

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
212-416-8321

ELIOT SPITZER Attorney General THOMAS G. CONWAY
Assistant Attorney General In Charge
Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau
February 17, 2005

Eric Tirschwell, Esq. Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, LLP 919 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022-3852

Re:

Plaintiff Support Services, Inc.

Pre-Settlement Finance, LLC

QuickCash, Inc.

Magnolia Funding, LLC BridgeFunds Limited

Plaintiff Funding Corporation d/b/a LawCash

Oasis Legal Finance Co., LLC The Whitehaven Group, LLC

New Amsterdam Capital Partners LLC d/b/a LawMax

Dear Mr. Tirschwell:

Enclosed is a copy of the final, fully executed Assurance of Discontinuance, revised as per our discussions.

Your cooperation and assistance in reaching a satisfactory resolution is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Israel

Assistant Attorney General

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BUREAU OF CONSUMER FRAUDS AND PROTECTION

In the Matter of

Plaintiff Support Services, Inc.
Pre-Settlement Finance, LLC
QuickCash, Inc.
Magnolia Funding, LLC
BridgeFunds Limited
Plaintiff Funding Corporation d/b/a LawCash
Oasis Legal Finance Co., LLC
The Whitehaven Group, LLC
New Amsterdam Capital Partners LLC d/b/a LawMax

ASSURANCE OF DISCONTINUANCE PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE LAW §63(15)

Pursuant to his authority under General Business Law, Article 22-A and Executive 1. Law §63(12), Eliot Spitzer, the Attorney General of the State of New York, reviewed certain business practices of certain of the following entities: Plaintiff Support Services, Inc., Pre-Settlement Finance, LLC, QuickCash, Inc., Magnolia Funding, LLC, BridgeFunds Limited, Plaintiff Funding Corporation d/b/a LawCash, Oasis Legal Finance Co., LLC, The Whitehaven Group, LLC, and New Amsterdam Capital Partners, LLC, d/b/a LawMax, (hereafter the "Companies"). Plaintiff Support Services, Inc. is a New York Corporation located at 90 Bryant Woods South, Suite 100, Amherst, New York 14228. Pre-Settlement Finance, LLC is a New York Corporation located at 183 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, New York 10306. QuickCash, Inc. is a Delaware Corporation located at 304 Hudson Street, 7th Floor, New York, New York 10013. Magnolia Funding, LLC is a New York Corporation located at One Old Country Road, Carl Place, New York 11514. BridgeFunds Limited is a Nevada Corporation located at 1325 Airmotive Way, Suite 175, Reno, NV 89502. Plaintiff Funding Corporation d/b/a LawCash is a New York Corporation located at 26 Court Street, Suite 1104, Brooklyn, New York 11242. Oasis Legal Finance Co., LLC is a Delaware Corporation located at 630 Dundee Road, Suite 340, Northbrook,

IL 60062. The Whitehaven Group, LLC is a Delaware Corporation located at 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10118; New Amsterdam Capital Partners, LLC, d/b/a LawMax is a Delaware Corporation located at 459 Columbus Avenue, Suite 299, New York, NY 10024.

- 2. Each of the Companies is engaged in the business of providing cash advance transactions with consumers who have pending personal injury claims or actions.
- 3. Each of the Companies is a member of the American Legal Finance Association ("ALFA"), a New York Not-For-Profit Corporation formed, according to its By-Laws or Certificate of Incorporation, for the purpose of, inter alia, promoting high ethical standards of professionalism for the legal finance industry.
- 4. Certain of the Companies advertise their services in New York, in both English and Spanish. Some of the consumers with whom the Companies contract are Spanish speaking and/or do not read and speak English fluently.
- 5. Under the terms of its contracts with consumers, the Companies typically agree to provide consumers with a cash advance -- commonly between \$1,000 and \$7,500 -- in exchange for the Companies' right to receive an amount, which often is significantly in excess of its advance, out of the proceeds of any realized settlement, judgment or verdict resulting from the consumer's personal injury claim or action.
- 6. Before agreeing to advance funds to a consumer, the Companies, with permission from the consumer, contact the consumer's personal injury attorney of record to review the consumer's claim or action. If the Companies agree to advance funds, such advance is made contingent upon the consumer contractually agreeing to grant the Companies a lien on the proceeds of any settlement, judgment or verdict to the extent of the agreed upon repayment amount. Under the terms of the contract, in the event the consumer receives no recovery from his/her claim or action, the consumer owes no money to the Companies. To date, the Companies

have entered into thousands of transactions with New York consumers.

- 7. The Attorney General is concerned that consumers may not adequately understand the terms of the contracts with the Companies and thus may not be able to make a reasoned decision as to whether to enter into such transactions. Specifically, the Attorney General has the following concerns with these transactions, which may have the tendency and capacity to violate applicable New York law:
 - (A) With respect to disclosure regarding the financial aspects of the transaction (i) not all contracts provide the annualized percentage rate of return; (ii) consumers may not fully appreciate the considerable degree to which their total cost may vary depending on the length of time that passes before any repayment is made; and (iii) none of the contracts state the actual dollar amount to be repaid by the consumer if repayment is made at specified intervals, broken out by six month intervals, carried forward to 36 months, and including all fees as well as any minimum required payment amount.
 - (B) Certain contracts are multi-page documents and include legal terminology that may be difficult for consumers to understand.
 - (C) Not all of the Companies currently provide, for those consumers who do not speak, read or write English, adequate written translations in the consumer's native language.
 - (D) The Companies' contracts do not routinely provide the consumer with an opportunity to cancel the transaction without penalty within a reasonable time after execution of the contract.
 - (E) Not all of the Companies' contracts require that the consumer's attorney confirm in writing that he or she in fact has explained these terms to the consumer.

IT NOW APPEARS that the Companies are willing to enter into this Agreement and settle and resolve the Attorney General's concerns, without admitting that the Companies have

violated any law or otherwise committed any wrongful or improper act, and the Attorney General is willing to accept this agreement to resolve his concerns.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED by each of the Companies, and their employees, agents, subsidiaries, successors and assigns, with respect to all transactions with New York consumers who enter into cash advance transactions with any of the Companies on or after 90 days of the date of this agreement:

- 1. All contracts shall be in compliance with General Obligations Law §5-702 (Plain Language law).
- 2. All contracts shall be completely filled in and contain the following disclosures ("Disclosure Statement"), on the front page in at least 12-point bold type, appropriately headed (sample "Disclosure Statement" is attached hereto as Attachment A):
 - (A) the total amount to be advanced to the consumer;
 - (B) itemization of one-time fees, broken out item by item (e.g. application, processing, attorney review, broker, etc.);
 - (C) percentage fee or rate of return, stated on an annualized basis, including frequency of compounding;
 - (D) total amount to be repaid by the consumer, broken out by six month intervals, carried forward to 36 months, and including all fees as well as any minimum required payment amount.
- 3. All contracts shall provide that the consumer may cancel the contract within five business days following the consumer's receipt of funds, without penalty or further obligation. The contract shall contain the following notice written in a clear and conspicuous manner: "NEW YORK CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO CANCELLATION: YOU MAY CANCEL THIS CONTRACT WITHOUT PENALTY OR FURTHER OBLIGATION WITHIN FIVE

BUSINESS DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU RECEIVE FUNDING FROM [insert name of company ("COMPANY")]." The contract shall also specify that in order for the cancellation to be effective, the consumer must either: (i) return the full amount of disbursed funds to the COMPANY by delivering the COMPANY'S uncashed check to the COMPANY'S offices in person, within 5 business days of the disbursement of funds, or (ii) mail a notice of cancellation and include in that mailing a return of the full amount of disbursed funds (in the form of the COMPANY'S check, or a registered or certified check or money order), by insured, registered or certified United States mail, postmarked within five business days of receiving funds from the COMPANY, at the address specified for such cancellation in the contract.

- 4. The consumer shall initial each page of the contract.
- 5. All contracts shall contain a legend, immediately above the consumer's signature, in at least 12-point boldface type, to read:

DO NOT SIGN THIS CONTRACT BEFORE YOU READ IT COMPLETELY OR IF IT CONTAINS ANY BLANK SPACE. BEFORE YOU SIGN THIS CONTRACT YOU SHOULD OBTAIN THE ADVICE OF YOUR ATTORNEY. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A COMPLETELY FILLED IN COPY OF THIS CONTRACT.

- 6. All contracts shall contain a written certification by the consumer's attorney of record that (s)he has reviewed the contract and explained to the consumer its terms, including the annualized rate of return applied to calculate the amount to be paid by the consumer.
- 7. For English and Spanish speaking consumers, contracts shall be written in the same language in which the oral negotiations are conducted between the COMPANY and the consumer. For consumers whose primary language is neither English nor Spanish: (i) the "principal terms" of the contract shall be translated in writing into the consumer's native language; (ii) the consumer shall sign the translated document containing the "principal"

terms" and initial each page; and (iii) the translator shall sign a notarized affirmation confirming that the "principal terms" have been presented to the consumer in his native language and acknowledged by the consumer, in writing. For purposes of this agreement, "principal terms" shall include all of the items required to be disclosed by paragraph 2 above (see Attachment A) as well as the legend in paragraph 5 above.

- 8. To the extent the contract provides for attorneys fees and costs (in addition to the amount due and owing under the contract) in case of breach of the contract by either party, the contract shall provide that attorneys fees and costs may be recoverable by the prevailing party and must be reasonable. Any contractual cap on such attorneys fees and costs shall apply equally to both parties.
- 9. No contract may require mandatory arbitration to resolve disputes under the contract.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that nothing contained herein shall be construed so as to deprive any individual of any private right of action under the law.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that nothing contained herein shall be construed as relieving the Companies of their obligations to comply with all state and federal statutes, regulations or rules, to the extent such statutes, regulations or rules are applicable to and govern any particular contract, nor shall any of the provisions of this agreement be deemed permission to engage in any act or practice prohibited by such statute, regulation or rule, to the extent such statute, regulation or rule is applicable to and governs any particular contract.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Companies shall not represent or imply that any business acts or practices hereafter used or engaged in by the Companies have been approved, in whole or in part, by the Attorney General of the State of New York.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED by the Companies that each of the Companies will file

a report, individually or through ALFA, with the Attorney General indicating the manner and extent

of its compliance with this agreement within 120 days of the date of this agreement.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED by the Companies that in the event the Attorney General

enters into an agreement with another company engaged in the same or similar practices that are

the subject of this agreement and the terms of such agreement are inconsistent with any provisions

of this agreement, the Companies may request the Attorney General's office in writing to modify

any affected provisions of this agreement to bring them into conformity with such other agreement.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that each of the Companies will pay to the Attorney

General the sum of \$5,000 as costs.

WHEREFORE, the following signatures are affixed hereto this 17th day of February,

2005:

ELIOT SPITZER Attorney General

State of New York

Bureau of Consumer Frauds & Protection

By:

Thomas Conway

Assistant Attorney General in Charge

Stephen Mindell

Special Assistant Attorney General

Herbert Israel

Assistant Attorney General

PLAINTIFF SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.	
By: Malando, President	
PRE-SETTLEMENT FINANCE, LLC	
By: Carmine DeSantis, President	
QUICKCASH, INC.	
By: Marc Waldman, CEO	
MAGNOLIA FUNDING, LLC	
By: Jason Bass, President	
Jason Bass, President BRIDGEFUNDS LIMITED	
By: Mark Berlin, President	
PLAINTIFF FUNDING CORPORATION d/b/a LAWCASH	
By: Harvey Hirschfield, Executive Vice Preside	nt
OASIS LEGAL FINANCE CO., LLC.	
By: Gary Chodes, CEO	

PLAINTIFF SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.
By: Joseph DiNardo, President
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By: Carmine DeSantis, President
QUICKS/ASH ING.
Marc Waldman, CEO
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By: Harvey Hirschfield, Executive Vice President
OASIS LEGAL FINANCE CO., LLC.
By:

PLAINTIFF SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.	7 	1	
By: Joseph DiNardo, President			
PRE-SETTLEMENT FINANCE, LLC		:	
By:			
QUICKCASH, INC.			
By: Marc Waldman, CEO	·		
MAGNOLIA FUNDING, LLC			
By:		4 *	
BRIDGEFUNDS LIMITED			
By: Mark Berlin, President			
PLAINTIFF FUNDING CORPORATION d/b/a LAWCASH	1		
By: Harvey Hischfeld by Harvey Hyschfield, Executive Vice Presiden	Jason)	Joyer Senior	Vice Presiden
OASIS LEGAL FINANCE CO., LLC.			
By:			

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PLAINTIFF SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.
By:
PRE-SETTLEMENT FINANCE, LLC
By: Carmine DeSantis, President
QUICKCASH, INC.
By: Marc Waldman, CEO
MAGNOLIA FUNDING, LLC
By: Jason Bass, President
BRIDGEFUNDS LIMITED
By: Mark Berlin, President
PLAINTIFF FUNDING CORPORATION d/b/a LAWCASH
By: Harvey Hirschfield, Executive Vice President
OASIS LEGAL FINANCE CO., LLC.
By: Ja Jarl Gary Chodes, CEO

HE WHITEHAVEN GROUP, LLC	
y: Howard Schatz,	
IEW AMSTERDAM CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC, D/B/A LAWMAX	
y:	
Max Volsky, President	
MERICAN LEGAL FINANCE ASSOCIATION	
By:	
Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel LLP	
Eric A. Tirschwell, Esq. As counsel for the American Legal Finance Association	

THE WHITEHAVEN GROUP, LLC

By:		
,		
	Howard Schatz	

NEW AMSTERBAM CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC, D/B/A LAWMAX

By:

Max Volsky, President

AMERICAN LEGAL FINANCE ASSOCIATION

By:

Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Eric A. Tirschwell, Esq.

As counsel for the American Legal Finance Association

THE WHITEHAVEN GROUP, LLC By: Howard Schatz, NEW AMSTERDAM CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC, D/B/A LAWMAX By: Max Volsky, President AMERICAN LEGAL FINANCE ASSOCIATION By: Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel LLP

As counsel for the American Legal Finance Association

Eric A. Tirschwell, Esq.

ATTACHMENT "A"

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1.	Total amount to be adva	anced to consumer \$	
2.	Itemized Fees: application processing attorney review broker other () Total	\$ \$ \$ I fees: \$	
3.	Annual percentage fee on advance, compound		%
4.	Total amount to be repa if at 6 months:	aid by consumer \$	
	if at 12 months:	\$	
	If at 18 months:	\$	
	If at 24 months:	\$	
	If at 30 months:	\$	
	If at 36 months:	\$	

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK)
	: ss
COUNTY OF ERIE)

Joseph DiNardo, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the President of Plaintiff Support Services, Inc., ("the Company") the entity described in and which executed the foregoing Agreement. I have executed the aforesaid instrument with the consent and authority of the Company and those responsible for the acts of said entity and duly acknowledge same.

JOSEPH DINAKDO

Sworn to before me this 24th day of December, 2004

HELEN ANN S. JONES
Notary Public. State of New York
Quadred in Eric County 2005
My Commission Expires Nov. 30,

Pre-Settlement Finance, L.L.C.	
By:	
1 th	
Carmine DeSantis, President	

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK		
	:	
COUNTY OF RICHMOND)	

Carmine DeSantis, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the President of **Pre-Settlement Finance**, **L.L.C.**, a respondent described in and which executed the foregoing Assurance of Discontinuance. I have executed the aforesaid instrument with the consent and authority of said corporation and those responsible for the acts of said entity and duly acknowledge the same.

Carmine DeSantis

Sworn to before me this

19th Day of Jan, 2005

Notary Public ANN WALL Notary Public, State of New York

No. 43-4710064

Oualified in Richmond County

Commission Expires

QuickCash, Inc.

Marc Waldman, Chief Executive Officer

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF DELAWARE)

: ss

COUNTY OF NEW CASTLE)

Marc Waldman, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the Chief Executive Officer of QuickCash, Inc., a respondent described in and which executed the foregoing Assurance of Discontinuance. I have executed the aforesaid instrument with the consent and authority of said corporation and those responsible for the acts of said entity and duly acknowledge same.

Marc Waldman

Sworn to before me this

25th day of January, 2005

MATHEW R. SHELDON

Qualified in kings County Commission Expires 2/14/20

Notary Public

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK)
•	: S
COUNTY OF NASSAU)

Jason Bass, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am President of Magnolia Funding, LLC, a pre-settlement funding company described in and which executed the foregoing instrument. I have executed the aforesaid instrument with the consent and authority of said entity and those responsible for the acts of said entity and duly acknowledge same.

JASON BASS

Sworn to before me this 23rd day of December, 2004

Notary Public

CHASTITY GUTIERREZ
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF NEW YORK.
NO. 01GU6088088
QUALIFIED IN QUEENS COUNTY
TERM EXPIRES MARCH 3, 2007

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF Minnesota)
COUNTY OF Hennepin	: ss)

Mark Berlin, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the President of **BridgeFunds Llmited.**, a respondent described in and which executed the foregoing Assurance of Discontinuance. I have executed the aforesaid instrument with the consent and authority of said corporation and those responsible for the acts of said entity and duly acknowledge same.

Mark Berlin

Sworn to before me this 20 day of January 2005

Notary Public

WILLIAM J. BRENDLE Notary Public Minnesota My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2009

Plaintiff Funding Corporati	ion					
Dennis Shields, President						
	CORPORATE	E ACKNOWLE	DGMENT			
STATE OF New York)					
COUNTY OF Kings	: ss)					
Dennis Shiel	ds, being duly	sworn, depose	es and says:			
I am the President of Plaint executed the foregoing Ass with the consent and author entity and duly acknowledge	urance of Disco ity of said corp	ntinuance. I h	ave executed th	ne aforesaid	d instrur	nent

Dennis Shields

Sworn to before me this 20th day of January, 2005

Notary Public

SHELIA TRANTHAM
Commissioner of Deeds
City of New York No. 2-11785
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires April 1, 20

The Whitehaven Group, LLC

By: Howard Schatz

Howard Schatz, Secretary

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

Howard Schatz, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the Secretary of **The Whitehaven Group, LLC**, a respondent described in and which executed the foregoing Assurance of Discontinuance. I have executed the aforesaid instrument with the consent and authority of said corporation and those responsible for the acts of said entity and duly acknowledge same.

Howard Schatz

Sworn to before me this 31st day of January, 2005

Notary Public

GERARD I. NIERENBERG Notary Public, Strate of New York No. 31-02NI2792075 Qualified in New York County Commission Expires Feb. 28, 2005 Oasis Legal Finance, LLC

By:

Ralph Shayne, Chief Financial Officer

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
: ss
COUNTY OF COOK)

Ralph Shayne, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the Chief Financial Officer of **Oasis Legal Finance**, **LLC.**, a respondent described in and which executed the foregoing Assurance of Discontinuance. I have executed the aforesaid instrument with the consent and authority of said corporation and those responsible for the acts of said entity and duly acknowledge same.

Ralph/Shayne

Sworn to before me this

26th

day of January, 2005

Notary Public

OFFICIAL SEAL NANCY E FOLEY

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF ILLINOIS MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:05/03/07