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BEFORE THE ARKANSAS SECURITIES COMMISSIONER CASE NO. S-22-0045

IN THE MATTER OF:

EXPERT-TRADING FX

RESPONDENT

REQUEST FOR CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

The Staff of the Arkansas Securities Department ("Staff") has received information and has in its possession certain evidence indicating that Expert-Trading FX ("Expert-Trading") has violated provisions of the Arkansas Securities Act ("Act"), Ark. Code Ann. §§ 23-42-101 through 23-42-509, and the Rules of the Arkansas Securities Commissioner ("Rules").

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

1. This matter is brought in connection with violations of the Act and Rules and is therefore properly before the Arkansas Securities Commissioner ("Commissioner") in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-209.

RESPONDENTS

- 2. Expert-Trading is an online entity that claims to have expertise in cryptocurrency and binary trading. During the violative time period from on or about January 2021 until October 2022, Expert-Trading operated its business through a public website at www.expert-tradingfx.org, which as of the date of this Order is no longer accessible. The Staff obtained screenshots of certain Expert-Trading webpages prior to their removal, which are attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit A. Expert-Trading can be served through its registrar, NameCheap, Inc., at 4600 East Washington Street, Suite 305, Phoenix, AZ 85034.
- 3. Expert-Trading has never been registered with the Arkansas Securities Department ("Department") in any capacity.

- 4. Carolynn Gill ("Gill") claimed to be an employee of Expert-Trading. Gill may be served through Expert-Trading's registrar, NameCheap, Inc., at 4600 East Washington Street, Suite 305, Phoenix, AZ 85034. Gill has never been registered with the Department in any capacity.
- 5. An unidentifiable individual claimed to be an employee of Nino Finance, Inc.

 ("CoinTracker"), a legitimate business that specializes in cryptocurrency wallets as well as cryptocurrency and Bitcoin taxes. Upon further research, the Staff found no evidence that the alleged employee was affiliated with CoinTracker.
- 6. An unidentifiable individual claimed to be an employee of Coinbase Inc. ("Coinbase"), a legitimate business that specializes in cryptocurrency trading. Coinbase has been registered with the Department since 2014 as a licensed money transmitter pursuant to the Arkansas Uniform Money Services Act. Upon further research, the Staff found no evidence that this alleged employee was affiliated with Coinbase.
- 7. The Staff believes that the two above-referenced unidentifiable employees were fraudulently claiming to be affiliated with Coinbase and CoinTracker to further the deceptive scheme described herein. This Request is not a pleading against Coinbase or CoinTracker.

FACTS SUPPORTING REQUEST FOR CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

8. Expert-Trading was brought to the Staff's attention in August 2022, when the Department received a written complaint from an Arkansas resident ("AR1"). AR1 was contacted in January 2022 by Expert-Trading's agent, Gill, through LinkedIn about a forex Bitcoin mining opportunity. Over the next three months, AR1 was contacted and solicited for an investment opportunity through the Expert-Trading platform by Gill and the employees claiming to work for CoinTracker and Coinbase (together with Gill, collectively, "Expert-Trading Marketers").

- 9. Through its website, Expert-Trading claimed that its focus was to provide its affiliates with daily and constant profits in cryptocurrency and binary markets. Expert-Trading asserted that it was a regulated foreign exchange ("forex") broker and was an officially registered company. Upon further review, the Staff determined that Expert-Trading was not a regulated forex broker, nor was it a registered entity with any financial regulator.
- 10. In order to invest with Expert-Trading, customers opened an account through Expert-Trading's website and made their first deposit based on the investment plan they selected.

 Expert-Trading provided the following types of investment plans:
 - a. The Basic Plan that required a minimum deposit of \$500 with a 100% return.
 - b. The Classic Plan that required a minimum deposit of \$1,001 with a 120% return.
 - c. The VIP Plan that required a minimum deposit of \$5,001 with a 170% return.
 - d. The Ruby Plan that required a minimum deposit of \$10,001 with a 200% return.
 - e. The Platinum Plan that required a minimum deposit of \$25,001 with a 250% return.
 - f. The Presidential Plan that requires a minimum deposit of \$50,001 with a 300% return.
- 11. Expert-Trading indicated that once a customer made their initial deposit, all the customer had to do was watch their earnings grow in their account. Once the customer reached a desirable amount of profit, Expert-Trading stated that the withdrawal process would be instant and easy.
- 12. After reviewing Expert-Trading's website, AR1 selected the Basic Plan and invested an initial \$500 to begin receiving profits, which was the first deposit of many made by AR1 during a three-month period from on or about January 2022 to March 2022. In total, AR1 deposited \$26,700 into the Expert-Trading platform. Of AR1's deposited \$26,700, the

- majority of the sum deposited, a total of \$26,200, went to pay for certain Expert-Trading fees and taxes before AR1 could allegedly realize a profit.
- 13. From the start, the Expert-Trading Marketers continuously contacted AR1, demanded AR1 deposit more funds, and delayed AR1 from withdrawing any alleged profits from their account. The Expert-Trading Marketers provided updates regarding AR1's account and the profit in the account. They also told AR1 many times that additional fees and taxes were required to be paid and certain other issues remedied (i.e., Blockchain problems and an unexplained freeze on AR1's account) prior to AR1 being allowed to make withdrawals. However, AR1 was never able to withdraw any profits and never had proof of actual profits.
- 14. In one such instance, AR1 was told by the Expert-Trading Marketers that to remove an unexplained freeze on AR1's account, AR1 must first pay an additional \$23,500. AR1 then became concerned that Expert-Trading was operating a scam and that the profit in AR1's account was likely fake. Subsequently, AR1 contacted the Expert-Trading Marketers to request a refund of their original invested total of \$26,700. While the Expert-Trading Marketers continued to assure AR1 that Expert-Trading was a legitimate business and not a scam, AR1 never received any returned funds from Expert-Trading, was never able to withdraw profits, and ultimately lost all of their money invested with Expert-Trading.
- 15. In total, AR1 lost \$26,700 through their investments in the scam operated by Expert-Trading and propagated by the Expert-Trading Marketers.
- 16. The Staff's review of Department records found that the investment opportunities offered by Expert-Trading and the Expert-Trading Marketers were not registered pursuant to the Act. Additionally, the Staff found no record of a filing evidencing a proof of exemption in

accordance with the Act and no notice filing pursuant to federal law in connection with a covered security.

APPLICABLE LAW

- 17. Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-102(17)(A)(xi) defines "security" to include investment contracts.
- 18. Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-102(10) defines "issuer" to mean every person who issues or proposes to issue any security.
- 19. Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-102(1)(A)(i) defines "agent" to mean an individual, other than a broker-dealer, who represents a broker-dealer or issuer in effecting or attempting to effect purchases or sales of securities.
- 20. Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-301(a) states that it is unlawful for a person to transact business in this state as a broker-dealer or agent without first being registered pursuant to the Act.
- 21. Ark. Code Ann. § 23- 42-301(b)(1) states that it is unlawful for an issuer to employ an unregistered agent except a nonresident agent who is registered by any other state securities administrator and who effects transactions in Arkansas exclusively with registered broker-dealers.
- 22. Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-501 states that it is unlawful for any person to offer or sell any security in this state unless: 1) it is registered under the Act; 2) the security or transaction is exempted under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-503 or § 23-42-504; or 3) it is a covered security.
- 23. Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-507(2) states that it is unlawful for any person, in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of any security, directly or indirectly, to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading.

- 24. Ark. Code Ann. § 23-420-507(3) states that it is unlawful for any person, in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of any security, directly or indirectly, to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as fraud or deceit upon any person.
- 25. Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-209(a) states that whenever it appears to the Commissioner, upon sufficient grounds or evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner, that any person has engaged or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision of the Act, the Commissioner may summarily order the person to cease and desist from the act or practice.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 26. The investment plans offered by Expert-Trading including the plan offered to AR1, where investors would invest monetary value into an investment plan common enterprise with a reasonable expectation of profits to be derived from the efforts of Expert-Trading, and through no efforts of the investor, were securities in the form of investment contracts under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-102(17)(A)(xi).
- 27. Expert-Trading acted as an issuer under Ark. Code. Ann. § 23-42-102(10) by engaging in the business of issuing investment contracts in the form of investment plans as described above.
- 28. The securities offered by Expert-Trading were not registered with the Department, exempt from registration with the Department, or covered securities under federal law. Therefore, Expert-Trading violated Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-501 when it offered securities to AR1 through its public website.
- 29. The Expert-Trading Marketers were employed by Expert-Trading to assist in the promotion of and the sale of the investment contracts. The Expert-Trading Marketers were acting as

- agents as defined by Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-102(1)(A)(i) and without being properly registered as agents with the Department, in violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-301(a).
- 30. Expert-Trading, as an issuer, employed the Expert-Trading Marketers as unregistered agents in violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 23- 42-301(b)(1).
- 31. Expert-Trading and its agents, the Expert-Trading Marketers, violated Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-507(2) by making false and misleading statements of material facts including, but not limited to, the following: promising guaranteed returns on investments in the investment plans; claiming to have expertise in the cryptocurrency and binary markets; claiming Expert-Trading was a registered entity; claiming Expert-Trading was a registered forex broker; representing that AR1's account had earned profits; saying additional fees had to be paid by AR1 before profits could be withdrawn; providing fictitious reasons why AR1's withdrawals were disallowed; and providing false information regarding the background and employment of the Expert-Trading Marketers by it and other cryptocurrency entities.
- 32. Expert-Trading violated Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-507(3) by operating a website that published false and misleading statements for the purpose of soliciting investors.
- 33. The conduct, acts, and practices of Expert-Trading threaten immediate and irreparable public harm. A cease and desist order is in the public's interest and is appropriate in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 23-42-209(a).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully requests that the Commissioner summarily order Respondents to immediately cease and desist from offering and selling fraudulent, unregistered securities to the residents of Arkansas; acting as an unregistered investment adviser; and committing fraud in the connection with the offer and sale of securities in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan J. Little

Staff Attorney

Arkansas Securities Department

ABOUTUS

AFFILIATE

HOW II WORKS

SUPPORT

SIGNUP

LOGIN

EXHIBIT



rade CFDs on Shares, Indices, Forex, Binary and Cryptocurrencies





pert-tradingFX is a company formed by a team of PROFESSIONAL TRADERS e CRYPTOCURRENCY/Binary. Our focus is to provide our affiliates with daily ith EXPERTISE in one of the biggest financial markets of today,

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Total Deposited

Running Days



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Total Accounts

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Users Online

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our company to start growing your funds Become a member of every day!

Users Online 1000

AUG 18, 2008

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100% Basic Plan Withdrawals: Instant

Plan Terms: Forever

Min Deposit: \$500

120% Classic Plan

Plan Terms: Forever

Min Deposit: \$1001

⊗ Max Deposit: \$5000

Withdrawals: Instant

@ Withdrawals: Ins

@ Plan Terms: Fon

Max Deposit: \$50000

Min Deposit: \$25001

Min Deposit: \$5001

Withdrawals

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200.00

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\$ 6000.00 Weekly Profit

WELCOME TO EXPERT-TRADINGE

Expert-tradingFX is a true opportunity to earn on cryptocurrency/binary Expert-tradingFX is a company formed by a team of PROFESSIO EXPERTISE in one of the biggest financial markets of today, the CRYPTC Our focus is to provide our affiliates with daily and constant profits in these

Expert-tradingFX, is an officially registered company which gives its guarantees, including confidentiality of data provided by clients at the register from this we guarantee accrual of requested payments in due time a company's system, including support service, works 24 hours, which me welcome to contact our experts in case you have any questions.

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Our company is legally registered in the Europe as "Expert-tradingFX, LTD".

Our withdrawals are all processed instantly

We use the highest level of protection. Ou

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Registered Company



Deposits

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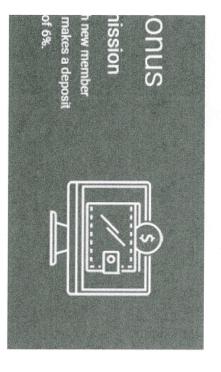
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WATCH YOUR CAPITAL GROW

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YOUR ACCOUNT BALANCE: 0.00 BTC

be in the world, and your capital will still be growing in your account every day, even without Affer you have made a deposit, there is nothing else to do except watch your eamings grow in your account every day. This can be fun, because it means you can be anywhere you want to

REQUEST WITHDRAWALS

of our withdrawals are instant, and your withdrawal will be sent to the wallet and account if only takes a few seconds to initiate your withdrawals and have your earnings paid to you will

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and share it with your friends. You will get rewarded as soon as they join and make their first s registered member, you only need to use your personal affiliate link from your member's area You don't need an active deposit to take advantage of our reternal program. As long as you are *KELEK KONK LKIENDS*

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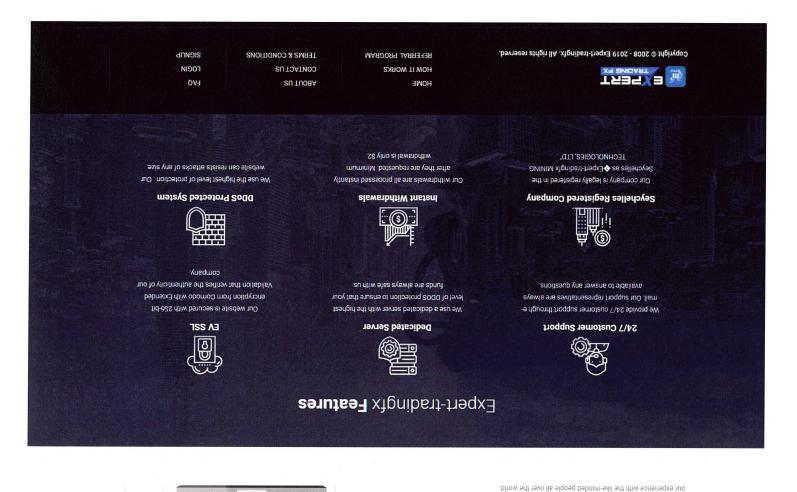
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6% - 2%. That means you earn 6% of the deposit for any member who joins us through your referral link. If that member refers a new member who makes a deposit, you will earn 2% of that Even if you do not make a deposit to our program, it is still possible to earn with Expert-tradingfx! You can still take part in our referral program which offers a 2-level referral commission of new member's deposit. Your referral commission is always immediately credited to your account and can be withdrawn instantly!









markets, which is very convenient and profitable. We also try to attract new partners and share client's direct participation. The company actively uses trading bots on digital currency stocklocated all around the world to obtain quite a big income later, which can be done even without Expert-tradingtx, provides its clients with an opportunity to invest money into mining farms

welcome to contact our experts in case you have any questions. company's system, including support service, works 24 hours, which means you are always Apart from this we guarantee accrual of requested payments in due time and full amount. The guarantees, including confidentiality of data provided by clients at the registration procedure. Expert-tradingtx, is an officially registered company which gives its clients all required

and raise profit. online. Expert-tradingtx has been using this kind of digital payment for quite a while to gain Nowadays cryptocurrency/binary is one of the main payment instruments, which can be used Expert-tradingtixe is a true opportunity to earn on cryptocurrency/binary.

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