Jay Noland 09/06/2019
6		Exhibit 2-02: Jay Noland 09/06/2019
7		Exhibit 2-03: Jay Noland 09/06/2019
8		Exhibit 2-04: Jay Noland 09/06/2019
		Exhibit 2-05: Jay Noland 09/06/2019
9		Exhibit 2-06: Jay Noland 09/07/2019
10	2	Exhibit 2-07: Jay Noland 09/07/2019
11	2	Exhibit 2-08: Jay Noland 09/07/2019
12		Exhibit 2-09: Jay Noland & Tony Potter 12/20/2019
13		Exhibit 2-10: Jay Noland & Duvan Botero 01/08/2020
14		Exhibit 2-11: CL001162
15		Exhibit 2-12: Affiliate Orders Workbook -
16		"sbh-affiliate-orders-comms-totals-20200203.xls"
17		Exhibit 2-13: SBH 2019 Yearend Report -
18		"sbh-2019-yearend-reports-v20200202.xls"
19	3	Barnhouse Declaration 04/27/2020 (FTCSBM-0002227)
20	4	Myhrer Declaration 05/07/2020 (FTCSBM-0002228)
21	5	Kralapp Declaration 05/03/2020 (FTCSBM-0002229)
22	6	Ballard Declaration 05/22/2020 (FTCSBM-0003438)
23   24	7	S. Underhill Declaration (FTCSBM-0003956)
25	8	McMillan Declaration 03/05/2021
26	9	Wilder Declaration 03/09/2021
27	10	Van Liere Declaration 03/11/2021
28	•	

1	MSJ Ex. No.	Description
2	11	Ibrahim Declaration 06/28/2019
3	12	Bose Declaration 07/11/2019
5	13	Wood Declaration 05/18/2020 (FTCSBM-0003439)
6	14	Rottner Declaration 03/12/2021
7	15	Miles Declaration 03/12/2021
8	16	Agarwal Declaration 03/11/2021
9	17	Trombley Declaration 03/12/2021
10	18	Expert Report of Stacie Bosley 12/23/2020
11   12	19	Rebuttal Expert Report of Stacie Bosley 02/04/2021
13	20	Intentionally omitted
14	21	Intentionally omitted
15	22	Excerpts from the Deposition of S. Underhill 08/11/2020
16	23	Excerpts from the Deposition of J. Underhill 08/11/2020
17 18	24	Excerpts from the Deposition of K. Sarzynski 08/12/2020
19	25	Excerpts from the Deposition of J. Johnson 08/13/2020
20	26	Intentionally omitted
21	27	Excerpts from the Deposition of L. Noland 02/04/2020
22	28	Excerpts from the Deposition of J. Noland, Jr. 02/05/2020
23   24	29	Excerpts from the Deposition of J. Noland, Jr. 12/14/2020
25	30	Excerpts from the Deposition of S. Harris 12/15/2020
26	31	Excerpts from the Deposition of L. Noland 12/16/2020
27	32	Excerpts from the Deposition of T. Sacca 12/18/2020
28		

1	MSJ Ex. No.	Description
2	33	Excerpts from the Deposition of W. Raybourn 02/24/2021
3	34	Transcript - Jay Noland 12/04/2017
5	35	Transcript - Jay Noland 12/19/2017
6	36	Transcript - Jay Noland 02/14/2018
7	37	Transcript - Jay Noland 04/21/2018
8	38	Transcript - Scott Harris 04/22/2018
9	39	Transcript - Jay Noland 04/22/2018
10	40	Transcript - Jay Noland 04/22/2018
11   12	41	Transcript - Jay Noland 06/24/2018
13	42	Transcript - Jay Noland 10/13/2018
14	43	Transcript - Jay Noland 10/13/2018
15	44	Transcript - Jay Noland 11/23/2018
.6	45	Transcript - Jay Noland 01/26/2019
17	46	Transcript - Scott Harris 04/27/2019
9	47	Transcript - Jay Noland & Thomas Sacca 04/27/2019
0	48	Transcript - Jay Noland 04/27/2019
1	49	Transcript - Jay Noland 04/27/2019
2	50	Transcript - Scott Harris 04/27/2019
23   24	51	Transcript - Scott Harris 05/31/2019
25	52	Transcript - Jay Noland 09/06/2019
26	53	Transcript - Jay Noland 09/06/2019
27	54	Transcript - Jay Noland 09/07/2019
28		

MSJ Ex. No.	Description
55	Transcript - Jay Noland 09/07/2019
56	Transcript - Jay Noland 09/07/2019
57	Transcript - Jay Noland 10/05/2019
58	Transcript - Jay Noland 10/20/2019
59	Transcript - Thomas Sacca 12/17/2019
60	Transcript - Jay Noland 12/20/2019
61	Transcript - Jay Noland and Duvan Botero 01/08/2020
62	Transcript - Thomas Sacca 08/31/2019
63	Transcript - Jay Noland 04/04/2019 (FTCSBM-0000246)
64	Transcript - Jay Noland 05/01/2019 (FTCSBM-0000252)
65	Excerpts from ICON PowerPoint Slide Deck (CL007329)
66	Excerpts from 2018 SBH Kickoff PowerPoint Slide Deck (CL005699)
67	Excerpts from SBH Bootcamp PowerPoint Slide Deck (CL006303)
68	Excerpts from RED PowerPoint Slide Deck (CL007033)
69	Email from SBH to Sarah Jolicoeur re: 10 Affiliates added for promotion, 09/30/2018
70	Email from Robert Mehler to SBH, re: USA Tour, 01/07/2019
71	Email from Rylie to Lorenzo Valentini re: Tickets, 12/27/2017
72	Email from SBH to Lina Noland re: Tickets, 05/30/2018
73	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re: Tickets, 07/31/2019

MSJ Ex. No.	Description
74	Email from Donna Stacy to Thomas Sacca re: G-burn sale price, 01/05/2020
75	Email from Jay Noland to Scott Harris re: UPC Codes, 07/23/2018 (CL035445)
76	Email from Julian to Scott Harris re: SBH Retail Qs, 08/12/2018
77	Email from Rylie Qualls to Jay Noland re: termination letter, 02/07/2018 (CL020575)
78	Email from Lorenzo Valentini to Lina Noland re: Tickets, 03/14/2019
79	Email from Valorie Noel to Scott Harris re: missing half of founders pack, 08/12/2018
80	Email from Jay Noland to Paul Garner re: update, 05/09/2017 (CL033069)
81	Email from Scott Harris to Andrea Selby re: shipping issues, 11/29/2019
82	Email from Birgit Bonin to SBH re: auto order and GA package, 12/27/2019
83	Email from Scott Harris to Andrea Selby re: assistance with auto-order, 11/15/2018
84	Email from Crystal Roney to Jay Noland re: Internal Reporting, 08/26/2019 (CL085122)
85	VOZ Presentation "Owning the Keys to the Castle"
86	Email from SBH to Isabel H re: I got mine, 12/18/2019 (FTCSBM-0003697)
87	Email from Kim Friday to Evan Mendelson re: sales tax email, 05/06/2020
88	Email from Jay Noland to Daniel Pilla re: tax resolution

MSJ Ex. No.	Description
	letter declaration, 11/20/2018 (Dep. Ex. JN 10)
89	Email from Jay Noland to Daniel Pilla re: My stance, 08/19/2018 (Dep. Ex. JN 10)
90	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re: SBH kick off price form, 11/10/2017 (Dep. Ex. LN 01)
91	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re: Red-form Generic, 01/25/2018 (Dep. Ex. LN 02)
92	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re: Red-form 2019, 04/18/2018 (Dep. Ex. LN 03)
93	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re: SBH kick off 2019, 07/21/2018 (Dep. Ex. LN 04)
94	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re:Red-2019 form, 09/11/2018 (Dep. Ex. LN 05)
95	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re:Red-2019 form, 01/19/2019 (Dep. Ex. LN 06)
96	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re: SBH Global Ambassador PackApp, 01/24/2019 (Dep. Ex. LN 07)
97	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re: Red-2020 form, 04/22/2019 (Dep. Ex. LN 08)
98	Email from Lina Noland to Andrea Selby re: kickoff2020 form, 09/05/2019 (Dep. Ex. LN 09)
99	Email from Jay Noland to Lina Noland re: as requested by you, 10/29/2018 (Dep. Ex. LN 12)
100	Email from Mike to SBH re: pre-order gourmet rooibos tea, 03/26/2018 (Dep. Ex. LN 18)
101	Email from Tony Potter to Lina Noland re: SBH 2018-11 Paid As, 11/01/2018 (Dep. Ex. LN 19)

1	MSJ Ex. No.	Description
2 3	102	Email from Warehouse to Lina Noland re: founders amounts we owe, 03/13/2018 (Dep. Ex. LN 21)
4 5	103	Email from Lorenzo Valentini to Andrea Selby re: Ticket Joshua Motes, 07/02/2019 (Dep. Ex. SH 18)
6	104	Email from SBH leaders to SBH leaders re: pre-core team expectations, 08/02/2019
7 8	105	Email from Scott Harris to Jay Noland re: Amazon sales policies, 08/02/2019
9 10	106	Email from Jay Noland to Tony Potter re: VOZ White Label, 12/16/2019 (Dep. Ex. JN 17)
11 12	107	Email from Craig Morganson to Jay Noland re: Request to transfer VOZ ownership, 01/06/2017 (Dep. Ex. JN 18)
13 14	108	Email from Tony Potter to Jay Noland re: Sept 2018 Ranks, 10/01/2018 (Dep. Ex. JN 26)
15 16	109	Email from Scott Harris to Jay Noland re: Bullet points for call, 10/01/2018 (Dep. Ex. SH08)
17 18	110	Email from Scott Harris to Jay Noland re: Blitz call criteria, 09/05/2018 (Dep. Ex. SH09)
19	111	Email from Jay Noland to Scott Harris re: Amazon Q, 08/28/2018 (Dep. Ex. SH16)
20 21	112	Email from Thomas Sacca to Jay Noland re: Where he's located, 08/28/2018 (Dep. Ex. TS08)
22	113	Excerpts from ICON Presentation PowerPoint Slide Deck
23 24	114	Compilation of CORE Team Applications by SBH Affiliates (Dep. Ex. TS13)
25	115	Courier Journal Excerpts (Dep. Ex. TS44)
26 27 28	116	Email from Donna Stacy to Thomas Sacca re: G-burn sale price, 01/05/2020 (Dep. Ex. TS34)
40		

MSJ Ex. No.	Description
117	Email from Scott Harris to Thomas Sacca, Duvan and Matt re: Bullet points for 3/4 way calls, 12/28/2019 (Dep. Ex. TS39)
118	Email from Lina Noland to SBH Warehouse re: Chai Tea orders on backorder, 11/07/2018
119	Email from Jay Noland to Steve Wright re: approval for funds, 10/03/2018
120	Email from Robert Mehler to Jay Noland re: USA Tour Challenge, 06/30/2019
121	Email from Lina Noland to Jay Noland re: Hot Cocoa and Rooibos Tea Pre-Orders Spreadsheet, 11/24/2018
122	Email from Jay Noland to Tony Potter re: Create Urgency for New System, 08/30/2019
123	Email from info@sbhleaders.com to Jay Noland & Scott Harris re: Pre-Core Team Expectations, 08/02/2019
124	Email from Ann Giles to SBH re: SBH Core Submissions, 04/19/2018
125	Email from Tim Pennington to Evan Mendelson re: FTC v. Noland, 10/08/2020
126	Email from Facebook to Thomas Sacca re: Post Tag by Jay Noland, 09/11/2019
127	Email from SBH to Scott Harris re: VOZ pack, 12/04/2019 (CL068104)
128	Email from Facebook to Thomas Sacca re: Post Tag by Jay Noland, 12/27/2019 (CL026548)
129	Email from Jay Noland to Duvan Botero re: sales department response, 01/09/2020 (CL028690)
130	Intentionally omitted

1	MSJ Ex. No.	Description
2 3	131	Supplemental Responses to FTC's First Interrogatories and Requests for Production
4 5	132	Second Supplemental Responses to FTC's First Interrogatories and Requests for Production
6	133	SBH Facebook clipping on VOZ (Dep. Ex. JN 15)
7 8	134	Facebook clipping of VOZ cash promotion post (Dep. Ex. JN 19)
9	135	Facebook clipping of CORE member post (Dep. Ex. JN 29)
11	136	Facebook clipping of CORE requirements (Dep. Ex. TS12)
12	137	Facebook Post by Jay Noland 01/10/2019
14	138	Facebook Post by Jay Noland 04/13/2018
15	139	Facebook Post by Jay Noland 07/13/2018
16	140	Facebook Post by Jay Noland 08/13/2018
17 18	141	"End of Volume Month" Email and Facebook Post Compilation
19	142	Declaration of Kimberly Friday, Receiver 03/10/2021
20	143	Employment Agreement (Dep. Ex. SH06)
21 22	144	Social Media Posting of Derogatory Info Meeting (Dep. Ex. SH12)
23	145	Transcript - Jay Noland 2/04/2017
24   25	146	Transcript - Jay Noland 09/21/2018
26		Transcript - Jay Noland 10/3/2018
27	147	(The transcript incorrectly refers to the date as 10/03/2019)
28		

MOTE N	D	
MSJ Ex. No.	Description	
148	SBH Global Ambassador Program Information (FTCSBM-0000492)	
149	Email from Jay Noland to Eve re: Founders Club Application, 08/29/2017 (CL016630)	
Datadi Manah	12 2021	Decree etfully submitted
ated: March	12, 2021	Respectfully submitted,
		/s/ Evan M. Mendelson
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