### STATE OF WASHINGTON **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** SECURITIES DIVISION

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IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Securities Act of Washington by:

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Broad Investments, LLC; Guoyong Liu,

Respondents.

Order No.: S-18-2458-18-CO01 CONSENT ORDER

# **INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to the Securities Act of Washington, RCW 21.20, the Securities Division of the Department 10 of Financial Institutions ("Securities Division") and the Respondents Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong 11 Liu hereby enter into this Consent Order in settlement of the matters alleged herein. The Respondents Broad 12 13 Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu neither admit nor deny the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as 14 stated below.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

#### **Respondents**

1. Broad Investments, LLC ("Broad Investments") is a Washington limited liability company formed on December 10, 2011. Broad Investments has a principal place of business in Bellevue, Washington. To date, Broad Investments has not provided any products or services for compensation.

2. Guoyong "Michael" Liu ("Liu") is a resident of Sammamish, Washington. Liu is the CEO and Chief Financial Analyst of Broad Investments.

## **Prior Enforcement Action**

3. On May 2, 2018, the State of Colorado, Securities Division, issued a Verified Petition for Order

to Show Cause against Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu. The State of Colorado alleged that the 25 CONSENT ORDER DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS 1 Securities Division PO Box 9033

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Respondents offered unregistered securities, in the form of an initial coin offering, on a website accessible to the general public, including to Colorado residents. On May 17, 2018, the Respondents entered into a Stipulation for Consent Cease and Desist Order with the State of Colorado, in which they neither admitted nor denied the allegations.

## Nature of the Conduct

## Background

4. Respondent Liu co-founded Broad Investments in 2011. Broad Investments developed a proprietary investment strategy, Math Oriented Value Investing ("MOVI"), that combined the traditional value investing method with advanced mathematics. Broad Investments claimed that between October 2017 and January 2018, their portfolio of stocks selected by the MOVI strategy outperformed the general stock market return by 47%.

## Initial Coin Offering

5. On March 5, 2018, Broad Investments created a website that offered securities in the form of an initial coin offering ("ICO"). The Broad Investments website at <u>http://movi-invest.com</u> was accessible to the general public, including to Washington residents, until May 4, 2018. The website contained a description of the ICO and a white paper with additional information. Respondent Liu created the content of the website and the white paper.

6. In April 2018, three individuals contacted Broad Investments via an email address provided on the website to request additional information regarding the ICO. Respondent Liu did not immediately review or reply to the emails. In June 2018, after the Securities Division's investigation commenced, Respondent Liu replied to notify the individuals that the ICO was no longer being offered.

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 7. The ICO consisted of the sale of five hundred million tokens called "MVI Coins." A pre-ICO

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 sale of the tokens launched on April 16, 2018 and continued for one week (until April 22, 2018). The price

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 CONSENT ORDER

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 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Securities Division

of the MVI Coins during the pre-ICO sale was \$0.03 per token. The ICO sale of MVI Coins commenced the following week, on April 23, 2018, and was planned to continue for five weeks (until May 27, 2018). The price of the MVI Coins during the ICO sale ranged from \$0.40 to \$0.70 per token.

8. The Respondents misleadingly represented that the tokens represented shares of stock in Broad Investments. In the white paper, MVI Coins were described as an "equity coin" and it was stated that "each coin represents a share of the Company." It was further stated that "if you own a MVI Coin you own a share of Broad Investments, LLC." Further, the Respondents represented in the white paper that the tokens had "the same functionality of common stock" and that the investors "also own the corresponding shares of the company and all its assets[.]" In fact, the tokens were not stock in the company and did not entitle investors to the same legal rights as stockholders.

9. The Respondents made misleading statements regarding the company's executive team. The website included the names and photos of two individuals and represented that they were employed by Broad Investments as the "VP of Investments" and the "Chief Architect." In fact, the individuals listed were not employed with Broad Investments and had no role in the company.

10. According to the website and white paper, 90% of the funds raised in the ICO would be used by Broad Investments to purchase stocks selected by the MOVI strategy, which would increase the value of the company and the value of the tokens. The Respondents also represented that the tokens would be tradeable on various exchanges where the value of the token would be determined by supply and demand.

11. The Respondents represented that the token investment was low risk because they offered a "Coin Buyback program" for investors. The white paper stated that Broad Investments would consider starting the buyback program if the price of the token fluctuated to a lower price than expected. The white paper further stated that Broad Investments could use the buyback program to return investor funds "if for any reason you are not happy[.]"

CONSENT ORDER

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CONSENT ORDER

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#### **Registration Status**

12. Broad Investments, LLC is not currently registered to sell securities in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered. There is no notification of exemption on file with the state of Washington.

13. Guoyong Liu is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the following Conclusions of Law are made:

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The offer and/or sale of the tokens described above constitute the offer and/or sale of a security as defined in RCW 21.20.005(14) and (17).

2. Respondents Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu have each violated RCW 21.20.140, because as set forth in the Findings of Fact, Respondents offered and/or sold securities for which no registration is on file with the Securities Administrator.

3. Respondent Guoyong Liu has violated RCW 21.20.040 by offering and/or selling said securities while not registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington.

4. Respondents Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu have each violated RCW 21.20.010, because as set forth in the Findings of Fact, they each made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading.

Based upon the foregoing and finding it in the public interest:

#### **CONSENT ORDER**

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that the Respondents Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.140, the securities registration section of the Securities Act of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that the Respondent Guoyong Liu shall cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.040, the securities salesperson and broker-dealer registration section of the Securities Act of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that the Respondents Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.010, the anti-fraud section of the Securities Act of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that the Respondents Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu shall be jointly and severally liable for and shall pay the investigative costs incurred in the investigation of this matter in the amount of \$1,500 on or before the entry date of this Consent Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Securities Division has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Respondents Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu enter into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily and with a full understanding of its terms and significance.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that in consideration of the foregoing, the Respondents Broad Investments, LLC and Guoyong Liu each waive their right to a hearing and to judicial review of this matter pursuant to RCW 21.20.440 and Chapter 34.05 RCW.

#### WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

#### CONSENT ORDER

1	SIGNED this 24th day of March, 2019.	
2	Approved for Entry by:	
3	/s/	
4	Wright A. Noel, Attorney for Respondents Washington State Bar No. 25264	
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6	Signed by:	
7	Broad Investments, LLC	
8	/s/	
9 10	Guoyong Liu CEO	
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12	Signed by:	
13	/s/	
14	Guoyong Liu, Individually	
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16	DATED AND ENTERED this <u>1st</u>	day of <u>April</u> , 20 <u>19</u> .
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10		By:
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21		William M. Beatty Securities Administrator
22	Approved by:	Presented by:
23	An Elm	Bridgett Fisher
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25	Suzanne Sarason CONSENT ORDER	Bridgett Fisher 6 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Securities Division PO Box 9033
		PO B03 9035 Olympia WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760

Chief of Enforcement

Financial Legal Examiner

Reviewed by:

Robert Kondrat Financial Legal Examiner Supervisor
Financial Legal Examiner Supervisor