

1 CAROLINE D. CIRAULO
Acting Assistant Attorney General

2 PAUL T. BUTLER
3 Trial Attorney, Tax Division
4 U.S. Department of Justice
5 P.O. Box 683
6 Washington, D.C. 20044
7 202-514-1170 (v)
8 202-307-0054 (f)
9 Paul.T.Butler@usdoj.gov

10 Of Counsel:
11 ANNETTE L. HAYES
12 United States Attorney

13 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
14 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
15 SEATTLE DIVISION

16 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	Case No. 2:16-cv-689
17 Plaintiff,)	
)	COMPLAINT
18 v.)	
)	
19 JEFFREY P. POMERANTZ,)	
)	
20 Defendant.)	
)	

21 The plaintiff United States of America, with the authorization of the Secretary of the
22 Treasury (*see* 31 U.S.C. § 3711(g)(4)(C)) and at the direction of the Attorney General of the
23 United States, brings this action to collect from the defendant outstanding civil penalties (31
U.S.C. § 5321(a)(5)), commonly known as FBAR penalties, which were assessed against Jeffrey
P. Pomerantz, for his failure to timely report his financial interest in, and/or his signatory or other

1 authority over, foreign bank accounts for the 2007, 2008, and 2009 calendar years, as required by
2 31 U.S.C. § 5314 and its implementing regulations, as well as all associated penalties and
3 interest, having a total balance due to the United States of America of \$860,300.35 as of the date
4 of this Complaint. In support of this action, the United States alleges as follows:

5
6 **Jurisdiction and Venue**

- 7 1. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1345, and 1355(a).
8 2. At all times relevant to the matters at issue, Defendant Jeffrey P. Pomerantz
9 (“Pomerantz”) was a United States citizen and remains a United States citizen.
10 3. Pomerantz is currently a resident of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
11 4. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

12
13 **Background Regarding Foreign Bank Accounts of Jeffrey P. Pomerantz**

- 14 5. Pomerantz has had a longstanding banking relationship with Canada Imperial
15 Bank of Commerce (“CIBC”), with at least two personal checking accounts, with
16 account numbers ending in 735 and 439, that were opened prior to January 1,
17 2001 and were still active and open for all years at issue in this case (“CIBC
18 Accounts”).
19 6. In 2003, Pomerantz formed a corporation in the Turks and Caicos Islands named
20 Chafford Limited and retained full powers to exercise any and all rights to act on
21 behalf of the entity including all banking and investment authority.
22 7. Upon information and belief, Chafford Limited conducted no active business, but
23 was a shell entity used to hold and manage Pomerantz’ personal investments.

- 1 8. In 2003, Pomerantz opened two accounts with Sal Oppenheim JR & CIE
2 (Schweiz) AG (Switzerland), with account numbers ending in 5000 and 5100,
3 titled “Chafford Ltd. Grand Turk” (“Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts”).
- 4 9. In 2003 Pomerantz opened one account with Sal Oppenheim JR & CIE (Schweiz)
5 AG (Switzerland), with an account number ending in 20000, titled “Chafford
6 Ltd./Portfolio Management” (“2003 Oppenheim Portfolio Account”).
- 7 10. In 2007 Pomerantz opened two additional accounts with Sal Oppenheim JR &
8 CIE (Schweiz) AG (Switzerland), with account numbers ending in 23000 and
9 25000, titled “Chafford Ltd./Portfolio Management” (“2007 Oppenheim Portfolio
10 Accounts”).
- 11 11. During each of the years at issue in this case, Pomerantz was the attorney in fact
12 for Chafford Limited, had a financial interest in, and/or had signatory or other
13 authority over the accounts at Sal Oppenheim identified in paragraphs 8 through
14 10, above.
- 15 12. Prior to or during 2007, Pomerantz established an account with the Royal Bank of
16 Canada (“RBC”) in the name of Tofino Software (“RBC Tofino Account).
- 17 13. During each of the years at issue, Pomerantz was the President, Chief Executive
18 Officer, and owner of 100% of the shares of Tofino Software with signatory
19 authority over the Tofino Software account at RBC.
- 20 14. The Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) commenced an income tax examination of
21 Pomerantz in January 2010.
22
23

1 **15.** Prior to the commencement of the income tax examination, Pomerantz did not file
2 a Treasury Form TD F 90-22.1 (“FBAR”) for calendar year 2007, 2008 or 2009 to
3 disclose the existence of any foreign accounts.
4

5 **Claim for Relief: Judgment for Civil Penalty (31 U.S.C. § 5321(a)(5))**
6

7 ***Liability for the Civil Penalty for 2007***

8 **16.** During the 2007 calendar year, Pomerantz was a United States citizen, resided
9 within the United States, or was otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the United
10 States within the meaning of 31 C.F.R. § 103.24.

11 **17.** During calendar year 2007, Pomerantz had a financial interest in, and/or signatory
12 or other authority over, the CIBC Accounts, the Grand Turk Oppenheim
13 Accounts, the 2003 Oppenheim Portfolio Account, and the 2007 Oppenheim
14 Portfolio Accounts, within the meaning of 31 C.F.R. § 103.24.

15 **18.** The CIBC Accounts, the Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts, the 2003 Oppenheim
16 Portfolio Account, and the 2007 Oppenheim Portfolio Accounts were all bank
17 accounts in a foreign country.

18 **19.** During the 2007 calendar year, the balance in each of the CIBC Accounts, the
19 Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts, and the 2007 Oppenheim Account ending in
20 25000, exceeded \$10,000.00.

21 **20.** Pomerantz failed to file an FBAR with regard to the 2007 calendar year on or
22 before June 30, 2008, as required by 31 U.S.C. § 5314 and 31 C.F.R. § 103.27(c).
23

1 21. Pomerantz was aware of his obligation to file an FBAR report for 2007 each of
2 the foreign accounts noted above.

3 22. Pomerantz failed to report income deposited into, and/or received from, the
4 foreign accounts identified in paragraph 19, above, on the 2007 income tax return
5 he filed with the IRS.

6 23. The failure of Pomerantz to timely file the FBAR with regard to the 2007 calendar
7 year was willful within the meaning of 31 U.S.C. § 5321(a)(5).
8

9 ***Assessment and Collection of the Civil Penalty for 2007***

10 24. On May 16, 2014, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 5321(a)(5)(C)(i) and within 6
11 years of the failure of Pomerantz to timely file the 2007 FBAR, a delegate of the
12 Secretary of the Treasury assessed a civil penalty against Pomerantz, in the
13 amount of \$400,000.00, due to the willful failure of Pomerantz to disclose the
14 CIBC Accounts, the Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts, and the 2007 Oppenheim
15 Portfolio Account with an account number ending in 25000 (“FBAR Penalty”).

16 25. A delegate of the Secretary of the Treasury sent Pomerantz notice of the
17 assessment of the 2007 FBAR Penalty and demand for payment.

18 26. In addition to the assessed FBAR Penalty, Pomerantz, owes a late-payment
19 penalty for 2007 pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(c)(2) and 31 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) in the
20 amount of \$46,055.14, as of the date of this Complaint.

21 27. In addition to the FBAR Penalty and the late-payment penalty for 2007 described
22 in the previous paragraph, the defendants owe accrued interest for 2007 in the
23 amount of \$8,032.88 as of the date of this Complaint.

1 28. Pomerantz is liable to the United States of America for the 2007 FBAR Penalty,
2 as well as associated penalties and interest, in the total amount of \$454,088.02 as
3 of the date of this Complaint, plus statutory accruals from that date until the
4 liability is paid in full.

5 29. This civil action to collect the FBAR Penalty, and the associated penalties and
6 interest, is timely under 31 U.S.C. § 5321(b)(2), because it is filed within two
7 years of the date on which the penalty was assessed, May 16, 2014.
8

9 ***Liability for the Civil Penalty for 2008***

10 30. During the 2008 calendar year, Pomerantz was a United States citizen, resided
11 within the United States, or was otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the United
12 States within the meaning of 31 C.F.R. § 103.24.

13 31. During calendar year 2008, Pomerantz had a financial interest in, and/or signatory
14 or other authority over, the CIBC Accounts, the Grand Turk Oppenheim
15 Accounts, the 2003 Oppenheim Portfolio Account, and the 2007 Oppenheim
16 Portfolio Accounts, within the meaning of 31 C.F.R. § 103.24.

17 32. The CIBC Accounts, the Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts, the 2003 Oppenheim
18 Portfolio Account, and the 2007 Oppenheim Portfolio Accounts were all bank
19 accounts in a foreign country.

20 33. During the 2008 calendar year, the balance in each of the CIBC Accounts, the
21 Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts, the 2003 Oppenheim Portfolio Account, and
22 the 2007 Oppenheim Accounts exceeded \$10,000.00.
23

1 34. Pomerantz failed to file an FBAR with regard to the 2008 calendar year on or
2 before June 30, 2009, as required by 31 U.S.C. § 5314 and 31 C.F.R. § 103.27(c).

3 35. Pomerantz was aware of his obligation to file an FBAR report for 2008 for each
4 of the foreign accounts noted above.

5 36. Pomerantz failed to report income deposited into, and/or received from, the
6 foreign accounts identified in paragraph 33, above, on the 2008 income tax return
7 he filed with the IRS.

8 37. The failure of Pomerantz to timely file the FBAR with regard to the 2008 calendar
9 year was willful within the meaning of 31 U.S.C. § 5321(a)(5).

10
11 ***Liability for the Civil Penalty for 2009***

12 38. During the 2009 calendar year, Pomerantz was a United States citizen, resided
13 within the United States, or was otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the United
14 States within the meaning of 31 C.F.R. § 103.24.

15 39. During calendar year 2009, Pomerantz had a financial interest in, and/or signatory
16 or other authority over, the CIBC Accounts and the Grand Turk Oppenheim
17 Accounts, within the meaning of 31 C.F.R. § 103.24.

18 40. The CIBC Accounts and the Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts were all bank
19 accounts in a foreign country.

20 41. During the 2009 calendar year, the balance in each of the CIBC Accounts and the
21 Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts exceeded \$10,000.00.

22 42. Pomerantz failed to file an FBAR with regard to the 2009 calendar year on or
23 before June 30, 2010, as required by 31 U.S.C. § 5314 and 31 C.F.R. § 103.27(c).

1 43. Pomerantz was aware of his obligation to file an FBAR report for 2009 for each
2 of the foreign accounts noted above.

3 44. Pomerantz failed to report income deposited into, and/or received from, the
4 foreign accounts identified in paragraph 41, above, on the 2009 income tax return
5 he filed with the IRS.

6 45. The failure of Pomerantz to timely file the FBAR with regard to the 2009 calendar
7 year was willful within the meaning of 31 U.S.C. § 5321(a)(5).

8
9 ***Assessment and Collection of the Civil Penalty for 2008 and 2009***

10 46. On March 11, 2015, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 5321(a)(5)(C)(i) and within 6
11 years of the failure of Pomerantz to timely file the 2008 FBAR, a delegate of the
12 Secretary of the Treasury assessed a civil penalty against Pomerantz, in the
13 amount of \$225,000.00, due to the willful failure of Pomerantz to disclose the
14 CIBC Accounts, the Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts, the 2003 Oppenheim
15 Portfolio Account, and the 2007 Oppenheim Portfolio Accounts (“FBAR
16 Penalty”).

17 47. A delegate of the Secretary of the Treasury sent Pomerantz notice of the
18 assessment of the 2008 FBAR Penalty and a demand for payment.

19 48. On March 11, 2015, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 5321(a)(5)(C)(i) and within 6
20 years of the failure of Pomerantz to timely file the 2009 FBAR, a delegate of the
21 Secretary of the Treasury assessed a civil penalty against Pomerantz, in the
22 amount of \$150,000.00, due to the willful failure of Pomerantz to disclose the
23 CIBC Accounts and the Grand Turk Oppenheim Accounts (“FBAR Penalty”).

1 49. A delegate of the Secretary of the Treasury sent Pomerantz notice of the
2 assessment of the 2009 FBAR Penalty and a demand for payment.

3 50. In addition to the FBAR Penalty, Pomerantz, owes a late-payment penalty for
4 2008 and 2009 pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(c)(2) and 31 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) in the
5 amount of \$26,753.43, as of the date of this Complaint.

6 51. In addition to the FBAR Penalty and the late-payment penalty for 2008 and 2009
7 described in the previous paragraph, the defendants owe accrued interest for 2008
8 and 2009 in the amount of \$4,458.90 as of the date of this Complaint.

9 52. The defendants are liable to the United States of America for the 2008 and 2009
10 FBAR Penalties, as well as associated penalties and interest, in the total amount
11 of \$406,212.33 as of the date of this Complaint, plus statutory accruals from that
12 date until the liability is paid in full.

13 53. This civil action to collect the 2008 and 2009 FBAR Penalty, and the associated
14 penalties and interest, is timely under 31 U.S.C. § 5321(b)(2), because it is filed
15 within two years of the date on which the penalty was assessed, March 11, 2015.
16

17 WHEREFORE, the plaintiff United States of America demands that this Court:

18 (a) Enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff United States of America and against the
19 defendant, for the FBAR Penalty assessed against Jeffrey P. Pomerantz with regard to the
20 2007, 2008, and 2009 reporting periods, as well as associated penalties and interest, in the
21 total amount of \$860,300.35 as of the date of this Complaint, plus statutory accruals from
22 that date until fully paid; and,
23

1 (b) Award the United States of America its costs, and such further relief as the Court
2 deems just and proper.

3 Dated: May 13, 2016

4 Respectfully submitted,

5 CAROLINE D. CIRAOLO
6 Acting Assistant Attorney General

7 /s/ Paul T. Butler

8 PAUL T. BUTLER
9 Trial Attorney, Tax Division
10 U.S. Department of Justice
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Of Counsel:
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