

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES
AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**DRIVE PLANNING, LLC and
RUSSELL TODD BURKHALTER,**

Defendants,

and

**JACQUELINE BURKHALTER,
THE BURKHALTER RANCH,
DRIVE PROPERTIES, LLC, TBR
SUPPLY HOUSE, INC., and DRIVE
GULFPORT PROPERTIES,**

Relief Defendants.

**Civil Action No.
1:24-cv-03583-VMC**

**RELIEF DEFENDANT THE BURKHALTER RANCH'S ANSWER TO
PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW, Relief Defendant The Burkhalter Ranch (“Defendant”), by and through counsel, and files its Answer to Plaintiff’s Complaint and respectfully shows the Court as follows:

I. OVERVIEW

1. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

2. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

3. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

4. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

5. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

6. The allegation is a conclusory statement to which no response appears to be required. To the extent a response is required, Defendant denies the allegations.

II. VIOLATIONS

7. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

8. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

9. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. The allegation is a statement of Plaintiff's intentions to which no response appears to be required. To the extent a response is required, Defendant denies the allegations.

11. Defendant admits the allegations.

12. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

13. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations except Defendant admits that Drive Planning maintains its principal place of business in this judicial district.

14. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

IV. THE DEFENDANTS

15. Defendant admits all the allegations except it is without sufficient information to either admit or deny whether Todd Burkhalter held a Series 65 securities license and has been licensed in Georgia as a resident insurance agent since 1997 and therefore denies those allegations.

16. Defendant admits the allegations except for the allegation that Drive Planning is the alter ego of Todd Burkhalter which is a legal conclusion and therefore Defendant denies the allegation.

V. RELIEF DEFENDANTS

17. Defendant admits that Jacqueline Burkhalter is a resident of Blue Ridge, Fannin County, Georgia, in this judicial district. Defendant admits that Jacqueline Burkhalter is Todd Burkhalter's wife but is without sufficient information to either admit or deny whether he operated a Ponzi scheme while they were married. Therefore, Defendant denies that Todd Burkhalter operated a Ponzi scheme while they were married.

18. Defendant admits the allegations.

19. Defendant admits the allegations.

20. Defendant admits the allegations.

21. Defendant admits the allegations.

VI. FACTS

22. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

23. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

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34. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

35. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the

allegations and therefore denies the allegations. Defendant states that the chart speaks for itself.

36. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

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77. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

78. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

79. Defendant admits that Todd Burkhalter used funds from Drive Planning to build the Staurolite Barn in Mineral Bluff, Georgia which he rents out as an event venue. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

80. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

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121. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

122. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

123. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the remaining allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

124. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

125. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

126. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

127. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

128. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

129. Defendant states that the funds to purchase the Ranch came from Drive Planning. Defendant admits that Drive Planning paid to purchase properties in Defendant's name. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the remaining allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

130. Defendant denies the allegations.

131. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

132. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

133. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the

allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

134. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

135. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

136. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

137. Defendant states that this allegation is a legal conclusion that does not require an answer. To the extent an answer is required, Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

138. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

139. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

140. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

141. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

142. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the

allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

COUNT I- FRAUD

143. Defendant incorporates paragraphs 1-142 as if fully restated herein.

144. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

145. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

146. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

COUNT II – FRAUD

147. Defendant incorporates paragraphs 1-146 as if fully restated herein.

148. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations in a. and b. and therefore denies the allegations.

149. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

COUNT III – FRAUD

150. Defendant incorporates paragraphs 1-149 as if fully restated herein.

151. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations in a., b. and c. and therefore denies the allegations.

152. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the

allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

153. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

COUNT IV – CONTROL PERSON LIABILITY

154. Defendant incorporates paragraphs 1-153 as if fully restated herein.

155. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

156. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

COUNT V – DISGORGEMENT

157. Defendant incorporates paragraphs 1-156 as if fully restated herein.

158. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

159. Defendant admits that Drive Planning and Todd Burkhalter, directly or indirectly, transferred funds to Defendant, including by sending funds to Defendant. Defendant is without sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations and therefore denies the allegations.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

No response is required of Defendant to Plaintiff's prayer for relief.

Respectfully submitted, this 15th day of October 2024.

ROUNTREE LEITMAN KLEIN & GEER, LLC

/s/ Ceci Christy _____

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Atlanta, Georgia 30329

(404) 584-1238 Telephone

cchristy@rlkglaw.com

Attorneys for Relief Defendant

The Burkhalter Ranch

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 15, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing pleading using the CM/ECF System that will automatically send e-mail notification of such filing to all registered attorneys of record in this case.

This 15th day of October 2024.

ROUNTREE LEITMAN KLEIN & GEER, LLC

/s/ Ceci Christy

Ceci Christy

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