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8 *Special Litigation Counsel for*
9 *Michael G. Kasolas, Chapter 7 Trustee*
10 *For Fox Ortega Enterprises, Inc.*
11 *Db a Premier Cru*

12 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
13
14 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
15
16 OAKLAND DIVISION

17 In re

18 FOX ORTEGA ENTERPRISES, INC., dba
19 PREMIER CRU

20 Debtor.

Case No. 16-40050-WJL

Chapter 7

21 MICHAEL G. KASOLAS, Chapter 7 Trustee
22 for Fox Ortega Enterprises, Inc. dba Premier
23 Cru

24 Plaintiff

25 vs.

26 WAYNE NICHOLSON

Adversary No. _____

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

27 Plaintiff Michael G. Kasolas, the Chapter 7 Trustee (the “**Trustee**”) for Fox Ortega
28 Enterprises, Inc. dba Premier Cru (“**Premier Cru**” or the “**Debtor**”), brings this adversary
proceeding against Wayne Nicholson (“**Defendant**”) and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This suit seeks the avoidance and recovery of transfers from Premier Cru to the
Defendant as well as the avoidance of certain obligations Premier Cru incurred in the Defendant’s
favor. These transfers and obligations were part of a fraudulent scheme involving the sale of wine

1 that caused the loss of tens of millions of dollars. At the time of the Premier Cru's bankruptcy,
2 approximately 4,500 customers had not received pre-arrival wine for which that had already paid,
3 with losses reaching \$45 million.

4 2. Transfers to the Defendant and the obligations incurred by Premier Cru were made
5 as part of the fraud and with the actual intent to hinder, delay, or defraud Premier Cru's creditors.
6 Premier Cru incurred obligations in favor of the Defendant for the purpose of acquiring funds
7 necessary for the continuation of the fraud. Later, Premier Cru made transfers to the Defendant
8 with the purpose of concealing the ongoing fraud, to lull customers into a false sense that Premier
9 Cru was a legitimate business, to cause the customers to continue to purchase wine from Premier
10 Cru, and to prevent them from complaining to law enforcement authorities.

11 3. The Trustee requests that this Court grant relief that will return the value of the
12 transfers to the Defendant that were made as a part of the scheme. Specifically, the Trustee seeks
13 the avoidance and recovery of the transfers made and obligations incurred that are identified below
14 under 11 U.S.C. §§ 544, 548, 550 and California Civil Code § 3439.04.

15 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16 4. This is an adversary proceeding, pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy
17 Procedure, which relates to the Chapter 7 proceeding captioned *In re Fox Ortega Enterprises, Inc.,*
18 *dba Premier Cru*, Case No. 16-40050-WJL (Bankr. N.D. Cal., Oakland Div.).

19 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to section 28
20 U.S.C. § 1334(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 157(a), in that this adversary proceeding arises in, arises under,
21 and/or relates to Premier Cru's chapter 7 case.

22 6. This adversary proceeding is a core proceeding under section 157(b)(2) of Title 28
23 of the United States Code, such that this Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine this
24 proceeding and to enter an appropriate order and judgment. To the extent necessary, the Trustee
25 consents to entry of a final order or judgment by this Court.

26 7. The Defendant's forum-related activities give rise to the action before the Court.
27 The Defendant purposefully directed his activities and consummated the transactions described
28 below within California, thereby invoking the benefits and protection of California law. As

1 reflected in the applicable terms and conditions for the transactions described below, “[a]ny wine
2 sold to you by Premier Cru is sold in California, and title passes to you, the buyer, in California.”
3 Furthermore, the Trustee’s claims arise out of or relate to the Defendant’s forum-related activities.

4 8. This Court is the proper venue for this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
5 § 1409(a) because the Debtor’s chapter 7 case is pending in this judicial district.

6 **PARTIES**

7 9. The Trustee is the duly appointed chapter 7 trustee for the bankruptcy estate of
8 Premier Cru. Premier Cru entered bankruptcy proceedings on January 8, 2016 (the “**Petition**
9 **Date**”), at which time the Trustee was appointed by the Court. The Trustee is duly authorized and
10 empowered to pursue any and all claims of the Debtor’s estate.

11 10. Defendant Wayne Nicholson is an individual and a citizen of Nevada. Defendant
12 may be served with process at 1000 North Green Valley Parkway, Suite 440-322, Henderson,
13 Nevada 89074.

14 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

15 **I. Premier Cru’s Operations**

16 11. Premier Cru was founded in 1980 by John Fox (“**Fox**”) and Hector Ortega as a
17 seller of top-quality wines in the Bay Area. During all relevant times, Fox owned equity in
18 Premier Cru and served as its President. Fox made all significant business decisions for Premier
19 Cru. Fox was the sole manager of the company’s finances, including payment of Premier Cru’s
20 bills and expenses, as well as obtaining business loans and financing from banks or individuals to
21 fund Premier Cru’s operations.

22 12. Premier Cru originally operated out of a small storefront in Oakland with a focus
23 on hard to find and limited production offerings. As Premier Cru’s popularity grew, the company
24 determined that it would begin purchasing its supply of wine from sources overseas and obtained
25 its own import license. Premier Cru touted that it could eliminate the middle man while
26 simultaneously increasing the allocation of hard to locate wines by supposedly sourcing its
27 inventory directly.
28

1 13. The Debtor generally sold wine in two ways. First, the company sold wine that
2 was, or supposedly was, physically held in Premier Cru's inventory. Second, Premier Cru sold
3 wine on a "pre-arrival" basis, whereby customers paid for wine that was not in Premier Cru's
4 physical possession but which Premier Cru represented it had already purchased.

5 14. In the wine industry, there are generally two ways to purchase wine before it is
6 released to the open market. "Wine futures" involve the purchase of wine while it is still in the
7 barrel and before the wine is bottled. Because the purchaser must wait for the wine to age in the
8 barrel, buyers can expect to wait years before receiving the wine they purchased. Premier Cru did
9 not sell wine futures. In contrast, "pre-arrival" wines are sold to collectors months before a wine
10 is released to the open market, but after the wine has actually been bottled. Unlike "wine futures,"
11 there is generally less risk in pre-arrival purchasing because importers know exactly how many
12 bottles they will receive from the supplier. Pre-arrival sales allow consumers to purchase difficult
13 to locate wines at prices that are generally lower than what is found in the market. Premier Cru
14 purportedly sold pre-arrival wines.

15 15. Premier Cru sold pre-arrival wine through a website operated and maintained by
16 Premier Cru or through salespeople who worked in the Premier Cru offices and reported to Fox.
17 The "Terms and Conditions" associated with the sale of pre-arrival wine provided as follows:

18 The term "Pre-Arrival" is applied to wines we have purchased (typically abroad)
19 that have not arrived yet. Depending on the particular wine, the arrival time is
20 typically 6+ months to over two years (in the case of Bordeaux Futures, for
example).

21 Many new releases of highly desirable, limited-production wines (ie – Burgundy,
22 Rhone, Italian, etc.) are offered on a "Pre-Arrival" basis by our suppliers. These
offerings typically take 6 to 18 months to arrive and are often the only way to
23 source the wines before they sell out (and at optimal prices). We send an email
notification when your wine arrives.

24 According to Fox, the majority of Premier Cru's revenue was derived from pre-arrival sales.

25 **II. The Fraud**

26 16. On or about August 11, 2016, Fox entered into a guilty plea in guilty plea in his
27 criminal case [*United States v. John Fox*, Case No. CR 16-281 JD, N.D. Cal] and executed a Plea
28

1 Agreement in which he admitted that he operated the Debtor as a fraudulent scheme. In his plea
2 agreement, Fox admitted that he “devised a scheme to defraud, and a scheme for obtaining
3 property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and omissions, through
4 Premier Cru’s sale of pre-arrival wine.” Fox further admitted that his fraudulent conduct began as
5 early as 1993 or 1994. Through Fox’s actions, Premier Cru engaged in a massive fraud whereby
6 funds derived from later fraudulent wine sales were used to pay obligations that arose from earlier
7 fraudulent transactions.

8 17. According to Premier Cru, the pre-arrival wines were wines that the company had
9 supposedly already contracted to purchase from its suppliers. Premier Cru further represented that
10 it would deliver the pre-arrival wines to customers within a time period of approximately six
11 months to two years after customers had paid for the wine. These representations were false at
12 the time they were made for at least two reasons. First, Fox admitted to falsifying purchase orders
13 for wine that Premier Cru had not contracted to purchase and then entering that wine into Premier
14 Cru’s inventory records for sale to its customers. He stated that Premier Cru “priced these wines
15 at prices below the market price, knowing that [he] had not and would not need to actually pay for
16 this wine from any vendors.” Second, Fox stated that Premier Cru contracted with “foreign
17 suppliers . . . to purchase wine, generally with the promise to pay those foreign suppliers within 30
18 days.” Fox did so even where he “knew that Premier Cru would not be able to make payment
19 within 30 days, or ever” because he (a) “embezzled money from Premier Cru’s business accounts
20 that [he] should have used to pay Premier Cru’s suppliers” or (b) “diverted money coming in from
21 current customers to obtain wine for prior customers who had never received their wine.” In
22 either event, the end result was the same—Premier Cru did not have the wine required to fulfill the
23 obligations for its pre-arrival customers. Fox further admitted that “customers paid Premier Cru
24 for wine that [he] knew Premier Cru could not deliver to them and which they never received” and
25 that his false statements were made “with the intent to defraud Premier Cru’s customers.” At the
26 time of the bankruptcy, approximately 4,500 customers had not received pre-arrival wine for
27 which that had already paid.

1 18. The fraud was unsustainable on its face because the funds Premier Cru received
2 from its customers were less than the cost of purchasing wine at a later date to fulfill the
3 outstanding orders. Due to the rarity of the wines at issue, purchasing wines on the open market
4 after their release is far more costly than sourcing the wines from appropriate overseas suppliers on
5 a pre-arrival basis. Furthermore, Premier Cru sometimes offered pre-arrivals at a price lower than
6 the current market for pre-arrivals. This act of undercutting the market assisted in raising funds
7 while simultaneously increasing the gap between Premier Cru's assets and its obligations. To
8 make matters worse, Premier Cru's Fox removed millions of dollars from the company, further
9 reducing the funds available to satisfy Premier Cru's obligations. Because Premier Cru was not
10 generating sufficient revenue from the pre-arrival sales to ultimately purchase wine for its
11 customers, the company was forced to enter into an increasing number of fraudulent, pre-arrival
12 sales to fill the financial gap and generate the funds required to purchase wine for its existing
13 customers. As Premier Cru's liquidity and its ability to enter into a sufficient number of new pre-
14 arrival transactions declined, Premier Cru was forced to declare bankruptcy in 2016.

15 19. Prior to 2015, Premier Cru was able to conceal its fraud from its creditors.
16 According to Fox, his efforts to conceal the fraud included (a) offering falsified excuses and
17 promises for wine that Premier Cru would not be delivered; (b) delivering wine that was
18 purchased by other customers; and (c) purchasing wine at retail prices for use in fulfilling
19 outstanding orders. Fox admitted that he "took these and other actions to "conceal [Premier
20 Cru's] ongoing fraud, to lull customers into a false sense that Premier Cru was a legitimate
21 business, to cause [its] customers to continue to purchase wine from Premier Cru, and to prevent
22 them from complaining to law enforcement authorities." Furthermore, Premier Cru concealed its
23 fraud by making cash disbursements to customers whose orders were not fulfilled, often in
24 amounts greater than what customers had originally paid for their alleged pre-arrival orders.

25 20. The sales and subsequent transfers to the Defendant were made as a part of the
26 fraud and with the actual intent to hinder, delay, or defraud Premier Cru's creditors. Premier Cru
27 made the transfers and incurred the obligations with the purpose of concealing the ongoing fraud,
28 lulling customers into a false sense that Premier Cru was a legitimate business, causing customers

1 to continue to purchase wine from Premier Cru, and preventing customers from complaining to
2 law enforcement authorities by paying them cash settlements.

3 21. Defendant was aware of issues relating to Premier Cru prior to receiving transfers
4 from the Debtor. For instance, Defendant emailed Michael Glasby, a Premier Cru employee, on
5 May 28, 2013 regarding his frustration and knowledge of Premier Cru's false statements:

6 I'm sure you can understand this. I truly wish the firm would clean up its act, and
7 not subject customers like me to the extreme stress, anxiety and aggravation that
8 these utterly unacceptable, unprofessional, inexcusable and deceitful practices that
9 ensnared me into these future purchases have caused.

10 I am already dealing with a lot of stress and responsibilities elsewhere in my
11 professional life, and I truly did not need this betrayal of trust and the additional
12 mental anguish. I had trusted Premier Cru, due to longstanding business going
13 back to 1986. Yours was the last firm I would have expected to have these
14 futures problems with, which explains why the bulk of my 2009 Bordeaux
15 purchases were with you. To be essentially be defrauded into parting with
16 hundreds of thousands of dollars, under false pretenses that your firm had already
17 purchased and owned these wines, is a position that I am absolutely not enjoying
18 being in, and I look for this utter nightmare to end.

19 On August 15, 2013, Defendant sent an additional email to Fox questioning why his wines had not
20 yet arrived and threatening legal action:

21 **From:** Wayne Nicholson <admin@pacific-arts.com>
22 **Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2013 1:04 PM
23 **To:** 'John Fox'; michael@premiercru.net
24 **Subject:** WARNING: LAWSUIT AND CRIMINAL FRAUD CHARGES PENDING

25 JOHN, YOU THINK YOU CAN IGNORE ME AND SOMEHOW I'LL GO AWAY? YOU'RE IN FOR THE SHOCK OF YOUR
26 GODDAMNED LIFE IF YOU THINK SO!!

27 WHAT THE HELL IS THIS SHIT, YOU'RE "UNAVAILABLE" AND I CONTINUE TO GET EMPTY PLATITUDES FROM YOUR
28 STAFF?????

29 PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN ADDITION TO A CIVIL SUIT FOR DAMAGES DUE TO FRAUD AND BREACH OF CONTRACT, I
30 *****WILL***** BE PRESSING CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST YOU AND **ALL** OF YOUR STAFF THAT HAVE AIDED
31 AND ABETTED THIS LITTLE PONZI SCHEME OF YOURS.

32 YOU HAVE UNTIL 11:00 AM TODAY, THURSDAY AUGUST 15, 2013 TO TELEPHONE ME AT (415) 595-9343 TO DISCUSS
33 MAKING ME WHOLE IMMEDIATELY, OR I WILL INITIATE THE COMPLAINT WITH THE ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRICT
34 ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

35 CONTINUE TO IGNORE ME AT YOUR VERY, VERY GREAT PERIL.

36 WAYNE NICHOLSON

III. Badges of Fraud Related to the Transactions with the Defendant

22. Multiple badges of fraud are present with respect to the transactions with and transfers to the Defendant, including the following:

- Premier Cru was insolvent during the period of the transfers;
- Premier Cru had incurred, and was continuing to incur, substantial debt while it was making its payments to the Defendant;
- The true nature of the transactions with the Defendant was concealed. Premier Cru made false statements indicating that it was contractually entitled to receive the pre-arrival wine from its suppliers and falsified accounting documentation to cover up its fraudulent actions. Fox further admitted to making efforts to conceal the fraud through false statements to customers regarding the status of their orders. As admitted by Fox, his actions were undertaken with the intent to defraud customers;
- The transfers were made while Premier Cru was under threat of potential lawsuits. Had Premier Cru's creditors discovered the fraud, Premier Cru and its principals would have been subject to numerous lawsuits. In fact, Premier Cru's customers repeatedly and regularly threatened the company with lawsuits where pre-arrival wine was not delivered, and in some instances, actually filed suit;
- Premier Cru removed and concealed assets. Fox admitted that, in the face of customer complaints, he caused Premier Cru to deliver wine to the complaining customers that was paid for by other customers. Furthermore, Fox caused Premier Cru to transfer large sums for his personal benefit as further described in his plea agreement;
- Premier Cru incurred the obligations and made the transfers described herein for less than reasonably equivalent value;
- As described in more detail above, the overall existence and cumulative effect of the pattern, series of transactions, and Premier Cru's course of conduct indicate the transactions with the Defendant were designed to defraud creditors. Premier Cru incurred debt and faced financial difficulties, and as a result, entered into the transactions with the Defendant and other customers in order to further the fraud;
- The general chronology of events and the transactions under inquiry indicate the intent to defraud. Premier Cru entered into pre-arrival wine sales without having the underlying right to receive the wine from its suppliers. The purpose of the transactions was to provide liquidity to fuel the fraud and for Fox's improper diversions and embezzlement. Moreover, Premier Cru's entry into fraudulent pre-arrival wine sales naturally increased based upon its need to enter into more and more fraudulent transactions to pay for prior obligations;
- Premier Cru's conduct was both exceptional and peculiar. Such conduct included falsifying accounting documentation, making false statements to customers, and

generally utilizing payments from later customers to fulfill obligations owed to prior customers;

- Premier Cru made false statements, concealed facts, and operated under false pretenses. Among other things, Premier made misrepresentations concerning the following: (a) its financial condition; (b) its contractual relationships with suppliers and its right to receive the wines in question; (c) its inventory balances; and (d) the purported reason for delays in wine delivery;
- The transactions with the customers for the fraudulent wine transactions, including the Defendant, were questionable and not in ordinary course for a legitimate business. Companies such as Premier Cru do not intentionally misrepresent their inventory and contractual purchases from their vendors or alter documents to support sales;
- Premier Cru entered into the transactions involved in the fraud under secrecy and haste, and the transactions were unusual. Premier Cru disguised its pre-arrival sales using falsified documentation and misrepresentations to its customers. Furthermore, Premier Cru acted with haste in fulfilling fraudulent orders for those customers that complained repeatedly or forcefully;
- Premier Cru was aware of its creditors' claims against the company and that Premier Cru was incapable of paying those claims.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

Count I – Actual Intent Fraudulent Transfer Under 11 U.S.C. § 548(a)(1)(A) (Wine Transfers)

23. The Trustee re-alleges and fully incorporates the allegations pleaded in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

24. The Debtor presently has one or more creditors whose claim arose either before or after the transfers to the Defendant.

25. Premier Cru transferred the at least one bottles of wine to the Defendant in the two years prior to the Petition Date (the “**548 Transfers**”). The 548 Wine Transfers are more fully described as follows:

Ship Date	Sales Order	Description	Quantity	Unit Value
1/23/2014	SO-0000343428	09 Lafite Rothschild	1	\$1,299.88

26. The 548 Transfers were made within two years of the Petition Date.

1 27. The aggregate amount of the 548 Transfers may be in excess of the above-stated
2 amount, and the Trustee may amend his Complaint as and when additional transfers made as a part
3 of the scheme are ascertained.

4 28. The 548 Transfers were made as a part of the fraud at Premier Cru. Premier Cru
5 entered into the underlying wine sales in furtherance of its fraudulent scheme. Each of the
6 transactions generated cash through the alleged “sale” of the wine to the Defendant. These sham
7 transactions provided Premier Cru with the funds it required to satisfy already existing obligations
8 that were part of the fraudulent scheme. Furthermore, Premier Cru entered into additional
9 transactions with other customers at a later time that ultimately provided the company with the
10 funds necessary to purchase wine for the 548 Transfers. This pattern of conduct of using new
11 money to fund the fulfillment of earlier obligations constitutes a Ponzi scheme or similar fraud
12 whereby funds received from later fraudulent transactions were used to fund prior obligations.

13 29. Moreover, Fox’s plea agreement evidences Premier Cru’s intent to defraud its
14 creditors through the fraudulent scheme. Therefore, the 548 Transfers were made with the actual
15 intent to hinder, delay, or defraud entities to which Premier Cru was or became indebted to on or
16 after the date of the transfer.

17 30. As stated above, there are a multitude of badges of fraud present with respect to the
18 transactions with the Defendant. The existence and sheer number of the badges of fraud present in
19 this matter indicate that Premier Cru intended to hinder, delay, or defraud its creditors in entering
20 into and making the 548 Transfers.

21 31. Defendant was the initial transferee of the Transfers as the Defendant received the
22 wine and funds transferred directly from Premier Cru.

23 32. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 548(a)(1)(A) and 550, the Trustee is entitled to judgment
24 avoiding and recovering the value of the 548 Transfers from the Defendant.

25 **Count II – Actual Intent Voidable Transfer**
26 **Under California Civil Code § 3439.04(a)(1) et seq.; 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 and 550**
27 **(Wine Transfers)**

28 33. The Trustee re-alleges and fully incorporates the allegations pleaded in the
preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

1 34. The Debtor presently has one or more creditors whose claim arose either before or
2 after the transfers to the Defendant.

3 35. Premier Cru transferred the 548 Transfers to the Defendant as detailed above.

4 36. Premier Cru also transferred at least 224 bottles of wine to the Defendant during
5 the seven years prior to the Petition Date (the “**Additional Wine Transfers**”). The Additional
6 Wine Transfers are more fully described in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto.

7 37. In addition to the 548 Transfers and the Additional Wine Transfers, Premier Cru
8 transferred \$637.43 to the Defendant’s Visa card on or about June 26, 2013 (the “**Additional**
9 **Cash Transfers**”).

10 38. The 548 Transfers, the Additional Wine Transfers, and the Additional Cash
11 Transfers (collectively, the “**Total Transfers**”) were made within seven years of the Petition Date.

12 39. The aggregate amount of the Total Transfers may be in excess of the above-stated
13 amount, and the Trustee may amend his Complaint as and when additional transfers made as a part
14 of the scheme are ascertained.

15 40. The Total Transfers were made as a part of the fraud at Premier Cru. Premier Cru
16 entered into the underlying wine sales in furtherance of its fraudulent scheme. Each of the
17 transactions generated cash through the alleged “sale” of the wine to the Defendant. These sham
18 transactions provided Premier Cru with the funds it required to satisfy already existing obligations
19 that were part of the fraudulent scheme. Furthermore, Premier Cru entered into additional
20 transactions with other customers at a later time that ultimately provided the company with the
21 funds necessary to purchase wine for the Total Transfers. This pattern of conduct of using new
22 money to fund the fulfillment of earlier obligations constitutes a Ponzi scheme or similar fraud
23 whereby funds received from later fraudulent transactions were used to fund prior obligations.

24 41. Moreover, Fox’s plea agreement evidences Premier Cru’s intent to defraud its
25 creditors through the fraudulent scheme. Therefore, the Total Transfers were made with the actual
26 intent to hinder, delay, or defraud entities to which Premier Cru was or became indebted to on or
27 after the date of the transfer.

28

1 42. As stated above, there are a multitude of badges of fraud present with respect to the
2 transactions with the Defendant. The existence and sheer number of the badges of fraud present in
3 this matter indicate that Premier Cru intended to hinder, delay, or defraud its creditors in entering
4 into and making the Total Transfers.

5 43. Defendant was the initial transferee of the Total Transfers as the Defendant
6 received the wine and funds transferred directly from Premier Cru.

7 44. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 3439.04(a)(1) et seq. and 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 &
8 550, the Trustee is entitled to judgment avoiding and recovering the value of the Total Transfers
9 from the Defendant.

10 **Count III – Actual Intent Voidable Transfer**
11 **Under California Civil Code § 3439.04(a)(1) et seq.; 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 and 550**
12 **(Obligations to Defendant)**

13 45. The Trustee re-alleges and fully incorporates the allegations pleaded in the
14 preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

15 46. The Debtor presently has one or more creditors whose claim arose either before or
16 after the transfers to the Defendant.

17 47. Premier Cru incurred obligations to the Defendant relating to 225 bottles of wine
18 during the seven years prior to the Petition Date (the “**Obligations**”). The Additional Obligations
19 are more fully described in Exhibit B, which is attached hereto.

20 48. The Obligations and the Obligations were incurred within seven years of the
21 Petition Date.

22 49. The aggregate amount of the Obligations may be in excess of the above-stated
23 amount, and the Trustee may amend his Complaint as and when additional transfers made as a part
24 of the scheme are ascertained.

25 50. The Obligations were incurred as a part of the fraud at Premier Cru. Premier Cru
26 entered into the underlying wine sales in furtherance of its fraudulent scheme. Each of the
27 transactions generated cash through the alleged “sale” of the wine to the Defendant. These sham
28 transactions provided Premier Cru with the funds it required to satisfy already existing obligations
that were part of the fraudulent scheme. Furthermore, Premier Cru entered into additional

1 transactions with other customers at a later time that ultimately provided the company with the
2 funds necessary to satisfy the Obligations. This pattern of conduct of using new money to fund
3 the fulfillment of earlier obligations constitutes a Ponzi scheme or similar fraud whereby funds
4 received from later fraudulent transactions were used to fund prior obligations.

5 51. Moreover, Fox's plea agreement evidences Premier Cru's intent to defraud its
6 creditors through the fraudulent scheme. Therefore, the Obligations were incurred with the actual
7 intent to hinder, delay, or defraud entities to which Premier Cru was or became indebted to on or
8 after the date of the transfer.

9 52. As stated above, there are a multitude of badges of fraud present with respect to the
10 transactions with the Defendant. The existence and sheer number of the badges of fraud present in
11 this matter indicate that Premier Cru intended to hinder, delay, or defraud its creditors in entering
12 into the sales and incurring the Obligations.

13 53. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 3439.04(a)(1) et seq. and 11 U.S.C. §§ 544, the
14 Trustee is entitled to judgment avoiding the Obligations.

15 **Count IV – Constructive Voidable Transfer**
16 **Under California Civil Code § 3439.04(a)(2) et seq.; 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 and 550**
17 **(Wine and Cash Transfers)**

18 54. The Trustee re-alleges and fully incorporates the allegations pleaded in the
19 preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

20 55. The Debtor presently has one or more creditors whose claim arose either before or
21 after the transfers to the Defendant.

22 56. Premier Cru made the Total Transfers to the Defendant.

23 57. The aggregate amount of the Total Transfers may be in excess of the above-stated
24 amount, and the Trustee may amend his Complaint as and when additional transfers made as a part
25 of the scheme are ascertained.

26 58. Premier Cru received less than reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the
27 Total Transfers.
28

1 59. The Total Transfers were made at a time when Premier Cru (a) was insolvent
2 and/or was engaged or was about to engage in a business or a transaction for which the remaining
3 assets of the debtor were unreasonably small in relation to the business or transaction; or (b)
4 intended to incur, or believed or reasonably should have believed that it would incur, debts beyond
5 its ability to pay as they became due.

6 60. Defendant was the initial transferee of the Total Transfers as the Defendant
7 received the wine and funds transferred directly from Premier Cru.

8 61. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 3439.04(a)(2) et seq. and 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 and
9 550, the Trustee is entitled to judgment avoiding and recovering the value of the Total Transfers
10 from the Defendant.

11 **Count V – Constructive Fraudulent Transfer**
12 **Under California Civil Code § 3439.04(a)(2) et seq.; 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 and 550**
13 **(Obligations to Defendant)**

14 62. The Trustee re-alleges and fully incorporates the allegations pleaded in the
15 preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

16 63. The Debtor presently has one or more creditors whose claim arose either before or
17 after the transfers to the Defendant.

18 64. Premier Cru incurred the Obligations.

19 65. The aggregate amount of the Obligations may be in excess of the above-stated
20 amount, and the Trustee may amend his Complaint as and when additional transfers made as a part
21 of the scheme are ascertained.

22 66. Premier Cru received less than reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the
23 Obligations.

24 67. The Obligations were incurred at a time when Premier Cru (a) was insolvent and/or
25 was engaged or was about to engage in a business or a transaction for which the remaining assets
26 of the debtor were unreasonably small in relation to the business or transaction; or (b) intended to
27 incur, or believed or reasonably should have believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability
28 to pay as they became due.

68. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 3439.04(a)(2) et seq. and 11 U.S.C. § 544, the Trustee is entitled to judgment avoiding the value of the Obligations from the Defendant.

PRAAYER

Wherefore, the Trustee respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment and grant the following relief against the Defendant:

- Entering an order of judgment avoiding the Obligations and Total Transfers under 11 U.S.C. § 544 and California Civil Code 3439.04(a)(1);
- Entering an order of judgment avoiding the Obligations and Total Transfers to the Defendant under 11 U.S.C. § 544 and California Civil Code 3439.04(a)(2);
- Entering an order of judgment avoiding the 548 Transfers to the Defendant under 11 U.S.C. § 548(a)(1)(A);
- Entering an order of judgment avoiding the 548 Transfers to the Defendant under 11 U.S.C. § 548(a)(1)(B);
- Entering an order permitting the Trustee to recover the value of the avoided transfers in an amount to be proven at trial;
- Prejudgment and post-judgment interest as allowed by law; and
- All other relief to which the Trustee is entitled.

Dated: January 5, 2018

DIAMOND MCCARTHY LLP

By: /s/ Kathy Bazoian Phelps

KATHY BAZOIAN PHELPS

Attorneys for Michael Kasolas, Chapter 7
Trustee for Fox Ortega Enterprises, Inc.
dba Premier Cru

Exhibit A

Additional Wine Transfers

CustName	ShipDate	SalesOrder	Description	Qty			Total Value
				Shipped	Unit Value		
Wayne Nicholson	1/17/2011	SO-0000348612	09 Oberhauser Brucke Eiswein 1/2, Donnh	12	\$ 145.33	\$	1,743.96
Wayne Nicholson	3/31/2011	SO-0000353468	05 Chateauneuf Deux Freres, Usseglio	1	\$ 146.91	\$	146.91
Wayne Nicholson	4/11/2011	SO-0000353926	09 Riesling Spatlese 1/2, Selbach-Oster	1	\$ 9.67	\$	9.67
Wayne Nicholson	4/11/2011	SO-0000353926	04 d'Yquem 1/2	4	\$ 127.83	\$	511.32
Wayne Nicholson	4/11/2011	SO-0000353926	Feuillatte Rose splits (187ml)	1	\$ 8.75	\$	8.75
Wayne Nicholson	4/11/2011	SO-0000353926	09 Zeltinger Son Kabin 1/, Selbach-Oster	1	\$ 9.33	\$	9.33
Wayne Nicholson	5/2/2011	SO-0000353468	07 Chateauneuf XXL, Janasse	1	\$ 307.16	\$	307.16
Wayne Nicholson	3/21/2012	SO-0000369618	92 Taylor	3	\$ 137.60	\$	412.80
Wayne Nicholson	4/22/2013	SO-0000343428	09 Lafite Rothschild	48	\$ 1,469.05	\$	70,514.40
Wayne Nicholson	4/22/2013	SO-0000388540	09 Mouton Rothschild	12	\$ 734.52	\$	8,814.24
Wayne Nicholson	10/14/2013	SO-0000343723	09 Latour	36	\$ 934.85	\$	33,654.60
Wayne Nicholson	10/14/2013	SO-0000345018	07 Chateauneuf da Capo, Pegau	6	\$ 267.10	\$	1,602.60
Wayne Nicholson	10/30/2013	SO-0000353966	09 Cheval Blanc	24	\$ 1,270.00	\$	30,480.00
Wayne Nicholson	10/30/2013	SO-0000353956	09 Cheval Blanc	24	\$ 1,270.00	\$	30,480.00
Wayne Nicholson	11/13/2013	SO-0000343428	09 Lafite Rothschild	14	\$ 1,395.00	\$	19,530.00
Wayne Nicholson	11/13/2013	SO-0000343723	09 Latour	12	\$ 1,895.00	\$	22,740.00
Wayne Nicholson	11/13/2013	SO-0000353924	09 d'Yquem 1/2	12	\$ 599.99	\$	7,199.88
Wayne Nicholson	12/19/2013	SO-0000353924	09 d'Yquem 1/2	12	\$ 549.99	\$	6,599.88
				224			\$ 234,765.50

Exhibit B

548 Obligations

Sales Order		Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
Sales Order	Date				
SO-0000343428	10/1/2010	09 Lafite Rothschild	48	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 70,800.00
SO-0000343428	10/1/2010	09 Lafite Rothschild	14	\$ 1,264.29	\$ 17,700.06
SO-0000343428	10/1/2010	09 Lafite Rothschild	1	\$ 1,264.29	\$ 1,264.29
SO-0000343723	10/6/2010	09 Latour	36	\$ 1,099.00	\$ 39,564.00
SO-0000343723	10/6/2010	09 Latour	12	\$ 1,099.00	\$ 13,188.00
SO-0000345018	11/4/2010	07 Chateauneuf da Capo, Pegau	6	\$ 325.00	\$ 1,950.00
SO-0000348612	1/12/2011	09 Oberhauser Brucke Eiswein 1/2, Donnh	12	\$ 169.99	\$ 2,039.88
SO-0000353468	3/31/2011	05 Chateauneuf Deux Freres, Usseglio	1	\$ 159.99	\$ 159.99
SO-0000353468	3/31/2011	07 Chateauneuf XXL, Janasse	1	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
SO-0000353926	4/10/2011	09 Riesling Spatlese 1/2, Selbach-Oster	1	\$ 11.99	\$ 11.99
SO-0000353926	4/10/2011	04 d'Yquem 1/2	4	\$ 149.99	\$ 599.96
SO-0000353926	4/10/2011	Feuillatte Rose splits (187ml)	1	\$ 11.50	\$ 11.50
SO-0000353926	4/10/2011	09 Zeltinger Son Kabin 1/, Selbach-Oster	1	\$ 11.99	\$ 11.99
SO-0000353924	4/10/2011	09 d'Yquem 1/2	12	\$ 355.00	\$ 4,260.00
SO-0000353924	4/10/2011	09 d'Yquem 1/2	12	\$ 355.00	\$ 4,260.00
SO-0000353966	4/11/2011	09 Cheval Blanc	24	\$ 995.00	\$ 23,880.00
SO-0000353956	4/11/2011	09 Cheval Blanc	24	\$ 995.00	\$ 23,880.00
SO-0000369618	12/16/2011	92 Taylor	3	\$ 179.99	\$ 539.97
SO-0000388540	8/6/2012	09 Mouton Rothschild	12	\$ 799.99	\$ 9,599.88
			225		\$ 214,046.51