

NOTICE OF FILING

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Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Defence - Form 33 - Rule 16.32
File Number: NSD616/2021
File Title: WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION ABN 33 007 457 141 & ANOR v FORUM FINANCE PTY LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION) ACN 153 301 172 & ORS
Registry: NEW SOUTH WALES REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



Sia Lagos

Dated: 20/04/2022 3:21:44 PM AEST

Registrar

Important Information

As required by the Court's Rules, this Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

The date and time of lodgment also shown above are the date and time that the document was received by the Court. Under the Court's Rules the date of filing of the document is the day it was lodged (if that is a business day for the Registry which accepts it and the document was received by 4.30 pm local time at that Registry) or otherwise the next working day for that Registry.



Form 33
Rule 16.32

Defence of the Forty-First Respondent

No. NSD616 of 2021

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: New South Wales
Division: General

WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION ABN 33 007 457 141 and Anor

Applicants

8-12 NATALIA AVE OAKLEIGH PTY LTD (ACN 643 838 626)

Forty-First Respondent

In response to the Applicants' Second Further Amended Statement of Claim dated 5 November 2021, the Forty-First Respondent (**8-12 Natalia Ave**) says:

NB: Unless otherwise stated:

- A. *terms defined in the Second Further Amended Statement of Claim have the same meaning when used in this Defence;*
- B. *headings and definitions are adopted from the Second Further Amended Statement of Claim for ease of reference and are not treated as part of the pleadings;*
- C. *for the avoidance of doubt, 8-12 Natalia Ave does not plead to the headings or definitions employed by the Applicants and in particular does not plead to (and does not admit) headings or definitions which incorporate characterisations of conduct.*

Filed on behalf of (name & role of party)	Filed on behalf of the Forty-First Respondent
Prepared by (name of person/lawyer)	Prepared by Alexandra Lawrence
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A. PARTIES

1-34R It admits paragraphs 1 to 34R.

B. THE EQWE / FORUM PROGRAMME

35-54 It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 35 to 54.

C. THE SCHEME

55-58 It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 55 to 58.

D. THE FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS

59 - 1830 It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 59 to 1830.

E. THE DISCOVERY OF THE SCHEME

1831- 1833 It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 1831 to 1833.

F-SS. THE CLAIMS AGAINST THE 1ST TO 40TH RESPONDENTS

1834- 2578 It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 1834 to 2578.

TT. THE CLAIM AGAINST 8-12 NATALIA AVE

(1) Funds held on trust

2579. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2579.

2580. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2580.

2581. As to paragraph 2581:

(a) it does not know and therefore does not admit that it received amounts paid pursuant to Transactions 1 to 100 or NZ1 to NZ36;

(b) it denies that it had any knowledge whatsoever that any monies it received were derived from Transactions 1 to 100 or NZ1 to NZ36;

(c) in relation to any such funds, it denies that it:

- (i) held those funds, the traceable proceeds of those funds, or any property it converted those funds into, on trust for Westpac;
 - (ii) holds on trust such of those funds or the traceable proceeds of those funds which it holds or of which it has the benefit;
- (d) it says further that, if it did receive such amounts, then half of those amounts (the **Tesoriero Return**) were paid to it by way of a return on a capital investment made in the Forum group of companies by Mr Tesoriero or others on his behalf;

Particulars

Mr Tesoriero's capital investment in the Forum group of companies included the following payments (at least):

- (i) \$1,000,000 paid on around 4 February 2013;
- (ii) \$200,000 paid on around 4 October 2013;
- (iii) \$60,000 paid on around 4 October 2013;
- (iv) \$1,500,000 paid on around 2 June 2014;
- (v) \$2,109,755 paid on around 1 May 2017;
- (vi) \$2,000,000 paid on around 2 May 2017.

Further particulars may be provided after discovery.

2582. As to paragraph 2582:

Particulars

It refers to and repeats paragraphs 2581 above.

(2) Tort of unlawful means conspiracy

2583. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2583.

2584. As to paragraph 2584, it:

- (a) does not know and therefore does not admit each and every allegation therein;

(b) refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2586 below.

2585. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2585.

2586. As to paragraph 2586:

(a) it does not know and therefore does not admit that it received amounts derived from Transactions 1 to 100 or NZ1 to NZ36;

(b) it denies that it requested payment of any such funds pursuant to the Scheme Agreement or in accordance with the purpose of the Scheme, and refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2584 above;

(c) to the extent that it received any such funds, it:

(i) refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraphs 2581 (a) to (d) above;

(ii) denies that any such funds were received pursuant to the Scheme Agreement or in accordance with the purpose of the Scheme, or that it paid any such funds away to benefit conspirators;

(d) it otherwise denies each and every allegation contained therein.

2587. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2587.

(3) *Knowing receipt*

2588. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2588.

2589. As to paragraph 2589, it:

(a) denies that it knew, ought reasonably to have known, or knew circumstances which would have disclosed to an honest and reasonable person in its position the matters set out in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b);

(b) denies that it was aware of any of the facts, matters and circumstances set out in sub-paragraphs (c) to (f);

(c) otherwise does not know and therefore does not admit each and every allegation therein.

2590. It denies paragraph 2590.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2586 above.

(4) Knowing assistance

2591. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2591.

2592. As to paragraph 2592, it:

(a) refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2589 above;

(b) otherwise does not know and therefore does not admit each and every allegation therein.

2593. It denies paragraph 2593.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraphs 2591 and 2592 above.

2594. It denies paragraph 2594.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2593 above.

2595. It denies paragraph 2595.

(5) Misleading or deceptive or false or misleading conduct

2596. As to paragraph 2596, it:

(a) does not know and therefore does not admit that Forum Finance or Mr Papas engaged in any false and misleading conduct;

(b) denies that it aided, abetted, procured, was knowingly concerned in or a party to, or conspired with others to give effect to any such contraventions;

(c) otherwise denies each and every allegation therein.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraphs 2583, 2584, 2586, 2589 and 2591 to 2593 above.

2597. It denies paragraph 2597.

UU-BBB. THE CLAIMS AGAINST THE 42ND TO 49TH RESPONDENTS

2598- It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 2598 to 2711.
2711

Date: 20 April 2022



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Signed by Sarwar (Sazz) Nasimi
Lawyer for the Forty-First Respondent

This pleading was prepared by Paul Hayes QC and Michael O'Haire.

Certificate of lawyer

I, Sarwar (Sazz) Nasimi, certify to the Court that, in relation to the defence filed on behalf of the Forty-First Respondent, the factual and legal material available to me at present provides a proper basis for each allegation in the pleading.

Date: 20 April 2022



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Signed by Sarwar (Sazz) Nasimi
Lawyer for the Forty-First Respondent