

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 3:30:40 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 Thirteenth 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

23 MARGARET STREET PTY LTD (ACN 623 715 373)
Thirteenth Respondent

In response to the Applicants' Second Further Amended Statement of Claim dated 5 November 2021, the Thirteenth Respondent (**23 Margaret St**) 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, 23 Margaret St 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 Thirteenth 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-Q. THE CLAIMS AGAINST THE 1ST TO 12TH RESPONDENTS

1834-2077 It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 1834 to 2077.

R. THE CLAIM AGAINST 23 MARGARET ST**(1) Funds held on trust**

2078. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2078.

2079. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2079.

2080. As to paragraph 2080:

- (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:
- (i) Mr Papas rented the property at 23 Margaret Street, Rozelle NSW 3039 from 23 Margaret St;
 - (ii) if it did receive such amounts, then those amounts were paid to it either by way of rental income paid by or on behalf of Mr Papas, or 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.

2081. It denies paragraph 2081.

(2) *Tort of unlawful means conspiracy*

2082. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2082.

2083. As to paragraph 2083, it:

- (a) denies that:
 - (i) Mr Papas had any control over it;

- (ii) any knowledge of Mr Papas can be attributed to it;

Particulars

Mr Tesoriero was the sole director and shareholder of 23 Margaret St at all relevant times.

- (b) otherwise does not admit each and every allegation therein;
- (c) refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2085 below.

2084. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2084.

2085. As to paragraph 2085, it:

- (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 2083 above;
- (c) to the extent that it received any such funds, it:
 - (i) refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraphs 2080 (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.

2086. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2086.

(3) *Knowing receipt*

2087. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2087.

2088. As to paragraph 2088, 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) does not know and therefore does not admit that Mr Papas was aware of any of the facts, matters and circumstances set out in sub-paragraphs (c) to (f);
- (d) denies that any such knowledge of Mr Papas can be attributed to it in relation to any transactions in which it received money from FGFS;

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2083(a) above.

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

2089. It denies paragraph 2089.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraphs 2087 and 2088 above.

(4) Knowing assistance

2090. As to paragraph 2090, it:

- (a) does not know and therefore does not admit that Mr Papas was aware of the Scheme or its purpose;
- (b) denies that any such knowledge of Mr Papas can be attributed to it in relation to any transactions in which it received money from FGFS;

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2083(a) above.

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

2091. As to paragraph 2091, it:

- (a) refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2088 above;
- (b) otherwise does not know and therefore does not admit each and every allegation therein.

2092. It denies paragraph 2092.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraphs 2090 and 2091 above.

2093. It denies paragraph 2093.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2092 above.

2094. It denies paragraph 2094.

(5) *Misleading or deceptive or false or misleading conduct*

2095. As to paragraph 2095, 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 2082, 2083, 2085, 2088 and 2090 to 2092 above.

S-BBB. THE CLAIMS AGAINST THE 14TH TO 49TH RESPONDENTS

2096- It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 2096 to 2711.
2711

Date: 20 April 2022



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Signed by Sarwar (Sazz) Nasimi
Lawyer for the Thirteenth 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 Thirteenth 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 Thirteenth Respondent