DOCUM 31040 (FORM 1040) (12/15)	ient	Page 1 of 8			
ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COVER (Instructions on Reverse)	SHEE	ET ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)			
PLAINTIFFS Stephen Darr, as he is the Trustee of the Chapter 11 Estates of Each of the Debtors		DEFENDANTS Joele Frank Wilkinson Brimmer Katcher			
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone & Andrew G. Lizotte, Esq. Murphy & King, Professional Corporation One Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108 (617) 423-0400 Fax: (617) 423-0498	No.)	ATTORNEYS (If Known)			
PARTY (Check One Box Only) ☐ Debtor ☐ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin ☐ Creditor ☐ Other ☑ Trustee		PARTY (Check One Box Only) Debtor U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin Creditor Other Trustee			
CAUSE OF ACTION (WRITE A BRIEF STATEMEN To recover payments made to the Defendant with	T OF CA	CAUSE OF ACTION, INCLUDING ALL U.S. STATUES INVOLVED) ety (90) days of the bankruptcy filings as fraudulent transfers.			
		E OF SUIT s 1, first alternative cause as 2, second alternative cause as 3, etc.)			
FRBP 7001(1) - Recovery of Money/Property [] 11-Recovery of money/property - §542 turnover of property [] 12-Recovery of money/property - §547 preference [] 13-Recovery of money/property - §548 fraudulent transfer [] 14-Recovery of money/property - other FRBP 7001(2) - Validity, Priority or Extent of Lien [] 21-Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property FRBP 7001(3) - Approval of Sale of Property [] 31-Approval of sale of property of estate and of a co-owner - §363(h) FRBP 7001(4) - Objection/Revocation of Discharge [] 41-Objection / revocation of discharge - §727(c),(d),(e) FRBP 7001(5) - Revocation of Confirmation [] 51-Revocation of confirmation FRBP 7001(6) - Dischargeability [] 66-Dischargeability - §523(a)(1),(14),(14A) priority tax claims [] 62-Dischargeability - §523(a)(2), false pretenses, false representation, actual fraud [] 67-Dischargeability - §523(a)(4), fraud as fiduciary, embezzlement, larceny	[] 67 [] 65 [] 67 [] 72 [] 72 [] 87 [] 97	FRBP 7001(6) - Dischargeability (continued) 61-Dischargeability - §523(a)(5), domestic support 68-Dischargeability - §523(a)(6), willful and malicious injury 63-Dischargeability - §523(a)(8), student loan 64-Dischargeability - §523(a)(15), divorce or separation obligation (other than domestic support) 65-Dischargeability - other FRBP 7001(7) - Injunctive Relief 71-Injunctive relief - imposition of stay 72-Injunctive relief - other FRBP 7001(8) Subordination of Claim or Interest 81-Subordination of claim or interest FRBP 7001(9) Declaratory Judgment 91-Declaratory judgment FRBP 7001(10) Determination of Removed Action 01-Determination of removed claim or cause Other SS-SIPA Case - 15 U.S.C. §§78aaa et.seq. 02-Other (e.g. other actions that would have been brought in state court if unrelated to bankruptcy case)			
Check if this case involves a substantive issue of state law		Check if this is asserted to be a class action under FRCP 23			
Check if a jury trial is demanded in complaint		Demand \$			

Other Relief Sought

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B1040 (FORM 1040) (12/15)

BANKRU	PTCY CASE IN	WHIC	H THIS ADVERSAR	Y PROC	CEEDING ARISES		
NAME OF DEBTOR Telexfree, LLC, Telexfree, Inc., and Telexfree Financial, Inc.					BANKRUPTCY CASE NO. 14-40987-MSH		
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDING District of Massachusetts		DIVISION OFFICE Eastern		NAM	NAME OF JUDGE Hoffman		
	RELATED	ADVE	ERSARY PROCEEDING	(IF AN	Y)		
PLAINTIFF	DEF	DEFENDANT			ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NO.		
DISTRICT IN WHICH ADVERSARY IS PENDING DIVISION		DIVISION OFFICE	N/	NAME OF JUDGE			
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNI	EY (OR PLAINTIF	F)					
Andrew G. Lizotte, Esq. DATE	PRIN	PRINT NAME OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF)					
April 4, 2016	1	Andrew G. Lizotte, Esq.					

INSTRUCTIONS

The filing of a bankruptcy case creates an "estate" under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court which consists of all of the property of the debtor, wherever that property is located. Because the bankruptcy estate is so extensive and the jurisdiction of the court so broad, there may be lawsuits over the property or property rights of the estate. There also may be lawsuits concerning the debtor's discharge. If such a lawsuit is filed in a bankruptcy court, it is called an adversary proceeding.

A party filing an adversary proceeding must also must complete and file Form 1040, the Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet, unless the party files the adversary proceeding electronically through the court's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF). (CM/ECF captures the information on Form 1040 as part of the filing process.) When completed, the cover sheet summarizes basic information on the adversary proceeding. The clerk of court needs the information to process the adversary proceeding and prepare required statistical reports on court activity.

The cover sheet and the information contained on it do not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, the Bankruptcy Rules, or the local rules of court. The cover sheet, which is largely self-explanatory, must be completed by the plaintiff's attorney (or by the plaintiff if the plaintiff is not represented by an attorney). A separate cover sheet must be submitted to the clerk for each complaint filed.

Plaintiffs and Defendants. Give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants exactly as they appear on the complaint.

Attorneys. Give the names and addresses of the attorneys, if known.

Party. Check the most appropriate box in the first column for the plaintiffs and the second column for the defendants.

Demand. Enter the dollar amount being demanded in the complaint.

Signature. This cover sheet must be signed by the attorney of record in the box on the second page of the form. If the plaintiff is represented by a law firm, a member of the firm must sign. If the plaintiff is pro se, that is, not represented by an attorney, the plaintiff must sign.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

In re:

TELEXFREE, LLC, TELEXFREE, INC. and TELEXFREE FINANCIAL, INC.,

Debtors.

STEPHEN DARR, AS HE IS THE TRUSTEE OF THE CHAPTER 11 ESTATES OF EACH OF THE DEBTORS,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOELE FRANK WILKINSON BRIMMER KATCHER,

Defendant.

Chapter 11 Cases

14-40987-MSH 14-40988-MSH 14-40989-MSH

Jointly Administered

Adversary Proceeding No. 16-

COMPLAINT

Introduction

Stephen Darr is the duly appointed and acting trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy estates ("<u>Estates</u>") of TelexFree, Inc. ("<u>Inc.</u>"), TelexFree, LLC ("<u>LLC</u>") and TelexFree Financial, Inc. ("<u>Financial</u>" and, collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>"). As Trustee, Mr. Darr brings this adversary proceeding to recover payments made to the Defendant within ninety (90) days of the bankruptcy filings as fraudulent transfers.

Parties and Jurisdiction

- 1. The Trustee, who is the duly appointed Chapter 11 trustee of the Debtors, has a principal place of business in Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2. Upon information and belief, the Defendant is a partnership with a place of business at 622 Third Avenue, 36th Floor, New York, NY 10017.
- 3. This adversary proceeding is brought pursuant to §§ 548, 550 and 551 of Title 11 of the United States Code for the avoidance and recovery of fraudulent transfers.
- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over the adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334.
- 5. This adversary proceeding is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A)(F)(H) and (O).
 - 6. Venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1409.

Statement of Facts

- 7. This case involves a massive Ponzi and pyramid scheme operated by the Debtors, which involved more than a million participants ("Participants") from multiple countries. The Debtors ostensibly operated a "multi-level marketing" company with its headquarters in Marlborough, Massachusetts. It represented itself as being in the business of selling telephone service plans that use "voice over internet protocol" ("VoIP") technology. The sale of VoIP, however, constituted only a minor portion of their business; the Debtors' actual business was the recruitment of Participants.
- 8. From April 2012 to April 2014, individuals throughout the world, including many Participants of the Brazilian and Dominican immigrant communities in the United States, purchased membership plans with a transaction value of approximately \$3,000,000,000. The memberships promised substantial returns 200% per year or more for becoming "promoters"

of the business. The Debtors promised to pay Participants for placing ads on obscure classified ad sites on the internet and recruiting other Participants to do the same. The membership fees from Participants constituted approximately ninety-nine percent (99%) of the monies taken in by the Debtors.

- 9. When in March of 2014, the Debtors changed their compensation plan so that Participants would be required to sell the VoIP service in order to qualify for bonuses and commissions, the scheme collapsed resulting in the bankruptcy filings.
- 10. On April 13, 2014 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Debtors filed voluntary Chapter 11 petitions with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada.
- 11. By order dated May 6, 2014, the Nevada Bankruptcy Court approved a motion to change venue filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The cases were transferred to this Court on May 9, 2014.
- 12. On May 30, 2014, this Court approved the motion of the Office of the United States Trustee to appoint a Chapter 11 trustee, and the Trustee was appointed on June 6, 2014.
- 13. On November 25, 2015, the Court, on motion by the Trustee and after notice, entered an Order, as amended on December 21, 2015, that the Debtors were engaged in a Ponzi scheme and that this ruling was the law of the case in each of the jointly administered cases.
 - 14. The Defendant, upon information and belief, provides public relations services.
- 15. Two days before the Petition Date, the Debtors paid the sum of \$85,000 to the Defendant (the "Transfer") as a "nonrefundable advance".
- 16. The Defendant allegedly was not retained by the Debtors until April 11, 2014, two days before the bankruptcy filings.

- 17. The Defendant purportedly expended more than 180 hours providing public relations services during the period April 11, 2014 to April 13, 2014, with rates ranging up to \$725 per hour. The Defendant's services related principally to preparing press releases and talking points for an ongoing Ponzi scheme.
- 18. At the time the Defendant was retained, it had been several months since the Debtors' Brazilian affiliate, Ympactus Comercial, had been shut down by Brazilian authorities for running a nearly identical Ponzi/pyramid scheme, and the Debtors were under active investigation by the Massachusetts Securities Division.
 - 19. The Defendant was not retained by the Debtors as a post-petition professional.

COUNT ONE

Fraudulent Transfer -- Constructive - 11 U.S.C. §§ 548, 550 and 551

- 20. The Trustee realleges and repeats the allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs and by reference incorporates them herein.
- 21. The aforementioned payment constitutes a "transfer," as that term is defined in 11 U.S.C. § 548, of an asset or interest in an asset of the Debtors.
 - 22. The Transfer was made within two years of the Petition Date.
 - 23. The Transfer was made while the Debtors were insolvent.
 - 24. The Transfer was made for less than reasonably equivalent value.
- 25. The Transfer constitutes a fraudulent transfer avoidable by the Trustee pursuant to \$548(a)(1)(B)\$ of the Bankruptcy Code and recoverable from the Defendant pursuant to <math>\$\$550 and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to a judgment against the Defendant: (a) avoiding and preserving the Transfer, (b) directing that the Transfer be set aside,

and (c) recovering the Transfer in the amount of \$85,000.00 from the Defendant for the benefit of the Estates.

COUNT TWO

Fraudulent Transfer - Actual Intent - 11 U.S.C. §§ 548, 550 and 551

- 27. The Trustee realleges and repeats the allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs and by reference incorporates them herein.
 - 28. The Transfer was made within two years of the Petition Date.
- 29. The Transfer was made with the actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud some or all of the Debtors' then existing and/or future creditors.
- 30. The Transfer constitutes a fraudulent transfer avoidable by the Trustee pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 548(a)(1)(A) and recoverable from the Defendant pursuant to §§550 and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 31. As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to a judgment against the Defendant: (a) avoiding and preserving the Transfer, (b) directing that the Transfer be set aside, and (c) recovering the amount of \$85,000.00 from the Defendant for the benefit of the Estates.

WHEREFORE, Stephen Darr as he is the Trustee of the Chapter 11 Estates of the Debtors respectfully prays that the Court enter judgment for him against the Defendant as follows:

- 1. On Count One: (a) avoiding and preserving the Transfer as a fraudulent transfer, (b) directing the Transfer be set aside and (c) recovering \$85,000.00 from the Defendant for the benefit of the Estates;
- 2. On Count Two: (a) avoiding and preserving the Transfer as a fraudulent transfer, (b) directing the Transfer be set aside and (c) recovering \$85,000.00 from the Defendant for the benefit of the Estates;

3. And for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

STEPHEN DARR AS HE IS THE TRUSTEE OF THE CHAPTER 11 ESTATES OF EACH OF THE DEBTORS By his attorneys,

/s/ Andrew G. Lizotte

Charles R. Bennett, Jr. (BBO #037380)
Andrew G. Lizotte (BBO #559609)
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Dated: April 4, 2016

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