The Cowan Law Firm
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OF ORIGINAL FILED

Los Angeles Superior Court

JUN 1 5 2010

John A.	Clarks, Exacutive Offices/Clerk
Dy_	A. WILLIAMS
	DEPULY

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

OCT 0 4 2010

Attorneys for Plaintiff Alan Harvey

1541 Ocean Avenue, Suite 200

Alan C. Harvey, an individual,

Santa Monica, California 90401

The Cowan Law Firm

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JEFFREY W. COWAN, ESQ., SBN 157474

Norman P. Tarle

Dept.

3 83 Date

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Plaintiff,
vs.

Jerrold S. Pressman, an individual; EDP
Investment Company, LLC, a California limited
liability corporation, Broadway Entertainment,
Inc., a California corporation, and Does 1
through 100,

Case No.

SC108418

Plaintiff Alan C. Harvey's Complaint for

- (1) Fraud
- (2) Breach of Contract
- (3) Common Counts
- (4) Unfair Competition (B&P § 17200 et seq)

Defendants.

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# **General Allegations**

- Plaintiff Alan C. "Scotty" Harvey ("Mr. Harvey" or "Plaintiff") is a Southern California businessman who was induced through lies to invest more than \$500,000 with Defendant Jerrold S. Pressman and two entities through which Pressman conducts business. Pressman is a Santa Monica con artist who appears to have fleeced millions of dollars from innocent investors throughout the United States. Pressman may end up being known as the Bernie Madoff of Santa Monica.
- Mr. Harvey is an individual who at all relevant times was living in San Bernardino County, California.

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- Defendant Jerrold S. Pressman ("Defendant" or "Pressman") at all relevant times was an 3. individual doing business in the County of Los Angeles and in the city of Santa Monica, California.
- Defendant EPD Investment Company, LLC ("EPD") is a California limited liability 4. corporation that at all relevant times was purporting to do business in Santa Monica, California. At all relevant times, Pressman was an officer, director, member or managing agent of EDP.
- Broadway Entertainment, Inc., is a California corporation that at all relevant times was 5. purporting to do business in Santa Monica, California. At all relevant times, Pressman was an officer, director, shareholder or managing agent of EDP.
- The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, of 6. defendants Does 1 through 100, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will ask leave of court to amend this complaint and insert the true names and capacities of said defendants when it has ascertained them.
- Each of the DOE defendants was the alter ego, agent, servant, employee, bailee, 7. licensee, assignee, successor in interest, conspirator, or partner of each of the other defendants and was acting within the course and scope of said agency, service, employment, bailment, lease, license, assignment, successor in interest, or partnership with the knowledge, permission and consent of each of the other named defendants. Each of the defendants ratified or approved the acts of the other defendants.
- 8. Mr. Harvey is an entrepreneur who has built successful businesses in several industries.
- 9. In 2001, Mr. Harvey was looking to invest the proceeds from the sale of a business. Mr. Harvey was introduced to Pressman by Mr. Harvey's accountant Ted Jonavich, who years earlier had been employed by an entity Pressman controlled or owned.
- In the fall of 2001, Mr. Harvey met with Defendant Pressman, who offered to let Mr. 10. Harvey invest in his company EPD. In face to face meetings in Pressman's Santa Monica office in October 2001 and November 2001, Pressman told Mr. Harvey that his

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invested capital would be used to buy industrial capital equipment, which in turn would be leased on a long-term basis to third parties. Pressman further claimed that the combination of the nature of the income generated and the ability to depreciate the subject capital equipment would confer substantial tax benefits while generating annual income of at least 10%. Pressman also verbally told Mr. Harvey on multiple occasions that he (Harvey) could withdraw his investment at any time and that Pressman would personally guarantee whatever investment(s) Mr. Harvey made. Pressman also purported to disclose to Mr. Harvey some of his assets, which evidenced a claimed net worth of more than \$20 million.

- 11. Because Defendant Pressman had come recommended from Mr. Harvey's trusted CPA, spoke in a convincing way and had an impressive office in an established Santa Monica office building, in December 2001 Mr. Harvey invested \$409,027 with Pressman and EPD via three checks, true and correct copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- In return for Mr. Harvey's investment, Defendants issued a "temporary" promissory note 12. that Defendant Pressman told him in a December 21, 2001 letter was temporary "proof" of his investment until "we are able to formalize the paperwork" regarding his investment and further confirmed that all invested money could be withdrawn "upon notice." A true copy of that December 21, 2001 letter is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. No such paperwork was ever provided.
- 13. Thereafter, Pressman and EPD annually sent Mr. Harvey via email a simple spreadsheet purporting to show how much income Mr. Harvey's investment had earned and how much money it was worth from having the income reinvested. Defendants never issued any Form 1099s to Mr. Harvey.
- Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 is a true copy of a spreadsheet from Defendants purporting 14. to show Mr. Harvey's investment as of January 1, 2008. It evidenced that Mr. Harvey's investment purportedly had grown to \$944,913.50.
- 15. As part of his fraudulent scheme, at some point Defendants sent Mr. Harvey a memo on EPD letterhead entitled "Tax Memo" purporting to explain how certain recently passed

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federal legislation would confer new tax benefits to Mr. Harvey and the other EPD investors. A true and correct copy of this "tax memo" is attached hereto as Exhibit 4. In May of 2009, Mr. Harvey told Pressman he wanted to withdraw some of his invested capital. Pressman then said that Mr. Harvey would suffer certain unspecified tax penalties if he withdrew his money then and that the only way to access his capital without incurring such penalties was to invest another \$100,000 and have the money used to fund another lease with a third party. By doing so, Pressman said, Mr. Harvey could start taking draws against the principal investment amount and accrued interest from the new \$100,000 investment, totaling about \$8,000 per month and once the interest on the new loan was repaid, Mr. Harvey could continue drawing an equivalent monthly amount from his original investment account balance. Defendant Pressman further represented that the new \$100,000 principal investment could be removed from the account at any time Mr. Harvey needed it, but Pressman recommended waiting at least one or two months at minimum to make the transaction "legitimate" for tax purposes.

- Mr. Harvey consulted with his accountant, who said that he did not fully understand this 17. tax structure but endorsed Pressman as being knowledgeable, having significant expertise in these kinds of transactions and being very well capitalized.
- In reliance on Pressman's purported expertise and the fact that Pressman continued to be 18. recommended by Mr. Harvey's trusted accountant, on or about May 6, 2009 Mr. Harvey invested another \$100,000 with Pressman and EPD via two checks issued by companies that Mr. Harvey owned (one for \$80,000 and one for \$20,000). True copies of those checks are attached hereto as Exhibit 5. In return, Mr. Harvey received new receipts that were to serve as "temporary proof" of his investment until "formal" paperwork could be provided. True and correct copies of the two "Deposit Acknowledgment" documents and a May 6, 2009 EPD transmittal letter regarding the "temporary Notes" being provided "until you and Jerry formalize the agreements you are currently discussing" are attached hereto as Exhibit 6.

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1	19.	No "formal" documents were later provided to Mr. Harvey.
2	20.	In July 2009, Mr. Harvey needed capital for one of his businesses and tried to reach
3		Pressman to arrange for a withdrawal. Mr. Harvey's multiple telephone calls went
4		unreturned for three weeks until Pressman finally called him on or about August 3,
5		2009. Mr. Harvey then met with Pressman in the EPD office on August 4 - only to have
6		Pressman tell him that he did not have any available money to fund the requested
7		withdrawal.
8	21.	Defendant Pressman later sent Mr. Harvey a letter - a true copy of which is attached
9		hereto as Exhibit 7 – explaining the purported reasons Defendants were then unable to
10		fund a return of Mr. Harvey's capital.
11	22.	In about August of 2009, Defendants made a \$11,600 payment to Mr. Harvey and
12		claimed further that they would repay Mr. Harvey as soon as their cash flow permitted.
13		Defendant Pressman further claimed that he had a \$50 million net worth and that the
14		problem was only a temporary liquidity crises. Defendant Pressman also admitted then
15		that he had used Mr. Harvey's recent \$100,000 investment to fund his company's
16		operations and had not invested it in equipment that was to be leased to a third party. As
17		a result of this admission and Defendants' actions in July 2009, Mr. Harvey began to
18		suspect that he had been the victim of a fraud.
19	23.	Because the subject proceeds were procured by fraud, Mr. Harvey is entitled to a
20		constructive trust over any assets that Defendants acquired with his money.
21		
22		FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION – FRAUD
23		(Against all Defendants)
24	24.	Mr. Harvey incorporates the allegations in ¶¶ 1 through 23 herein.
25	25.	When Defendants made the foregoing representations to Mr. Harvey about what would
26		be done with his money or how he would realize purported tax benefits, they knew they

25. When Defendants made the foregoing representations to Mr. Harvey about what would be done with his money or how he would realize purported tax benefits, they knew they were false. Similarly, Defendants' representations about why Mr. Harvey needed to invest another \$100,000 also were false and Defendants knew they were false when they

1		made them. Defendants made these representations for the purposes of deceiving with
2		Harvey and inducing him to give them money.
3	26.	Mr. Harvey relied on these representations, and his reliance was reasonable.
4	27.	As a proximate result of Defendants' actions, Mr. Harvey is has suffered damages in an
5		amount to be proved at trial but believed to exceed \$1,000,000. In the alternative, Mr.
6		Harvey is entitled to rescind the subject "transactions" and recover the \$509,027 he
7		invested.
8	28.	As a proximate result of Defendants' actions, Mr. Harvey has suffered emotional
9		distress in an amount to be proved at trial but believed to exceed \$100,000.
10	29.	Mr. Harvey also is entitled to recover pre-judgment interest pursuant to Article XV, § 1
11		of the California Constitution at a 7% rate because this is a non-contractual obligation.
12		Such interest is in a sum to be proved at trial but exceeds \$229,040.
13	30.	Defendants' actions constituted fraud, and also were committed with malice or
14		oppression towards Mr. Harvey. As a result, Mr. Harvey is entitled to an award of
15		punitive damages in a sum sufficient to punish Defendants and make an example of
16		them, which would be at least \$2,500,000.
17		
18		SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION - Breach of Contract
19		(Against all Defendants)
20	31.	Mr. Harvey incorporates the allegations in ¶¶ 1 through 23 herein.
21	32.	The foregoing actions by Defendants constituted an oral contract, which Defendants
22		materially breached in June of 2009 when they failed to return Mr. Harvey's invested
23		capital (and purportedly accrued interest) upon request.
24	33.	As a result, Mr. Harvey has been damaged in an amount to be proved at trial but
25		believed to exceed \$1,000,000.
26	34.	Mr. Harvey also is entitled to pre-judgment interest in an amount to be proved at trial but
27		believed to exceed \$350,000

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION - COMMON COUNTS

ALAN C. HARVEY 11-86

JOYCE A. HARVEY
8229 THOROUGHBRED ST. 909-989-7348

ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

DATE 12/13/01

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ALAN C. HARVEY 11-86 JOYCE A. HARVEY	3474
8229 THOROUGHBRED ST. 909-989-7348 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701	DATE /2/13/01 90-3861/1222
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ALAN C. HARVEY 11-86

JOYCE A. HARVEY
8229 THOROUGHBRED ST. 909-989-7348
ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

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December 21, 2001

Alan C. Harvey 8229 Thoroughbred Street Alta Loma, CA 91701

Dear Scotty:

Enclosed is a temporary note to cover your deposits received by us on December 14<sup>th</sup> until we are able to formalize the paperwork.

All amounts are subject to a return of 12% interest per year or 12.8% interest accrued when interest is not withdrawn. Monies not withdrawn are also tax deferred. In order to meet the spirit of our conversation, we will allocate \$100,000 towards a consulting fee, \$200,000 towards 200! leases, and hopefully carry forward the \$109,000 difference to combine an additional payment in January so that we can create an additional \$200,000 in leases for the year 2002 thereby maximizing the tax benefits we projected.

I would also prefer to set up a system to receive consulting fees for the year 2002 over a 12 month period rather than just in December of next year, all of which will be secured by a similar promissory note upon their receipt. Any additional funds you choose to deposit will also continue to draw the above interest and all funds are available without penalty to be withdrawn upon notice.

If you would like a further explanation, Ted can interject. Otherwise I remain available at any time to support your tax benefit strategy.

Sincerely yours,

EPD INVESTMENT COMPANY

Jerrold S. Pressman

Chairman

JSP/cb

Enclosures

# EPD INVESTMENT COMPANY

(TEMPORARY NOTE)

\$409,027.00

Santa Monica, California December 14, 2001 Check Nos. 3473, 3474 &3475

For value received, EPD Investment Company promises to pay to the order of Alan C. Harvey, at Santa Monica, California, Four Hundred Nine Thousand Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$409,027.00) in lawful money of the United States of America, bearing an interest rate of twelve (12.0%) percent per annum.

Additional deposits submitted by the bearer will be acknowledged in writing and such documents will serve as an addendum to the note, adjusting the amount herewith. Withdrawals requested by the bearer effecting the principal amount of the note will be acknowledged by an account schedule and will decrease accordingly, without revision and re-issue of the original note.

Should collection commence to enforce payment of this Note, EPD Investment Company promises to pay such additional sum, as the Court may adjudge reasonable as attorneys' fees.

EPD INVESTMENT COMPANY

NO. 011214-ACH Alan C. Harvey

DUE: \*\*On Thirty (30) Days Demand\*\*

### Exhibit B - 2008 Account Balance Summary:

This is the latest account balance information received by Alan Harvey from Jerry Pressman. The data below was copied from the PDF document received Jan. 19, 2009 as an email attachment from Ruben Moreno, an employee of Jerrold Pressman.

Relevant Data:

Account No .:

011214-AJH

Beginning Balance:

\$798,826.14

Ending Balance:

\$944,913.50

Beginning Principal: \$463,226.60

Interest Rate:

12%

BEGINNING BALANCE AS OF \$1.01/2008					VECUSUS			WITHDRAWALS			ENDING BALANCES				
NAME	NITERES!	BEGINNING PRINCIPAL	PREVIOUS	BEGONING BALANCE	DATE	DEPOSITS.	MONTHLY INTEREST	DATE	WITHDRAWAL FROM PRINCIPAL	MOM NIERESI	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	PRINCIPAL BALANCE	TO DATE	ENDING	MITEREST
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						42,356.50	103,720.76					595,503.20	430 320 30	914 913 50	

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#### BEGINNING BALANCE AS OF 01/01/2008

#### LEASE PAYMENTS

NAME	EQUIPMENT COST	LEASE Total Value	DATE	LEASE PAYMENTS	LEASE BALANCE
ACCOUNT #: L011214-ACH ACH Leasing do Alan & Joyce Harvey 8229 Thoroughbred St. Alla Loma, CA 91701	Transfer to 011214-AJH	296.566.20	1/20/2008 2/20/2008 3/20/2008 4/20/2008 5/20/2008 6/20/2008 6/20/2008 8/20/2008 9/20/2008 10/20/2008 11/20/2008 12/20/2008	3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55 3,530.55	45.897 15 42.366 60 38.365 60 35.305 50 31,774 95 28.244 40 24,713.85 21.183.30 17,652 7 14,122.20 10,591.65 7,061.10 3,530 55
Equipment Leased Haas Vertical VF-6 16020 Fadal Vertical #2 VMC4020 I	HT 9004127				
COLUMN TO THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PERSON OF	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE		42,366.60	3,530.55

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SCHEDULE IS BASED ON THE LEASE AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 14, 2001 WITH TPT AND IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY

#### TAX MEMO

Under the recent Economic Growth and Tax Relief Bill connected to the Job Creation and Worker's Assistance Act just passed by Congress, a new addendum has been added that will greatly enhance the tax advantages available to your leasing entity. The new tax extends the annual Section 179 deduction from \$25,000 per year to \$100,000 per year and increases the <u>first year depreciation</u> on the adjusted balance from (30%) to (50%) plus the accelerated MACRS depreciation which will generate enormous tax benefits on all new leased equipment purchased between May 5, 2003 and December 2004. The \$200,000 limitation per year has also been increased without penalty to \$400,000. As an example, on a \$100,000 investment, (100%) of the investment is deductible in the first year. On a \$200,000 investment, the deductible is approximately \$157,000 as follows:

	179	\$100,000	
(50%)	First Year	50,000	(on adjusted balance)
	MACRS	7,000	
		\$157,000	First year deduction

If you have any interest in further investing in (10%) and (12%) leases this year to take advantage of these new benefits remembering that the tax loss generated can be used to carryover deductions against your other business and ordinary income, I suggest you contact us.

With these new tax advantages available, it may become difficult to find new leases in the last quarter of the year as we have always been able to do in the past, and therefore will need time to locate both the equipment and the customers before October of this year.

If you or your accountant have any questions regarding this recently passed tax bill, please feel free to call.

DOLLARS E Server 18 20,000 5003 90-3861/1222 01 Constitution of the state of th DATE 41 10004074351 EPD INVESTIBENTS. WENCY THOUSAND DOLLARS 2238611: NATIONAL DIGITAL INC. 140 SOUTH CYPRESS AVE. ONTARIO, CA 91762 SECURITY PACIFIC BANK 845 N. EJOI'd Avonuc - Ontario, CA 91762 - 909-983-4630 ru T " 005 00 3 II PAY TO THE ORDER OF. FOR.

14732 Security Features Included 90,3861-1222 -- DOLLARS \$ 80,000 SECURITY PACIFIC BANK 845 NORTH EUCLID AVENUE ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA 91762 PHONE 909-983-4600 #014732# #1222338611# 001#038141# 000 THOUSAND JOLLARE EMBRITHMENTS GOD COMTRACT COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 140 S. CYPRESS AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762 PAY TO THE ORDER OF MEMO

May 6, 2009

Alan & Joyce Harvey 140 South Cypress Ave. Ontario, CA 91762

Re: EPD Investment Company, LLC Account No. 011214-AJH

Dear Alan and Joyce,

Enclosed are temporary Notes to cover your deposits until you and Jerry formalize the agreements you are currently discussing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

EPD INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC

Rebecca Johnson

Accounting Department

/rj

Enclosure

# EPD INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC Deposit Acknowledgement

\$80,000.00

Via Check No. 14732 Deposit Date: 05/06/09

A principal deposit in the amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars and No/100 (\$80,000.00) in lawful money of the United States of America was credited to your EPD Investment Company, LLC account number listed below. Interest on this deposit will begin accumulating on the deposit date noted above at the current interest rate for this account.

This signed deposit acknowledgement serves as an addendum to your original note from EPD Investment Company, LLC. Please keep this with your records for future reference.

EPD INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC

Acct No. <u>011214-AJH</u> Alan & Joyce Harvey Note Addendum

## EPD INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC Deposit Acknowledgement

\$20,000.00

Via Check No. 5003 Deposit Date: 05/06/09

A principal deposit in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars and No/100 (\$20,000.00) in lawful money of the United States of America was credited to your EPD Investment Company, LLC account number listed below. Interest on this deposit will begin accumulating on the deposit date noted above at the current interest rate for this account.

This signed deposit acknowledgement serves as an addendum to your original note from EPD Investment Company, LLC. Please keep this with your records for future reference.

EPD INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC

Acct No. <u>011214-AJH</u> Alan & Joyce Harvey Note Addendum

#### Dear Scottie:

In response to our conversation today and beyond my personal problems with my granddaughter, I want to give you an objective overview relating to the problems we are facing, along with some encouraging news about my plans. The current economic conditions have been overwhelming and, in spite of our efforts to out race the heat of this recession, we have been caught in what could be considered the perfect storm.

I believed that prudent investments and conservative financing should withstand the onslaught, but to my dismay a number of unrelated events have impacted our ability to avoid being swept away in the mess. In spite of the fact that we are less than 40% loan to value financed in most of our properties, (essentially giving us large cushions of available credit to carry us through the business downturn), and the fact that we have available New York stock exchange contractors and builders ready and able to purchase lots on our properties, for no reason our bank of many years temporarily froze our credit line of 4 million dollars along with those of their customers utilizing real estate as collateral, under the guise of needing to reappraise the properties to meet their TARP requirements. After waiting six months and receiving our appraisal indicating a higher value than before, the bank is still stalling and we have been unable to transfer the presold property and reestablish our credit line. Our strategy was to earn returns from sales, appreciation, and increased equity, and I was fortunate to place the funds in extremely long term profitable investments.

As a further complication, any payment to you must be structured to be consistent with your existing tax position with the IRS and comply with the new regulations set forward in February of this year.

We have additionally been impacted by the late payments of our accounts receivables and our inability to timely close almost any type of transactions because of the general negative financial whirlwind we are surrounded by--all of which impacts our cash flow. Adding insult to injury our current credit card processor has threatened bankruptcy over the last month, and while we hear they are receiving refinancing to the tune of 1.8 billion dollars, we have not received any information related to the funds generated with credit cards.

We have arranged for a major recapitalization for early September that should generate a substantial amount of liquidity offering a bridge until we can reestablish our credit line.

Overall our assets greatly exceed our liabilities, and your funds are well protected. I am committed to continue to protect these funds, and I believe that we will come out of these miserable times stronger but, for the first time in 30 years, I'm having difficulty honoring requests for funds. I am asking that you be patient because I know you rely on these funds for your well being and want to reassure you that I am doing everything in my power including using my own personal assets to buffer us through this economic storm.

This is temporary, and I'm hoping and praying it will correct itself in the next quarter. While I may not have anticipated the enormity of this financial recession, I want to assure you that I have made no critical errors in judgment. None of our investments have lost value even in these turbulent times due to the conservative nature of our strategy.

We are faced with a world financial crisis, and I appreciate your long term confidence in me and my judgment. I work diligently to arrange for funding your requests. I understand this is a lot to ask, and I'm distressed and embarrassed about having to write this letter, but I feel I need to be honest so that we can temporarily adjust our lifestyle to meet this crisis.

Jerry