

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 3:32:00 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 Seventeenth 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

123 HIGH STREET TARADALE PTY LTD (ACN 639 872 512)
Seventeenth Respondent

In response to the Applicants' Second Further Amended Statement of Claim dated 5 November 2021, the Seventeenth Respondent (**123 High 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, 123 High 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 Seventeenth 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-U. THE CLAIMS AGAINST THE 1ST TO 16TH RESPONDENTS

1834-2149 It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 1834 to 2149.

V. THE CLAIM AGAINST 123 HIGH STREET**(1) Funds held on trust**

2150. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2150.

2151. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2151.

2152. As to paragraph 2152:

(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.

2153. As to paragraph 2153:

Particulars

It refers to and repeats paragraphs 2152 above.

(2) *Tort of unlawful means conspiracy*

2154. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2154.

2155. As to paragraph 2155, 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 2157 below.

2156. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2156.

2157. As to paragraph 2157:

- (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 2155 above;
- (c) to the extent that it received any such funds, it:
 - (i) refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraphs 2152 (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.

2158. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2158.

(3) *Knowing receipt*

2159. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2159.

2160. As to paragraph 2160, 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.

2161. It denies paragraph 2161.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2157 above.

(4) *Knowing assistance*

2162. It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraph 2162.

2163. As to paragraph 2163, it:

- (a) refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2160 above;
- (b) otherwise does not know and therefore does not admit each and every allegation therein.

2164. It denies paragraph 2164.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraphs 2162 and 2163 above.

2165. It denies paragraph 2165.

Particulars

It refers to and repeats the matters pleaded and particularised in paragraph 2164 above.

2166. It denies paragraph 2166.

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

2167. As to paragraph 2167, 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 2154, 2155, 2157, 2160 and 2162 to 2164 above.

W-BBB. THE CLAIMS AGAINST THE 15TH TO 49TH RESPONDENTS

2168- It does not know and therefore does not admit paragraphs 2168 to 2711.
2711

Date: 20 April 2022



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