# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLAND DISTRICT OF ST. CROIX

HISHAM HAMED, individually, and derivatively on behalf of SIXTEEN PLUS CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

٧.

FATHI YUSUF, ISAM YOUSUF and JAMIL YOUSUF,

Defendants.

and

SIXTEEN PLUS CORPORATION,

a nominal Defendant.

Case No.: SX-2016-CV-00650

DERIVATIVE SHAREHOLDER SUIT, ACTION FOR DAMAGES AND CICO RELIEF

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

# HISHAM HAMED'S FIRST RULE 15(d) MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLAINT

# I. Introduction

On December 18, 2022, Hisham Hamed ("Hamed") filed a *Motion to Amend his First Amended Complaint* ("FAC") seeking to join Manal Yousef ("Manal") as a defendant. Following a mutually agreed extension, on January 23, 2023, Fathi Yusuf ("Yusuf") filed his timely opposition. Today, February 6, 2023, Hamed filed his *Reply to Fathi Yusuf's Opposition to Hamed's Motion to Amend His First Amended Complaint (to Join Manal Yousef as a Defendant*). In his opposition to that motion to amend, Yusuf made what Hamed understands to be a distinction between the allegations in the FAC and allegations about events that are post-FAC. Out of an abundance of caution, Hamed hereby files this Rule 15(d) motion for leave to supplement the FAC as to post-FAC information. **To be clear, Hamed does not seek to alter the proposed Second Amended Complaint as filed on** 

**December 18**<sup>th</sup> with the motion to amend—merely to provide additional support—renaming it the Second Amended and Supplemented Complaint ("SASC")

Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is Hamed's proposed Second Amended and Supplemented Complaint ("SASC") which, except for the name, is *identical* to the Second Amended Complaint ("SAC") attached as an exhibit to Hamed's motion to amend dated December 18, 2022. **Exhibit B** is the redline, and **Exhibit C** is the proposed order.

# II. Applicable Law

The federal and USVI texts of Rule 15(d) are identical:

On motion and reasonable notice, the court may, on just terms, permit a party to serve a supplemental pleading setting out any transaction, occurrence, or event that happened after the date of the pleading to be supplemented. The court may permit supplementation even though the original pleading is defective in stating a claim or defense. The court may order that the opposing party plead to the supplemental pleading within a specified time.

"Rule 15(d) permits 'claims which arise after the initial pleadings are filed' to be added because the goal of the rule 'is to promote as complete an adjudication of the dispute between the parties as possible.' *Martinez v. Hess Oil V.I. Corp.*, 69 V.I. 519, 545 (Super. Ct. 2018)(citing *William Inglis & Sons Baking Co. v. ITT Cont'l Baking Co.*, 668 F.2d 1014, 1057 (9th Cir. 1981)).

#### III. The Procedural Posture

On July 27, 20**15**, Fathi Yusuf filed ST-2015-CV-000344 ("344 action") on St. Thomas—against "Sixteen Plus Corporation....Mohammad A. Hamed, Waleed M. Hamed, Waleed M. Hamed, and Hisham M. Hamed". He sought:

- 3. An order dissolving...Sixteen Plus and directing the windup of the corporation[]; [and]
- 4. An order appointing a receiver for...Sixteen Plus to sell the real estate holdings of both corporations. . .

That 344 action was the first of several "Diamond Keturah" cases filed by various parties—and asked the court to dissolve Sixteen Plus in an attempt to trigger the foreclosure of what Hamed alleges is a sham note and mortgage.

In response, on February 12, 2016, Sixteen Plus Corporation filed a declaratory judgment action against Manal Yousef, seeking to void the sham note and mortgage (from Sixteen Plus to Manal) on the Diamond Keturah land. It was alleged that the sole consideration for the purchase of the land came from Sixteen Plus itself, and that Manal was nothing more than a 'straw-man' in a tax avoidance scheme. SX-2016-CV-00065 ("65 action").

Hisham Hamed, being shareholder of Sixteen Plus who was not involved during that time period--in the funds "transfers", note, mortgage or purchase of the land--learned a great deal from those pleadings about: (1) the origination of the note and (2) mortgage, as well as (3) the conspiracy between Yusuf and his family members to try to take the Diamond Keturah land. He filed the original complaint here ("650 action") on October 31, 2016.

On November 11, 2016, Yusuf's St. Thomas (344) action was dismissed on a joint application of the parties.

Just over a month later, the First *Amended* Complaint ("FAC") at issue here was filed, on December 23, 2016.

Thus, all factual allegations in this action technically ended with the filing of the FAC, on December 23, 2016. Thereafter, two things happened: (1) the alleged conspirators, along with Manal Yusuf did many post-FAC acts in furtherance of the CICO conspiracy, and (2) Hamed learned of many new facts about their acts the occurred prior to the filing of the FAC.

# IV. Alleged Acts in Furtherance of the Conspiracy after the FAC was Filed

A. Manal Yousef Filed a USVI Action in 2017 and Continues to Press it

Having initially contested USVI jurisdiction, on September 31, 2017, Manal Yousef instead filed a foreclosure action against Sixteen Plus on St. Croix. SX-2017-CV-00342 ("342 action"). In it she made the following statements relevant to this action:

- i. At paragraph 6, she falsely stated that \$4,500,000.00 was given by her to Sixteen Plus.
- ii. At paragraph 9, she falsely stated that "[t]he defendant Sixteen Plus made three (3) payments of interest only to her in the amounts of \$360,000.00 each in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

At paragraph 1, Hamed also learned that Manal was, and had been at times relevant to this amendment, a resident of Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine, not St. Martin. It is also clear that the bringing and *continued prosecution* of Manal's 342 action are substantial parts of the conspiracy and—Hamed *alleges* based on substantial post-FAC discovery testimony that she has no bank accounts or significant funds—she is being financed and directed by the other defendants herein.

- B. Manal Gave False Discovery Responses in Furtherance of the Conspiracy
  Manal's many, allegedly false discovery responses fall into two groups: (1) untruths, and
  (2) calculated evasions. Hamed's motion to amend relates the following:
  - 1. In a new act in furtherance of the conspiracy, she continues to allege (and the defendants very much rely on the fact) that she has received that million dollars in interest, but recently has begun to refuse to provide the basics that would allow that income and resultant assets to be investigated:
    - i. She has refused her address, which prevents Hamed from investigating ownership status, value and credit basics. See Exhibit 1 to Hamed's Motion to Amend (Atty. Hymes: "You indicated to me that you required a description of the present address for my client so that you may serve her with process. I will

- not provide you with that address. If you need to serve her with process, it may be done through me.")<sup>1</sup>
- ii. Although the "gifts" she presently alleges she received from her father are the central factual issue here (also relied on heavily by the other conspirators) she has refused to provide any banking information directly related to the alleged interest she received. See Exhibit 1 to Hamed's Motion to Amend, Letter to Atty Hartmann, dated November 7, 2022 ("Access to the financial records of Island Appliances and my clients will not be granted. Your clients have denied making any payments of interest. Therefore, they have no reason to look in bank accounts for those funds.") (Emphasis added.)<sup>2</sup>
- iii. She has, recently, newly asserted a preposterous story to explain when she has no documents or proof of receiving a million dollars in untaxed income—and at the same time stated she has no bank or other accounts of any type.

# V. Pre-FAC Facts Hamed Learned of After the FAC was Filed

At the time of the filing of the FAC, Hamed did not know of any of the following, pre-

FAC matters—all revealed within the past few months by Manal or the other defendants:

i. With no documentation she has made extensive statements concerning the million dollars she has received in interest. She, within the SOL, has for the first time, (1) admitted she paid no taxes on those alleged funds. She has also (2) recently refused to supply critical tax returns that are relevant to those payments

Item 8: We asked for her present address, and if it was not a place with valid physical addresses, that it be described by route and physical appearance. You asked why I would want that. I responded that (1) it is a standard discovery inquiry of a party, and (2) I intend to have or may have process served on her locally. You said you would provide this.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In his letter above, Manal's counsel incorrectly characterized this as solely being about the ability to serve her with process in Palestine. However the record is clear. He initially stated, in the Rule 16 conference, it would be provided—and it was almost entirely discussed as a standard request to any party where financial matters are involved, to do credit and other financial investigation. See page 2, of Hartmann's letter to Hymes, dated October 20, 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It is completely baffling as to why, when Manal concedes that Hamed contests the issue of any such interest payments, she would deny the existence of and access to her bank records for that period.) In the absence of *any* supporting documents or tax records about a million dollars in cash (from either Isam or Manal) regarding interest payments—as she alleges only recently—it would seek contemporaneous bank records would be of highest importance. Her refusal in November 2022 is another current act in furtherance as well.

and the alleged gifts at the center of this case. See Exhibit 1 to Hamed's Motion to Amend (Atty. Hymes: "My client has indicated that she has not paid taxes on any interest payments paid to her by your clients. Therefore, I see no need for you to obtain copies of her tax returns for the years 1990 - 2000.) Also (3) she has recently refused to supply critical bank information relevant to those payments and the alleged gifts at the center of this case None of these facts were asserted prior to FAC and both relate significantly to the modern conspiracy by Defendants who now use the payment of that interest as an important point in support of the conspiracy.

ii. She has repeatedly—up to the filing of this reply (and despite agreeing to do so from 2017 to the present) failed to provide her passports, which would show travel related to the conspiracy during both the original acts and currently. That is a new act in support of the conspiracy. Not only were these agreed to in 2017,<sup>3</sup> but again in November of 2022, by her counsel in his referenced letter—but they still have not been provided.

# VI. Argument as to why the SASC Should be Allowed.

In Doe v. Butte Cty. Prob. Dep't, No. 2:20-cv-02248-TLN-DMC, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 42279, at \*9 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 8, 2022) the court recites the U.S. Supreme Court's five "Foman" Rule 15(d) factors:

Courts commonly apply the following five *Foman* factors to Rule 15(d) motions: (1) undue delay; (2) bad faith or dilatory motive on the part of the movant; (3) repeated failure of previous amendments; (4) undue prejudice to the opposing party; and (5) futility of the amendment. *Foman*, 371 U.S. at 182.

As these are the same as the *Davis* factors set out by the VI Supreme Court, Hamed will not do a *Banks* analysis. Similarly, as Hamed has already briefed these identical factors in his parallel motion to amend, he will not restate his arguments here. He incorporates those arguments here *in toto*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Letter from Atty. Holt to Atty. Hymes, dated August 1, 2017, Exhibit to the motion to amend. ("In follow up to our Rule 37 conference, I want to memorialize what I understand we agreed on. . . .3. Regarding Manal's passports, you are obtaining copies as promptly as you can, which you will then file under seal with the Court, notifying me when you do.")

Hamed's Motion to Supplement the FAC to add Post-FAC Knowledge and Acts Page 7

# VII. Conclusion

Based on the liberal text of the Rule, the early stage of the proceedings, the prior statements of all of the defendants that Manal <u>must</u> be a party here, and the commonality of the related defendants and their counsel, this is a perfect situation for amendment.

The proposed Second Amended and Supplemented Complaint is attached as **Exhibit A**, and the redline of that document is attached as **Exhibit B**. A proposed order is attached as **Exhibit C**.

**Counsel for Hisham Hamed** 

Dated: February 6, 2023

Carl J. Hartmann III, Esq. (Bar #48)

Co-Counsel for Hisham Hamed

2940 Brookwind Dr, Holland, MI 49424

Telephone: (340) 642-4422 Email: carl@carlhartmann.com

Joel H. Holt, Esq. (Bar # 6)

Counsel for Hisham Hamed

LAW OFFICES OF JOEL H. HOLT

2132 Company Street,

Christiansted, VI 00820

Email: holtvi@aol.com

Phone: (340) 773-8709/

Fax: (340) 773-8677

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that, discounting captions, headings, signatures, quotations from authority and recitation of the opposing party's own text, this document complies with the page and word limitations set forth in Rule 6-1(e) and that on **February 6, 2023** I served a copy of the foregoing by email and the Court's E-File system, as agreed by the parties, to:

# James Hymes III, Esq.

jim@hymeslawvi.com

Counsel for Defendants Isam and Jamil Yousuf LAW OFFICES OF JAMES L. HYMES, III, P.C. P.O. Box 990 St. Thomas, VI 00804-0990 Tel: (340) 776-3470 Fax: (340) 775-3300

Charlotte K. Perrell, Esq.
Stefan B. Herpel, Esq.
Counsel for Defendant Fathi Yusuf
DUDLEY NEWMAN
FEUERZEIG LLP
Law House
1000 Frederiksberg Gade
P.O. Box 756
St. Thomas, VI 00804-0756
Tel: (340) 774-4422
cperrell@dnfvi.com,
sherpel@dnfvi.com

# Kevin A. Rames, Esq.

Counsel for Nominal Defendant Sixteen Plus Corporation 2111 Company Street, Suite 3 Christiansted, VI 00820 Phone: (340) 773-7284 Fax: (340) 773 -7282

kevin.rames@rameslaw.com

/s/ Carl J. Hartmann



# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

HISHAM HAMED, on behalf of himself and derivatively, on behalf of SIXTEEN PLUS CORPORATION,

Plaintiffs,

٧.

FATHI YUSUF, ISAM YOUSUF, JAMIL YOUSUF, and MANAL YOUSEF

Defendants,

and

SIXTEEN PLUS CORPORATION,

a nominal defendant.

Case No.: 2016-SX-CV-650

DERIVATIVE SHAREHOLDER SUIT, ACTION FOR DAMAGES, CICO RELIEF, EQUITABLE RELIEF AND INJUNCTION

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

#### SECOND AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED COMPLAINT

The Plaintiffs, by counsel, hereby allege as the basis of their Second Amended and Supplemented Complaint against the Defendants as follows:

# **JURISDICTION AND PARTIES**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 4 V.I.C. §76 and 14 V.I.C. §607.
- 2. Individual Plaintiff Hisham Hamed, ("Hamed") is an adult resident of St. Croix and is now and at all times relevant to this Complaint has been an owner of stock in nominal defendant Sixteen Plus Corporation ("Sixteen Plus").

- Defendant Fathi Yusuf is an adult resident of St. Croix who was at all times relevant to this Complaint (and still is) a shareholder, officer and director of Sixteen Plus.
- 4. The Defendant Isam Yousuf is an adult resident of St. Martin and has been at all times relative hereto.
- 5. The Defendant Jamil Yousef is an adult resident of St. Martin and has been at all times relative hereto.
- 6. The Defendant Manal Yousef is an adult resident of Palestine (West Bank).
- 7. The Individual Plaintiff also brings a shareholder's derivative action on behalf of Sixteen Plus Corporation ("Sixteen Plus"), a Virgin Islands corporation that was formed in February of 1997, which is joined as a nominal defendant, as the cause of action belongs to the corporation, but its Board of Directors is such that the Board cannot be reasonably expected to bring suit in the name of the corporation.
- 8. Individual Plaintiff Hamed was at all times relevant to this Complaint (and still is) a shareholder of Sixteen Plus at all times relative hereto, as he was an initial shareholder when the corporation was formed and has continuously remained a
- 9. shareholder during all times relevant.
- 10. The Plaintiff can bring the derivative claim on behalf of the corporation pursuant to Rule 23.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which is applicable to this cause of action.
- 11. The Board of Directors of Sixteen Plus currently consists of two directors, Fathi Yusuf, a named defendant, and Waleed Hamed. An original third director

- voluntarily withdrew from the Board before the acts complained of here when he sold all of his stock in the corporation to the Hameds and Yusufs.
- 12. Fathi Yusuf and Waleed Hamed and their families are in intractable litigation in several other matters. Both have acknowledged this to be the case, and have filed papers in other proceedings before the Superior Court attesting to this. Moreover, the Superior Court (Willocks, J.) has entered an Order stating that the Hamed and Yusuf families could file a derivative action as to another jointly controlled corporation for the same reason.
- 13. Thus, Plaintiff Hamed has not made a demand on the Board of Directors, as it would be futile to make a demand on them to bring this suit on behalf of Sixteen Plus. As was true in the same situation before Judge Willocks, there would be no reasonable expectation that Fathi Yusuf would agree to have Sixteen Plus sue him for embezzlement, fraud and a violation of Section 605 of Title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code

# **FACTS**

- a. Background History 1997-1999: Prior to the Alleged Conspiracy and Alleged Predicate Criminal Acts
- 14. On February 10, 1997, Sixteen Plus was formed as a corporation to purchase a 300 plus acre parcel of land on the South shore of St. Croix, often referred to as Diamond Keturah (hereinafter referred to as the "Land") from the Bank of Nova Scotia ("BNS") -- which had obtained its ownership interest subject to rights of redemption through a foreclosure sale conducted on February 13, 1996.

- 15. A contract to buy the Land subject to the rights of redemption was then entered into between Sixteen Plus and BNS on February 14, 1997.
- 16. At the time it was formed and at all times up to the present, all of the stock of Sixteen Plus has been owned 50% by family members of Fathi Yusuf and 50% by family members of Mohammad Hamed.
- 17.At the time Sixteen Plus was formed in the late 1990's, Fathi Yusuf and Mohammad Hamed were 50/50 partners in a grocery business known as Plaza Extra Supermarkets.
- 18. Fathi Yusuf and Mohammad Hamed decided to buy the Land in question by providing the necessary funds to Sixteen Plus -- using only proceeds from the grocery stores they owned which they did as described below.
- 19. Yusuf, acting for the Plaza Extra partners, then directed the business arrangements regarding the purchase of the Land, some of which were also carried out under that instruction by Waleed Hamed and Maher Yusuf.
- 20. Yusuf directed these business arrangements for the partnership as to the purchase of the Land using partnership funds rather than his partner Mohammad Hamed (or his son, Waleed) directing the purchase because, as both the Court in Hamed v. Yusuf and Fathi Yusuf himself have stated -- Fathi Yusuf was "in charge" of the business transactions for the partnership and they were under his "exclusive ultimate control". (See, Hamed v. Yusuf, 2013 WL 1846506 (V.I.Super. April 25, 2013)(para. 19 at page \*6, "Yusuf's management and control of the "office" was such that Hamed was completely removed from the financial aspects of the business. . . ." and Yusuf's May 9, 2013, Motion to Stay the Preliminary

- Injunction in that same action -- where Yusuf admitted "[Hamed] never worked in any management capacity at any of the Plaza Extra Stores, which role was under the exclusive ultimate control of Fathi Yusuf.")
- 21. All funds used to buy the Land came from funds removed from the Plaza Extra Supermarkets partnership by the Hamed and Yusuf families, 50/50.
- 22. However, Fathi Yusuf decided he did not want either the Government of the Virgin Islands or BNS to know the partnership source of the funds he was using to buy the Land, as he did not want them to know the two families were secretly diverting unreported cash from the Plaza Extra Supermarket to Sixteen Plus as part of a money laundering effort. The following details of that 1996-1997 effort are presented here as background information to the later predicate criminal acts and are not the subject of this Complaint.
- 23. Fathi Yusuf and Waleed Hamed acted with Isam Yousuf (his nephew who lived on St. Martin) Manal Yusef (his niece) who lived on St. Martin, and Yussra Yusuf (his daughter who was married to one of Isam's brothers, Ayed Yousuf) who lived on St. Martin, to launder in excess of \$4,000,000 in unreported, untaxed partnership funds removed by the two families from the Plaza Extra Supermarkets, to St. Martin -- so that they could then wire these funds back to a Sixteen Plus account at BNS on St. Croix, in order for Sixteen Plus to use these 'laundered' funds to purchase the Land.
- 24. To accomplish this, Fathi Yusuf had large sums of cash delivered to Isam Yousuf in St. Martin, who thereafter directed and coordinated, with the assistance or Manal and Yussra, the deposit of those funds into various accounts in St. Martin.

Fathi Yusuf then directed the process by which he, Waleed Hamed and Isam Yousuf transferred the partnership's funds by wire to an account in the name of Sixteen Plus at BNS on St. Croix. The transfers (which exceeded \$4,000,000) to Sixteen Plus' account at BNS took place between February 13<sup>th</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup> of 1997.

- 25. To further cover up the source of these funds, as well as to try to shelter Isam Yousuf, Manal Yousef and Yussrah Yusuf from exposure to criminal consequences from the effort to launder and use the cash from the partnership's supermarkets, Fathi Yusuf, Waleed, Isam Yousuf and Manal Yousef agreed to create a sham note and mortgage for the transaction, naming Manal Yousef, as the sham mortgagee.
- 26. Fathi Yusuf explained the note and mortgage to his partner, Mohammad Hamed, as well as Waleed Hamed and shareholders of Sixteen Plus as being a business transaction to protect the property, that Manal Yousef would never actually enforce the mortgage, and that Yusuf could get the note and mortgage discharged at any time. The purpose of the mortgage was to change the change the apparent owner of the funds to evade taxes, and at the same time to establish a lien priority superior to the claims of possible future creditors—including USVI tax authorities.
- 27. To demonstrate the long-term effectiveness of this arrangement to his partner, Fathi Yusuf stated to Mohamad Hamed and his son Waleed Hamed that all of the financials of the corporation, USVI tax filings and annual USVI corporate filings would, in the future, accurately reflect that the funds came from Hamed and

Yusuf as Sixteen Plus shareholders – and would not reflect the note and mortgage as a valid corporate debt to Manal – as further described below. Thus, he explained, no USVI laws would be broken by making it appear that Manal Yousef had provided funds or was the holder of an enforceable claim. Once the statute of limitations ran out on the tax evasion, all of the actual corporate filings of Sixteen Plus would be completely accurate and free from criminal liability. Nor could the tax authorities or other entities seize the land without having to fight about Manal's claims.

- 28. Fathi Yusuf then caused a corporate resolution, sham note and mortgage in the amount of \$4,500,000 to be drafted by Sixteen Plus' counsel in favor of Manal Yousef, dated September 15, 1997, even though she had no such funds, and had never advanced <u>any</u> funds to Sixteen Plus -- as those funds belonged 50/50 to the Hameds and Yusufs.
- 29. The note and mortgage exceeded the amount transferred from St. Martin by \$500,000. The additional \$500,000 came from funds that Fathi Yusuf caused to be deposited directly into Sixteen Plus' St. Croix bank account. Thus, \$500,000 of the \$4.5 million used to buy the land was directly provided by the Hamed and Yusufs without going through St. Martin..
- 30. At Fathi Yusuf's direction, that sham note and mortgage in the amount of \$4,500,000 were then executed by Sixteen Plus in favor of Manal Yousef on September 15, 1997, even though the Land in question had actually not been transferred yet and the amount transferred through St. Martin was only \$4 million.

- 31.On December 24, 1997, BNS finally was entitled to a conveyance of the Land from the Marshal of the Territorial (now Superior) Court of the Virgin Islands, as the rights of redemption in the foreclosure sale had expired.
- 32. As per the contract between them, instead of taking title, BNS assigned its right to this conveyance from the Marshal to Sixteen Plus. Sixteen Plus paid for this assignment with the funds from the partnership.
- 33. On February 22, 1999, Sixteen Plus finally received and recorded the deed to the Land. On that same day, Sixteen Plus also recorded the sham mortgage (as originally dated September 15, 1997) in favor of Manal Yousef.

# a. The Money Laundering Charges-2003

- 34. In 2003, the Federal Government filed felony money laundering and tax evasion criminal charges against Fathi Yusuf, Waleed Hamed and Isam Yousuf, among others.
- 35. The felony case included criminal charges related to the aforementioned laundering of funds to St. Martin to buy the Sixteen Plus Land. That case and those criminal charges are not the subject of the CICO case here or claimed as predicate acts.
- 36. Pursuant to those charges, the Federal Government placed a lien against various real property owned by Fathi Yusuf's United Corporation as well as corporations also owned jointly by the Yusuf and Hamed families -- including the Land at issue here, by then owned by Sixteen Plus.

- 37. The Government also identified the money laundering through St. Martin and the fact that \$500,000 in currency was deposited with funds from the supermarkets to make up the difference.
- 38. As part of its investigation and the charges, the FBI retrieved and documented the bank records from St. Martin showing the diversion of the \$4 million in funds from the partnership's Plaza Extra Supermarkets to St. Martin -- and subsequent transfer of those laundered funds back to the bank account of Sixteen Plus in order to purchase this Land. It also documented the deposits of \$500,000 directly into the St. Croix account by the partnership. Two French investigative reports were provided that tracked the accounts of Isam, Hamdan Diamond, Waleed Hamed and Fathi Yusuf—to show the flow of the \$4 million in laundered funds into the Sixteen Plus account.

# b. The Value of the Sixteen Plus Property Dramatically Increases-2005

- 39. While the criminal case continued over the next years, various third parties attempted to buy the Land from Sixteen Plus at substantially higher prices than was paid for the property, with the highest offer reaching \$30 million.
- 40. Recognizing this substantial increase of 500% in value in less than 10 years, Fathi Yusuf began to try to figure out how to pocket these funds for himself.
- 41. In this regard, the Federal Government agreed that it would remove its lien and the Land could be sold but *only* if the proceeds of any such sale were escrowed pending the outcome of the criminal case and not paid to Manal Yousef.

- 42. Contrary to the best interests of Sixteen Plus and its shareholders, Fathi Yusuf began to formulate a plan to embezzle from and defraud Sixteen Plus of the value of the Land, and thus rejected offers for the Land unless the sham Manal Yousef note and mortgage were paid -- so he could then get sole control of these funds.
- 43. The Federal Government refused to agree to the request that the Manal Yousef mortgage be paid first, asserting its own doubts about the validity of the sham mortgage.
- 44. The US Marshal suggested Fathi Yusuf could also have had Manal Yousef agree to an escrow of the sales proceeds while preserving her alleged mortgage rights, which would have allowed the sale to take place and fully protect the debt allegedly owed to her, but this would have necessarily involved her in the ongoing criminal prosecution since the Land was actually purchased with laundered funds, so that suggestion was rejected. Indeed, once the funds were escrowed, Fathi Yusuf would lose his opportunity to keep the funds for himself pursuant to his Plan.
- 45. As such, Sixteen Plus lost then, and is continues to lose the benefit of such sales at the highest and best amount of \$30 million because of Fathi Yusuf's insistence that the sham mortgage be paid upon the sale of the property -- which payment the Federal Government refused to allow.

# c. The Hidden Plan to Convert the Increased Value and Usurp Corporate Opportunity by Criminal Acts and Conspiracy

- 46. By May of 2010 it was clear that a settlement and plea would eventually be reached in the criminal action.
- 47. In May of 2010, without the knowledge of the Hameds or disclosure of either their acts or the related documents, Defendants began to implement the *Hidden Plan* to Convert the Increased Value and Usurp Corporate Opportunity by Criminal Acts and Conspiracy (the "Hidden Plan") by first obtaining a "Real Estate Power of Attorney" from "Manal Mohammad Yousef Mohammad" that gave Fathi Yusuf, personally, the power to do whatever he wished with the mortgage, including releasing the mortgage or foreclosing on the Land for his own benefit, even though the Hamed family had actually paid 50% of the purchase price to buy the Land. See Exhibit 1. Isam Yousuf, Manal Yousef and Jamil Yousuf ("the St. Martin Defendants") were central to this effort to embezzle the Sixteen Plus funds.
- 48. This power of attorney Fathi Yusuf supplied and Manal Yousef executed, gave no rights or benefits to Sixteen Plus or the Hameds and thus usurped the corporate opportunity, despite the fact that Fathi Yusuf was an officer and director of the corporation, owing it fiduciary and statutory duties, as well as a shareholder.
- 49. Additionally, this undisclosed power of attorney specifically stated that Fathi Yusuf was given total power over what to do with the Land and foreclosure proceeds -- as he was also released and indemnified as to all actions he might

- take in regard to his broad, personal power of attorney—which further demonstrated that the mortgage and note were a sham, as no bona fide lender gives a principal of the borrower a full power of attorney to discharge the debt without requiring payment.
- 50. Upon information and belief, the power of attorney was drawn up by a Virgin Islands lawyer retained by Fathi Yusuf and executed by Manal Yousef on St. Martin.
- 51. The existence and purpose of this power of attorney were not disclosed to the Hameds and they did not learn of it or the Hidden Plan until after Yusuf attempted to steal all of the assets of Sixteen Plus, as he did with the Plaza Extra Supermarkets partnership in 2012 all of which occurred well within the period of the statute of limitations applicable here.
- 52. That execution of the undisclosed, exclusive power of attorney in favor of Fathi Yusuf personally was orchestrated by Isam Yousuf, Jamil Yousuf and Manal Yousef in furtherance of the Plan with Fathi Yusuf to steal half of the value of the Land, then in excess of \$30 million, from Sixteen Plus and the Hamed shareholders.
- 53. The Defendants planned to use the sham mortgage to allow Fathi Yusuf to foreclose of the Land for his own and his family's personal benefits, and to thus deny Sixteen Plus the value of the Land.
- 54. In 2013, the Federal Government reached a settlement in the criminal case, which included *inter alia* a lump sum \$10 million payment of taxes to the

- Government of the Virgin Islands for previously unreported income from the Plaza Extra Supermarkets.
- 55. In addition to this large payment for back taxes, a fine in excess of \$1,000,000 was also paid to the Government, along with a plea of guilty to the pending felony charge of tax evasion by the corporate defendant, United Corporation, which subsequently was determined to be Yusuf's agent for the partnership.
- 56. As a result of the plea and settlement, the Federal Government removed its lien on the Land. Also, Fathi Yusuf, Waleed Hamed and several of the other defendants—but not Manal Yousef--were given personal immunity from criminal prosecution for the acts of tax evasion and money laundering described above.

# d. The Predicate Criminal Acts to Consummate the Hidden Plan

- 57. After the criminal case was dismissed, the Fathi Yusuf and the St. Martin Defendants, in furtherance of the Hidden Plan, arranged for counsel on St. Martin to send a demand from Manal Yousuf to Sixteen Plus for payment of the sham note and mortgage Sixteen Plus allegedly owed to Manal Yousef. See **Exhibit 2**.
- 58. That St. Martin counsel did not disclose to Sixteen Plus or the Hameds that Fathi Yusuf was also involved in the demand.
- 59. A response was made to that demand, to Manal Yousef, by Hamed's counsel on behalf of Sixteen Plus, which was reduced to writing -- pointing out that the mortgage was not valid for the reasons stated herein. See **Exhibit 3**.
- 60. While counsel on St. Martin promised to get a response to that letter after discussing the matter with his client (see **Exhibit 4**), he never did so.

- 61. In furtherance of the Hidden Plan, Fathi Yusuf, in conjunction with the other Defendants, committed multiple criminal acts Including conversion, attempted conversion, perjury, attempted perjury, wire and mail fraud, and others.
- 62. In 2015, Fathi Yusuf filed a civil lawsuit in the Superior Court as part of the Hidden Plan; seeking to dissolve Sixteen Plus in an attempt to, *inter alia*, dispose of the Land and trigger payment of the sham mortgage.
- 63. In the course of that litigation, Fathi Yusuf was required to produce all documents he had exchanged with Manal Yousef, including any powers of attorney.
- 64. When Fathi Yusuf did supply what he represented to be all such documents on July 26, 2016, the power of attorney was not disclosed.
- 65. Hamed's counsel wrote to Yusuf's counsel pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 34 and 37 (**Exhibit 5**), specifically asking for verification under the Rules that there was no such "power of attorney":

Stefan - I reviewed these new responses and there are still several deficiencies:

\* \* \*

Supplemental Document Response #13-The documents you referenced as documents exchanged with Manal Yousef only include the deed, mortgage, mortgage note and certain wire transfers from someone else—please confirm there are no letters, faxes, emails, documents showing any interest payments to her (as alleged were made), powers of attorney, pre-mortgage negotiations or any other documents exchanges with your client and her or her agent. (Emphasis added.)

66.On August 5, 2016, Fathi Yusuf's counsel responded that he had initiated a "reasonable search" as to his client and his client's documents, and falsely represented – on behalf of Fathi Yusuf -- there was no such power of attorney. See **Exhibit 5**.

Joel, . . . . Here are my responses to your numbered paragraphs:

\* \* \*

I stand by my statement in the supplemental Rule 34 response that **based on a reasonable search** there are no other documents responsive to your request. I believe that supplemental response to your request is sufficient under the Rules (and I thought from our meet and confer that is what you wanted), and that I am not under any duty to go into more detail. (Emphasis added.)

- 67. During the same Superior Court litigation, Fathi Yusuf was also required to answer an interrogatory about the note and mortgage on the Land. To falsely make it appear that Manal Yousef was a *bona fide* mortgagee, hide the undisclosed personal power of attorney and protect the Hidden Plan Fathi Yusuf stated under oath as follows (See **Exhibit 6**):
  - a. That Manal Yousef loaned the full \$4.5 million on September 15, 1997, for the purchase of the Land;
  - b. That Manal Yousef was paid three interest only payments on the mortgage between 1998 and 2000;
  - c. That Manal's last known address is 25 Gold Finch Road, Point Blanche. St. Martin, N.A.;
  - d. That he did not recall the last time he spoke with her;
  - e. That Manal Yousef had retained counsel in the Virgin Islands;
  - f. That he would not provide a phone number for Manal Yousef because she had counsel in the Virgin Islands.
- 68. All of the foregoing statements made by Fathi Yusuf in his interrogatory response are false, and were made in furtherance of the Hidden Plan to steal half of the value of the Land from Sixteen Plus and its other shareholders, the Hameds, by

- a foreclosure -- as Fathi Yusuf committed perjury under oath before the Court in furtherance of the Plan when he made these statements.
- 69. Yusuf then filed a motion for a protective order to avoid providing Manal Yusuf's phone number.
- 70. After the Court denied Yusuf's motion and ordered Fathi Yusuf to provide the phone number of Manal Yousef, he then repeated the false statements above -- and **now** stated that he did not have her phone number despite his motion to protect that exact information -- but that she could be reached through her nephew, Jamil Yousef. See **Exhibit 7.**
- 71. However, the location given by Fathi Yusuf as Manal Yousef's address is actually in the possession of and used by Isam Yousuf, which is where he and his son, Jamil Yousef, reside.
- 72. Yusuf knew, when he falsely certified to the contrary, that this was not the location where Manal Yousef resided. It has since been learned that she returned to Palestine in 2010.
- 73. The purpose of this false representation in response to the Court's Order being that the would keep Manal's address and contact information from Sixteen Plus and the Hameds..
- 74. Indeed, when service of process in another pending Superior Court action was left at that address for Manal Yousef, Isam and Jamil Yousef intercepted the summons.
- 75. Upon information and belief, Jamil Yousef then agreed to further participate in this fraudulent Plan by allowing Fathi Yusuf to provide his name to the Court as

- the alleged contact for Manal Yousef, to hide the truth that she had returned to Palestine.
- 76. Fathi Yusuf thereafter represented to the Superior Court, without the necessary identification of his role with his relatives, that he had been contacted by Manal Yousef's "agent.
- 77. During this time period, including in 2012, Fathi Yusuf personally arranged for and signed, under the penalty of perjury -- tax and other governmental filings showing that no outstanding obligations were due to Manal Yousef, and, to the contrary, that the \$4.5 million had been advanced by and was due to Sixteen Plus' shareholders, the Hameds and Yusufs, as follows:
  - a. To conceal the Hidden Plan and deceive the other shareholders and officers of the corporation, Fathi Yusuf filed tax returns for Sixteen Plus during this time period, including 2012. See Exhibits 8 and 9.
  - b. In those filings he, personally signed and swore under oath and penalty of perjury that the \$4.5 million held by Sixteen Plus <u>was</u> received from shareholders and due to them and there was no loan or mortgage to a third person. <u>Id</u>.
  - This comported with his repeated representations to the Hameds intended to keep the Hidden Plan hidden.
  - d. To hide the Hidden Plan and deceive the other shareholders and officers of the corporation, Fathi Yusuf also prepared and filed annual corporate filings for Sixteen Plus during this time period, including 2012.

- e. In those filings he stated that the \$4.5 million held by Sixteen Plus was received from Sixteen Plus' shareholders and due to them and was not a loan or mortgage to a third person. See **Exhibit 10**.
- f. This comported with representations to the Hameds.
- 78. In furtherance of this scheme, in 2013 Fathi Yusuf also created and requested Waleed Hamed sign an annual corporate filing that showed \$4.5 million due as a mortgage and loan and not money due to the Shareholders as had been reported for the prior 13 years. He also inserted his family members as the directors on the document, which he signed and proffered to Hamed. See **Exhibit 11**.
- 79. Indeed, the Fathi Yusuf and the other Defendants were wrongfully attempting to hide the fact that Fathi Yusuf and his family members were trying to steal the Land.
- 80. To further this Plan, Fathi Yusuf provided Manal Yousef and Isam Yousuf with funds to pay USVI counsel to represent the interests of the conspiracy..
- 81. Notwithstanding all of these facts being disclosed to Yusuf and the St. Martin Defendants, they have not recanted any of his false statements or filings -- and continue to pursue their Hidden Plan to steal the Land, the real property at Diamond Keturah, from Sixteen Plus without any payment to the company or its shareholders, as they continue to try to divert all such funds through Manal Yousef.

# COUNT I - CICO

- 82. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 83. Section 605 of Title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code provides in part as follows:
  - a. It is unlawful for any person employed by, or associated with, any enterprise, as that term is defined herein, to conduct or participate in, directly or indirectly, the affairs of the enterprise through a pattern of criminal activity.
  - b. It is unlawful for any person, through a pattern of criminal activity, to acquire or maintain, directly or indirectly, any interest in, or control of, any enterprise or real property.
  - c. It is unlawful for any person who has received any proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of criminal activity in which he participated as a principal, to use or invest, directly or indirectly, any part of the proceeds thereof, or any proceeds derived from the investment or use of any of those proceeds, in the acquisition of any title to, or any right, interest, or equity in, real property, or in the establishment or operation of any enterprise. . . .
- 84. Pursuant to 14 V.I.C. §607(a), any aggrieved party may institute civil proceedings against any persons to obtain relief from a violation of §605.
- 85. Sixteen Plus and its shareholders are such aggrieved parties under subsection in that:
  - a. All Defendants are "person[s]" who through a pattern of criminal activity set forth in paragraphs 55 through 79, have "acquire[d]. . . directly or indirectly" an "interest in" the Land which is "real property" within the meaning of the statute.
  - b. All Defendants are "person[s] who have received. . .proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of criminal activity in which [they] participated as. . .principal[s], to use or invest, directly or indirectly, . .part of the proceeds thereof. . .in the acquisition of. . .[a] right, interest, or equity in" the Land, which is real property as set forth above.
- 86. Defendants acted in concert with one another in conspiring together in a pattern of activities to embezzle funds from and criminally defraud Sixteen Plus and its

- shareholders, which is expressly prohibited by 14 V.I.C. §834, causing damages to Sixteen Plus and its shareholders.
- 87. Defendants conspired together within the statutory limitations period to accomplish this goal by using unlawful means, including the use of knowingly false court filings in two different cases, tax and corporate filings, use of the mail and wires -- and by perjured testimony in violation of 14 V.I.C. §1541 and §1548.
- 88. This was criminal activity as defined by Title 14, Chapter 41 (giving false statements), Chapter 75 (obstruction of justice) and Chapter 77 (perjury) as well as various reporting, wire fraud and other crimes.
- 89. Such criminal conduct by the Defendants was undertaken in a years long pattern as set forth in Chapter 30 of Title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code, as the Defendants acted in concert as a group in association with one another in carrying out their goal of embezzling funds from and otherwise defrauding Sixteen Plus and its shareholders, with each of the named Defendants being a Principal in this enterprise within the statutory limitations period. Indeed, the criminal enterprise is still on-going.
- 90. These were not isolated acts, and were all done with the intent to embezzle from, defraud and otherwise injure Sixteen Plus, file tax and corporate information with the USVI government and give perjured documents and testimony to the Courts of the Virgin Islands.
- 91. Pursuant to 14 V.I.C. §605, it is unlawful for the Defendants to engage in such a criminal activity, as was done here.

- 92. Sixteen Plus has been injured by this criminal activity targeting the enterprise, already subjecting its real property to a sham mortgage in a present value in the millions of dollars and by loss of value from the time the Land could have been sold or could now be sold for peak value.
- 93. As such, Sixteen Plus is entitled to all civil remedies permitted an aggrieved party by 14 V.I.C. § 607, **including statutory treble damages**, for all damages caused by Defendants' unlawful criminal enterprise.

# **COUNT II – CONVERSION** [Withdrawn]

# **COUNT III (Yusuf Only) – BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES**

- 94. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 95. The acts alleged herein constitutes breach of fiduciary duty and self-dealing by Fathi Yusuf, an officer and director of the corporation, in that:
  - a. Fathi Yusuf is and has been a director of Sixteen Plus,
  - b. In that capacity, he negotiated the note and mortgage with Manal Yousef for the purpose of protecting the corporation's principal asset, the Land, for the benefit of Sixteen Plus.
  - c. He later obtained a power of attorney from Manal Yousef giving himself control of and all rights in those assets, and denying them to the corporation.
  - d. He did this without (1) offering the power of attorney or (2) disclosing it to Sixteen Plus,
  - e. In violation of his duty as an officer and the negotiating official to do so,

- f. And has taken those benefits as his own
- 96. The corporation has been injured thereby.
- 97. The corporation will be further injured if equitable relief in the form of a disgorgement order and injunction are not entered to stop the corporation's officer from further acting against the interest of the corporation by use of information, documents and position so obtained.

# COUNT IV (Yusuf Only) – USURPING OF CORPORATE OPPORTUNITY

- 98. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 99. The acts alleged herein in paragraph 96 constitutes usurping of a corporate opportunity by Fathi Yusuf, an officer of the corporation acting in that capacity in dealing with Manal Yousef.
- 100. The corporation has been injured thereby.
- 101. The corporation will be further injured if equitable relief in the form of a disgorgement order and injunction are not entered to stop the corporation's officer from further acting against the interest of the corporation by use of information, documents and position so obtained.

# **COUNT V - CIVIL CONSPIRACY** [Withdrawn]

# **COUNT VI – TORT OF OUTRAGE**

- 102. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 103. The actions of the Defendants were intentional, wanton, extreme and outrageous.

- 104. The actions of the Defendants were culpable and not justifiable under the circumstances.
- 105. The actions of the Defendants caused injury to Sixteen Plus.
- 106. As such, the Defendants are liable for said injuries suffered by Sixteen Plus as a result of their intentional and unjustifiable misconduct.

# **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiffs seek:

- A. an award of compensatory damages of multiple loses of the sale of the Land at the highest and best sales value of \$30 million as stated by Fathi Yusuf, including treble damages where permitted by law,
- B. equitable orders with regard to the acts.
- C. consequential damages against the Defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount as determined by the trier of fact, along with any other relief the Court deems appropriate,
- D. Punitive damages if warranted by the facts and applicable law.
- E. Any and all other damages, fees, costs or other relief the Court may deem appropriate.

# A TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED AS TO ALL ISSUES

Dated: February 4, 2023

/s/ Carl J. Hartmann III
Carl J. Hartmann III, Esq.
Co-Counsel for Plaintiff

2940 Brookwind Dr, Holland, MI 49424

Email: carl@carlhartmann.com

Joel H. Holt, Esq. (Bar # 6)

Counsel for Plaintiff
Law Offices of Joel H. Holt
2132 Company Street,
Christiansted, VI 00820
Email: holtvi@aol.com

Tele: (340) 773-8709 Fax: (340) 773-8677

Carl J. Hartmann III, Esq.

Co-Counsel for Plaintiff 2940 Brookwind Dr, Holland, MI 49424

Email: carl@carlhartmann.com

#### CERTIFICATION

Counsel hereby certifies that he has affixed his signature hereto pursuant to the requirements of 14 V.I.C. §607(d) and has sent a true copy of the original complaint to the Attorney General as required by § 607(f). See Exhibit 1.

**Dated:** February 4, 2023 /s/ Carl J. Hartmann III

Carl J. Hartmann III, Esq. Co-Counsel for Plaintiff 2940 Brookwind Dr, Holland, MI 49424

Email: carl@carlhartmann.com

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 4th day of February, 2023, I served a copy of the foregoing by the Court's E-File System and email, as agreed by the parties, on:

Charlotte Perrell
Stephen Herpel
Counsel for Defendant Fathi Yusuf

James Hymes Counsel for Defendants Manal Yousef Jamil Yousuf Isam Yousuf

Kevin Rames Counsel for Nominal Defendant Sixteen Plus Corporation

/s/ Carl J. Hartmann III



# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

HISHAM HAMED, on behalf of himself and derivatively, on behalf of SIXTEEN PLUS CORPORATION,

Plaintiffs.

٧.

FATHI YUSUF, ISAM YOUSUF, JAMIL YOUSUEF, MANAL YOUSEF,

Defendants,

and

SIXTEEN PLUS CORPORATION,

a nominal defendant.

Case No.: 2016-SX-CV-650

DERIVATIVE SHAREHOLDER SUIT, ACTION FOR DAMAGES, CICO RELIEF, EQUITABLE RELIEF AND INJUNCTION

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

#### FIRST SECOND AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED VERIFIED COMPLAINT

The Plaintiffs, by counsel, hereby allege as the basis of their First Second

Amended and Supplemented Verified Complaint against the Defendants as follows:

#### **JURISDICTION AND PARTIES**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 4 V.I.C. §76 and 14 V.I.C. §607.
- Individual Plaintiff Hisham Hamed, ("Hamed") is an adult resident of St. Croix and is now and at all times relevant to this Complaint has been an owner of stock in nominal defendant Sixteen Plus Corporation ("Sixteen Plus").

- 3. Defendant Fathi Yusuf is an adult resident of St. Croix who was at all times relevant to this Complaint (and still is) a shareholder, officer and director of Sixteen Plus.
- 4. The Defendant Isam Yousuf is an adult resident of St. Martin and has been at all times relative hereto.
- 5. The Defendant Jamil Yousef is an adult resident of St. Martin and has been at all times relative hereto.
- 5.6. The Defendant Manal Yousef is an adult resident of Palestine (West Bank).
- 6.7. The Individual Plaintiff also brings a shareholder's derivative action on behalf of Sixteen Plus Corporation ("Sixteen Plus"), a Virgin Islands corporation that was formed in February of 1997, which is joined as a nominal defendant, as the cause of action belongs to the corporation, but its Board of Directors is such that the Board cannot be reasonably expected to bring suit in the name of the corporation.
- 8. Individual Plaintiff Hamed was at all times relevant to this Complaint (and still is) a shareholder of Sixteen Plus at all times relative hereto, as he was an initial shareholder when the corporation was formed and has continuously remained a
- 7.9. shareholder during all times relevant.
- 8.10. The Plaintiff can bring the derivative claim on behalf of the corporation pursuant to Rule 23.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which is applicable to this cause of action.

ı

- 9-11. The Board of Directors of Sixteen Plus currently consists of two directors,
  Fathi Yusuf, a named defendant, and Waleed Hamed. An original third director
  voluntarily withdrew from the Board before the acts complained of here when he
  sold all of his stock in the corporation to the Hameds and Yusufs.
- 40-12. Fathi Yusuf and Waleed Hamed and their families are in intractable litigation in several other matters. Both have acknowledged this to be the case, and have filed papers in other proceedings before the Superior Court attesting to this. Moreover, the Superior Court (Willocks, J.) has entered an Order stating that the Hamed and Yusuf families could file a derivative action as to another jointly controlled corporation for the same reason.
- 41.13. Thus, Plaintiff Hamed has not made a demand on the Board of Directors, as it would be futile to make a demand on them to bring this suit on behalf of Sixteen Plus. As was true in the same situation before Judge Willocks, there would be no reasonable expectation that Fathi Yusuf would agree to have Sixteen Plus sue him for embezzlement, fraud and a violation of Section 605 of Title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code

# **FACTS**

- a. Background History 1997-1999: Prior to the Alleged Conspiracy and Alleged Predicate Criminal Acts
- 42.14. On February 10, 1997, Sixteen Plus was formed as a corporation to purchase a 300 plus acre parcel of land on the South shore of St. Croix, often referred to as Diamond Keturah (hereinafter referred to as the "Land") from the Bank of Nova Scotia ("BNS") -- which had obtained its ownership interest subject

- to rights of redemption through a foreclosure sale conducted on February 13, 1996.
- 43.15. A contract to buy the Land subject to the rights of redemption was then entered into between Sixteen Plus and BNS on February 14, 1997.
- 44.16. At the time it was formed and at all times up to the present, all of the stock of Sixteen Plus has been owned 50% by family members of Fathi Yusuf and 50% by family members of Mohammad Hamed.
- 45-17. At the time Sixteen Plus was formed in the late 1990's, Fathi Yusuf and Mohammad Hamed were 50/50 partners in a grocery business known as Plaza Extra Supermarkets.
- 46-18. Fathi Yusuf and Mohammad Hamed decided to buy the Land in question by providing the necessary funds to Sixteen Plus -- using only proceeds from the grocery stores they owned which they did as described below.
- 47.19. Yusuf, acting for the Plaza Extra partners, then directed the business arrangements regarding the purchase of the Land, some of which were also carried out under that instruction by Waleed Hamed and Maher Yusuf.
- 48-20. Yusuf directed these business arrangements for the partnership as to the purchase of the Land using partnership funds rather than involving his partner Mohammad Hamed (or his son, Waleed) directing the purchase because, as both the Court in Hamed v. Yusuf and Fathi Yusuf himself have stated -- Fathi Yusuf was "in charge" of the business transactions for the partnership and they were under his "exclusive ultimate control". (See, Hamed v. Yusuf, 2013 WL 1846506 (V.I.Super. April 25, 2013)(para. 19 at page \*6, "Yusuf's management

- and control of the "office" was such that Hamed was completely removed from the financial aspects of the business. . . ." and Yusuf's May 9, 2013, *Motion to Stay the Preliminary Injunction* in that same action -- where Yusuf admitted "[Hamed] never worked in any management capacity at any of the Plaza Extra Stores, which role was under the exclusive ultimate control of Fathi Yusuf.")
- 49.21. All funds used to buy the Land came from funds removed from the Plaza Extra Supermarkets partnership by the Hamed and Yusuf families, 50/50—and thus from Yusuf and Hamed as the only two partners.
- 20.22. However, Fathi Yusuf decided he did not want either the Government of the Virgin Islands or BNS to know the partnership source of the funds he was using to buy the Land, as he did not want them to know he—the two families werewas secretly diverting unreported cash from the Plaza Extra Supermarket to Sixteen Plus as part of a money laundering effort. The following details of that 1996-1997 effort are presented here as background information to the later predicate criminal acts and are not the subject of this Complaint.
- 24.23. Fathi Yusuf and Waleed Hamed acted with Isam Yousuf (, his nephew who lived on St. Martin) Manal Yusef, (his niece) who lived on St. Martin, and Yussra Yusuf (his daughter who was married to one of Isam's brothers, Ayed Yousuf) who lived on St. Martin, to launder in excess of \$4,000,000 in unreported, untaxed partnership funds removed by the two families from the Plaza Extra Supermarkets, to St. Martin from the Plaza Extra Supermarket operations—so that they could then wire these funds back to a Sixteen Plus

- account at BNS on St. Croix, in order for Sixteen Plus to use these 'laundered' funds to purchase the Land.
- 22.24. To accomplish this, Fathi Yusuf had large sums of cash delivered to Isam Yousuf in St. Martin, who thereafter directed and coordinated, with the assistance or Manal and Yussra, deposited the deposit of those funds into various accounts in St. Martin. Fathi Yusuf then directed the process by which he, Waleed Hamed and Isam Yousuf then transferred the partnership's funds by wire to an account in the name of Sixteen Plus at BNS on St. Croix. The transfers (which exceeded \$4,000,000) to Sixteen Plus' account at BNS took place between February 13<sup>th</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup> of 1997.
- 23.25. To further cover up the partnership-source of these funds, as well as to try to shelter Isam Yousuf, Manal Yousef and Yussrah Yusuf from exposure to criminal consequences from the effort to launder and use the cash from the partnership's supermarkets, Fathi Yusuf, Waleed, and Isam Yousuf and Manal Yousef agreed to create a sham note and mortgage for the transaction, naming Fathi Yusuf's young niece who lived in St. Martin, Manal Mohammad Yousef ("Manal Yousef"), as the sham mortgagee.
- 24.26. Fathi Yusuf explained the note and mortgage to his partner, Mohammad Hamed, as well as the various Hamed Waleed Hamed and shareholders of Sixteen Plus as being a legitimate business transaction to protect the property, that Manal Yousef could and would never actually enforce the mortgage, and that Yusuf could get the note and mortgage discharged at any time. The purpose of the mortgage was to change the change the apparent owner of the funds to

evade taxes, and at the same time to establish a lien priority superior to the claims of possible future creditors—including USVI tax authorities.

- 25.27. To demonstrate the long-term legitimacy effectiveness of this arrangement to his partner, Fathi Yusuf stated to Mohamad Hamed and his son Waleed Hamed that all of the financials of the corporation, USVI tax filings and annual USVI corporate filings would, in the future, accurately reflect that the funds came from Hamed and Yusuf as the Sixteen Plus shareholders and would not reflect the note and mortgage as a valid corporate debt to Manal as further described below. Thus, he explained, no USVI laws would be broken by making it appear that Manal Yousef had provided funds or was the holder of an enforceable claim. Once the statute of limitations ran out on the tax evasion, all of the actual corporate filings of Sixteen Plus would be completely accurate and free from criminal liability. Nor could the tax authorities or other entities seize the land without having to fight about Manal's claims.
- 26.28. Fathi Yusuf then caused a corporate resolution, sham note and mortgage in the amount of \$4,500,000 to be drafted by Sixteen Plus' counsel in favor of Manal Yousef, dated September 15, 1997, even though she had no such funds, and had never advanced <u>any</u> funds to Sixteen Plus -- as those funds came solely from the partnership and belonged 50/50 to the Hameds and Yusufs.
- 27.29. The note and mortgage exceeded the amount laundered throughtransferred from St. Martin by \$500,000. The additional \$500,000 came from partnership funds that Fathi Yusuf caused the supermarkets to be deposited directly as currency into Sixteen Plus'the St. Croix bank account. Thus,

\$500,000 of the \$4.5 million used to buy the land was directly provided by the Partnership as cash deposits Hamed and Yusufs without going through St. Martin.-

- 28-30. At Fathi Yusuf's direction, that sham note and mortgage in the amount of \$4,500,000 were then executed by Sixteen Plus in favor of Manal Yousef on September 15, 1997, even though the Land in question had actually not been purchased\_transferred\_yet – and the amount transferred through St. Martin was only \$4 million.
- 29-31. On December 24, 1997, BNS finally was entitled to a conveyance of the Land from the Marshal of the Territorial (now Superior) Court of the Virgin Islands, as the rights of redemption in the foreclosure sale had expired.
- 30.32. As per the contract between them, instead of taking title, BNS assigned its right to this conveyance from the Marshal to Sixteen Plus. Sixteen Plus paid for this assignment with the funds from the partnership.
- 31.33. On February 22, 1999, Sixteen Plus finally received and recorded the deed to the Land. On that same day, Sixteen Plus also recorded the sham mortgage (as originally dated September 15, 1997) in favor of Manal Yousef.

# a. The Money Laundering Charges-2003

- 32.34. In 2003, the Federal Government filed felony money laundering and tax evasion criminal charges against Fathi Yusuf, Waleed Hamed and Isam Yousuf, among others.
- 33.35. The felony case included criminal charges related to the aforementioned laundering of funds by diversion from the partnership's Plaza Extra supermarkets

- to St. Martin to buy the Sixteen Plus Land. That case and those criminal charges are not the subject of the CICO case here or claimed as predicate acts.
- 34.36. Pursuant to those charges, the Federal Government placed a lien against various real property owned by Fathi Yusuf's United Corporation as well as corporations also owned jointly by the Yusuf and Hamed families -- including the Land at issue here, by then owned by Sixteen Plus.
- 35-37. The Government also identified the money laundering through St. Martin and the fact that \$500,000 in currency was deposited with funds from the supermarkets to make up the difference.
- 36.38. As part of its investigation and the charges, the FBI retrieved and documented the bank records from St. Martin showing the diversion of the \$4 million in funds from the partnership's Plaza Extra Supermarkets to St. Martin -- and subsequent transfer of those laundered funds back to the bank account of Sixteen Plus in order to purchase this Land. It also documented the deposits of \$500,000 directly into the St. Croix account by the partnership. Two French investigative reports were provided that tracked the accounts of Isam, Hamdan Diamond, Waleed Hamed and Fathi Yusuf—to show the flow of the \$4 million in laundered funds into the Sixteen Plus account.

#### b. The Value of the Sixteen Plus Property Dramatically Increases-2005

37.39. While the criminal case continued over the next years, various third parties attempted to buy the Land from Sixteen Plus at substantially higher prices than was paid for the property, with the highest offer exceeding \$22 reaching \$30 million.

- 38.40. Recognizing this substantial increase of 500% in value in less than 10 years, Fathi Yusuf began to try to figure out how to pocket these funds for himself.
- 39.41. In this regard, the Federal Government agreed that it would remove its lien and the Land could be sold but *only* if the proceeds of any such sale were escrowed pending the outcome of the criminal case and not paid to Manal Yousef.
- 40.42. Contrary to the best interests of Sixteen Plus and its shareholders, Fathi Yusuf began to formulate a plan to embezzle from and defraud Sixteen Plus of the value of the Land, and thus rejected offers for the Land unless the sham Manal Yousef note and mortgage were paid -- so he could then get sole control of these funds.
- 41.43. The Federal Government refused to agree to the request that the Manal Yousef mortgage be paid first, asserting its own doubts about the validity of the sham mortgage.
- 42.44. The US Marshal suggested Fathi Yusuf could also have had Manal Yousef agree to an escrow of the sales proceeds while preserving her alleged mortgage rights, which would have allowed the sale to take place and fully protect the debt allegedly owed to her, but this would have necessarily involved her in the on-going criminal prosecution since the Land was actually purchased with laundered funds, so such a request was never madethat suggestion was rejected. Indeed, once the funds were escrowed, Fathi Yusuf would lose his opportunity to keep the funds for himself pursuant to his Plan.

- 43.45. As such, Sixteen Plus lost then, and is continues to lose the benefit of such sales at the highest and best amount of \$30 million because of Fathi Yusuf's insistence that the sham mortgage be paid upon the sale of the property -- which payment the Federal Government refused to allow.
  - c. The Hidden Plan to Convert the Increased Value and Usurp Corporate Opportunity by Criminal Acts and Conspiracy
- 44.46. By May of 2010 it was clear that a settlement and plea would eventually be reached in the criminal action.
- 45.47. In May of 2010, without the knowledge of the Hameds or disclosure of either their acts or the related documents, Defendants began to implement the Hidden Plan to Convert the Increased Value and Usurp Corporate Opportunity by Criminal Acts and Conspiracy (the "Hidden Plan") by first obtaining a "Real Estate Power of Attorney" from "Manal Mohammad Yousef Mohammad" that gave Fathi Yusuf, personally, the power to do whatever he wished with the mortgage, including releasing the mortgage or foreclosing on the Land for his own benefit, even though the Hamed family had actually paid 50% of the purchase price to buy the Land. See Exhibit 1. The St. Martin Defendants sam Yousuf, Manal Yousef and Jamil Yousuf ("the St. Martin Defendants") were central to this effort to embezzle the Sixteen Plus funds.
- 46.48. This power of attorney Fathi Yusuf supplied and they had Manal Yousef <a href="mailto:executedsign">executedsign</a>, gave no rights or benefits to Sixteen Plus or the Hameds and thus usurped the corporate opportunity, despite the fact that Fathi Yusuf was an

officer and director of the corporation, owing it fiduciary and statutory duties, as well as a shareholder.

- 47.49. Additionally, this undisclosed power of attorney specifically stated that Fathi Yusuf was given total power over what to do with the Land and foreclosure proceeds -- as he was also released and indemnified as to all actions he might take in regard to his broad, personal power of attorney—which further demonstrated that the mortgage and note were a sham, as no bona fide lender gives a principal of the borrower a full power of attorney to discharge the debt without requiring payment.
- 48.50. Upon information and belief, the power of attorney was drawn up by a Virgin Islands lawyer retained by Fathi Yusuf and executed at the request and direction of the St. Martin Defendants by Manal Yousef on St. Martin.
- 49.51. The existence and purpose of this power of attorney were not disclosed to the Hameds and they did not learn of it or the Hidden Plan until after Yusuf attempted to steal all of the assets of Sixteen Plus, aslike he did with the Plaza Extra Supermarkets partnership in 2012 all of which occurred well within the period of the statute of limitations applicable here.
- 50.52. That execution of the undisclosed, exclusive power of attorney in favor of Fathi Yusuf personally was orchestrated by Isam Yousuf, Jamil Yousuf and Manal Yousef in furtherance of the Plan with Fathi Yusuf to steal half of the value of the Land, then in excess of \$25-30 million, from Sixteen Plus and the Hamed shareholders.

- 51.53. The Defendants planned to use the sham mortgage to allow Fathi Yusuf to foreclose of the Land for his own <u>and his family's</u> personal benefits, and to thus deny Sixteen Plus the value of the Land.
- 52.54. In 2013, the Federal Government reached a settlement in the criminal case, which included *inter alia* a lump sum \$10 million payment of taxes to the Government of the Virgin Islands for previously unreported income from the Plaza Extra Supermarkets.
- 53.55. In addition to this large payment for back taxes, a fine in excess of \$1,000,000 was also paid to the Government, along with a plea of guilty to the pending felony charge of tax evasion by the corporate defendant, United Corporation, which subsequently was determined to be Yusuf's agent for the partnership.
- 54.56. As a result of the plea and settlement, the Federal Government removed its lien on the Land. Also, Fathi Yusuf, Waleed Hamed and several of the other defendants—but not Manal Yousef—were given personal immunity from criminal prosecution for the acts of tax evasion and money laundering described above.

#### d. The Predicate Criminal Acts to Consummate the Hidden Plan

- 55.57. After the criminal case was dismissed, the Fathi Yusuf and the St. Martin Defendants, in furtherance of the Hidden Plan, arranged for counsel on St. Martin to send a demand <a href="from Manal Yousuf">from Manal Yousuf</a> to Sixteen Plus for payment of the sham note and mortgage Sixteen Plus allegedly owed to Manal Yousef. See <a href="Exhibit 2">Exhibit 2</a>.
- 56-58. That St. Martin counsel did not disclose to Sixteen Plus or the Hameds that Fathi Yusuf was the personalso involved in personally directing the demand.

- 57.59. A response was made to that demand, to Manal Yousef, \_by Hamed's counsel on behalf of Sixteen Plus, which was reduced to writing -- pointing out that the mortgage was not valid for the reasons stated herein. That writing also specifically stated that St. Martin counsel was acting improperly in asserting he was representing Manal Yousef's interests rather than Fathi Yusuf's. See Exhibit 3.
- 58.60. While counsel on St. Martin promised to get a response to that letter after discussing the matter with his real "client" client (see Exhibit 4), he never did so; strongly indicating to the Hameds that he had never really been retained by Manal Yousef.
- 59.61. In furtherance of the Hidden Plan, Fathi Yusuf, in conjunction with the other Defendants, committed multiple criminal acts Including conversion, attempted conversion, perjury, attempted perjury, wire and mail fraud, and others.
- 60.62. In 20162015, Fathi Yusuf filed a civil lawsuit in the Superior Court as part of the Hidden Plan; seeking to dissolve Sixteen Plus in an attempt to, *inter alia*, dispose of the Land and trigger payment of the sham mortgage.
- 61.63. In the course of that litigation, Fathi Yusuf was required to produce all documents he had exchanged with Manal Yousef, including any powers of attorney.
- 62.64. When Fathi Yusuf did supply what he represented to be all such documents on July 26, 2016, the power of attorney was not disclosed.

Hamed's counsel wrote to Yusuf's counsel pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 34 and 37 (Exhibit 5), specifically asking for verification under the Rules that there was no such "power of attorney":

> Stefan - I reviewed these new responses and there are still several deficiencies:

> Supplemental Document Response #13-The documents you referenced as documents exchanged with Manal Yousef only include the deed, mortgage, mortgage note and certain wire transfers from someone else—please confirm there are no letters, faxes, emails, documents showing any interest payments to her (as alleged were made), powers of attorney, pre-mortgage negotiations or any other documents exchanges with your client and her or her agent. (Emphasis added.)

On August 5, 2016, Fathi Yusuf's counsel responded that he had initiated a "reasonable search" as to his client and his client's documents, and falsely represented - on behalf of Fathi Yusuf -- there was no such power of attorney. See Exhibit 5.

Joel, . . . . Here are my responses to your numbered paragraphs:

I stand by my statement in the supplemental Rule 34 response that based on a reasonable search there are no other documents responsive to your request. I believe that supplemental response to your request is sufficient under the Rules (and I thought from our meet and confer that is what you wanted), and that I am not under any duty to go into more detail. (Emphasis added.)

<del>65.</del>67. During the same Superior Court litigation, Fathi Yusuf was also required to answer an interrogatory about the note and mortgage on the Land. To falsely make it appear that Manal Yousef was a bona fide mortgagee, hide the undisclosed personal power of attorney and protect the Hidden Plan - Fathi Yusuf stated under oath as follows (See Exhibit 6):

- a. That Manal Yousef loaned the full \$4.5 million on September 15, 1997, for the purchase of the Land;
- b. That Manal Yousef was paid three interest only payments on the mortgage between 1998 and 2000;
- c. That Manal's last known address is 25 Gold Finch Road, Point Blanche.St. Martin, N.A.;
- d. That he did not recall the last time he spoke with her;
- e. That Manal Yousef had retained counsel in the Virgin Islands;
- f. That he would not provide a phone number for Manal Yousef because she had counsel in the Virgin Islands.
- 66.68. All of the foregoing statements made by Fathi Yusuf in his interrogatory response are false, and were made in furtherance of the Hidden Plan to steal half of the value of the Land from Sixteen Plus and its <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.org/">other</a> shareholders, the Hameds, by a foreclosure -- as Fathi Yusuf committed perjury under oath before the Court in furtherance of the Plan when he made these statements
- Yusuf then filed a motion for a protective order to avoid providing Manal Yusuf's phone number, as a Sixteen Plus or Hamed discussion with Manal would disclose the power of attorney and the Plan to steal half of the value of the Land in a sham foreclosure.
- 68-70. After the Court denied Yusuf's motion and ordered Fathi Yusuf to provide the phone number of Manal Yousef, he then repeated the false statements above -- and **now** stated that he did not have her phone number despite his motion to protect that exact information -- but that she could be reached through her

- nephew, Jamil Yousef, although to date he has repeatedly refused to verify that response. See Exhibit 7.
- 69.71. However, the location given by Fathi Yusuf as Manal Yousef's address is actually in the possession of and used by Isam Yousuf, which is where he and his son, Jamil Yousef, reside.
- 70.72. Yusuf knew, when he falsely certified to the contrary, that this was not the location where Manal Yousef resided. <u>It has since been learned that she returned to Palestine in 2010.</u>
- 71.73. The purpose of this false representation in response to the Court's Order being that the St. Martin Defendants had agreed to intercept any mail, service or other communications to Manal before she could receive themthe would keep Manal's address and contact information from Sixteen Plus and the Hameds...
- 72.74. Indeed, when service of process in another pending Superior Court action was left at that address for Manal Yousef, Isam and Jamil Yousef intercepted the summons, and contacted Fathi Yusuf to further the conspiracy to steal the land from Sixteen Plus, telling him about the suit instead.
- 73.75. Upon information and belief, Jamil Yousef then agreed to further participate in this fraudulent Plan by allowing Fathi Yusuf to provide his name to the Court as the alleged contact for Manal Yousef, to hide the truth that she had returned to Palestine—promising to call Fathi Yusuf if he was contacted by anyone, so that her whereabouts would remain secret and she would not learn that "she" alone was allegedly going to get millions of dollars—money which Fathi Yusuf was seeking.

- 74.76. Fathi Yusuf thereafter represented to the Superior Court, without the necessary identification of the true party in interesthis role with his relatives, that he had been contacted by Manal Yousef's "agent", when he knew in fact that it was he, Fathi Yusuf, who was directing the case and attempting to foreclose the sham mortgage under the undisclosed power of attorney—for his own benefit.
- 75.77. During this time period, including in 2012, Fathi Yusuf personally arranged for and signed, under the penalty of perjury -- tax and other governmental filings showing that no outstanding obligations were due to Manal Yousef, and, to the contrary, that the \$4.5 million had been advanced by and was due to the Sixteen Plus' shareholders, the Hameds and Yusufs, as follows:
  - a. To conceal the Hidden Plan and deceive the other shareholders and officers of the corporation, Fathi Yusuf filed tax returns for Sixteen Plus during this time period, including 2012. See Exhibits 8 and 9.
  - b. In those filings he, personally signed and swore under oath and penalty of perjury that the \$4.5 million held by Sixteen Plus was received from shareholders and due to them and there was no loan or mortgage to a third person. <u>Id.</u>
  - c. This comported with his repeated representations to the Hameds intended to keep the Hidden Plan hidden.
  - d. To hide the Hidden Plan and deceive the other shareholders and officers of the corporation, Fathi Yusuf also prepared and filed annual corporate filings for Sixteen Plus during this time period, including 2012.

- e. In those filings he stated that the \$4.5 million held by Sixteen Plus was received from <u>Sixteen Plus'</u> shareholders and due to them and was not a loan or mortgage to a third person. See **Exhibit 10**.
- f. This comported with representations to the Hameds.
- 76.78. In furtherance of this scheme, in 2013 Fathi Yusuf also created and requested Waleed Hamed sign an annual corporate filing that showed \$4.5 million due as a mortgage and loan and not money due to the Shareholders as had been reported for the prior 13 years. He also inserted his family members as the directors on the document, which he signed and proffered to Hamed. See Exhibit 11.
- 77.79. Indeed, the Fathi Yusuf and the other Defendants were wrongfully attempting to hide the fact that Fathi Yusuf was the real plaintiff in interest and that Manal Yousef had not personally contacted counsel in the USVI to represent her alleged interests and his family members were trying to steal the Land.
- 78.80. To further this Plan, Fathi Yusuf retained provided Manal Yousef and Isam
  Yousuf Uwith funds to pay USVI counsel to represent him "acting" as Manal
  Yousefrepresent the interests of the—and then represented to the USVI Court
  that Manal Yousef had retained USVI counsel, when she had not in fact done so.
  He did not disclose that the suit was actually being brought by him, that he was
  the true party in interest, or the existence of the wrongfully undisclosed power of
  atterney conspiracy..
- 79.81. Notwithstanding all of these facts being disclosed to Yusuf and the St.

  Martin Defendants, they havehe has not recanted any of his false statements or

filings -- and continues to pursue their Hiddenhis Plan to steal the Land, the real property at Diamond Keturah, from Sixteen Plus without any payment to the company or its shareholders, as they he continues to try to divert all such funds through Manal Yousef, which funds he will then take back for himself with a share to Defendants for their assistance.

#### **COUNTI-CICO**

- 80.82. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 81.83. Section 605 of Title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code provides in part as follows:
  - a. It is unlawful for any person employed by, or associated with, any enterprise, as that term is defined herein, to conduct or participate in, directly or indirectly, the affairs of the enterprise through a pattern of criminal activity.
  - b. It is unlawful for any person, through a pattern of criminal activity, to acquire or maintain, directly or indirectly, any interest in, or control of, any enterprise or real property.
  - c. It is unlawful for any person who has received any proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of criminal activity in which he participated as a principal, to use or invest, directly or indirectly, any part of the proceeds thereof, or any proceeds derived from the investment or use of any of those proceeds, in the acquisition of any title to, or any right, interest, or equity in, real property, or in the establishment or operation of any enterprise. . . .
- 82.84. Pursuant to 14 V.I.C. §607(a), any aggrieved party may institute civil proceedings against any persons to obtain relief from a violation of §605.
- 83-85. Sixteen Plus and its shareholders are such aggrieved parties under subsection in that:

١

- a. All Defendants are "person[s]" who through a pattern of criminal activity set forth in paragraphs 55 through 79, have "acquire[d]... directly or indirectly" an "interest in" the Land which is "real property" within the meaning of the statute.
- b. All Defendants are "person[s] who have received. . .proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of criminal activity in which [they] participated as. .principal[s], to use or invest, directly or indirectly, . .part of the proceeds thereof. . .in the acquisition of. . .[a] right, interest, or equity in" the Land, which is real property as set forth above.
- 84.86. Defendants acted in concert with one another in conspiring together in a pattern of activities to embezzle funds from and criminally defraud Sixteen Plus and its shareholders, which is expressly prohibited by 14 V.I.C. §834, causing damages to Sixteen Plus and its shareholders.
- 85.87. Defendants conspired together within the statutory limitations period to accomplish this goal by using unlawful means, including the use of knowingly false court filings in two different cases, tax and corporate filings, use of the mail and wires -- and by perjured testimony in violation of 14 V.I.C. §1541 and §1548.
- 86-88. This was criminal activity as defined by Title 14, Chapter 41 (giving false statements), Chapter 75 (obstruction of justice) and Chapter 77 (perjury) as well as various reporting, wire fraud and other crimes.
- 87.89. Such criminal conduct by the Defendants was undertaken in a years long pattern as set forth in Chapter 30 of Title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code, as the Defendants acted in concert as a group in association with one another in carrying out their goal of embezzling funds from and otherwise defrauding Sixteen Plus and its shareholders, with each of the named Defendants being a

- Principal in this enterprise within the statutory limitations period. Indeed, the criminal enterprise is still on-going.
- 88-90. These were not isolated acts, and were all done with the intent to embezzle from, defraud and otherwise injure Sixteen Plus, file tax and corporate information with the USVI government and give perjured documents and testimony to the Courts of the Virgin Islands.
- 89.91. Pursuant to 14 V.I.C. §605, it is unlawful for the Defendants to engage in such a criminal activity, as was done here.
- 90-92. Sixteen Plus has been injured by this criminal activity targeting the enterprise, already subjecting its real property to a sham mortgage in a present value in the millions of dollars and by loss of value from the time the Land could have been sold or could now be sold for peak value.
- 91.93. As such, Sixteen Plus is entitled to all civil remedies permitted an aggrieved party by 14 V.I.C. § 607, **including statutory treble damages**, for all damages caused by Defendants' unlawful criminal enterprise.

#### **COUNT II — CONVERSION [Withdrawn]**

- 92.94. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 93.<u>95.</u> The acts alleged herein constitute conversion of the corporate assets and corporate opportunities of the corporation, in that:
  - a. Defendants 'intentionally or wrongfully exercise[d] acts of ownership,
     control or dominion by the acts set forth in paragraphs 44 through 79,
  - b. over property, being the \$4.5 million in funds of Sixteen Plus,

- e. to which they have no right of possession.
- 94.96. Plaintiff and the Corporation are injured thereby in loss of value.

### COUNT III (Yusuf Only) - BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES

- 95.97. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 96-98. The acts alleged herein constitutes breach of fiduciary duty and self-dealing by Fathi Yusuf, an officer and director of the corporation, in that:
  - a. Fathi Yusuf is and has been a director of Sixteen Plus,
  - b. In that capacity, he negotiated the note and mortgage with Manal Yousef for the purpose of protecting the corporation's principal asset, the Land, for the benefit of Sixteen Plus.
  - c. He later obtained a power of attorney from Manal Yousef giving himself control of and all rights in those assets, and denying them to the corporation.
  - d. He did this without (1) offering the power of attorney or (2) disclosing it to Sixteen Plus,
  - e. In violation of his duty as an officer and the negotiating official to do so,
  - f. And has taken those benefits as his own
- 97.99. The corporation has been injured thereby.
- 98-100. The corporation will be further injured if equitable relief in the form of a disgorgement order and injunction are not entered to stop the corporation's officer from further acting against the interest of the corporation by use of information, documents and position so obtained.

#### COUNT IV (Yusuf Only) - USURPING OF CORPORATE OPPORTUNITY

- 99.101. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 400.102. The acts alleged herein in paragraph 96 constitutes usurping of a corporate opportunity by Fathi Yusuf, an officer of the corporation acting in that capacity in dealing with Manal Yousef.
- 101.103. The corporation has been injured thereby.
- 402.104. The corporation will be further injured if equitable relief in the form of a disgorgement order and injunction are not entered to stop the corporation's officer from further acting against the interest of the corporation by use of information, documents and position so obtained.

## **COUNT V - CIVIL CONSPIRACY** [Withdrawn]

- 103.105. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 104.106. Defendants entered into a civil conspiracy as follows:
  - a. They entered into an agreement and combination
  - b. to perform a wrongful act, the tort of conversion, as set forth in Count II above.
  - c. that resulted in damage to the plaintiff.
- 105.107. In the alternative, Defendants"
  - a. entered into an agreement
  - to do a lawful act, obtaining and prosecuting a power of attorney to control a mortgage

- c. by unlawful means: perjury and the other criminal acts set forth above.
- 106.108. Both the individual plaintiff and the corporation have been injured thereby

#### **COUNT VI - TORT OF OUTRAGE**

- 407.109. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege all preceding paragraphs, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- 408-110. The actions of the Defendants were intentional, wanton, extreme and outrageous.
- 409.111. The actions of the Defendants were culpable and not justifiable under the circumstances.
- 410.112. The actions of the Defendants caused injury to Sixteen Plus.
- 411.113. As such, the Defendants are liable for said injuries suffered by Sixteen Plus as a result of their intentional and unjustifiable misconduct.

#### WHEREFORE, the Plaintiffs seek:

- A. an award of compensatory damages of multiple loses of the sale of the Land at the highest and best sales value of \$30 million as stated by Fathi Yusuf, including treble damages where permitted by law,
- B. equitable orders with regard to the acts.
- C. consequential damages against the Defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount as determined by the trier of fact, along with any other relief the Court deems appropriate,
- D. Punitive damages if warranted by the facts and applicable law.
- E. Any and all other damages, fees, costs or other relief the Court may deem appropriate.

# A TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED AS TO ALL ISSUES

<b>Dated:</b> December 2318, 20162022		
/s/ Carl J. Hartmann III		
	Carl J. Hartmann III, Esq.	
	Co-Counsel for Plaintiff	
	2940 Brookwind Dr,	
	Holland, MI 49424	
	Email: carl@carlhartmann.com	
	Joel H. Holt, Esq. (Bar # 6)	
	Counsel for Plaintiff	
	Law Offices of Joel H. Holt	
	2132 Company Street,	
	Christiansted, VI 00820	
	Email: holtvi@aol.com	
	Tele: (340) 773-8709	
	Fax: (340) 773-8677	
	Carl J. Hartmann III, Esq.	
	Co-Counsel for Plaintiff	
	5000 Estate Coakley Bay, L-	
62940 Brookwind Dr,		
	Christiansted, VI 00820Holland,	
MI 49424	<b>-</b> "	

# **CERTIFICATION**

Email: carl@carlhartmann.com

Counsel hereby certifies that he has affixed his signature hereto pursuant to the requirements of 14 V.I.C. §607(d) and has sent a true copy of the original complaint to the Attorney General as required by § 607(f). See Exhibit 1.

Dated: December 2318, 202216 Carl J. Hartmann III	<u>/s/</u>
	Carl J. Hartmann III, Esq.
	Co-Counsel for Plaintiff
	2940 Brookwind Dr.
	Holland, MI 49424
	Email: carl@carlhartmann.com

Joel H. Holt, Esq.	
	V.I. Bar No. 6
	Law Office of Joel H. Holt, P.C.
-	Counsel for Plaintiff
	2132 Company Street
	Christiansted, VI 00820
	Email: holtvi@aol.com
	Tele: (340) 773-8709

#### **VERIFICATION**

I, Hisham Hamed, do hereby verify that I have carefully read the Complaint and that based upon reasonable inquiry, I believe that the Complaint comports with the requirements set forth in items (1) through (3) of 14 V.I.C. §607(d), which I have read.

Dated: December 23, 2016

Hisham Hamed

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 31st DAY OF OCTOBER, 2016

NOTARY PUBLIC

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 23<sup>rd</sup>-18th day of December, 20162022, I served a copy of the foregoing by mail-the Court's E-File System and email, as agreed by the parties, on:

# Gregory H. Hodges Charlotte Perrell

Stephen Herpel

Law House, 10000 Frederiksberg GadeCounsel for Defendant Fathi Yusuf

#### P.O. Box 756

St. Thomas, VI 00802 James Hymes

Counsel for Defendants
Manal Yousef

ivialiai Tuusei

Jamil Yousuf

Isam Yousuf

**Kevin Rames** 

Counsel for Nominal Defendant

Sixteen Plus Corporation

ghodges@dtflaw.com

First Second Amended Complaint Page 29

Carl J. Hartmann III



# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

HISHAM HAMED, individually, and derivatively on behalf of SIXTEEN PLUS CORPORATION.

Plaintiff,

٧.

FATHI YUSUF, ISAM YOUSUF and JAMIL YOUSUF

Defendants,

and

SIXTEEN PLUS CORPORATION,

a nominal Defendant.

Case No.: SX-2016-CV-00650

DERIVATIVE SHAREHOLDER SUIT, ACTION FOR DAMAGES AND CICO RELIEF

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

# **ORDER**

THIS MATTER having come on before the Court on the motion of Plaintiff
Hisham Hamed pursuant to V.I. R. CIV. P. 15(d) to allow him to supplement his *First*Amended Complaint ("FAC") dated December 23, 2016, to join Manal Yousef as a defendant, and the Court being fully apprised in the premises, it is

**HEREBY ORDERED**. That the *Second Amended and Supplemented Complaint* as attached to that motion is approved, and shall be filed along with the redline thereof, by Hamed.

It is **SO ORDERED**.

Dated:	. 2023	
ATTEST: TAMARA CHA Clerk of the Court	TEST: TAMARA CHARLES,	Douglas A. Brady Judge of the Superior Court
By: Court Clerk Supervisor	 or	