

NORTHERN DIST. OF TX.

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

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2010 SEP 24 AM II: 38

CLERK OF COURT

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE** COMMISSION,

Plaintiff.

VS.

MICHAEL JOBE and RICHARD VLASICH,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. V - 7 1 1 - Y

## **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") files this suit against Defendants Michael Jobe and Richard Valisch and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

#### **SUMMARY**

1. Michael Jobe ("Jobe") and Richard Vlasich ("Vlasich") violated the federal securities acts engaging in insider trading. Jobe learned from an XTO Energy, Inc. ("XTO Energy") employee that Exxon Mobil would be acquiring XTO Energy. Despite assurances to the employee that he would not trade on the information and would not to tell anyone else about the deal, Jobe did both. Jobe purchased XTO Energy stock and call options in family member accounts the week before the December 14, 2009, announcement that Exxon Mobil would acquire XTO Energy. He also told Vlasich that XTO Energy would be acquired and advised Vlasich to purchase XTO Energy

SEC v. Michael Jobe, et al. Complaint

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securities. Vlasich purchased XTO Energy call options prior to the December 14 announcement.

2. In the interest of preventing any future illegal conduct by the Defendants, the Commission seeks orders of the Court permanently enjoining Jobe and Vlasich from engaging in future violations of the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws, requiring Jobe and Vlasich to disgorge, with prejudgment interest, the unjust enrichment gained as a result of the actions described herein, and imposing civil money penalties under Section 21A of the Exchange Act [15] U.S.C. § 78u-1] against the Defendants.

### **JURISDICTION**

3. The Court has jurisdiction over this action under Section 27 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. § 78aa]. Jobe and Vlasich, directly or indirectly, used the means or instruments of interstate commerce, the mails, or the facilities of a national securities exchange in connection with the acts described herein. Venue is proper because certain of the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business occurred within the Northern District of Texas.

#### **PARTIES**

- 4. Michael Jobe is retired and resides in Fort Worth.
- 5. Richard Vlasich is a friend of Michael Jobe and resides in Fort Worth. He is also retired.

## **BACKGROUND FACTS**

6. XTO Energy was an oil and gas exploration and production company headquartered in Fort Worth. Its common stock traded on the NYSE with a ticker symbol of XTO until June 25,

2010. Exxon Mobil is one of the largest oil and gas exploration and production companies in the world, headquartered in Irving, Texas. Exxon's common stock trades on the NYSE with a ticker symbol of XOM.

- 7. On December 14, 2009, Exxon Mobil announced, prior to the opening of trading, that it would acquire XTO Energy. As a result of the announcement, the price of XTO's stock jumped nearly 20%, from \$41.49 at the close on December 11, 2009 (the business day before the announcement) to as high as \$49.10 a share on the day of the announcement.
- 8. Jobe learned from an XTO Energy employee about XTO Energy's impending acquisition by Exxon Mobil approximately two weeks before the December 14 announcement. The employee told Jobe about the proposed transaction and told him not to trade based on the information. The employee also advised him not to "say anything" about the impending deal to anyone else.
- 9. Jobe agreed with the XTO Energy employee that he would not trade on the information he received or pass the information on to anyone else.
- 10. Jobe and Vlasich have been friends for years and spoke several times a week, typically about stocks and trading. On December 11, 2009, Jobe informed Vlasich of the impending merger and advised Vlasich to purchase XTO Energy securities.
- 11. On December 9, 2009, at approximately 12:40 p.m., Jobe purchased 1,000 XTO Energy shares of common stock at \$39.94 per share in a rollover IRA account in the name of a family member. Between 3:34 p.m. EST and 3:57 p.m. EST on December 11, Jobe purchased 250 XTO Energy December 43 call options at \$.15 each in another account in a family member's name.

After the December 14 announcement, Jobe sold the call options, yielding total gains of \$99,550. The XTO Energy shares were priced at \$47.61 each at the end of trading on December 14, 2009, yielding Jobe a gain of \$7,670 on those shares.

12. On December 11, after Jobe told him about the impending merger, Vlasich purchased a total of 200 December 40 call options at \$1.66 and \$1.67 each and 1000 January 45 XTO Energy call options at between \$.44 and \$.50 each in two accounts. His purchases were made between 1:57 p.m. EST and 3:38 p.m. EST. Vlasich sold the options the day of the announcement, profiting by \$466,295.90.

# CLAIM FOR RELIEF Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder

- 13. Plaintiff Commission repeats and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 12 of this Complaint by reference as if set forth *verbatim*.
- 14. Jobe and Vlasich, with scienter and by use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce or of the mails, in connection with the purchase or sale of securities: (a) employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; (b) made untrue statements of material fact or omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and/or (c) engaged in acts, practices or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit.
- By reason of the actions alleged herein, Jobe and Vlasich violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Exchange Act Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

## REQUEST FOR RELIEF

The Commission seeks the following relief:

- (i) an order of the Court permanently enjoining Jobe and Vlasich from violating Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Exchange Act Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5];
- (ii) an order of the Court requiring Jobe and Vlasich to disgorge illicit benefits realized as a result of the actions alleged herein and to pay prejudgment interest thereon;
- (iii) an order of the Court imposing civil monetary penalties against Jobe and Vlasich under Section 21A of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u-1]; and
- (iv) such other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: September 24, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Harold R. Loftin, Jr.

Texas Bar Number 12487090

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

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Attorney for Plaintiff

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

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The IS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein betther replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	INTIFFS COLUMN SEP 24 AM 11:39		O DE	DEFENDANTS			
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION				MICHAEL JOBE and RICHARD VLASICH, Defnesants			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Tarrant			
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)			
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801 Cherry Street, S Fort Worth, TX 7620	1 (817) 978-6450		Dai Wa	orneys (If Know I C. Guthrie, yne Secore,	n) Jr., Attorney for Defendant Attorney for Richard Vlasio	Michael Jobe h	
II. BASIS OF JURISI	DICTION (Place an "X" i	n One Box Only)		ENSHIP OF versity Cases Onl		(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)	
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<ul> <li>□ 110 Insurance</li> <li>□ 120 Marine</li> <li>□ 130 Miller Act</li> <li>□ 140 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>□ 150 Recovery of Overpayment &amp; Enforcement of Judgment</li> <li>□ 151 Medicare Act</li> <li>□ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)</li> <li>□ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>□ 160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>□ 190 Other Contract</li> <li>□ 195 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>□ 196 Franchise</li> <li>□ 210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>□ 220 Foreclosure</li> <li>□ 230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>□ 240 Torts to Land</li> <li>□ 245 Tort Product Liability</li> <li>□ 290 All Other Real Property</li> </ul>	Slander  330 Federal Employers' Liability  340 Marine  345 Marine Product Liability  350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability  360 Other Personal Injury  CIMI RIGHTS  441 Voting  442 Employment  443 Housing/ Accommodations  444 Welfare	PERSONAL INJUR  362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractic  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability  368 Asbestos Persona Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPER  370 Other Fraud  371 Truth in Lending  380 Other Personal Property Damage Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITIO  510 Motions to Vacat Sentence  Habeas Corpus:  530 General  535 Death Penalty  540 Mandamus & Otl  550 Civil Rights  555 Prison Condition		r Food & Drug Related Seizure poperty 21 USC 88 or Laws & Truck ne Regs. pational py/Health r LABOR Labor Standards r/Mgmt. Relation r/Mgmt. Reporting ticlosure Act vay Labor Act r Labor Litigation Ret Inc. rity Act IIGRATION ralization Applica as Corpus - Detainee r Immigration	PROPERTY RIGHTS	400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 12 USC 3410 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Section 10(b) of	the Exchange Act of			ional statutes unless diversity): )] and Rule 10b-5 thereund	ler [17 C.F.R. § 240.10(b)].	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION 23	n DEMA	ND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in complaint: :	
VIII. RELATED CAS PENDING OR CLO		ns)			DOCKET NUMBER_		
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