STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Securities Act of Washington by:

RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC; Robert Alexander Ritter,

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Respondents.

Order No.: S-18-2481-24-SC01

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER AN ORDER TO DENY FUTURE REGISTRATIONS, TO IMPOSE A FINE, AND TO CHARGE COSTS

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: RRIM ASSET STRATEGIES, LLC, CRD 117297 ROBERT ALEXANDER RITTER, CRD 1985776

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Please take notice that the Securities Administrator of the state of Washington has reason to believe that Respondents, RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC, and Robert Alexander Ritter, violated the Securities Act of Washington. The Securities Administrator believes these violations justify the entry of an order against Respondents RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC, and Robert Alexander Ritter to deny future registrations, to impose a fine, and to charge costs pursuant to RCW 21.20.110, RCW 21.20.390, and RCW 21.20.395. The Securities Administrator finds as follows:

TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondents

1. RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC ("RRIM" or "Adviser") is a Washington limited liability company formed on July 18, 1997, with its principal place of business in Chandler, Arizona. RRIM was registered as an investment adviser with the Washington State Securities Division ("Securities Division") from June 4, 1997, until December 31, 2023. RRIM failed to renew its registration in 2024. The investment adviser has a Central Registration Depository ("CRD") number of 117297.

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2. Robert Alexander Ritter ("Ritter") resides in Chandler, Arizona. Ritter was registered as an investment adviser representative with the Securities Division from August 11, 1997, through December 31, 2023. Ritter failed to renew his registration in 2024. Ritter is the owner and person who controls RRIM. Ritter has a CRD number of 1985776.

Nature of the Conduct

Registration

- 3. Ritter lived in Washington until November 2010, when he moved to Chandler, Arizona. Ritter did not notify the Securities Division of his move at the time.
- 4. From November 2010 through March 2019, RRIM reported its primary place of business to be in Kenmore, Washington. RRIM did not operate from Kenmore, Washington, and did not disclose any additional offices during that time.
 - 5. While living in Chandler, Arizona, Ritter began to take on Arizona clients.
- 6. In January 2021, a Washington securities examiner performed an examination of RRIM and Ritter. The examiner discovered that RRIM and Ritter were operating in Arizona but had never been registered to provide investment advice in Arizona.
- 7. In August 2021, as a result of the examiner's findings, RRIM and Ritter sought to register with the Arizona Securities Division. According to the Arizona Securities Division, the application had multiple deficiencies that RRIM and Ritter failed to correct.
- 8. Despite being unlicensed in the state of Arizona, from at least January 2018 through July 2022, RRIM acted as an investment adviser and Ritter acted as an investment adviser representative for at least 30 clients holding at least 69 accounts.
- 9. From January 2018 through July 2022, clients paid RRIM \$437,372.22 in management fees for advisory services. Of that amount, Arizona clients paid \$32,430.91 to RRIM for advisory services.

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10. On October 4, 2023, Respondents entered into a consent order with the Arizona Securities Division that denied Respondents' investment adviser application and required payment of restitution in the amount of \$32,430.91 and an administrative penalty in the amount of \$10,000.

False Filing

- 11. RRIM and Ritter filed an annual updating amendment to Form ADV each year as required.
- 12. From December 11, 2002, through March 19, 2019, Respondents reported their principal office and place of business to be in Kenmore, Washington, despite being physically located in Chandler, Arizona since 2010.
- 13. Respondents attested under penalty of perjury that no other places of business existed outside of the Kenmore office.
- 14. Respondents attested under penalty of perjury that no required books or records were kept outside of the principal place of business.
- 15. Respondents did not notify the Securities Division of any change in location until March 20, 2019.

Based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact, the following Conclusions of Law are made:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Arizona Securities Administrator entered an order against RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC denying registration as an investment adviser, which constitutes an order entered by a state securities administrator after notice and an opportunity for hearing. Arizona's order is grounds pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1)(e)(i) to deny any future investment adviser or broker-dealer registrations that it may seek.
- 2. The Arizona Securities Administrator entered an order against Robert Alexander Ritter denying registration as an investment adviser representative, which constitutes an order entered by a state securities administrator after notice and an opportunity for hearing. Arizona's order is grounds pursuant to

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RCW 21.20.110(1)(e)(i) to deny any future investment adviser representative or securities salesperson registrations that Robert Alexander Ritter may seek.

- 3. Respondent RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC violated RCW 21.20.350 by making Form ADV filings from 2010 to 2019 that were materially false or misleading, as described in the Tentative Findings of Fact. Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1) and (7), such conduct is grounds for fines, costs, and denial of any future investment adviser and broker-dealer applications that RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC may file.
- 4. Respondent Robert Alexander Ritter violated RCW 21.20.350 by making Form ADV filings from 2010 to 2019 that were materially false or misleading, as described in the Tentative Findings of Fact. Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1) and (7), such conduct is grounds for fines, costs, and denial of any future investment adviser representative and securities salesperson applications that Robert Alexander Ritter may file.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY FUTURE REGISTRATIONS

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1), and based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to enter an order to deny any future investment adviser and broker-dealer registrations for RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC.

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1), and based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to enter an order to deny any future investment adviser representative and securities salesperson registrations for Robert Alexander Ritter.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.395(1) and RCW 21.20.110, and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC and Robert Alexander Ritter shall be jointly and severally liable for and shall pay a fine of \$20,000.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHARGE COSTS

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.390(5) and RCW 21.20.110(7), and based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC and Robert Alexander Ritter shall be jointly and severally liable for and shall pay costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$1,500.

AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

This Statement of Charges is entered pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 21.20 RCW and is subject to the provisions of RCW 21.20.120 and Chapter 34.05 RCW. RRIM Asset Strategies, LLC and Robert Alexander Ritter may make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing accompanying this Order. If a respondent does not request a hearing in the allowed time, the Securities Administrator intends to adopt the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as final and enter an order denying each respondent's future registrations and imposing the fine and charging the costs sought.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS <u>11th</u> day of <u>December</u>, 2024.



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William M. Beatty Securities Administrator

Approved by:

Presented by:

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/s/

Brian Guerard

Sara Lewis

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY FUTURE REGISTRATIONS, TO IMPOSE A FINE, AND TO CHARGE

Chief of Enforcement

Financial Legal Examiner

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY FUTURE REGISTRATIONS, TO IMPOSE A FINE, AND TO CHARGE COSTS

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