IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission,
Plaintiff,
v.
Daniel Shak,
Defendant.

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF AND PENALTIES

Plaintiff United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission" or "CFTC"), by its attorneys, alleges as follows:

I. SUMMARY

- l. After voluntarily consenting to an Administrative Order ("CFTC Order") issued by the CFTC in November 2013 prohibiting him from engaging in certain commodity futures trading, six months later Daniel Shak ("Shak" or "Defendant") violated the CFTC Order by trading two outright June 2014 gold futures contracts during the closing period on May 22, 2014 ("the Trade") the exact type of commodity futures trading that he agreed to be banned from trading.
- 2. By virtue of this conduct and the conduct further described herein, Shak engaged in conduct in violation of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA" or "Act"), 7 U.S.C. § 9 (2012).
- 3. Unless restrained and enjoined by this Court, Shak is likely to continue to engage in the acts and practices alleged in this Complaint, or in similar acts and practices.

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¹ The term outright, as used herein, refers to futures contracts.

4. Accordingly, the CFTC brings this action pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1 (2012), to enjoin the Defendant's unlawful practices and to compel his compliance with the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as the prior CFTC Order. In addition, the CFTC seeks civil monetary penalties, a permanent trading ban, and such other equitable relief as this Court may deem appropriate.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. The Commission has jurisdiction over the conduct and transactions at issue in this case pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 13a-l(a) (2012). 7 U.S.C. § 13a-l(a) (2012), authorizes the Commission to seek injunctive relief in district court against any person whenever it shall appear to the Commission that such person has engaged, is engaging, or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting a violation of the Act or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder.
- 6. Venue properly lies with this Court pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1(e) (2012) because the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business alleged to have violated the Act occurred, are occurring, and/or are about to occur within this District, the Commission is located in this District, and the CFTC Order was issued from this District.

III. PARTIES

- 7. Plaintiff United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission is an independent federal regulatory agency charged by Congress with administering and enforcing the Act and the Commission Regulations promulgated thereunder, 17 C.F.R. §§ 1 et seq.
- 8. Defendant **Daniel Shak** is an individual residing in Las Vegas, Nevada. Shak is registered with the Commission as a floor broker. Shak is a member of New York Mercantile Exchange, a designated contract market.

IV. FACTS

A. Prior CFTC Order

- 9. On November 25, 2013, the Commission issued the CFTC Order instituting administrative proceedings pursuant to Sections 6(c), 6(d), and 8a of the Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 9, 13b, and 12a(1) (2012), against Shak and SHK Management LLC, a registered commodity pool operator managed by Shak, and simultaneously accepted Shak's Offer of Settlement.
- 10. As recited in the CFTC Order, in which the CFTC made findings of fact and conclusions of law and imposed remedial sanctions, Shak and SHK Management, his commodity pool, attempted to manipulate the price of Light Sweet Crude Oil ("WTI") futures contracts traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange ("NYMEX") on two trading days in 2008. In addition, the CFTC Order found that Shak and his pool violated the intraday spot month speculative position limits for WTl futures contracts on those two trading days.
- 11. The basis of the violations charged by the Commission in the CFTC Order was that on each of the trading days, Shak and his pool established substantial net short positions in WTI futures contracts through what are known as Trading At Settlement ("TAS") contracts that are priced at the daily settlement price. Next, Shak and his pool intentionally traded a significant volume of long futures contracts before and during the two minute window referred to as the closing or settlement period of trading on the contract ("the Close"), in an effort to improperly influence and affect the price of the WTI futures contracts, including the settlement prices of the contracts. This strategy of trading heavily on one side of the market during the Close is commonly known in the commodity futures industry as "banging the close" or "marking the close" and is a strategy by which traders attempt to or actually manipulate a futures market.
- 12. Shak, represented by counsel, neither admitted nor denied the allegations and conclusions contained in the CFTC Order, yet Shak consented to the CFTC Order that required,

among other things, the payment of a civil monetary penalty of \$400,000 and to refrain from certain trading activity. Specifically, the CFTC Order prohibited Shak:

For a period of two years, trading outrights, directly or indirectly, on or subject to the rules of a registered entity, as registered entity is defined in Section 1a of the Act, as amended by the CRA and the Dodd-Frank Act, to be codified at 7 U.S.C. § 1a, from the beginning of the closing period for trading until the end of the closing period for any commodity futures, options on commodity futures, commodity options, security futures products, swaps, and/or foreign currency, or any other product or financial instrument regulated presently or in the future by the Commission.

B. Conduct in Violation of the CFTC Order

- 13. Open Outcry trading in the Gold Futures pit occurs Monday through Friday from 9:20 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., eastern time (7:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. central time). Trading in the close, as designated by the New York Mercantile Exchange, occurs during the last minute before the end of trading in the pit. As such, trades executed between 1:29:00 to 1:30:00 p.m. eastern time (12:29:00 to 12:30:00 p.m. central time) are considered executed during the closing period.
- 14. On Thursday, May 22, 2014, six months after issuance of the CFTC Order, Shak bought two outright, June 2014 gold futures contracts at 1:29:14 seconds eastern time (12:29:14 seconds central time), 46 seconds before the close of the market. Thus, Shak's trades occurred during the closing period.
- 15. Shak failed to report his violation of the CFTC Order to either the CFTC or to his futures commission merchant ("FCM"). Shak, and/or an individual acting on behalf of Shak only admitted the Trade after being confronted by the FCM.
- 16. In fact, the FCM, rather than Shak, promptly reported the Trade to the CFTC which constitutes the violation of the CFTC Order.

V. VIOLATIONS OF THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT Violation of the CFTC Order

- 17. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 16 are re-alleged and incorporated by reference.
- 18. Section VI, paragraph 3 of the CFTC Order prohibited Shak for a period of two years, beginning on November 25, 2013, from trading outrights from the beginning of the closing period until the end of the closing period for any commodity futures, options on commodity futures, commodity options, security futures products, swaps, and/or foreign currency, or any other product or financial instrument regulated presently or in the future by the Commission.
- 19. On Thursday, May 22, 2014, six months after issuance of the CFTC Order, Shak violated Section VI, paragraph 3 of the CFTC Order when he bought two outright, June 2014 gold futures contracts during the closing period.
 - 20. The Trade violated the CFTC Order.
- 21. In violating the CFTC Order, Shak violated 7 U.S.C. § 9 (2012) in that Shak has engaged, is engaging, or is about to engage in an act or practice constituting a violation of an order issued under the Act and Regulations.
- 22. Each violation of the CFTC Order by Shak constitutes a separate and distinct violation of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 9 (2012).

VI. RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. § 13a-1, and pursuant to its own equitable powers:

A. Find Shak liable for violating 7 U.S.C. § 9 (2012);

- B. Enter an order of permanent injunction prohibiting Shak, and any other person or entity associated with him from, directly or indirectly, engaging in conduct in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 9 (2012);
- C. Enter an order of permanent injunction enjoining Shak and all persons insofar as they are acting in the capacity of his agent, servant, employee, successor, assign, and attorney, and all persons insofar as they are acting in active concert or participation with Shak who receive actual notice of such order by personal service or otherwise, from directly or indirectly:
 - 1. trading on or subject to the rules of any registered entity (as that term is defined in 7 U.S.C. § 1a (2012));
 - 2. entering into any transactions involving commodity futures, options on commodity futures, commodity options (as that term is defined in 17 C.F.R. § 1.3(hh) (2014)), security futures products, foreign currency (as described in 7 U.S.C. § 2(c)(2)(B) and 2(c)(2)(C)(i)) (2012) ("forex contracts"), and/or swaps (as that term is defined in 7 U.S.C. § 1a(47) (2012), and as further defined by 17 C.F.R. § 1.3 (2014)) for their own personal account or for any account in which they have a direct or indirect interest;
 - 3. having any commodity futures, options on commodity futures, commodity options, security futures products, forex contracts, and/or swaps traded on their behalf;
 - 4. controlling or directing the trading for or on behalf of any other person or entity, whether by power of attorney or otherwise, in any account involving commodity futures, options on commodity futures, commodity options, security futures products, forex contracts, and/or swaps;
 - 5. soliciting, receiving, or accepting any funds from any person for the purpose of purchasing or selling any commodity futures, options on commodity futures, commodity options, security futures products, forex contracts, and/or swaps;
 - 6. applying for registration or claiming exemption from registration with the Commission in any capacity, and engaging in any activity requiring such registration or exemption from registration with the Commission, except as provided for in 17 C.F.R. § 4.14(a)(9) (2014); and

7. acting as a principal (as that term is defined in 17 C.F.R. § 3.1(a) (2014)), agent, or any other officer or employee of any person (as that term is defined in 7 U.S.C. § 1a (2012)) registered, exempted from registration, or required to be registered with the Commission, except as provided for in 17 C.F.R. § 4.14(a)(9) (2014);

D. Enter an order requiring Shak to disgorge, pursuant to such procedure as the Court may order, all benefits received, including, but not limited to, salaries, commissions, loans, fees, revenues, and trading profits derived, directly or indirectly, from acts or practices that constitute violations of the Act as described herein, including pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;

E. Enter an order directing Shak to pay civil monetary penalties in the amount of not more than the greater of (1) triple the monetary gain to Shak for each violation of the Act, or (2) \$140,000 for each violation of the Act;

F. Enter an order requiring Shak to pay costs and fees as permitted by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920 and 2412(a)(2) (2012); and

G. Enter an order providing such other and further relief as this Court may deem necessary and appropriate under the circumstances.

Date: September 30, 2014 Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jennifer S. Diamond

Jennifer S. Diamond (Illinois Bar No. 6278482) Senior Trial Attorney

U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission

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Chief Trial Attorney Tel: (202) 418-5311

jholl@cftc.gov

CIVIL COVER SHEET

U.S. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION DANIEL SHAK COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF (INCOCREMANIAL ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONIS MUMBER) James H. Holl III, Eq. and Jennifer S. Diamond, Eq. U.S. Commodify Futures Trading Commission 1155 21st Street, NW, Weshington, D.C. 20581 Differed An IN ONE DOX ONLY) Of U.S. Government Of 1U.S. Government Of 2 Diversity Citizen of Another State Of 10 Interported and Principal Citizen of State Of 10 Interported and Principal Of 2 Diversity Citizen of State Citizen of	JS-44 (Rev. 7/13 DC)									
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Anthority for Civil Cover Sheet

The IS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained berein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required to Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil 1 isted below are tips for completing the civil cover sheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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A lawsuit has been file	d against you.	
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If you fail to respond, You also must file your answe		I be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
		ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT
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AO 440 (Rev. 12/09; DC 03/10) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

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I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information is true.		
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Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: