

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH**

**BEFORE THE
SECURITIES COMMISSIONER**

In the Matter of Craig Brown, New)
England International Surety, Inc.,)
Joe Aguda, Aguda Financial Services,)
Inc., and their Officers, Directors,)
Agents and Employees,)
Respondents.)

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER,
NOTICE OF CIVIL PENALTY, AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO
REQUEST A HEARING**

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**THE SECURITIES COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA TO
CRAIG BROWN, NEW ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL SURETY, INC., JOE AGUDA,
AGUDA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., AND THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS,
AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES:**

The Securities Commissioner has a reasonable basis to believe that the Respondents have engaged in, are engaging in, or are about to engage in, acts, practices or transactions, as more fully described below, which are prohibited under Chapter 10-04 of the North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.). It is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors to restrain these acts, practices, or transactions of the Respondents.

1. The Respondents have offered for sale and/or sold investments, in the form of promissory notes, to residents of North Dakota in violation of §10-04-04 N.D.C.C. The subject investments are securities as defined in §10-04-02(15) N.D.C.C.
2. The subject investments have not been registered with the Securities Commissioner under §10-04-07; §10-04-07.1; §10-04-08; or §10-04-08.1 N.D.C.C.; are not exempt securities under §10-04-05 N.D.C.C; and have not been offered for sale or sold in exempt transactions under §10-04-06 N.D.C.C.
3. The Respondents have not registered as an agent in violation of §10-04-10(2) N.D.C.C.
4. The Respondents have engaged in a scheme or artifice to defraud investors and potential investors through the investment scheme, in violation of §10-04-15 N.D.C.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to §10-04-16 N.D.C.C., that the Respondents shall immediately **CEASE AND DESIST**:

1. From offering for sale or selling in North Dakota the subject investment, or any other investment interest however denominated, unless and until such investment interests have been registered with the Securities Commissioner.
2. From offering for sale or selling investments in North Dakota unless and until they have registered with the Securities Commissioner as dealers or agents.
3. From engaging in any scheme or artifice to defraud investors, or otherwise engaging in a fraudulent or deceptive act while offering for sale or selling securities or investments in North Dakota or to North Dakota residents.

This order does not prohibit the offer or sale of securities through exempt securities transactions under §10-04-06 N.D.C.C., nor does it prohibit registered dealers and agents from offering or selling exempt securities under §10-04-05 N.D.C.C.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that any willful violation of this order is a Class B Felony pursuant to §10-04-18(1) N.D.C.C. Pursuant to §12.1-32-01 N.D.C.C., a Class B Felony is punishable by a \$10,000 fine and 10 years' imprisonment.

NOTICE OF CIVIL PENALTIES

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the above-cited violations are sufficient grounds for the imposition of civil penalties pursuant to §10-04-16(1) N.D.C.C. The Securities Commissioner does not herein assess a civil penalty, but the Commissioner expressly reserves the authority to assess civil penalties, not to exceed \$10,000 per violation, regarding the violations outlined above, any other violations subsequently discovered, or any future securities violations or violations of this order.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST HEARING

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that pursuant to §10-04-12 N.D.C.C. you may request a hearing before the Securities Commissioner if such a request is made in writing WITHIN

TEN (10) DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THIS ORDER. The respondents have the right to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness my hand and seal this 16th day of February, 2000.



Syver Vinje

Syver Vinje, Securities Commissioner
Office of the Securities Commissioner
600 East Boulevard Ave.
State Capitol – Fifth Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0510
(701) 328-2910

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**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE
BY MAIL**

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I, Harold P. Kocher, being first duly sworn, state that I am a citizen of the United States over the age of twenty-one years and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled proceeding.

On, February 16, 2000, I deposited in the Central Mailing Bureau of the United States Post Office Department in the State Capitol in Bismarck, North Dakota, true and correct copies of the following document:

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER, NOTICE OF CIVIL
PENALTY, AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING**

A copy of the above document was securely enclosed in an envelope with postage prepaid, sent via Certified U. S. mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to each of the following:

Bert J. McKasy
Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP
4200 ISD Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3211

Craig Brown
102 1st Avenue SE, Box 98
Mapleton, MN 56065

Joe Aguda
Aguda Financial Services, Inc.
5200 Elysian Fields
New Orleans, LA 70122

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the address given above is the last known address of the party intended to be served.

Harold P. Kocher

Harold P. Kocher

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 16, 2000.

Diane Kambeitz

Diane Kambeitz, Notary Public
Burleigh County, North Dakota
My commission expires 3/10/2000