

# Texas and Alabama Securities Regulators Team Up to Uncover Global Investment Scam



MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA AND AUSTIN, TEXAS (August 14, 2020) - The Texas State Securities Board (TSSB) and the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) issued emergency cease and desist orders simultaneously to Liquid Gold Trust, Liquidity Card Solution LLC, Liquidity Global Card Solution and Lance Angus Jerrard. The orders state that the respondents are attempting to defraud Texas and Alabama investors, the respondents engaged in dishonest business practices and the investments offered are not registered as required by Alabama and Texas law. Investors from these states should avoid doing business with Liquid Gold Trust, Liquidity Card Solution LLC, Liquidity Global Card Solution and Lance Angus Jerrard.

In numerous advertisements, Liquid Gold Trust, Liquidity Card Solution LLC, Liquidity Global Card Solution and Jerrard falsely claim that by investing in cryptocurrency debit cards investors can avoid financial stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and make money while staying home. Further, Liquid Gold Trust fraudulently offers guaranteed investments they claim will earn \$10,000 per month on their website www..lgtmap.com.

ASC Director Joseph Borg said, "A guaranteed investment with astronomical pay off's is like finding a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow shining in the sky over your back yard. Also, the characters in this outrageous offer are not legally registered to conduct business in the states of Texas or Alabama. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Texas State Securities Board for working together to investigate and place cease and desist orders to thwart those who would cheat our citizens."

"Blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies such as stablecoins provide exciting new commercial opportunities," said TSSB Commissioner Travis J. Iles. "The excitement also empowers bad actors, as they can craft fraudulent schemes to capitalize on the enthusiasm and promote a false sense of legitimacy. Schemers have weaponized current uncertainties resulting from the pandemic and other economic disruption placing Texas investors in jeopardy. Since March, the profluence of fraudulent schemes has been unprecedented."

"The prospect of guaranteed monthly income may seem like a dream come true during times of economic uncertainty," said TSSB Enforcement Director Joe Rotunda. "Unfortunately, cryptocurrency scams typically fail to support promises of prosperity with facts and evidence. In the end, it's often smoke and mirrors, with a technological twist."

The TSSB and the ASC caution all investors to thoroughly research investments. The vital first step when researching a financial professional or product is calling the TSSB or ASC to confirm their registration. Contact your state's securities regulator to report suspected fraud and inappropriate securities business

practices. Free investor education materials can be found on the ASC website at <u>www.asc.alabama.gov</u> or TSSB website at <u>www.ssb.texas.gov/investors</u>. If you are not located in Texas or Alabama, you can locate the regulator dedicated to protecting your investing interests - <u>https://www.nasaa.org/contact-your-regulator/</u>.

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In Texas for further information on this matter please contact Joe Rotunda, Director of Enforcement at <u>irotunda@ssb.texas.gov</u> or 512-305-8392.

**Texas State Securities Board** Thomas Jefferson Rusk State Office Building 208 East 10th Street, Room 610 Austin, Texas 78701-2407

In Alabama for further information contact Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs Manager, 334-353-4858.

# **Alabama Securities Commission**

Post Office Box 304700 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4700 Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240 Email: <u>asc@asc.alabama.gov</u> Website: <u>www.asc.alabama.gov</u>

# STATE OF ALABAMA ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:	)
	)
LIQUID GOLD TRUST	)
LIQUIDITY CARD SOLUTION, LLC	)
LIQUIDITY GLOBAL CARD	)
SOLUTION (PTY) LTD	)
LANCE ANGUS JERRARD	)
	)

RESPONDENTS

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

NO. CD-2020-0014

## **CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**

The Alabama Securities Commission ("Commission"), having the authority to administer and provide for the enforcement of all provisions of Title 8, Chapter 6, <u>Code of Alabama 1975</u>, the Alabama Securities Act ("Securities Act") and Title 8, Chapter 7, <u>Code of Alabama 1975</u>, the Alabama Monetary Transmission Act ("Monetary Transmission Act"), upon due consideration of the subject matter hereof, has determined as follows:

### **RESPONDENTS**

1. Liquid Gold Trust ("LGT") may be served at 21781 Ventura Boulevard No. 44A, Woodland Hills, California. Liquid Gold Trust is the parent company of Liquidity Card Solution LLC and Liquidity Global Card Solution (PTY) LTD. Liquid Gold Trust and its subsidiaries purport to operate offices at the following additional locations: 1910 Thomes Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001; 1st Floor, Block B, Metropolitan Part, 8a Hillside Road, Parktown, 2196, South Africa; and 8 Hillside Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2196.

2. Liquidity Card Solution LLC ("LCS") may be served through InCorp Services, Inc. at 1910 Thomes Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. Liquidity Card Solution LLC is a subsidiary of LGT. Liquidity Card Solution LLC and its parent company purport to operate offices at the following additional locations: 21781 Ventura Boulevard No. 44A, Woodland Hills, California; 1st Floor, Block B, Metropolitan Part, 8a Hillside Road, Parktown, 2196, South Africa; and 8 Hillside Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2196.

3. Liquidity Global Card Solution (PTY) LTD ("LGS") may be served at 21781 Ventura Boulevard No. 44A, Woodland Hills, California. Liquidity Global Card Solution (PTY) LTD is a wholly owned subsidiary of LGT. Liquidity Global Card Solution (PTY) LTD and its parent company purport to operate offices at the following additional locations: 1910 Thomes Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001; 1st Floor, Block B, Metropolitan Part, 8a Hillside Road, Parktown, 2196, South Africa; and 8 Hillside Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2196.

4. Lance Angus Jerrard ("JERRARD") may be served at 21781 Ventura Boulevard No. 44A, Woodland Hills, California. JERRARD purports to operate businesses at the following additional addresses: 1910 Thomes Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001; 1st Floor, Block B, Metropolitan Part, 8a Hillside Road, Parktown, 2196, South Africa; and 8 Hillside Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2196. JERRARD is the Chief Executive Officer of LGT. JERRARD is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of LCS. JERRARD is the incorporator of LGS.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

5. The Commission received information from the Texas State Securities Board concerning a purportedly fraudulent, global, investment scheme being conducted by JERRARD, LGT, LCS, and LGS (collectively, "RESPONDENTS"). The Texas State Securities Board is concurrently issuing an Emergency Cease and Desist Order outlining the fraudulent representations made by RESPONDENTS.

6. LGT's website, accessible to Alabama citizens at <u>www.lgtmap.com</u>, contains documents to solicit investments. These include, or included, an LCS Business Plan, an LCS Draft Agreement, a Detailed Video Business Plan, and an Investment Video. According to these documents, investors, regardless of location, may invest \$1,150.00 in LCS in exchange for a 1/8400 "Portion" of an international "Global Project Partnership" as a "Global Project Partner." In exchange for their investment, "Global Project Partners" are guaranteed a growing, monthly passive income of up to \$10,000 per month. This guaranteed return on their investment is generated

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from a portion of the \$12.50 monthly fee assessed to holders of the "Liquidity Card" which RESPONDENTS promise to transfer to the "Global Project Partnership." According to these documents, "Global Project Partner" investment funds will be used to pay for a global marketing campaign designed to recruit eight million "Liquidity Card" holders. The "Liquidity Card" is represented to be a prepaid, cryptocurrency, debit card. The "Liquidity Card" is touted as a traditional debit card that permits clients to purchase goods and services from merchants, withdraw cash from ATMs, and transfer funds over the internet. Additionally, the "Liquidity Card" purportedly permits cardholders to move profits into an account that works with stable coins such as USD Coin (USDC), TrueUSD Coin (TUSD) and PAX Coin (PAX). RESPONDENTS represent that "Liquidity Card" holders can transmit monetary value between currency types to avoid taxable events.

7. In numerous advertisements made available electronically by LCS to the public, including residents of Alabama, RESPONDENTS attempt to induce investor participation in their investment and money transmission scheme by referencing the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") global health crisis with representations such as, "Stay financial stress free," "Make money while you stay at home," "Help stop the spread of corona virus...[and] still get an income to support your family," and "Be able to stay at home and still provide for your family."

8. A review of the registration and licensing files of the Commission revealed no registration or license for RESPONDENTS in any capacity as of August 9, 2020. As of this date, no registration, license, notice filing, or exemption has been perfected for the proportional Global Project Partner interests offered by REPONDENTS.

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

9. Pursuant to Section 8-6-2(10), <u>Code of Alabama 1975</u>, the definition of "security" includes investment contracts. The proportional Global Project Partner interests offered, and made available by RESPONDENTS to Alabama citizens, in which investors invest monetary value in the purchase of proportional Global Project Partner interests, from which profits would be derived from the efforts of RESPONDENTS are investment contracts and are securities as defined by the Securities Act.

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10. Pursuant to Section 8-6-4, <u>Code of Alabama 1975</u>, it is unlawful to offer any security in this state unless it is registered under the Securities Act or is subject to a perfected exemption from registration. RESPONDENTS, through their website, have and are offering investment contracts, to Alabama citizens while the securities are not registered, nor subject to a perfected exemption from registration, in violation of the Securities Act.

11. Pursuant to Section 8-6-17(a)(1), <u>Code of Alabama 1975</u>, it is unlawful for any person, in connection with the offer of a security, to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud. RESPONDENTS employed a scheme or artifice to defraud through the offer of securities, the investment contracts, in which RESPONDENTS represented that investment returns were guaranteed and worth up to \$10,000.00 per month. RESPONDENTS used unqualified representations in advertisements that investors could earn a passive income and provide for their families during the COVID-19 global health crisis as inducements to invest in RESPONDENTS' investment contracts in violation of the Securities Act.

12. Pursuant to Section 8-7A-2(10), <u>Code of Alabama 1975</u>, the definition of "Money Transmission" includes, selling or issuing payment instruments, stored value, or receiving money or monetary value for transmission. Section 8-7A-2(8) defines monetary value to include virtual or fiat currencies. RESPONDENTS' "Liquidity Card" will be an instrument for the transmission of money and the instruments, as described by RESPONDENTS, will be used for money transmission.

13. Pursuant to Section 8-7A-5, <u>Code of Alabama 1975</u>, a person may not engage in the business of money transmission or hold itself out as a money transmitter, unless it is licensed under the Monetary Transmission Act or meets specific exemptions. RESPONDENTS are not licensed money transmitters or delegates thereof, have not perfected an exemption to licensure, and are purporting to be a money transmitter in violation of the Monetary Transmission Act.

This Order is appropriate in the public interest for the protection of consumers and is consistent with the purposes of the Securities Act and the Monetary Transmission Act.

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This Order does not prevent the Commission from seeking such other civil or criminal remedies that are available to it under the Securities Act or the Monetary Transmission Act.

Additionally, if the allegations set forth herein are found to be true, through either administrative adjudication, failure of the RESPONDENTS to make a timely request for a hearing, or default of the RESPONDENTS, it is the intention of the Commission to impose sanctions upon the RESPONDENTS. Such sanctions may include, inter alia, an administrative assessment imposed on the RESPONDENTS, an additional administrative assessment for investigative cost arising from the investigation of the violation(s) described herein against the RESPONDENTS, and a permanent order to bar the RESPONDENTS from participation in any securities or money transmission related industry in the state of Alabama.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that RESPONDENTS immediately CEASE AND DESIST from further offers or sales of any security into, within or from the state of Alabama and from further participating in the monetary transmission business into, within or from the state of Alabama.

Entered at Montgomery, Alabama, this 14th day of August 2020.



ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION P.O. Box 304700 Montgomery, AL 36130-4700 (334) 242-2984

BY:

Edwin L. Reed Deputy Director