

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Civil No. 05 C 5442
)	
v.)	Judge James B. Moran
)	
Centurion Financial Benefits, LLC <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

CONTEMPT ORDER

Plaintiff, Federal Trade Commission (“FTC” or “Commission”) filed on March 2, 2007, its Motion for Order to Show Cause Why Frank Bellissimo and Ira Rubin Should Not Be Held in Contempt, alleging that these individuals violated multiple provisions of the Stipulated Preliminary Injunction with Asset Freeze and Other Equitable Relief entered in this case on January 23, 2006 (“Preliminary Injunction”), through their operation of a telemarketing scam and transfer of proceeds related to the scam. On May 17, 2007, this Court granted the order to show cause and directed the FTC to submit a proposed order, which it has done.

WHEREFORE, the Court having considered the Commission’s motion and the declarations and exhibits supporting that motion, and being fully advised in the premises, hereby

ORDERS, ADJUDGES, A

2. After entry of the Preliminary Injunction, Bellissimo created and played a controlling role in a telemarketing operation doing business as Easton Consulting Group (“Easton”) and Potomac Fidelity Group (“Potomac”). Bellissimo violated Section III of the Preliminary Injunction by failing to notify the FTC of his role in this new business and by failing to make the required disclosures regarding the business to the FTC;

3. In or around July 2006, Rubin began providing payment processing services for the Easton and Potomac entites, which involved the use of material misrepresentations to sell goods or services to U.S. consumers. Specifically, Bellissimo’s telemarketers falsely promised consumers that they were guaranteed or were highly likely to receive at least \$5,000 in government grants in exchange for an advance fee of several hundred dollars. Using information provided by Bellissimo, Rubin withdrew these funds from consumers’ bank accounts, kept a portion of these funds for himself in fees, and wired the balance to a Canadian bank account maintained by Bellissimo. Rubin also handled customer service for Bellissimo. Bellissimo and Rubin’s operation of this scam violates Section I (C), (D), and (E) and Section II of the Preliminary Injunction.

4 Between August 9 and December 11, 2006, Rubin processed \$1,570,688 in electronic debits on behalf of the Easton and Potomac scams, as well as retained \$101,459 in fees for providing these services, all in violation of Section VI of the Preliminary Injunction. Rubin wired at least \$556,189 in scam proceeds to Bellissimo in violation of Sections II and V of the Preliminary Injunction.

On the basis of these findings, Frank Bellissimo and Ira Rubin are found to be in civil contempt for violating the terms of this Court’s Preliminary Injunction.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED as follows:

1. Frank Bellissimo and Ira Rubin, jointly and severally, are hereby directed to immediately deposit \$657,648 into an escrow account in the United States. Bellissimo and Rubin shall promptly inform the Court and Plaintiff of their compliance with this order provision as well as provide documents sufficient to show compliance;

2. Frank Bellissimo and Ira Rubin are each hereby fined a total of \$5,000.00 per day beginning on the day this Contempt Order is entered and continuing thereafter until they have complied with above directive requiring them to repatriate the \$657,648 in proceeds of the Potomac and Easton scams. The fine imposed herein shall be payable to the United States Treasury, care of the Federal Trade Commission;

3. Section I of the Stipulated Preliminary Injunction entered January 23, 2006 is hereby AMENDED to ban Frank Bellissimo from engaging in the sale or promotion of any product or service to United States consumers. This amended relief shall be in addition to and not instead of the original provisions of Section I of the Preliminary Injunction; and

4. The Stipulated Preliminary Injunction entered January 23, 2006 is hereby AMENDED to subject Potomac Fidelity Group and Easton Consulting Group to the all provisions of the Preliminary Injunction.

IT IS SO ORDERED this _____ day of May, 2007.

Honorable James B. Moran
United States District Judge