VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, EX REL. MARK R. HERRING, ATTORNEY GENERAL,)))
Plaintiff,)
v.) CIVIL ACTION NO
ANNUAL BUSINESS SERVICES LLC, a Florida limited liability company,	REGENTER ASSUMPTION
Defendant.	SEP 08 2015/101
COMPLAIN	T BY D.C.

The Plaintiff, Commonwealth of Virginia, by, through and at the relation of the Attorney General of Virginia, Mark R. Herring (the "Plaintiff" or the "Commonwealth"), petitions this Court to declare that the activities in which the Defendant, Annual Business Services LLC ("ABS" or the "Defendant"), has engaged constitute violations of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-216 and 13.1-1051. The Plaintiff prays that this Court grant the relief requested in this Complaint and states the following in support thereof:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. The Circuit Court of the City of Richmond has authority to entertain this action and to grant the relief requested herein pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 8.01-620 and 17.1-513.
- 2. Venue is preferred in this Court pursuant to Virginia Code § 8.01-261(15)(c) because some or all of the acts to be enjoined are, or were, being done in the City of Richmond. Venue is permissible in this Court pursuant to Virginia Code § 8.01-262 (2), (3), and (4) because an agent to receive process has been appointed by operation of the law in the City of Richmond

and the Defendant regularly conducts substantial business activity in the City of Richmond and part of the cause of action arose in the City of Richmond.

3. Prior to the commencement of this action, Defendant was notified via a Notice of Violation letter (the "NOV Letter") that Plaintiff had reason to believe Defendant had violated the criminal false advertising statute, Virginia Code § 18.2-216. The NOV Letter provided an opportunity for a representative of ABS to provide exculpatory information or to discuss resolution through a Consent Judgment. Plaintiff issued the NOV Letter by certified mail on April 8, 2015 to both the local address listed on the ABS advertisements at issue and the Registered Agent for ABS located in Tampa, Florida. The NOV Letter was delivered to the local address on April 9, 2015 and to the Registered Agent on April 13, 2015.

PARTIES

- 4. The Plaintiff is the Commonwealth of Virginia, by, through and at the relation of Mark R. Herring, Attorney General of Virginia.
- 5. The Defendant, Annual Business Services LLC, is a Florida limited liability corporation having its principal office at 333 3rd Avenue N #325, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33701.

FACTS

6. ABS is a Florida limited liability company that purports to provide record preparation services for businesses, including the preparation of annual minutes. ABS primarily solicits potential customers through targeted mailings. In some of the advertisements and solicitations ABS is identified as ABS Business Compliance Division or Business Compliance Division, for internal tracking purposes.

- 7. ABS has not obtained a certificate of registration from the State Corporation Commission ("SCC") in order to transact business within the Commonwealth, as required by Virginia Code § 13.1-1051.
- 8. ABS has not maintained a registered office or registered agent in the Commonwealth, as required by Virginia Code § 13.1-1015.
- 9. Based on ten complaints the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia (the "Office") received regarding ABS, as well as through information obtained through its investigation, the Commonwealth has reason to believe that ABS has engaged in deceptive or misleading practices with regard to the advertisement of its record preparation and document request services.
- 10. ABS mailed a form titled "2015 ANNUAL MINUTES" (the "Form") to the complainants, which advertised the preparation of "corporate minutes that meet the [] requirements of [Virginia Code §§ 13.1-654 and -770]." The statutory corporate meeting and meeting minutes requirements referenced in the Form apply only to Virginia stock corporations. A copy of the Form and the envelope in which it was mailed are attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 11. Additionally, the Form requested payment of \$125.00 as a fee for ABS's preparation of the annual meeting minutes.
- 12. The return address on the Form was "Annual Business Services, 5806 Grove Avenue #727, Richmond, VA, 23226," which location is in the City of Richmond.
- 13. The Form is sent in an envelope which fails to clearly disclose that it is not an official government mailing and the Form implies that Virginia limited liability companies are subject to provisions of the Virginia Stock Corporation Act, Virginia Code §§ 13.1-601 through

- 13.1-800, requiring the holding of an annual meeting and preparation of meeting minutes, when they are not.
- 14. Virginia limited liability companies are governed by the Virginia Limited Liability Company Act, Virginia Code §§ 13.1-1000 through 1080, which includes no such annual meeting or preparation of meeting minutes requirements.
- 15. ABS Business Compliance Division / Business Compliance Division mailed a postcard titled "Important Compliance Notice" (the "Postcard") to many Virginia entities, including some of the complianness, which implied the existence of a potential compliance violation that would or might result in fees or penalties imposed by an undisclosed government agency. Copies of the Postcard are attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- 16. Additionally, the Postcard provided a toll free number and instructed complainants to "PLEASE CALL IMMEDIATELY" TO "Avoid Potential Fees and Penalties." Upon calling the toll free number, complainants were asked to pay a \$68 fee for a purportedly required Certificate of Fact(s).
- 17. The return address on the Postcard was "ABS Business Compliance Division / Business Compliance Division, 2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20006."
- 18. The Postcard fails to clearly disclose that it is not an official government mailing and the Postcard implies the existence of a potential compliance violation that would or might result in fees or penalties imposed by an undisclosed government agency.
- 19. A Certificate of Fact(s) is not a legally required form, although it can be requested from the SCC for a fee of \$6. An entity may utilize this SCC service for a variety of reasons. For example, a named foreign limited liability company may request a Certificate of Fact from the SCC to show it is authorized to do business in Virginia.

- 20. On information and belief, Virginia businesses have paid and ABS has accepted payment of fees for the preparation of annual meeting minutes for Virginia limited liability companies and/or for requests to the SCC for issuance of Certificate of Fact(s). Two of the ten complainants, referenced in paragraph 9 above, completed the Form and paid fees to ABS.
- 21. On information and belief, the Commonwealth understands that the complaints it has received to date may represent potentially only a fraction of those harmed by ABS, and there is reason to believe these mailings may have been sent to most limited liability companies operating in Virginia.

CAUSE OF ACTION

COUNT I – Virginia Code § 18.2-216

- 22. The Commonwealth re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 21 above.
- 23. Virginia Code § 18.2-216 makes it a Class 1 Misdemeanor to advertize "... any promise, assertion, representation or statement of fact which is untrue, deceptive or misleading, or uses any other method, device or practice which is fraudulent, deceptive or misleading to induce the public to enter into any obligation."
- 24. By mailing a document that appears to come from a government source and misapplies provisions of the Virginia Stock Corporation Act to a limited liability company in an effort to induce the recipient of the mailer to provide payment for the offered services, ABS has engaged in "deceptive or misleading" practices with regard to the advertisement of its annual minute preparation services in violation of Virginia Code § 18.2-216.
- 25. By mailing a document that appears to come from a government source and implies the existence of a potential compliance violation that would or might result in fees or

penalties imposed by an undisclosed government agency, when such is not accurate, ABS has engaged in "deceptive or misleading" practices in violation of Virginia Code § 18.2-216.

26. Virginia Code § 59.1-68.2 authorizes the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief for any violation of § 18.2-216.

COUNT II – Virginia Code § 13.1-1051

- 27. The Commonwealth re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 21 and 23 through 26 above.
- 28. Virginia Code § 13.1-1051 requires foreign limited liability companies to obtain a certificate of registration from the SCC prior to transacting any business in the Commonwealth.
- 29. By soliciting potential Virginia customers through direct mail to provide record preparation and document request services, with a return address in Virginia, ABS has transacted business within the Commonwealth.
- 30. ABS has not obtained a certificate of registration from the SCC to transact business within the Commonwealth in violation of Virginia § 13.1-1051.
- 31. Virginia Code § 13.1-1058 authorizes the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief for any violation of § 13.1-1051.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Commonwealth of Virginia, prays that this Court:

- 1. Permanently enjoin ABS from any future violations of Virginia Code § 18.2-216 and 13.1-1051, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 59.1-68.2 and 13.1-1058; and
 - 2. Order such other and further relief as may be deemed proper and just.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, EX REL. MARK R. HERRING, ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: 4 M/S

Mark R. Herring Attorney General

Cynthia E. Hudson Chief Deputy Attorney General

Rhodes B. Ritenour Deputy Attorney General Civil Litigation Division

David B. Irvin (VSB No. 23927) Senior Assistant Attorney General

Stephen J. Sovinsky (VSB No. 85637) Assistant Attorney General

Angela M. King (VSB No. 76922) Assistant Attorney General

Consumer Protection Section 900 East Main Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 Phone: (804) 786-0514 Fax: (804) 786-0122



Prest Std U.S. Postage PAID Complete Melling Service, Inc.

ABS 5806 Grove Avenue #727 Richmond, VA 23226 OPEN IMMEDIATELY

2015 ANNUAL MINUTES PREPARATION

BUSINESS MAIL-TIME SENSITIVE

Annual Minutes Form



INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ANNUAL MINUTES FORM

Review the preprinted corporate name and address on the form and make any changes if needed.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Step 1:	Designate a "Chair" and "Secretary". Each meeting must have a designated "chair" and "secretary". If you have a small company or haven't appointed anyone yet, simply list yourself for both.
Step 2:	List all shareholders, accounting for 100% ownership of the company. Here you want to list anyone who has equity ownership in the company. The total ownership % must be 100%.
Step 3:	List all directors. Here you need to list anyone on your Enand of directors or that holds a title (CEO, CFO, President, etc.). Make sure this is the most current and up to date information.
Step 4:	List all Corporate Officers. Provide the name and title of all you officers. Examples of officers are President, CEO, CFO, etc.
Step 5:	Please indicate whether the company operates as a non profit.
Step 6:	Enter contact information. Provide the name, email and phone number of a person we can contact with questions regarding your minutes.
Step 7:	Prepare payment. Make sure you provide all the needed credit card information or a properly filled out check. PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK ALL THIS INFORMATION as incorrect information will result in a delay in processing and preparation.
Step 8:	Signature. Please sign and date the form to confirm all the information you provided is true and correct, and to confirm payment.
Step 9:	Return your completed form and payment promptly to avoid delays in processing.

Submit the Annual Minutes Form together with the payment for the preparation of the documents to satisfy the annual minutes requirements for the corporation. Submit payment of \$125.00 payable to:

Annual Business Services 5806 Grove Avenue #727 Richmond, VA 23226

Our professional team will complete your minutes and ship them back to you within four weeks.

Upon receiving your completed minutes please review and sign them. If you find errors please contact us at support@annualbusinessservices.us or via phone at (855) 246-8622.

Please note...certain states require the filing of an annual report with the state on a periodic basis. Annual Business Services is not a filing service and does not file minutes with any government entity or agency.

ZUTO ANNUAL MINUTESSHAREHOLDERS, DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

(Virginia Corporations)

Key Code: VA013	Notice Date: 2015-05-29	Corporation Number: S3131333	Incorporation Date: 1/4/2010			
4968 116 P1 —— 3-DGT 232 LIBERTY HALL FARMS, LLC 15 TAPOAN RD RICHMOND, VA 23226-3218 						
		 	Please Respond By: June 26, 2015			

Annual Business Services will prepare and provide corporate minutes that meet the following requirements of Virginia Law:

CODE OF VIRGINIA - CORPORATIONS §13.1-854 Annual Meeting - A corporation shall hold a meeting of shareholders annually at a time stated in or fixed in accordance with the bylaws...

CODE OF VIRGINIA - CORPORATIONS §13.1-770 Corporate Records - A. A corporation shall keep as permanent records minutes of all meetings of its shareholders and board of directors

Do not confuse these minutes requirements with your obligation to file an Annual Report with the State of Virginia. You are not obligated to use Annual Business Services to prepare your Annual Minutes. ANNUAL BUSINESS SERVICES IS NOT A GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND DOES NOT REPRESENT A GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

Please complete this Annual Minutes Form. Your information will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties. Annual Business Services is a document preparation service and does not file any documents. Mail the completed form with your payment of \$125.00 Payable to Annual Business Services or enter your credit card information in the form provided below. Please return in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions email us at support@annualhusinessservices us prically styll free at (855) 248-8622.

enclosed envelope. If you have any quest	ions email us at support@	annualbusinessservices.us or o	call us toll free at (855) 24	8-8622
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ND: 2015-05-29 KC: VA013

Please Respond By: June 26, 2015

Business Compitance Division 2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW Weahington, DC 20008

See Reverse





Important Compliance Notice

ABB 1082A(b)(1)



**** MDIED AADC 850 4782 T13-P3 JOES GRIDDLE N GRILL LLC 25 W PICCADILLY ST WINCHESTER, VA 22601-4843

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL COMPLIANCE VIOLATION

Business Name: JOES GAIDDLE N GAILL LLC

Business Entity #: \$5345527

Notice Date: 3/20/2015

AIM BUB. GENK

PLEASEGALL IMMEDIATELY

1-855-246-8622

Avoid Potential Fees and Penalties

Key Code #: PC729

ABS 1082A(b)(1)



See Reverse

Important Compliance Notice

D.O.C.B. 1632.8(b)

Business Compliance Division 2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20006

IN TOWN GELATORIA LLC
25 W PICCADILLY ST
WINCHESTER, VA 22601-4843



NOTICE OF POTENTIAL COMPLIANCE VIOLATION

Business Name: OLD TOWN SELATORIA LLC

Business Entity #: \$5254406

Notice Date: 4/16/2015

PLEASE CALL IMMEDIATELY

1-855-530-2615

Avoid Potential Fees and Penalties

Key Code #: PC729

D.O.C.S. 1832.8@1