# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Escrow Agent Registration Ac by:

Insure-Trades.com, Mohammad Younis, and John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu," Case Number S-04-047-04-TO02

AMENDED STATEMENT OF CHARGES, TEMPORARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES AND COLLECT COSTS, AND ORDER DISMISSING RESPONDENT YOUNIS

Respondents.

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# STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Please take notice that the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington ("Department") has reason to believe that the Respondents, Insure-Trades.com and John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" have each violated the Escrow Agent Registration Act and that their violations justify the Department in entering an order under RCW 18.44.440 that they each cease and desist from such violations. The Department finds that delay in entering this order would result in irreparable harm to the public interest and that a Temporary Order to Cease and Desist should be entered immediately. The Department also has reason to believe that grounds exist for imposing fines against and collecting costs from Insure-Trades.com and John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu." The Department also has reason to believe that John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" has misappropriated the identity of Mohammad Younis of Blacksburg, Virginia and that grounds exist for amending the STATEMENT OF CHARGES, TEMPORARY ORDER TO CEASE

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# AND DESIST, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES AND COLLECT COSTS, S-04-047-04-TO01, and dismissing the allegations against Mohammad Younis of Blacksburg, Virginia.

The Department finds as follows:

## TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT

#### **RESPONDENTS**

1. Insure-Trades.com claimed to provide online escrow services with an office located in Blacksburg, Virginia. Insure-Trades.com had a website, viewable to Washington residents, that held out that it will do business in Washington State.

2. John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" acquired the Insure-Trades.com website with a credit card in the name of "Mohammad Younis," the name also used as the administrative and technical contact for Insure-Trades.com.

3. Mohammad Younis is a resident of Blacksburg, Virginia, who has denied any connection to Insure-Trades.com and has submitted evidence tending to show that his identity has been assumed by John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" and aka "Cornello Neagu."

## MISREPRESENTATIONS AND OMISSIONS

4. Insure-Trades.com and/or John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" have maintained a website that claims to provide a "safe" means of transacting business and making certain payments over the Internet. Specifically, Insure-Trades.com and/or John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" have claimed to be a "trusted third party that holds payment until a transaction is complete" in the context of business-to-business transactions, website domain name registrations, online vehicle purchases, and other web-based transactions.

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5. Insure-Trades.com and/or John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" have claimed to have certain business partnerships, affiliations, and investors that they do not and never have possessed. For instance, the website has claimed the business is "backed by" Fidelity National Financial Inc., although it has never had this relationship. The website has also claimed to be an affiliate of Internet Escrow Services Inc., a California corporation principally located in Irvine, California, with its own website at <u>www.escrow.com</u>. Internet Escrow Services Inc. has denied having any relationship with Insure-Trades.com, which it claims has pirated their website.

6. Insure-Trades.com and/or John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" have claimed to be licensed by several states, including license #963-1867 from the California Department of Corporations and license # 602-000-829 from the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions. Insure-Trades.com does not carry either of these California or Washington licenses. In fact, # 602-000-829 is not a Washington escrow license number; it is the Uniform Business Index for Internet Escrow Services Inc.

## LICENSING STATUS

7. Insure-Trades.com and John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" are not and never have been licensed with Washington State Department of Financial Institutions as escrow agents or officers.

#### EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC INTEREST

8. Based on the above Tentative Findings of Fact, the Department finds that delay in issuing an order will irreparably harm the public interest.

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AMENDED STATEMENT OF CHARGES, TEMPORARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES AND COLLECT COSTS, AND ORDER DISMISSING RESPONDENT YOUNIS

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Insure-Trades.com and/or John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" constitute an "escrow agent" as defined in RCW 18.44.011.

2. The conduct described in the Tentative Findings of Fact is in violation of RCW 18.44.301(1) because Insure-Trades.com, John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu," and/or their employees and agents have employed a scheme, device, or artifice to defraud or mislead borrowers, lenders, or other persons by claiming business affiliations and state licenses they do not have.

3. The conduct described in the Tentative Findings of Fact is in violation of RCW 18.44.301(2) because Insure-Trades.com, John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu," and/or their employees and agents have engaged in an unfair or deceptive practice toward a person by claiming business affiliations and state licenses they do not have.

4. The conduct described in the Tentative Findings of Fact is in violation of RCW 18.44.301(4) because, in claiming business affiliations and state licenses it does not have, Insure-Trades.com, John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu," and/or their employees or agents have knowingly made, published, or disseminated false, deceptive, or misleading information in the conduct of escrow business, relating to escrow business, or relating to persons engaged in escrow business.

## **TEMPORARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST**

Based upon the foregoing:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Insure-Trades.com, John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu," and their employees and agents each cease and desist from violating RCW 18.44.301(1), which prohibits schemes to defraud any person. AMENDED STATEMENT OF CHARGES, TEMPORARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES AND COLLECT COSTS, AND ORDER DISMISSING RESPONDENT YOUNIS It is further ORDERED that Insure-Trades.com, John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu," and their employees and agents each cease and desist from violating RCW 18.44.301(2), which prohibits unfair or deceptive practices toward any person.

It is further ORDERED that Insure-Trades.com, John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu," and their employees and agents each cease and desist from violating RCW 18.44.301(4), which prohibits making, publishing, or distributing false, deceptive, or misleading escrow information.

## **CONTINUING INVESTIGATION**

The Department is continuing to investigate the practices of the Respondents and their principals, employees, and agents to determine the full extent of the violations of the Escrow Agent Registration Act that have occurred in this matter.

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES AND COLLECT COSTS

Pursuant to RCW 18.44.440, and based on the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Department intends to ORDER that Insure-Trades.com and John Doe aka "Mohammad Younis" aka "Cornello Neagu" shall be jointly liable for and shall (1) pay the Department a fine in the amount of \$9,000; and (2) reimburse the Department the reasonable costs of investigating this matter.

#### **ORDER DISMISSING RESPONDENT YOUNIS**

On April 8, 2004, the Department of Financial Institution of the State of Washington issued a Statement of Charges, Temporary Order to Cease and Desist, and Notice of Intent to Impose Fines and Collect Costs, S-04-047-04-TO01, (the "Order") against Respondents Insure-Trades.com and Mohammad Younis. The Order, together with a Notice of Opportunity to Defend AMENDED STATEMENT OF CHARGES, TEMPORARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES AND COLLECT COSTS, AND ORDER DISMISSING RESPONDENT YOUNIS and Opportunity for Hearing (the "Notice") and an Application for Adjudicative Hearing (the "Application") thereon, were personally served on Respondent Mohammad Younis of Blacksburg, Virginia on April 23, 2004. The Notice advised the Respondents that they each had twenty days from the date of receiving it to file a written application for an adjudicative hearing on the Order. Mohammad Younis waived his right to hearing and submitted a Response to Statement of Charges in Lieu of Formal Hearing, including exhibits A – D thereto. Younis denied any connection to Insure-Trades.com and submitted evidence tending to show that John Doe aka "Mohammed Younis" and aka "Cornello Neagu" had misappropriated his identity in operating Insure-Trades.com.

Therefore, based on the information available at this time, the Department of Financial Institutions hereby dismisses without prejudice from this matter Respondent Mohammad Younis, residing in Blacksburg, Virginia.

## **AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE**

This Order is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 18.44.301 and RCW 18.44.440 and is subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. The Respondents may each make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING accompanying this order.

If a respondent does not request a hearing, the Department intends to adopt the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as final, to make the temporary order to cease and desist permanent, and to impose a \$9,000 fine against and to collect reasonable costs of the investigation from that respondent.

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AMENDED STATEMENT OF CHARGES, TEMPORARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES AND COLLECT COSTS, AND ORDER DISMISSING RESPONDENT YOUNIS DATED this 16 day of August, 2004.

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Michael E. Stevenson Assistant Director Department of Financial Institutions

Approved by:

Mastin Condell

Martin Cordell Chief of Enforcement

Presented by:

Andrew Ledbetter Financial Legal Examiner

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