

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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1 (ANCSA), 43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq*.

2 3. Calista has certified to the Administrator that it has more than 500 shareholders
3 and total assets exceeding \$1,000,000.

4 4. The former Chairman of Calista's Board of Directors (the "Former Chairman") was
5 elected to Calista's Board of Directors on July 9, 2016, and was appointed board chair on
6 July 27, 2017.

5. On March 9, 2018, six directors, constituting a majority of Calista's Board of Directors (the "Majority") voted to remove the Former Chairman as board chair. The vote occurred after Calista's Corporate Governance, Employee & Compensation Committee determined that the Former Chairman interjected himself into Calista's investigation of "Employee A." Employee A is a former Calista employee who Calista terminated on November 15, 2017 after Calista investigated Employee A for possible sexual harassment.
6. On or about May 2018, Respondent published a series of posts to his Facebook

14 account.

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7. Respondent's Facebook posts stated: "[T]he[y] align themselves to protect a
sexual harasser . . . ." The posts further stated: "When [the Former Chairman] was elected
board [*sic*], somehow, the outgoing chairman selected who would serve on the committees . .
. . [T]his is normally the new board chairs [*sic*] prerogative to name who sits on the
committees."

20 8. Respondent stated to the Administrator that the individual he referred to as a
21 "sexual harasser" in his Facebook posts is Employee A.

9. Respondent stated to the Administrator that Respondent was referring to the
Majority's vote to remove the Former Chairman as board chair when Respondent stated in his
Facebook post that "the[y] align themselves to protect a sexual harasser . . . ."

10. Respondent did not file the Facebook posts with the Administrator. 1 2 11. Respondent did not file with the Administrator a dated, written proxy statement 3 containing the disclosures required under 3 AAC 08.355. 4 12. Calista's bylaws require committee appointments to be made by vote of Calista's 5 entire board, and do not grant Calista's board chair authority to make committee appointments. 6 13. Calista's entire Board of Directors appointed committee members after both the 7 Former Chairman's election to Calista's Board of Directors and his appointment as board chair. 8 14. Calista terminated Employee A before the Majority voted to remove the Former 9 Chairman as board chair. 10 15. Respondent stated to the Administrator that the purpose of the Majority's vote to 11 remove the Former Chairman as board chair was not to protect Employee A. 12 II. **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW** 1. Respondent is subject to the filing requirements of AS 45.55.139 because he is a 13 14 shareholder of Calista and Calista is subject to the filing requirements. 15 2. Respondent's Facebook posts are "proxy statements" as defined in 3 AAC 16 08.365(14) because they are a communication made available to shareholders under 17 circumstances reasonably calculated to result in the procurement, withholding, or revocation of 18 a proxy 19 3. Respondent violated 3 AAC 08.307 by failing to file his proxy statement concurrently with the Administrator when he distributed it to shareholders. 20 21 4. Respondent violated 3 AAC 08.315(a) by materially misrepresenting Calista's board 22 chair may appoint directors to committees, that the outgoing board chair made committee 23 appointments when the Former Chairman was elected to the board, and that the purpose of the Majority's vote to remove the Former Chairman as board chair was to protect Employee A. 24

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5. Respondent violated 3 AAC 08.355 by failing to file with the Administrator 1 2 required disclosures relating to proxy solicitation.

3 6. Respondent is subject to a civil penalty pursuant to AS 45.55.920(c) because he 4 violated 3 AAC 08.307, 3 AAC 08.315(a), and 3 AAC 08.355.

## III. **ORDER**

Pursuant to AS 45.55.920, and on the basis of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Administrator ORDERS Respondent to:

1. CEASE AND DESIST from violating the ANCSA Proxy Solicitations Act.

2. Comply with all provisions of the ANCSA Proxy Solicitations Act and associated regulations.

11 3. Pay a civil penalty in the amount one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), with 12 one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) suspended for a period of five years from the date 13 of this order. If Respondent commits any violation of the ANCSA Proxy Solicitations Act 14 during this period, the suspended portion of the civil penalty will be immediately due. 15

This Order is a publicly disclosable document.

## 16 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Julie Anderson, Commissioner Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development DATED: 8/2/2019 /s/ Patrice Walsh BY: Patrice Walsh, Director Division of Banking and Securities

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